

DANGEROUS HIGH: SURGE IN MDMA USE AMONG YOUNG AUSTRALIANS FUELS SEVERE HEALTH RISKS

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A growing number of young Aussies are experiencing severe health issues as a result of increased MDMA consumption.

This comes as two 20-year-old males seized at a Teletech Festival in Sydney on August 10.

The men reportedly took four pills consisting of MDMA, also known as ecstasy, which the medical team believe to be the cause of their conditions.

The two young men were taken to the Auburn Hospital, where they received quick treatment, but are still recovering from the mental toll the event took on them.

Seizure onset after MDMA is considered to be related mainly to its acute systemic effects such as hyponatremia and hyperthermia.

“You really don’t know what you’re taking when you do these kinds of drugs,” said Doctor Blackburn, “and you especially don’t know how your body will react to what you’ve ingested.”

A study from the 2023 National Drug Strategy Household showed that the use of ecstasy has faced an increase of 7.5 per cent since 2001 amongst people aged 14 and over.

The study also showed that 35 per cent of males aged 20-29 have recently partaken in illicit drugs, compared to 30 per cent of females from the same age group.

“Psychologically speaking, men are more inclined to turn to drugs and alcohol because they are more prone to taking risks,” said social worker, Sunday Read-Holt.

“However, women tend to assess the dangers associated with substance abuse, which can deter them from using drugs,” she said, “men are naturally predisposed to engage in risk-taking behaviours.”

Yet, many Australians are still questioning what exactly drives today’s youth to partake in illicit drugs, with many assuming that psychological distress plays a factor.

Surprisingly, the 2023 National Drug Strategy Household debunked this theory, showing that 41.3 per cent of people who reported having low psychological distress have consumed drugs within the past year.

The study did find that 35.4 per cent of young drug users in 2023 were born overseas in English speaking countries, while 16.4 per cent were born in non-English countries.

The survey results show that the youth from Western cultures are more inclined to partake in risky behaviours.

The Australian Government is currently developing plans, fund programs and working with other organisations to help reduce the harmful effects of drugs in Australia.