

Reports & Publications

This page lists all reports and publications by the *Cracks in the Ice* research team regarding the *Cracks in the Ice* online toolkit and mobile app.

Online Toolkit:

- [Report summarising the results of the *Cracks in the Ice* evaluation 2018-2019](#)
- [Publication about the *Cracks in the Ice* evaluation 2018-2019: Evaluation of a Digital Health Initiative in Illicit Substance Use: Cross-sectional Survey Study](#) (Kershaw et al. 2021, doi: 10.2196/29026)
- [Report summarising the results of the two community surveys that guided the development of the online toolkit](#)
- [Publication about how the online toolkit was developed: A Web-Based Toolkit to Provide Evidence-Based Resources About Crystal Methamphetamine for the Australian Community: Collaborative Development of Cracks in the Ice](#) (Champion et al. 2018, doi: 10.2196/mental.8891)



Cracks in the Ice Evaluation: Summary of Results

What was the aim of the evaluation?

Between November 2018 and March 2019, the *Cracks in the Ice* team conducted an online evaluation survey. The focus was to determine the usefulness of the online toolkit. The three main aims of the survey were to:

1. Measure knowledge about, and attitudes, towards crystal methamphetamine (ice) and its use in Australia
2. Determine whether *Cracks in the Ice* was useful and meeting the needs of its target audience
3. Identify perceived and actual barriers to help-seeking among people who use ice, as well as their family and friends

Ethics approval was obtained from the University of New South Wales (HREC No 18C180735) and University of Sydney (Project number: 2018/844) Human Research Ethics Committees.

Who were the participants?



Average age was **36 years**



59% female



56% from metropolitan areas



33% from regional areas
11% from rural/remote areas

Members of the Australian community (aged 18 years and older) were recruited via several channels including Facebook and Twitter advertisements, the *Cracks in the Ice* e-newsletter and networks. The survey took between 10-30 minutes, was completed by a total of 2110 community members and included responses from people in every state and territory in Australia.

27%
of participants reported
previously using crystal
methamphetamine

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Toolkit:

[Report summarising the first two stages of developing the *Cracks in the Ice - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander* toolkit.](#)

[Report summarising the final beta-testing stage of *Cracks in the Ice - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander* toolkit.](#)

View the resources [here](#).



Cracks in the Ice Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples Online Toolkit Development and Beta-testing: Summary of Results

Developing the Cracks in the Ice Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples Online Toolkit

The aim of the Cracks in the Ice Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples toolkit is to provide culturally appropriate, and community led resources about crystal methamphetamine (ice) to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Australia.

The Cracks in the Ice team first conducted 15 focus groups with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples around Australia between 2016 and 2018 to identify questions Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people had about crystal methamphetamine. Feedback from the focus groups showed that participants were concerned about the supply and harms of crystal methamphetamine, impact on families and access to support services. For more information, see the Phase 1 Summary Report [here](#).

The final phase was developing a **beta version** of the online toolkit (website).

Feedback from the community on the website

The process of beta-testing in website development is essential to determine the applicability, functionality, usability, and compatibility of an online resource. By beta-testing the toolkit, the Cracks in the Ice team could ensure that the website was best aligned with the needs of the community.

Unfortunately, due to time constraints, beta-testing the resources in every state and territory was not possible. Three states were selected with advice from the Expert Advisory Group to include feedback across metropolitan, regional, and remote areas. Ethics approval was obtained from South Australia, Western Australia and New South Wales state-based Aboriginal Health Research Ethics Committees.

Feedback was provided through an online survey and telephone interviews. The online survey was open to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples residing in South Australia, Western Australia, and New South Wales, aged 18 years or over, and took between 15-25 minutes to complete.



The beta testing survey sought feedback on the toolkit's:

- Design and cultural artwork
- Accessibility and usefulness of content
- Ease of understanding content

1

Mobile App:

Report summarising the results of the community survey that guided the development of the mobile app

[Publication about how the mobile app was developed](#): A Mobile App to Provide Evidence-Based Information About Crystal Methamphetamine (Ice) to the Community (Cracks in the Ice): Co-design and Beta Testing (Birrell et al. 2018, DOI: 2196/11107)

[Publication about the quality of mobile apps about crystal methamphetamine that were available prior to the development of the Cracks in the Ice](#): Smartphone Apps About Crystal Methamphetamine ("Ice"): Systematic Search in App Stores and Assessment of Composition and Quality (Chapman et al. 2018, DOI: 2196/10442)



Cracks in the Ice Mobile App End-User Consultation: Summary of Results

What were the aims of the study?

The overall **functionality, usability** and **appeal** of a beta version of the Cracks in the Ice mobile app was tested through an online survey of the Australian community. Results of the survey informed further development of the app before its public release. Participants were invited to preview the

Functionality	Layout	Visual design	Usability	Engagement
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Who were the participants?

Australian community members (aged 16 years and over), were recruited through Facebook advertisements in September 2017. A total of 34 participants (79% female, mean age = 37 years) completed the survey. Of these, 56% identified as being parents, 41% were members of a community group, 38% health professionals, 18% students, 9% identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, and 3% education professionals. While the majority of participants were from metropolitan areas (56%), a sizeable minority were from regional (27%) and rural (18%) areas. 18% had used the drug ice themselves and most participants knew someone who used ice (71%), with 61% knowing a friend who used ice and 33% knowing a family member who used ice. The majority (71%) were aware of the Cracks in the Ice website.



Overall response to the Cracks in the Ice app:

- 82% 'liked' or 'strongly liked' the app overall.
- 94% said they would use the app again in the next 12 months.
- 85% said they would recommend the app to several people or more.
- The app received a high average star rating of 3.7 out of 5, where a score of 5 stars indicates the app is 'one of the best apps I've used'.

1

Special Interest Publications:

- Deen, H., Kershaw, S., Newton, N., Stapinski, L., Birrell, L., Debenham, J., ... & Chapman, C. (2021). Stigma, discrimination and crystal methamphetamine ('ice'): Current attitudes in Australia. *International Journal of Drug Policy*, 87, 102982. [Read the article](#).



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