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New Psychoactive Substance Use among Regular Psychostimulant Users in Australia, 2010-2015

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Highlights

- Recent use of 'any' new psychoactive substance (NPS) increased from 33% in 2010 to 40% in 2015.
- However, rates of use varied considerably across NPS classes.
- Participants appeared to seek out NPS that were similar to the illicit drugs they were already using.
- 'Poly' NPS users were found to be a particularly high risk group of users.

ABSTRACT

Objective: To examine the rates and patterns of new psychoactive substance (NPS) use amongst regular psychostimulant users (RPU) in Australia. *Method:* Data were obtained from the 2010-2015 Ecstasy and related Drugs Reporting System (EDRS), which comprised a total cross-sectional sample of 4,122 RPU. *Results:* Recent use of 'any' NPS increased from 33% in 2010 to 40% in 2015, although trends of use differed significantly across NPS classes. The correlates associated with NPS use also varied across NPS classes: frequent (i.e. weekly or more) ecstasy users were more likely to report recent phenethylamine use; LSD users were more likely to report recent phenethylamine and

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