

Ice epidemic among white-collar workers

CARLEEN FROST, The Daily Telegraph

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THE corporate world has been sucked into the country's deadly ice epidemic with white-collar-workers now making up a quarter of all addicts who have lost complete control to the powerful street drug.

Experts now believe 25 per cent of Australian ice users are from professional industries — including those working in the health and medical industries.

It has left rehabilitation services flooded with calls for help with many forced to put desperate users on long waiting lists and leaving them to try and “white knuckle” their recovery until they can find a place for them.

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Part of a 903kg haul of the drug ice seized by police earlier this month. Picture: AFP



A police officer examines drug haul following a bust recently.

Private rehabilitation specialists The Cabin Addiction Services Group have told The Saturday Telegraph they have been overwhelmed by the number of corporate high-flyers reaching out for help.

Cameron Brown, clinical director of their Sydney outpatient service, said they almost specifically catered to high functioning crystal methamphetamine addicts.

They have hefty waiting lists for their outpatient services in Sydney and Melbourne as well as their 28-day residential program in Thailand.

“The classic definition of an ice user isn’t what you see on the news,” Mr Brown said.



The burgeoning ice epidemic has brought more users to Mission Australia for help.

“We are seeing a lot of white collar workers and professionals where are suffer from ice addictions as well.

“There’s people in the corporate industry, in the health industry all sorts of industries

“Most of those people in the higher end jobs we find that the yardstick is no longer working, because they just haven’t been able to.

“Obviously these people are losing their jobs.”

A plethora of rehabilitation programs are reporting a huge spike in numbers for people struggling with addiction to ice in response to the nationwide epidemic.