

## > Night Venues and Entertainment Events Project (NVEEP) 2011 Results for the Western Australian North Metropolitan Health Region

---

This bulletin summarises results from the annual Night Venues and Entertainment Events Project (NVEEP) 2011 Patron Survey and Confidential Observational Checklist for the North Metropolitan health region of Western Australia.

### Project Overview

The Prevention Branch of the Drug and Alcohol Office coordinates the NVEEP. This is a collaborative initiative between the Western Australia Police, Department of Racing, Gaming and Liquor, WA Nightclub Association, Australian Hotels' Association (WA Branch), WA AIDS Council, National Drug Research Institute (NDRI), Western Australian Substance Users' Association (WASUA), and Industry.

The objectives of the Project are to monitor, develop and implement venue practices and policies that promote responsible attitudes towards drugs and alcohol and to implement environmental strategies to reduce drug and alcohol-related harms. People attending night venues and entertainment events, the entertainment industry and young people are targets of this initiative. The Project includes a comprehensive evaluation and monitoring component comprising a patron survey and a confidential observational checklist.

### Observational Checklist Results

An independent research group conducted the observational checklists, with individual venues not publicly identified. The observations involved assessing and recording the behaviour of venue staff and patrons, together with various physical aspects of the venue. A structured checklist was used to assess the degree to which strategies that can reduce drug and alcohol-related harm are implemented. The structured checklist is designed to minimise observer bias and enhance reliability and validity of the data. However, some of the checklist items require subjective assessments to be made and in this respect, standardised training is provided for the auditors.

Six types of night venues were assessed: hotels, taverns, nightclubs, small bars, clubs and special facilities. All observational checklists were conducted during peak times for specific venues (e.g. 7pm to 2am).

### Venues Observed

A total of 75 licensed night venues were observed in the North Metropolitan health region of Western Australia. Of these, 6 were hotels, 15 nightclubs, 10 small bars, 11 special facilities and 33 were taverns.

#### Overcrowding

The estimated overall crowd capacity at the time of observation was less than three quarters full for 80% of night venues. Bottlenecking in bar areas was observed in 12% of venues.

#### Measures to increase comfort for patrons

Overall, the noise level was observed to be loud to very loud in 60% of venues. 'Chill out' areas were clearly visible in 44.6% of venues which had 'chill out' areas.

#### Overall safety

Eight (10.7%) venues were observed using plastic drinking vessels instead of glass. One venue was observed to have fixtures/features likely to cause harm/injury.

#### Signs of drug and alcohol use

Intoxicated patrons (slurred speech, poor balance/co-ordination and loud speech/aggression) were observed in 34.7% of venues. There was no reported sighting of drug dealing, or consumptions of drugs other than alcohol in any of the venues.

### Availability of food and water

Of those observed, 93.3% had free tap water and 65.3% had food available. Of those venues that sold food, 42.5% sold packaged snacks, 68.0% sold light bar snacks and 70.2% had hot/substantial meals available.

### Promotional materials

Responsible service of alcohol posters were observed in 37.3% of venues. Alcohol brands were promoted in 44% of venues, 52% promoted alcohol promotions/specials to patrons, and 6.7% of venues promoted drinking water.

## Patron survey – results

An annual survey of patrons aims to assess their support for drug-related policies, their awareness of harms, and experiences at venues and/or events. As some events are targeted to “all ages”, patrons under the age of 18 are likely to attend. Therefore patrons aged under 18 years are included in the survey sample. This year’s survey recruited a random sample of the general population aged between 14–34 years, both in metropolitan and regional Western Australia via an online survey. An independent research company was commissioned to collect and analyse the responses.

A total of 405 respondents participated in the 2011 survey. Of these, 326 respondents were from the Perth metropolitan area. The results described in this section only include responses from metropolitan participants. More females than males participated (57.1% and 42.9% respectively) and approximately half (52.2%) of the respondents were aged 25–34 years (10.3% aged 14–17 years and 37.5% aged 18–24 years). More than two in three respondents (70.5%) had been to a night venue or entertainment event in the last month (38.0% in the last week).

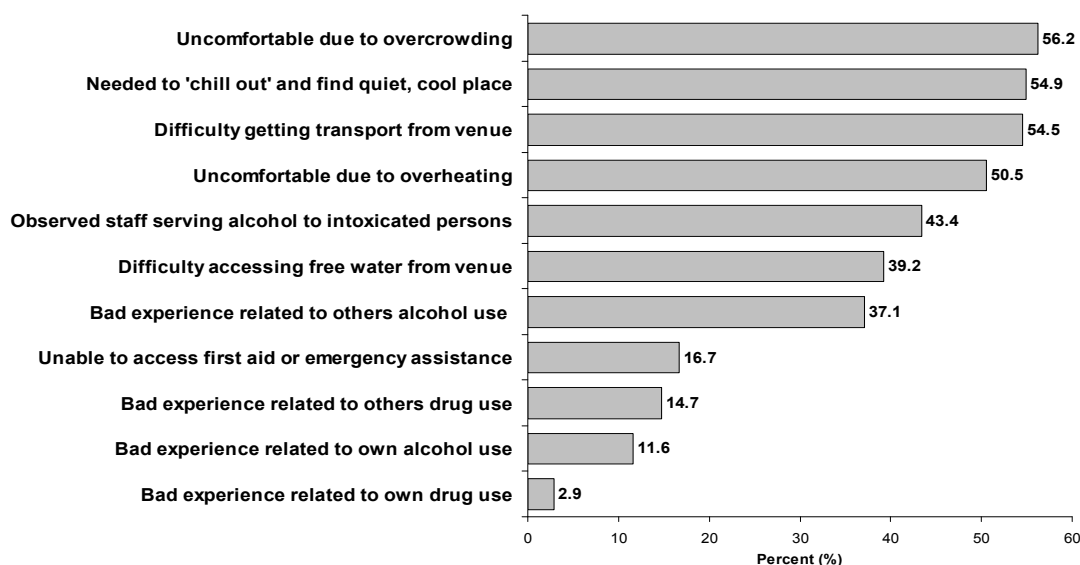
In the six months prior to the survey, over half of metropolitan respondents said they experienced at least half the time (Figure 1):

- discomfort due to overcrowding (56.2%);
- needing to find a quiet place to ‘chill out’ (54.9%);
- difficulty getting transport from a venue (54.5%); and
- discomfort due to overheating (50.5%).

In addition:

- 43.4% observed staff serving alcohol to intoxicated persons;
- 39.2% reported difficulty with accessing free water from the venue; and
- 37.1% had a bad experience related to another patron’s alcohol use.

**Figure 1. Situations experienced by metropolitan respondents at venues in the last six months, at least half the time**



There was a high level of support for proposed policies to reduce issues at night venues. The most strongly supported strategies included: safe public transport being available to and from major events (91.5%); crowd controllers making sure drunk or intoxicated people are removed from venues (89.2%); and venues and events to clearly advertise the availability of free water (88.2%).