

Night Venues and Entertainment Project (NVEEP)

Bulletin 2010: Geraldton Results

This bulletin summarises results from the annual *Night Venues and Entertainment Events Project (NVEEP) 2010* Patron Survey and Confidential Observational Checklist for the Geraldton police district.

Project Overview

The Prevention Branch of the Drug and Alcohol Office coordinates the NVEEP. This is a collaborative initiative with the Western Australia Police, Department of Racing, Gaming and Liquor, Nightclub Owners' Association, Australian Hotels' Association, 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 drug and alcohol consumption, 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 targeted as part of this initiative.

Methodology and Results

The Project includes a comprehensive evaluation and monitoring component comprising a confidential observational checklist and a patron survey.

Confidential Observational Checklist

An independent research group conducted the checklists and individual venues were not publicly identified. This aspect 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 minimise observer bias and enhance reliability and validity of the data. However, it should be noted that some of the checklist items required subjective assessments to be made that were based on standardised training provided for the auditors.

The audit assessed three types of night venues: hotels/pubs, nightclubs and special facilities. All audits were conducted over approximately one hour during peak times (7pm to 2am), as this allowed the observation of strategies to address issues of drug- and alcohol-related harms, such as overcrowding.

Results

There were 6 licensed night venues observed in 2010 in the Geraldton police district area. Half of the venues (50.0%) were either a hotel or a pub, with the remainder being a nightclub (33.3%) or a special facility (16.7%).

Overcrowding

Crowd capacity was estimated to be less than three quarters full for all (100%) night venues. Two thirds (66.7%) checked identification and counted patrons entering and leaving.

Ventilation

Most venues had air conditioning, fans or natural ventilation. Ventilation by air conditioning was observed in two thirds (66.7%) of night venues, and nearly all (83.3%) had natural ventilation.

Availability of Food and Water

All venues had free tap water and two thirds (66.7%) had food available. Half (50.0%) these venues had hot/substantial meals available and one third (33.3%) had packaged snacks.

Drug Education and Information

None of the venues displayed drug- and/or alcohol-related posters.

Signs of Drug and Alcohol Use

One third (33.3%) of venues had signs of intoxication. However, aggression was not displayed in any of the venues.

Promotion of Alcohol and Drinking

All venues displayed promotional advertising related to alcohol and alcohol consumption.



Patron Survey: State Results

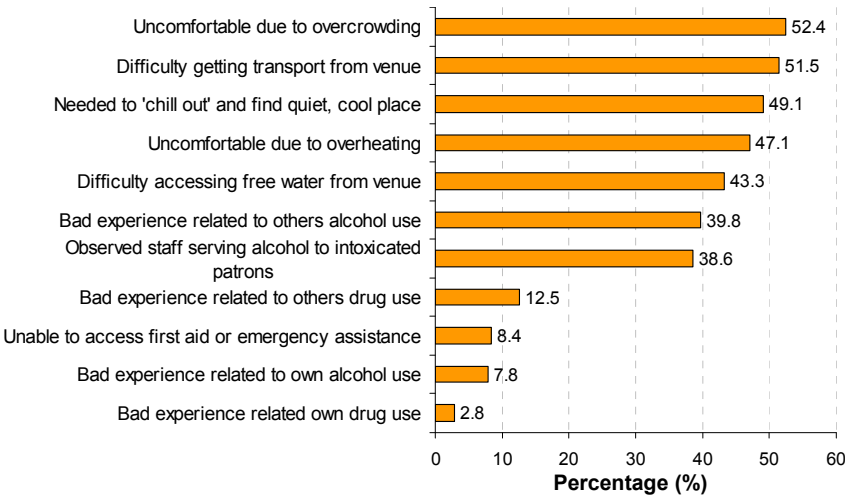
An annual survey of patrons aims to assess patrons' support for drug-related policies, their awareness of harms, and experiences at venues or events. The 2010 survey recruited a random sample of the general population with internet access aged between 14 and 34 years, both in metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas of Western Australia, via an online survey. An independent research company was commissioned to collect and analyse the responses.

Results

As results are not available for individual districts, state-wide figures are shown here.

A total of 401 respondents participated in the 2010 survey, which represented a response rate of 21.4%. Of these, 9.0% were aged 14–17 years, 38.4% aged 18–24 years, and 52.6% aged 25–34 years. More females (55.9%) than males (44.1%) participated. Around one in five (19.0%) respondents lived outside of the Perth metropolitan area. In 2010, 74.4% of all respondents had been to a night venue or entertainment event in the last month (36.2% in the last week).

Figure 1. Situations experienced by respondents at venues at least half the time, in the last six months, 2010



In the six months prior to the survey, most respondents indicated they had been to a hotel/pub (88.8%), a nightclub (57.5%), a licensed DJ event (51.7%) or music event (58.3%).

In the six months prior to the survey, over half of respondents had experienced discomfort due to overcrowding at venues (52.4%) and difficulty getting transport from a venue (51.5%) at least half the time (Figure 1).

Respondents also reported needing to find a cool, quiet place to 'chill out' (49.1%), felt uncomfortable due to overheating (47.1%), or had difficulty accessing free water (43.3%) at least half the time.

Respondents were asked to indicate their level of support for drug- and alcohol-related policies to reduce issues at night venues (Figure 2). Strategies receiving the strongest support were: increasing the level of ventilation at venues (91.2%); ensuring safe public transport to and from major events (88.6%); and crowd controllers to remove aggressive/disruptive people (87.1%).

Figure 2. Support for drug- and alcohol-related policies to reduce issues at night venues, by order of importance (highest to lowest)

