

Initiatives for Safer Communities

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Initiatives for Safer Communities

- Crime Prevention is a community issue
- Concern about, and fear of crime is widespread
- Many Long Term Council Community Plans (LTCCPs) include safer community outcomes
- The public's expectation is that all agencies will work together to tackle crime



Statistics on Alcohol and Crime

- 25,000 drink driving traffic notices (2003/4)
- Every day in New Zealand 285 people drink alcohol then commit a crime
- 47,119 alleged offenders consumed alcohol prior to the alleged offence in the last six months of 2005
- Equates to one offence every five minutes and 36 seconds (NZ Police)



New Zealand National Survey of Crime Victims 2001

Victims' view of the role of alcohol and drugs

- Intimate partner violence – 30%
- Violence from someone else well known to them – 40%
- Sexual violence – 46%



Issues with data on Alcohol and Crime

Evidence largely anecdotal

Drugs and alcohol often combined

Evidence not collected systematically

Largely based on reported crime



Alcohol-Related Crime

- Some contributing factors in alcohol related violence:
 - Misuse of alcohol - intoxication
 - Frequently collective intoxication
 - Inter-personal contact = conflict
 - Alcohol as a catalyst
 - These factors create opportunity



Reducing Alcohol Related Crime

- Reduce intoxication
- Manage it where it remains
- Impact can be on violence, criminal damage, noise and other nuisance
- Supply Control
 - Minimising intoxication limits crime
 - Managing the mix of people and alcohol



Reducing Alcohol Related Crime

- Demand Reduction
 - Encourage good choices about drinking
 - More effectively achieved at national level when supported by local activity
- Problem Limitation
 - ALAC – Intervention and treatment services
 - Also – managing the environment in which people collectively drink



Reducing Opportunity - CPTED

Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED)

1. Access
2. Surveillance
3. Layout
4. Activity mix
5. Ownership
6. Quality environment
7. Physical protection



CPTED & Alcohol-Related Crime

1. Access

Safe access routes
Entrapment spots removed

2. Surveillance

Good visibility and lighting. Landscaping improves visibility

3. Layout

Entrances and exits clearly signed

Design supports safe & easy movement



CPTED & Alcohol-Related Crime

4. Activity mix

Mixed use of space -
restaurants, cinemas,
homes, shops

Mixed but compatible
users

5. Ownership

Spaces' use clearly
defined

Bars rope off their
boundaries for smokers
and alcohol use



CPTED & Alcohol-Related Crime

6. Quality environment

Good management and maintenance

A well looked after space encourages respect

7. Physical protection

Internal design

Barriers

Internal / external CCTV



National Contribution

- ALAC – Planning for Alcohol in the Community and Operational Guidance eg controlled purchase operations; intoxication, monitoring and enforcement
- Last night's national launch of Te Ara Poka Tika
- NZ Police Alcohol Action Plan
- ACC / ALAC Host Responsibility programme



Local Action

- Alcohol-related crime is a national problem
- But it comes in many shapes and sizes
- Effective local solutions require effective local analysis and collaboration
- Key players include: local government, the police, DHBs, ALAC, ACC
- And, of course, the community itself



CPU support for Local Action

- Contribution to local partnership work and local planning
- Recent contestable funding round
- Significant interest and needs
- 12 successful areas received a total of \$370,000



Funded Local Action

- Waitakere Alcohol-Related Violence Prevention Project
- Patterns of youth drinking research in Taupo
- Development of six alcohol strategies from Whangarei to Invercargill



Development of Alcohol Strategies

- Drawing on existing good practice eg Manukau and Nelson
- Comprehensive multi-agency approach including:
 - Analysis of local problems
 - Awareness raising
 - Identification of key local priorities
 - Development of a range of responses



Alcohol Strategies

Range of responses could include:

- Enforcement practices
 - Joint approaches, liquor bans, event management, liquor licensing practice
- Work with industry
 - Accords, training, liquor liaison groups, advertising agreements
- Social approaches
 - Education, community engagement and awareness



Project CARV

- Curbing Alcohol Related Violence
- Three areas in negotiation
- Recruitment of coordinator by local authority
- National support framework
 - Police, ALAC, Health and others
- Demonstration project – local action under the microscope
- Learning what can be rolled out



Conclusion

- Intoxication is the main problem
- Binge drinking a key component
- Significant opportunities to manage alcohol supply and demand
- At local level the challenge is to support the supply and demand strategies
- And to manage what problem remains



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Thank you for listening

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