



Alcohol Related Harm in the Community

National
Quantitative
Research
September, 2011

Prepared for:



the national charity for alcohol-related issues



Introduction



- This report details the findings from a National Survey undertaken for Alcohol Action Ireland on the harms and damage caused by other peoples drinking
- 1,001 adults aged 16+ were interviewed by 'phone as part of Behaviour & Attitudes September TeleBarometer survey. Demographic quotas, to reflect the known distribution of the adult population in respect of sex, age, social class, region and area of residence were used. Fieldwork was undertaken between 13th - 20th September 2011
- The questionnaire covers the incidence of alcohol related property damage, as well as its perceived cost and frequency, before going on to explore the prevalence of alcohol related violence, intimidation and other harms
- In advance of addressing the questionnaire to respondents, the preamble '*I would now like to ask you about your community and anti-social behaviour*' was read to respondents. It was considered important that the respondent understood that the focus was upon 'harm in the community' (as opposed to possible in-home aspects)



Content

- Incidence of drink damage in the community, to people and property
- Experience of intimidation, threat or violence in the community due to someone's drinking
- Whether such incidents were reported to the police
- The incidence of assault on self and other family members
- Attitudes to minimum pricing



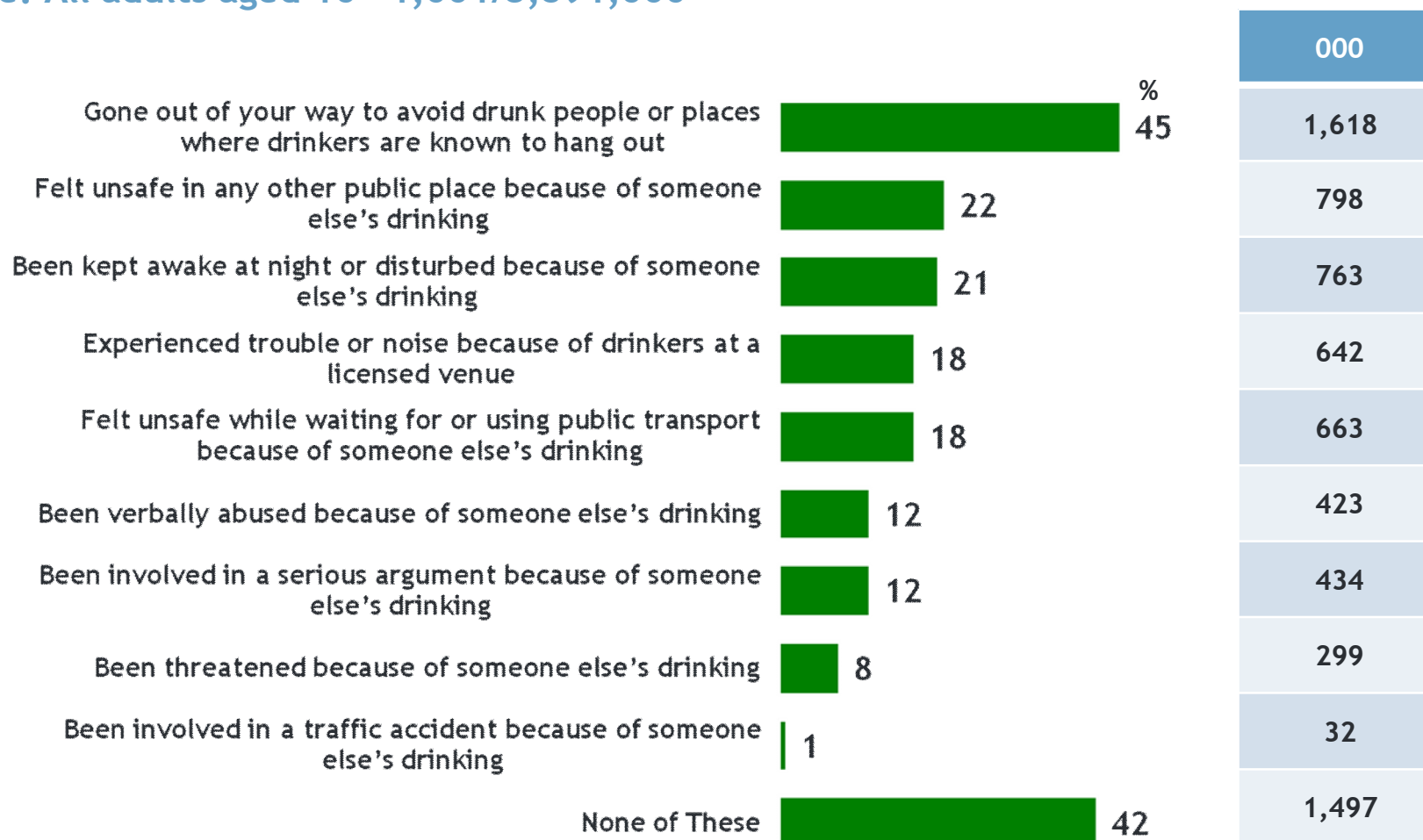
Incidents as a result of drinking



Alcohol-related incidents in the community in past year



Base: All adults aged 16+ 1,001/3,591,000



Almost 6 in 10 (58%) are affected in some way with many intimidated or avoiding areas where drinkers congregate.



Alcohol incidents in the community X Demographics

Base: All adults aged 16+ 1,001/3,591,000



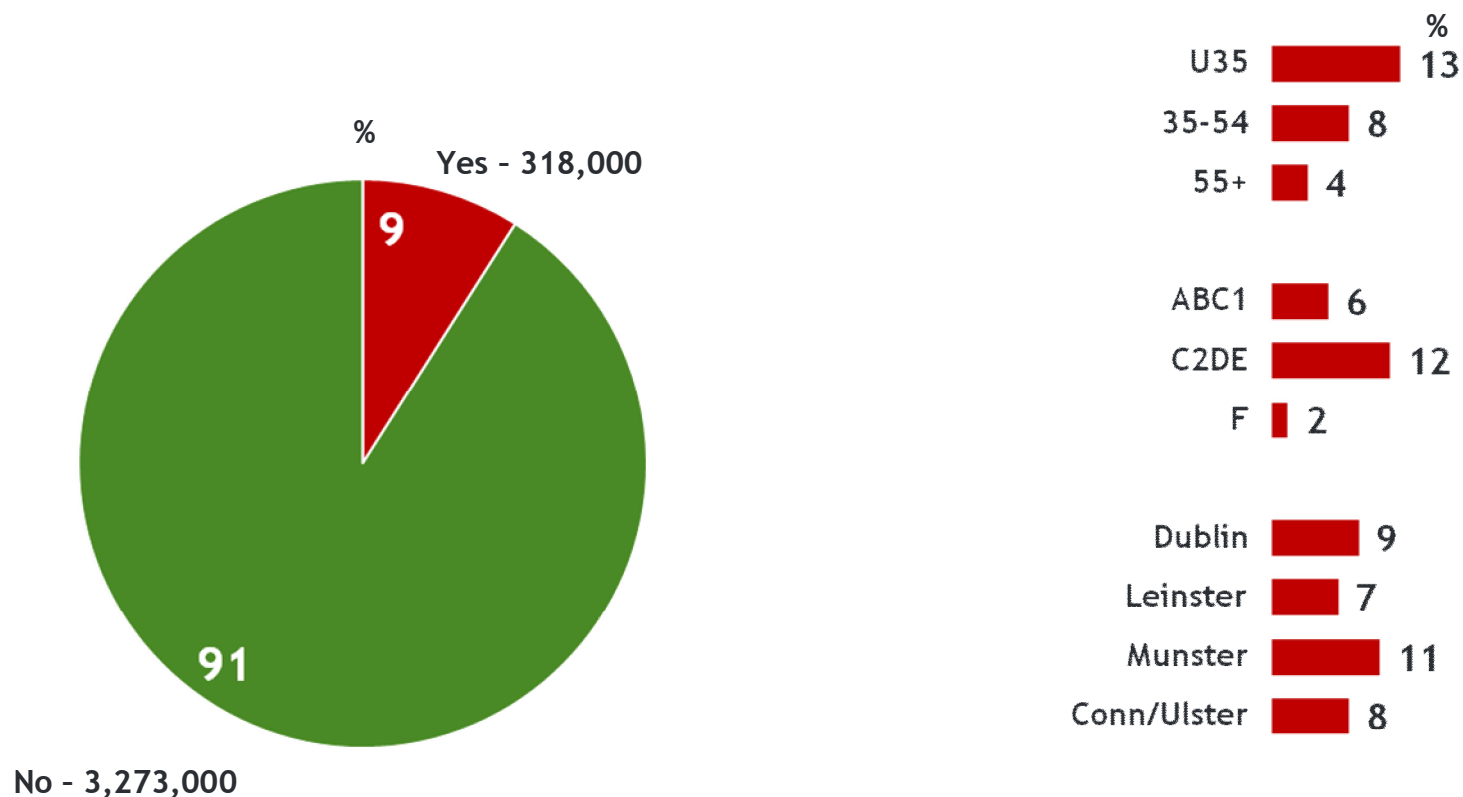
| | Total | Gender | | Age | | | Social Class | | | Region | | | | Area | |
|--|-------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|------------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | | Male | Female | 15-34 | 35-54 | 55+ | ABC1 | C2DE | F | Dublin | RoL | Munster | Conn/Uls | Urban | Rural |
| UNWTD | 1001 | 473 | 528 | 318 | 357 | 326 | 435 | 500 | 66 | 264 | 285 | 245 | 207 | 682 | 319 |
| | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| Gone out of your way to avoid drunk people or places where drinkers are known to hang out | 45 | 48 | 43 | 51 | 44 | 38 | 45 | 45 | 48 | 48 | 45 | 47 | 38 | 48 | 41 |
| Felt unsafe in any other public place because of someone else's drinking | 22 | 23 | 22 | 30 | 22 | 12 | 25 | 21 | 20 | 25 | 20 | 22 | 21 | 24 | 19 |
| Been kept awake at night or disturbed because of someone else's drinking | 21 | 21 | 22 | 30 | 19 | 13 | 25 | 21 | 7 | 33 | 20 | 16 | 13 | 30 | 7 |
| Experienced trouble or noise because of drinkers at a licensed venue | 18 | 22 | 13 | 29 | 13 | 9 | 23 | 15 | 13 | 22 | 14 | 19 | 15 | 21 | 13 |
| Felt unsafe while waiting for or using public transport because of someone else's drinking | 18 | 18 | 19 | 26 | 16 | 12 | 22 | 15 | 20 | 27 | 18 | 13 | 13 | 22 | 13 |
| Been verbally abused because of someone else's drinking | 12 | 13 | 10 | 18 | 10 | 5 | 13 | 12 | 4 | 15 | 10 | 11 | 10 | 14 | 8 |
| Been involved in a serious argument because of someone else's drinking | 12 | 15 | 9 | 22 | 9 | 2 | 11 | 14 | 4 | 15 | 12 | 10 | 11 | 15 | 8 |
| Been threatened because of someone else's drinking | 8 | 11 | 6 | 13 | 9 | 1 | 9 | 9 | 1 | 12 | 7 | 8 | 5 | 11 | 4 |
| Been involved in a traffic accident because of someone else's drinking | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | 2 | - | 1 | 1 |
| None of These | 42 | 38 | 45 | 29 | 46 | 53 | 41 | 41 | 47 | 32 | 45 | 41 | 52 | 36 | 51 |

Harms experienced more frequently among men, younger people, and in Dublin and urban areas. Middle class adults more likely to report experiencing harms.



Incidence of assault on self/family member by someone under the influence of alcohol

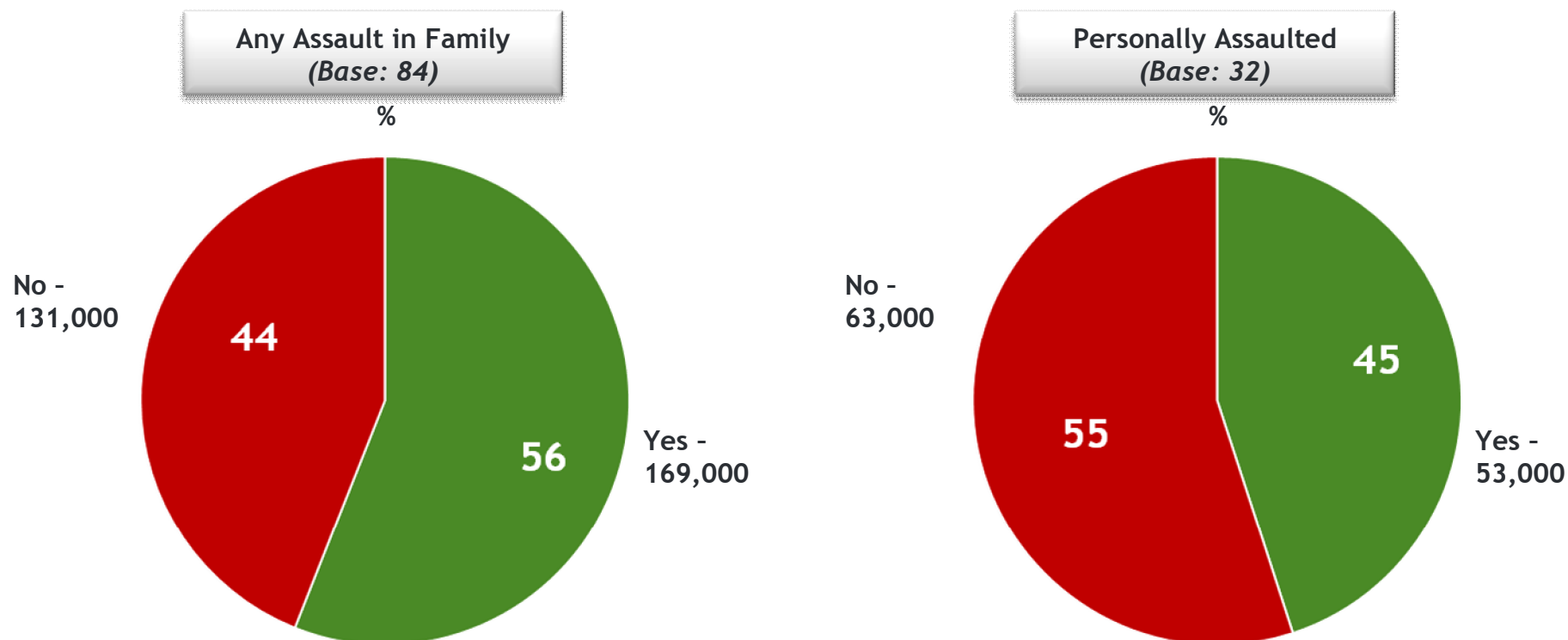
Base: All adults aged 16+ 1,001/3,591,000



Most alcohol related violence is reported by younger people and those living in working class communities.

Reporting of assault to the Police

Base: Assault on family member, 84 cases/300,000 (excluding refusals*)



**A small number refused to discuss it further*

Non-reporters tend to be younger, working class and predominantly male.

Reporting to the police

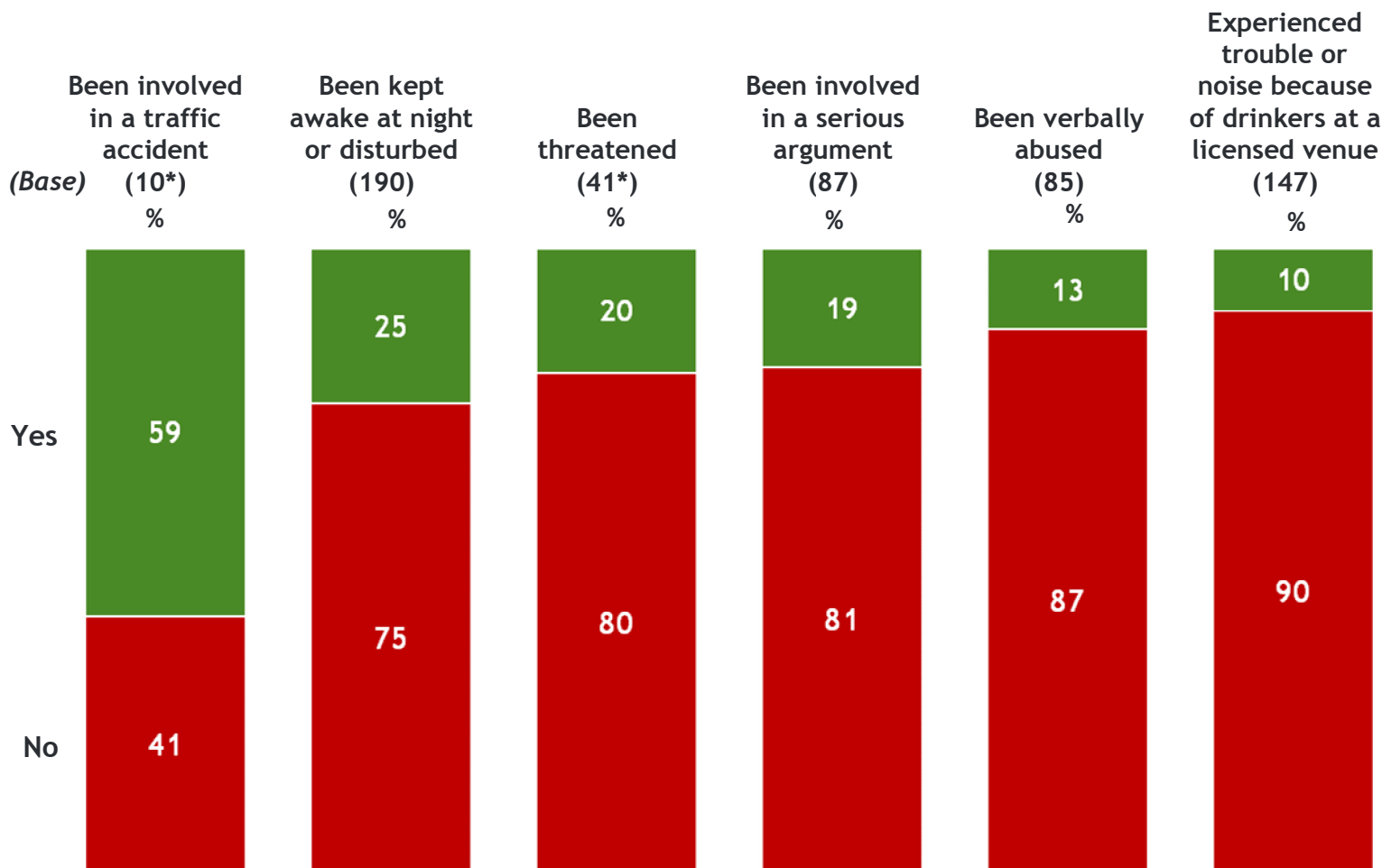


Reporting of Alcohol-Related Incidents to the Police

Base: Those with experience of each, only two incidents explored per respondent



Note: Each person who reported an incident was queried in relation to two incidents only, with reporting of RTAs always explored. Base levels therefore do not equate with incidences



* Small base size

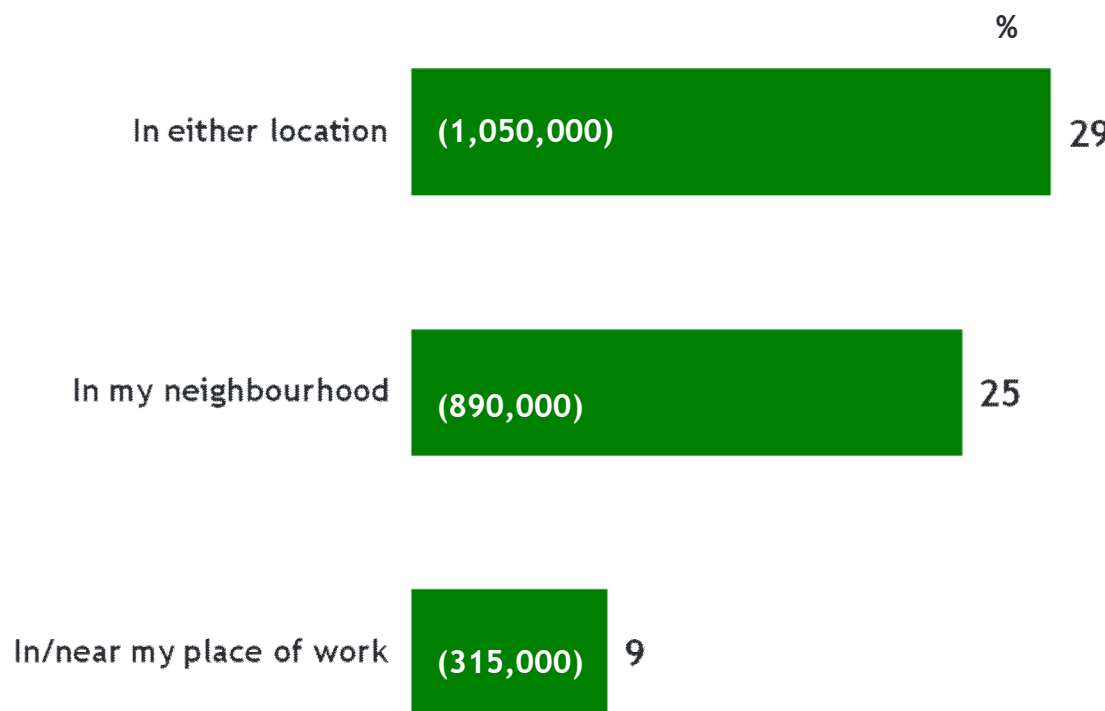
Excluding road traffic accidents, only about a fifth of alcohol related incidents are reported to the police.

Property damage as a result of drinking



Property damage evident as a result of people's drinking X Demographics

Base: All adults aged 16+, 1,001/3,591,000

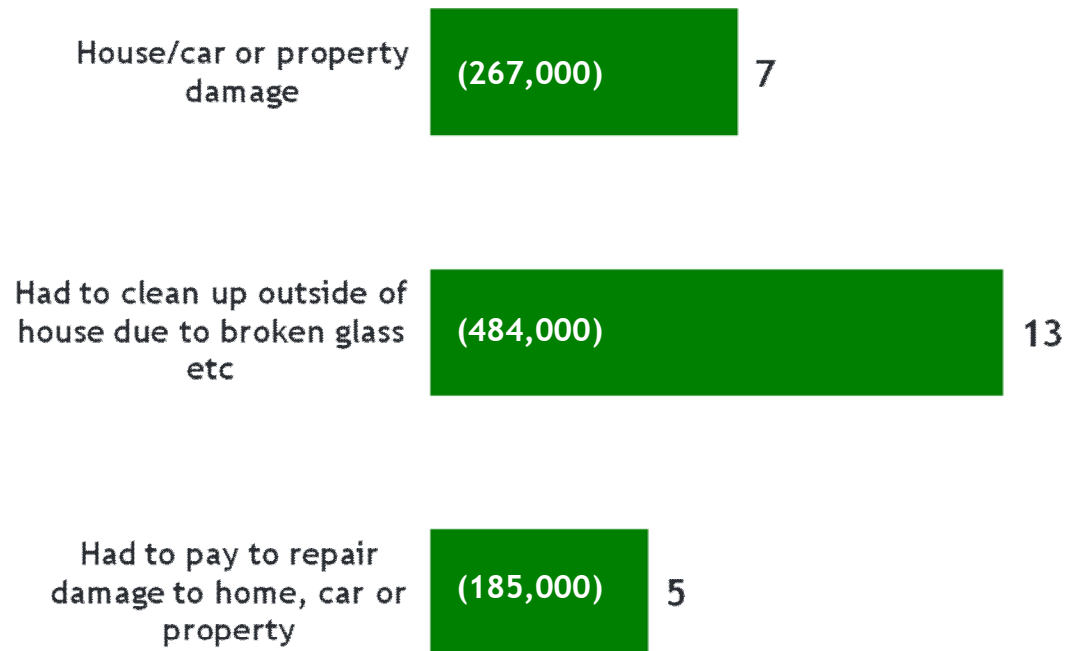


| Dub | R.Lein | Muns | Conn/ UIs | Urban | Rural | ABC1 | C2DE | F |
|-----|--------|------|--------------|-------|-------|------|------|----|
| % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| 40 | 29 | 25 | 19 | 36 | 16 | 34 | 28 | 15 |
| 36 | 25 | 21 | 13 | 33 | 12 | 26 | 26 | 11 |
| 12 | 8 | 7 | 9 | 11 | 5 | 13 | 6 | 5 |

Much more prevalent in Dublin and in urban areas, and more noted by middle class adults.

Incidence of specific damage in past year as a result of someone else's drinking

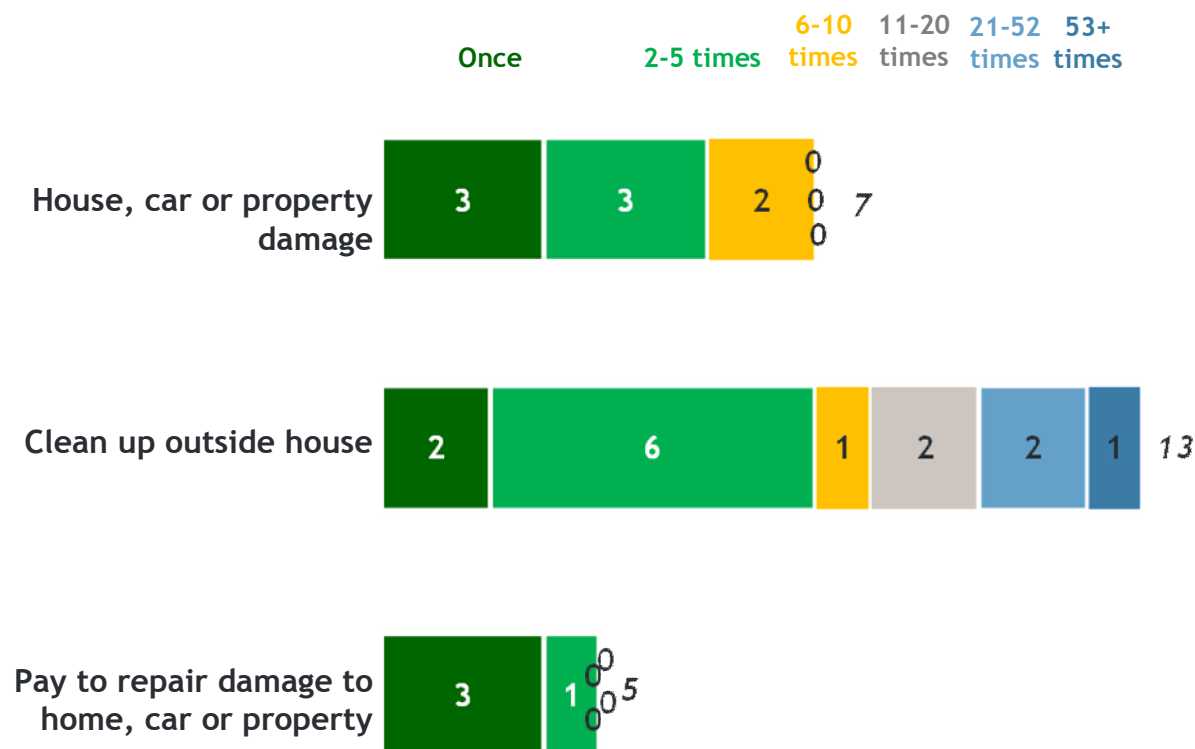
Base: All adults aged 16+, 1,001/3,591,000



One in eight have had to clean up outside of their home, 7% have sustained property damage and 1 in 20 have had to pay to rectify damage.

Number of occurrences of specific elements as a result of other's drinking

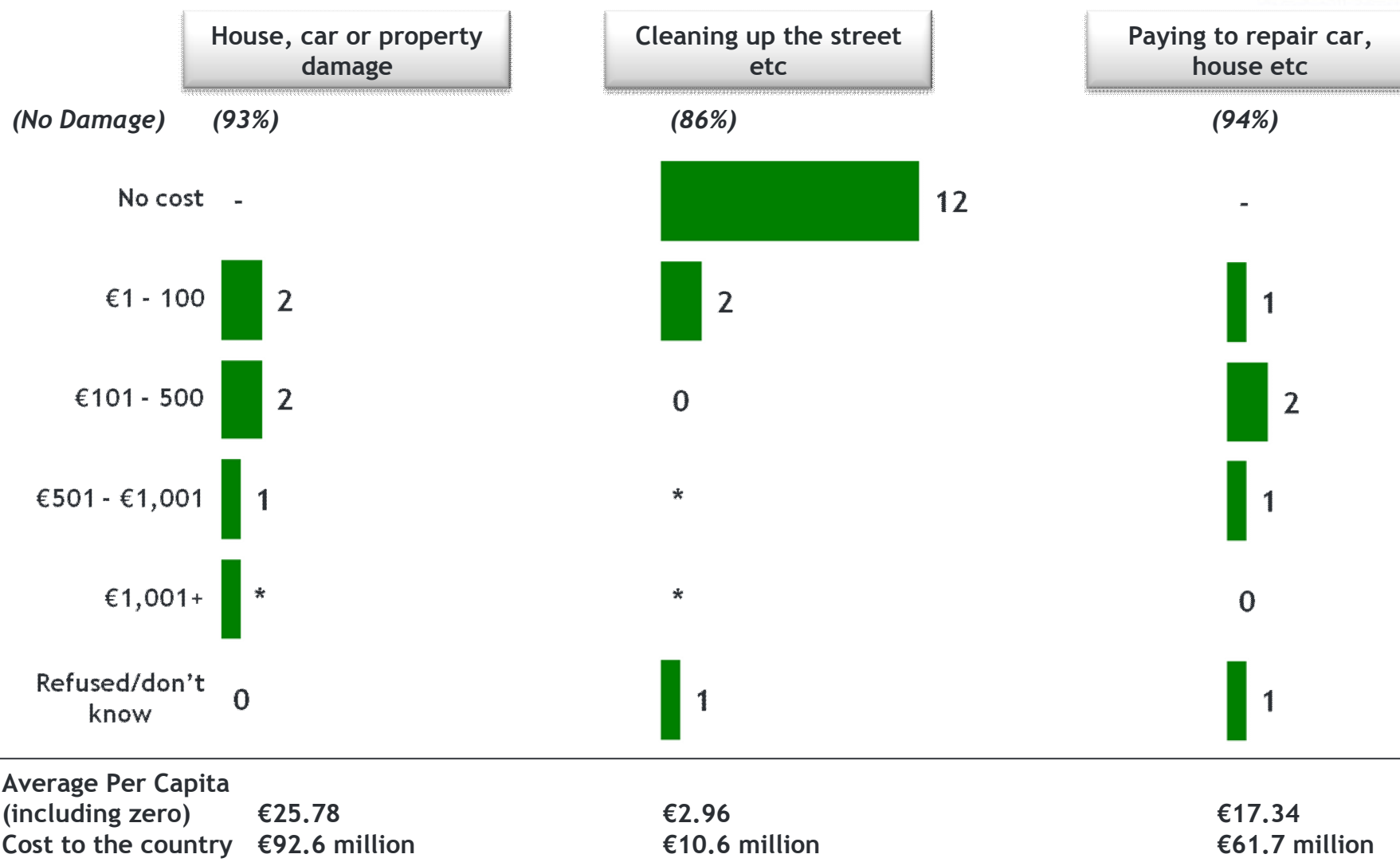
Base: All adults aged 16+, 1,001/3,591,000



| Avg No. of Times per capita | Total number of times (ie: full population) |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 0.27 | 959,000 |
| 1.80 | 6,412,000 |
| 0.13 | 455,000 |

Many have had to clean up outside their home and this can be very frequent: some reported up to 53 incidents annually, and the average number of incidents for those affected is 13.5

Cost of damage per capita



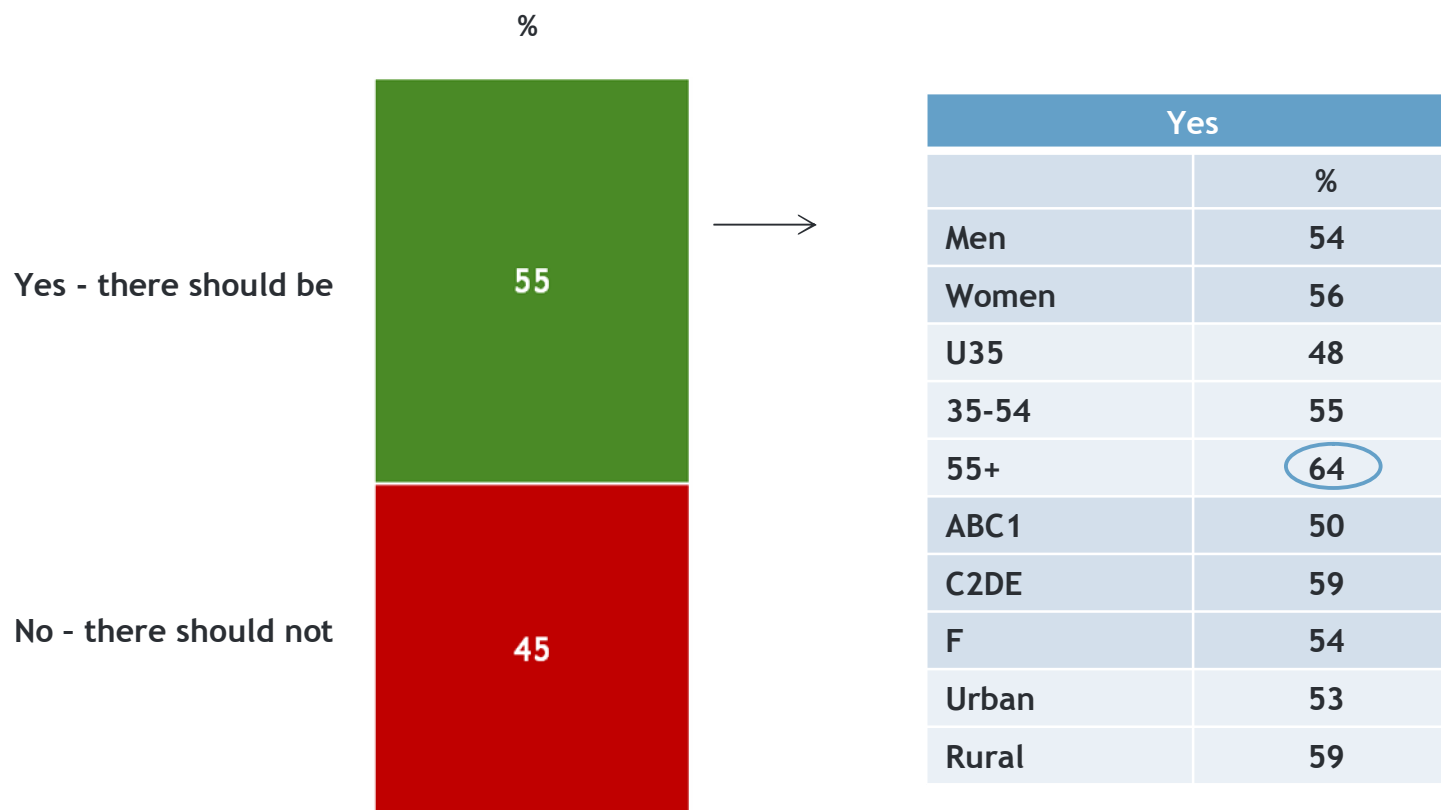
The average cost of damage is €17.34 per capita whereas the clean-up costs are low. Grossing up to the full population, the societal cost is €92.6 million, with up to €61.7 million paid out in repairs. About €30 million of damage goes unrepaired.

Minimum price



Minimum Price for Alcohol

Base: All Adults aged 16+ 1,001/3,591,000



Older and working class adults are more likely to suggest that there should be a minimum price for alcohol.

Key findings



Key Findings



Damage and cost sustained as a result of others drinking

- About three people in ten are affected by property damage, whether in their neighbourhood or near their workplace, as a result of other people's drinking
- Damage is more commonly reported in Dublin than in any other area and is more likely to be commented upon by younger and by middle class people
- 7% of adults sustained property damage this year as a result of the actions of drinkers, and about 5% damage that they must pay to repair. One in eight find themselves having to clean up outside their homes as a result of the mess or damage caused by drinkers

Key Findings

- The societal cost is significant:

| | Number of Incidents | Per Capita Cost | National Financial Cost |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| House, car or property damage | 959,000 | €25.78 | €92.6 million |
| Having to clean up outside | 6,412,000 | €2.96 | €10.6 million |
| Paying to repair property damage | 455,000 | €17.34 | €61.7 million |

Key Findings

Damage caused by other's drinking

- About two people in five indicate that they have experienced some form of alcohol-related intimidation, threat or violence in their community in the past year. By far the largest category, “going out of ones way to avoid drunk people or places where drinkers are known to congregate”, applies to almost 45% of the population.
- Roughly a fifth of the population say that as a result of some-one else's drinking they
 - have been kept awake at night
 - have experienced trouble or noise because of drinkers at licensed venues
 - felt unsafe in public places
 - felt unsafe while waiting for or using public transport

Key Findings



Reporting Alcohol-Related Incidents

- The vast majority who have been involved in incidents related to other peoples drinking, such as being verbally abused or threatened, say that they tend not to report such incidents to the police. A fifth reported to the police that they had been threatened, a quarter being kept awake at night, and just 1 in 8 an instance of verbal abuse.
- About half of all alcohol-related assaults were reported to the Gardai

Key Findings

Assault

- About 9% of the full adult population, or approximately 318,000, say they or another family member had been assaulted by someone under the influence of alcohol
- Men appear to be the more commonly affected and such incidents are much more prevalent among younger people and those from working class backgrounds
- In this context, Dublin is not disproportionately over-represented, although assaults are more apparent in urban areas generally
- About half of alcohol-related assaults are reported to the police

Key Findings



Minimum Pricing

- Over half of all adults (55%) say there should be a minimum price for alcohol, with this view more prevalent amongst those over the age of 55 and those from working class or rural backgrounds

The questionnaire



Questionnaire

WHERE'S THE HARM SURVEY

ALCOHOL-RELATED HARM IN THE COMMUNITY

NOW I WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Q.1 Is there ever damage in your neighbourhood or near your workplace as a result of people's drinking?

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| i. Neighbourhood | 1 |
| ii. Place of work | 2 |

Q.2a How many times in the last 12 months... (READ OUT)

IF YES AT Q.2a

Q.2b how much did the damage cost you?

| | Q.2a | | | | Q.2b |
|--|----------------------|------|-----------|---------|----------------------|
| | 1 or more (specify) | None | Can't Say | Refused | Amount € Enter below |
| I. did you have your house, car or property damaged because of someone else's drinking? | <input type="text"/> | 2 | 3 | 4 | <input type="text"/> |
| II. Had to clean up outside your house because of someone else's drinking, for example, broken glass, cans or other? | <input type="text"/> | 2 | 3 | 4 | <input type="text"/> |
| III. Pay to repair damage to your home, car or property because of someone else's drinking? | <input type="text"/> | 2 | 3 | 4 | <input type="text"/> |

Q.3 In the last 12 months, have you...

| | |
|---|---|
| Been kept awake at night or disturbed because of someone else's drinking | 1 |
| Been verbally abused because of someone else's drinking? | 2 |
| Been threatened because of someone else's drinking? | 3 |
| Experienced trouble or noise because of drinkers at a licensed venue? | 4 |
| Been involved in a traffic accident because of someone else's drinking? | 5 |
| Been involved in a serious argument because of someone else's drinking? | 6 |
| Felt unsafe while waiting for or using public transport because of someone else's drinking? | 7 |
| Felt unsafe in any other public place because of someone else's drinking? | 8 |
| Gone out of your way to avoid drunk people or places where drinkers are known to hang out? | 9 |

FOR ALL CODED (1 – 6 ABOVE)

Q.4a Did you report the incident to the police?

| | | |
|-----|---|-----------|
| Yes | 1 | GO TO Q.5 |
| No | 2 | ASK Q.4b |

IF NO AT Q.4a

Q.4b What was the main reason why you didn't report the incident?

| | |
|--|---|
| Didn't think it was an offence | 1 |
| Didn't think the police could do anything about it | 2 |
| Didn't think the police would do anything about it | 3 |
| I prefer to deal with it myself | 4 |

Q.5a Have you or any other family member been assaulted or injured by someone under the influence of alcohol?

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---|------------|
| Yes - Self | 1 | Go to Q.5b |
| Yes - Other (specify) | 2 | |
| No | 3 | Go to Q.6 |

Q.5b Did you report to the police?

| | | |
|-----|---|-----------|
| Yes | 1 | GO TO Q.6 |
| No | 2 | ASK Q.5c |

IF NO AT Q.5b

Q.5c What was the main reason why you didn't report the incident?

| | |
|--|---|
| Didn't think it was an offence | 1 |
| Didn't think the police could do anything about it | 2 |
| Didn't think the police would do anything about it | 3 |
| I prefer to deal with it myself | 4 |

Q.6 Do you think there should be a minimum price for alcohol?

| | |
|-----|---|
| Yes | 1 |
| No | 2 |

Thank you