

2014 Poll: Alcohol-related violence in New South Wales

Key Findings

- The majority (67%) of NSW adults indicated that it is unsafe in built-up areas of the city or the centre of town on a Saturday night.
- Of the NSW adults who felt it was unsafe, a vast majority (94%) indicated that people affected by alcohol made the city or town unsafe. This was greater than those who selected people affected by drugs (79%) and threatening behaviour (79%).
- The majority of NSW adults support 12 policies to reduce alcohol-related violence in NSW. These include increasing penalties for people involved in alcohol-related violence (89%), stopping the sale of alcohol 30 minutes before closing time (77%) and a closing time for pubs, clubs and bars of no later than 3am (71%).
- The majority (69%) of NSW adults support the introduction of the Newcastle model across NSW, which includes 3am closing times and 1am lockouts.
- Only (12%) of NSW adults think that the NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell is doing enough to stop alcohol-related violence occurring in and around pubs, clubs and bars. A majority (57%) indicated that he isn't doing enough.

About the Polling

The Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education (FARE) commissioned Galaxy Research to carry out polling of NSW adults to determine their perspectives on community safety, alcohol-related policies and actions taken by the NSW Premier to address alcohol-related violence.

This study was conducted online among members of a permission-based panel. The sample selected from the panel members had quotas applied to ensure that it reflected the current population statistics. Fieldwork commenced on Monday 13 January 2014 and was completed on Thursday 16 January 2014. The survey sample comprised 324 respondents aged 18 years and older in NSW.

Following the collection of data, the results were weighted by age, gender and region to reflect the latest Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) population estimates.

Findings

Community Safety

NSW adults were asked how safe built-up areas in the city or the centre of town were on a Saturday night. The majority (67%) of NSW adults indicated that it is unsafe, 24% indicated it is safe and 9% are unsure. The table below provides an overview of responses for all NSW adults.

	All NSW (%)
Very safe	2
Safe	22
Unsafe	41
Very unsafe	26
Don't know	9

The NSW adults who indicated that the city or centre of town was unsafe were asked what made it unsafe. The vast majority (94%) indicated that people affected by alcohol made the city or town unsafe. This was greater than those who selected people affected by drugs (79%) and threatening behaviour (79%). The table below provides an overview of responses for all NSW adults.

	All NSW (%)
People affected by alcohol	94
People affected by drugs	79
Threatening behaviour	79
Large groups of people	54
Poor lighting	38
Other	5

Alcohol-related policies

NSW adults were asked whether they support a number of policies to reduce alcohol-related violence. All 12 suggested policy options received majority support. The most popular policies were increasing penalties for people involved in alcohol-related violence (89%), increasing police numbers at times and places where alcohol-related violence is greater (86%) and introducing or increasing closed-circuit television (CCTV) (83%). The table below provides an overview of the responses for all alcohol-related policies.

	Support (%)	Do not support (%)	Don't know (%)
Increasing penalties for people involved in alcohol-related violence	89	5	6
Increasing police numbers at times and places where alcohol-related violence is greater	86	6	8
Introducing or increasing closed-circuit television (CCTV)	83	6	10
Introducing more public transport options in areas where there are pubs, clubs and bars	79	7	13
Stopping the sale of alcohol 30 minutes before closing time	77	12	10
A closing time for pubs, clubs and bars of no later than 3am	71	15	14
Introducing a 1am lockout for pubs, clubs and bars	70	18	12
Stopping the sale of alcohol and energy drinks after midnight	70	18	13
Introducing identification (ID) scanners	68	13	19
Placing a limit of four drinks on the number of drinks a person can purchase at one time after 10pm	65	19	16
Not allowing alcohol to be sold for less than \$1 per standard drink	65	19	15
Stopping the sale of shots after 10pm	60	20	24

NSW Adults were also asked if they support the introduction of the Newcastle model across NSW, which includes policies such as closing pubs, clubs and bars no later than 3am and a 1am lockout. A majority (69%) support this model, while 14% opposed this and 17% did not know.

Actions taken by the NSW Premier

NSW adults were asked if NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell is doing enough to stop alcohol-related violence occurring in and around pubs, clubs and bars. A small proportion (12%) indicated that he was doing enough, a majority (57%) indicated that he isn't doing enough and 31% don't know.



Foundation for Alcohol
Research & Education



About FARE

The Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education (FARE) is an independent charitable organisation working to prevent the harmful use of alcohol in Australia. Our mission is to help Australia change the way it drinks by:

- helping communities to prevent and reduce alcohol-related harms;
- building the case for alcohol policy reform; and
- engaging Australians in conversations about our drinking culture.

Over the last ten years FARE has invested more than \$115 million, helped 750 organisations and funded over 1,400 projects addressing the harms caused by alcohol misuse.

FARE is guided by the World Health Organization's *Global Strategy to Reduce the Harmful Use of Alcohol* for addressing alcohol-related harms through population-based strategies, problem-directed policies, and direct interventions.

If you would like to contribute to FARE's important work, call us on (02) 6122 8600 or email fare@fare.org.au. All donations to FARE over \$2 are tax deductible.

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