

# 4 Drug-related activities

## Perpetrators of drug-related harm

Survey respondents were asked how many times in the past 12 months they had undertaken specific activities while under the influence of alcohol (Tables 4.1, 4.2) and other drugs (Table 4.3).

**Table 4.1: Activities undertaken while under the influence of alcohol in the past 12 months, proportion of recent<sup>(a)</sup> drinkers aged 14 years and over, by sex, Western Australia, 1995**

Activity	Age groups						Total
	14-19	20-29	30-39	40+	18-34	20-39	
	(per cent)						
	<b>Males</b>						
Drove a motor vehicle	12.5	23.5	23.1	19.2	22.7	23.3	20.1
Operated hazardous machinery	7.0	4.6	3.7	—	2.6	4.1	2.5
Verbally abused someone	12.1	18.3	8.4	7.4	14.5	12.7	10.1
Physically abused someone	7.0	5.6	1.2 *	—	4.5	3.1	2.1
Caused damage to property	19.1	0.7 *	1.2 *	—	3.1	1.0 *	2.5
Stole property	7.0	0.7 *	1.2 *	—	1.7 *	1.0 *	1.2 *
Created a public disturbance or nuisance	20.4	18.3	5.8	0.3 *	14.8	11.2	7.1
	<b>Females</b>						
Drove a motor vehicle	7.0	21.3	12.4	4.6	18.0	16.5	9.9
Operated hazardous machinery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Verbally abused someone	9.8	10.7	0.7 *	2.0 *	8.7	5.3	4.3
Physically abused someone	—	4.0	—	—	2.2	1.8 *	0.8 *
Caused damage to property	—	4.3	—	—	2.4	2.0 *	0.8 *
Stole property	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Created a public disturbance or nuisance	17.7	7.8	4.5	—	5.3	6.0	4.5
	<b>Persons</b>						
Drove a motor vehicle	9.8	22.4	17.8	11.9	20.3	19.9	15.0
Operated hazardous machinery	3.6	2.2 *	1.9	—	1.2 *	2.0 *	1.3
Verbally abused someone	11.0	14.3	4.6	4.7	11.5	9.0	7.2
Physically abused someone	3.6	4.8	0.6 *	—	3.3	2.5	1.4
Caused damage to property	9.7	2.5 *	0.6 *	—	2.8	1.5 *	1.7
Stole property	3.6	0.3 *	0.6 *	—	0.8 *	0.5 *	0.6 *
Created a public disturbance or nuisance	19.1	12.8	5.2	0.2 *	9.9	8.6	5.8

\* RSE greater than 50%.

(a) Used in the last 12 months.

**Table 4.2: Activities undertaken while under the influence of alcohol in the past 12 months, proportion of recent<sup>(a)</sup> drinkers aged 14 years and over, by sex, Western Australia, 1998**

Activity	Age groups						
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40+	18–34	20–39	All ages
(per cent)							
<b>Males</b>							
Drove a motor vehicle	11.6	37.6	36.3	29.8	32.9	36.9	30.6
Operated hazardous machinery	—	1.9 *	0.5 *	—	1.5 *	1.2 *	0.5 *
Verbally abused someone	21.3	39.6	11.7	13.0	30.8	25.7	19.3
Physically abused someone	14.0	6.0	3.3	2.4 *	5.6	4.7	4.7
Caused damage to property	13.9	7.2	4.3	—	5.7	5.8	4.1
Stole property	9.4	1.2 *	—	—	0.8 *	0.6 *	1.4 *
Created a public disturbance or nuisance	15.6	4.7	6.6	—	6.8	5.6	4.2
<b>Females</b>							
Drove a motor vehicle	12.8	40.7	21.8	6.7	31.4	31.2	17.5
Operated hazardous machinery	—	3.6 *	0.3 *	—	2.1	1.9 *	0.8 *
Verbally abused someone	25.9	14.0	7.0	3.2	15.8	10.5	8.7
Physically abused someone	3.5	0.4 *	0.6 *	—	1.1 *	0.5 *	0.6 *
Caused damage to property	3.1	1.4 *	—	—	1.2 *	0.7 *	0.6 *
Stole property	1.6 *	—	—	—	0.3 *	—	0.2 *
Created a public disturbance or nuisance	10.3	5.6	0.4 *	—	5.5	3.0	2.4
<b>Persons</b>							
Drove a motor vehicle	12.2	39.1	29.1	18.2	32.1	34.1	24.1
Operated hazardous machinery	—	2.7 *	0.4 *	—	1.8 *	1.6 *	0.7 *
Verbally abused someone	23.5	26.9	9.4	8.0	23.2	18.1	14.0
Physically abused someone	8.9	3.2 *	2.0 *	1.2 *	3.4	2.6	2.7
Caused damage to property	8.7	4.3	2.2	—	3.4	3.2	2.4
Stole property	5.6	0.6 *	—	—	0.5 *	0.3 *	0.8 *
Created a public disturbance or nuisance	13.0	5.2	3.5	—	6.1	4.3	3.3

\* RSE greater than 50%.

(a) Used in the last 12 months.

## Alcohol-related activities

- In 1995, the most common activity undertaken by West Australian persons while under the influence of alcohol was to **drive a motor vehicle** (15% of recent drinkers).
- In 1995, West Australian males (20%) were twice as likely to have driven a motor vehicle in the last 12 months whilst under the influence of alcohol as females (10%).
- Between 1995 and 1998, the proportion of the Western Australian population aged 14 years or older who **drove a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol** increased from 15% to 24%. In 1998, males (31%) were more likely than females (18%) to drive while under the influence.
- The proportion of persons that **verbally abused someone** while under the influence of alcohol doubled from 7% in 1995 to 14% in 1998. Males (19%) in 1998 were more than twice as likely as females (9%) to verbally abuse someone while under the influence of alcohol.
- The proportion of the population that **physically abused someone** while under the influence of alcohol appears to have increased from 1.4% in 1995 to 2.7% in 1998.

## Drugs other than alcohol

Relative to the rates of alcohol-related activities, the prevalence of behaviours while under the influence of drugs other than alcohol were much lower (Table 4.3).

**Table 4.3: Activities undertaken while under the influence of drugs other than alcohol in the past 12 months, proportion of recent<sup>(a)</sup> users aged 14 years and over, by sex, Western Australia, 1998**

Activity	Age groups						
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40+	18–34	20–39	All ages
	(per cent)						
	<b>Males</b>						
Drove a motor vehicle	11.0	29.0	9.8	0.9 *	22.6	19.4	9.8
Operated hazardous machinery	2.2	10.4	1.3 *	—	7.5	5.8	2.7
Verbally abused someone	14.7	5.5	0.7 *	—	4.7	3.1	3.0
Physically abused someone	9.4	3.7 *	—	—	2.3	1.8	1.9
Caused damage to property	11.2	4.2	—	—	2.6	2.1	2.2
Stole property	8.2	0.7 *	0.7 *	—	0.9 *	0.7 *	1.3 *
Created a public disturbance or nuisance	8.7	0.6 *	0.7 *	—	1.0 *	0.6 *	1.3 *
	<b>Females</b>						
Drove a motor vehicle	11.5	11.9	10.6	0.7 *	13.1	11.2	6.2
Operated hazardous machinery	—	—	1.2 *	0.7 *	0.4 *	0.6 *	0.6 *
Verbally abused someone	3.9	1.1 *	1.6 *	—	2.5	1.3 *	1.0 *
Physically abused someone	1.5 *	—	0.6 *	—	0.9 *	0.3 *	0.3 *
Caused damage to property	—	—	0.6 *	—	0.4 *	0.3 *	0.1 *
Stole property	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Created a public disturbance or nuisance	4.4	0.7 *	0.6 *	—	1.5 *	0.7 *	0.8 *
	<b>Persons</b>						
Drove a motor vehicle	11.3	20.7	10.2	0.8 *	17.8	15.4	8.0
Operated hazardous machinery	1.1 *	5.3	1.3 *	0.4 *	3.9	3.3	1.6
Verbally abused someone	9.4	3.3 *	1.1 *	—	3.6	2.2	2.0
Physically abused someone	5.6	1.9 *	0.3 *	—	1.6 *	1.1 *	1.1
Caused damage to property	5.8	2.1 *	0.3 *	—	1.5 *	1.2 *	1.2
Stole property	4.2	0.3 *	0.4 *	—	0.4 *	0.4 *	0.6 *
Created a public disturbance or nuisance	6.5	0.6 *	0.7 *	—	1.2 *	0.7 *	1.0

\* RSE greater than 50%.

(a) Used in the last 12 months.

- The activity most likely to be undertaken by West Australian persons while under the influence of drugs other than alcohol in 1998 was **driving a motor vehicle** (8% of recent drinkers). Males (10%) were more likely than females (6%) to drive while under the influence.
- Approximately 2% of persons in Western Australia **verbally abused someone**, with males (3%) being more likely than females (1%) to have done so.
- Less than 2% of persons **operated hazardous machinery, physically abused someone, caused damage to property, stole property** or **created a public disturbance or nuisance**.

## Victims of drug-related harm

In 1998, Western Australians were more likely to be victims of alcohol-related incidents, than to be victims of incidents related to other drugs (Tables 4.4, 4.5, 4.6).

**Table 4.4: Victims of alcohol-related incidents, proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, by sex, Western Australia, 1995**

Activity	Age groups						
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40+	18–34	20–39	All ages
	(per cent)						
	<b>Males</b>						
Verbal abuse	40.0	76.0	51.3	33.2	63.9	61.9	45.7
Physical abuse	10.0	15.4	14.9	2.2 *	16.7	15.1	8.5
Put in fear	35.9	23.9	25.4	15.5	27.6	24.8	21.8
Property damaged	7.2	25.0	20.7	17.9	23.7	22.5	18.5
Property stolen	6.3	19.1	7.8	5.5	14.9	12.7	8.6
	<b>Females</b>						
Verbal abuse	44.7	49.3	35.7	23.4	44.8	42.1	33.7
Physical abuse	9.8	8.9	5.7	3.9	8.1	7.2	6.0
Put in fear	38.6	41.9	31.2	15.9	38.7	36.2	27.0
Property damaged	17.3	19.9	6.6	5.8	17.5	12.8	10.1
Property stolen	7.0	5.6	6.0	6.3	6.4	5.8	6.2
	<b>Persons</b>						
Verbal abuse	42.1	61.8	43.6	28.3	54.0	51.8	39.7
Physical abuse	9.9	12.0	10.3	3.1	12.3	11.1	7.2
Put in fear	37.1	33.4	28.3	15.7	33.3	30.6	24.4
Property damaged	11.9	22.3	13.7	11.9	20.6	17.6	14.3
Property stolen	6.7	12.0	6.9	5.9	10.6	9.2	7.4

\* RSE greater than 50%.

**Table 4.5: Victims of alcohol-related incidents, proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, by sex, Western Australia, 1998**

Activity	Age groups						All ages
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40+	18–34	20–39	
(per cent)							
<b>Males</b>							
Verbal abuse	23.7	58.8	46.4	22.2	57.8	52.6	35.4
Physical abuse	12.2	25.4	6.3	3.8	21.6	15.9	10.1
Put in fear	15.0	21.1	23.5	6.2	22.3	22.3	14.3
Property damaged	7.9	21.1	10.4	5.8	19.9	15.7	10.4
Property stolen	3.5	3.4 *	6.0	2.2 *	4.2	4.7	3.4
<b>Females</b>							
Verbal abuse	36.5	48.2	21.7	13.7	38.9	34.8	24.9
Physical abuse	11.1	4.5	3.9	0.9 *	6.6	4.2	3.4
Put in fear	25.6	23.5	22.5	8.7	24.0	23.0	16.5
Property damaged	20.8	9.7	9.2	1.5 *	12.5	9.4	7.1
Property stolen	4.3	6.0	5.0	1.5 *	5.0	5.5	3.5
<b>Persons</b>							
Verbal abuse	30.0	53.6	34.1	17.8	48.2	43.8	30.1
Physical abuse	11.7	15.3	5.1	2.3 *	14.1	10.2	6.8
Put in fear	20.4	22.3	23.0	7.5	23.2	22.7	15.4
Property damaged	14.4	15.5	9.8	3.6	16.2	12.6	8.7
Property stolen	3.9	4.6	5.5	1.9 *	4.6	5.1	3.5

\* RSE greater than 50%.

## Alcohol-related incidents

- Between 1995 and 1998, the proportion of persons in Western Australia aged 14 years or older who were victims of alcohol-related **verbal abuse** decreased from 40% in 1995 to 30% in 1998. Males (46%) were more likely than females (34%) to be victims of alcohol-related verbal abuse in 1995.
- The proportion subjected to alcohol-related **physical abuse** remained relatively stable at around 7%. Males (10%) were more likely than females (3%) to be victims of alcohol-related physical abuse in 1998.
- The likelihood of **being put in fear** decreased from 24% in 1995 to 15% in 1998.
- The likelihood of having **property stolen** or **damaged** both decreased between 1995 and 1998.

## Victims of incidents related to drugs other than alcohol

In 1998, slightly more than one in 10 (12%) West Australians aged 14 years or over were victims of verbal abuse from a person affected by drugs other than alcohol (Table 4.6).

**Table 4.6: Victims of incidents related to drugs other than alcohol, proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, by sex, Western Australia, 1998**

Activity	Age groups						
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40+	18–34	20–39	All ages
(per cent)							
<b>Males</b>							
Verbal abuse	10.8	26.4	10.5	10.1	21.3	17.9	13.5
Physical abuse	2.5	8.3	4.0	2.8 *	7.9	6.2	4.3
Put in fear	6.9	12.8	13.6	11.7	11.5	13.2	11.8
Property damaged	5.3	8.4	3.1	4.6	7.3	5.8	5.2
Property stolen	5.2	5.3	6.1	3.2	6.5	5.7	4.6
<b>Females</b>							
Verbal abuse	9.8	22.4	7.8	6.8	16.1	15.0	10.5
Physical abuse	—	3.0 *	0.6 *	—	2.1	1.8 *	0.7
Put in fear	9.4	19.7	11.1	3.2	13.8	15.3	9.0
Property damaged	4.4	10.4	3.3	1.0 *	7.5	6.8	3.8
Property stolen	—	2.6 *	4.2	2.5 *	2.3	3.4	2.6
<b>Persons</b>							
Verbal abuse	10.3	24.3	9.2	8.4	18.5	16.4	12.0
Physical abuse	1.2 *	5.8	2.3	1.3 *	5.0	4.0	2.5
Put in fear	8.2	16.2	12.3	7.2	12.7	14.2	10.4
Property damaged	4.8	9.4	3.2	2.7 *	7.4	6.3	4.5
Property stolen	2.6	4.0 *	5.2	2.9 *	4.4	4.6	3.6

\* RSE greater than 50%.

- Approximately 10% of persons in Western Australia in 1998 were **put in fear** in an incident related to drugs other than alcohol.
- Rates of **physical abuse** (3%) and **property damage** (5%) were half the corresponding alcohol-related incidents.
- Approximately the same proportion of persons reported **property theft** resulting from drugs other than alcohol as for alcohol (4%).

## Injuries resulting from drug-related incidents

Approximately 7% of all West Australians suffered an injury (non-self-inflicted) as a result of an alcohol or other drug-related incident in the 12 months preceding the 1998 survey (Table 4.7).

**Table 4.7: Most serious injury sustained as a result of alcohol or other drug-related incident, proportion of the population aged 14 years and over, by sex, Western Australia, 1998**

Injury	Age groups						
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40+	18–34	20–39	All ages
	(per cent)						
	<b>Males</b>						
<b>Total injured</b>	<b>12.9</b>	<b>25.4</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>22.3</b>	<b>16.4</b>	<b>10.9</b>
Bruising, abrasions	40.0	78.9	29.0	—	63.6	68.3	58.4
Burns, not involving hospital admission	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Minor lacerations	21.6	3.1	8.0	—	7.6	4.1	6.4
Lacerations requiring suturing, but not hospital admission	22.1	3.9	14.0	—	9.5	6.1	8.0
Fractures not requiring hospital admission	16.2	14.1	34.5	—	16.5	18.4	16.5
Sufficiently serious to require hospital admission	—	—	14.5	100.0	2.8	3.1	10.7
	<b>Females</b>						
<b>Total injured</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>0.9 *</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>3.8</b>
Bruising, abrasions	60.9	67.6	65.8	100.0 *	53.2	66.8	75.1
Burns, not involving hospital admission	39.1	—	—	—	—	—	6.6
Minor lacerations	—	32.4	34.2	—	46.8	33.2	18.3
Lacerations requiring suturing, but not hospital admission	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fractures not requiring hospital admission	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sufficiently serious to require hospital admission	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	<b>Persons</b>						
<b>Total injured</b>	<b>12.0</b>	<b>16.2</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>2.4 *</b>	<b>14.9</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>7.2</b>
Bruising, abrasions	44.3	77.7	38.6	43.9 *	62.5	68.1	61.5
Burns, not involving hospital admission	8.1	—	—	—	—	—	1.2
Minor lacerations	17.1	6.2	14.8	—	11.5	8.3	8.7
Lacerations requiring suturing, but not hospital admission	17.6	3.5	10.3	—	8.6	5.2	6.5
Fractures not requiring hospital admission	12.9	12.6	25.5	—	14.9	15.8	13.4
Sufficiently serious to require hospital admission	—	—	10.8	56.1 *	2.5	2.6	8.7

\* RSE greater than 50%.

Note: Base of total injured equals all respondents, base of injury breakdown equals total physically injured.

- The most frequent serious injuries sustained as a result of alcohol or other drug-related incidents were **bruises** and **abrasions** (62%). Males who had been injured (58%) were less likely than females (75%) to sustain bruises or abrasions.
- Females (18%) were approximately 3 times more likely to have sustained a **minor laceration** than males (6%).