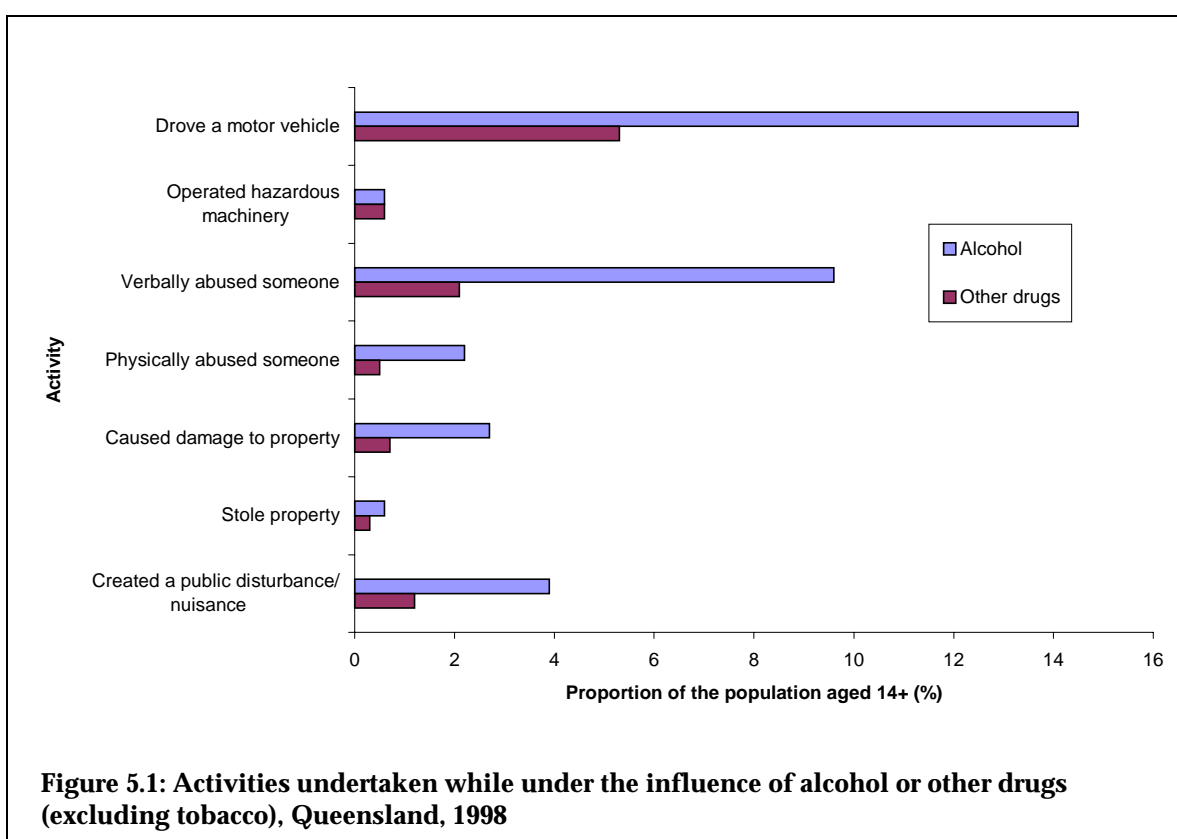


# 5 Drug-related activities

## Perpetrators of drug-related harm

Survey respondents were asked how many times in the past 12 months they undertook specific activities while under the influence of alcohol or other drugs (excluding tobacco and drugs used for licit purposes) (Table 5.1).

In Queensland in 1998, the proportion of persons who drove a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or other drugs was considerably higher than the proportion of persons who undertook other surveyed activities (Figure 5.1).



## Activities undertaken while under the influence of alcohol

In Queensland:

- In 1998, the proportion of persons aged 14 years and over who drove a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol in the past 12 months was 14.5%, which was a 77% increase from 1995.
- Proportions for all of the alcohol-related activities increased between 1995 and 1998, although generally only slightly.

- Between 1995 and 1998, the proportion of males involved in alcohol-related incidents increased for all incidents surveyed. For example, the proportion who drove a motor vehicle increased from 12.1% to 19.8% and the proportion who caused damage to property increased from 1.3% to 4.3%.
- For females, the proportions undertaking various activities while under the influence of alcohol generally remained stable between 1995 and 1998. However, the proportion of females who drove a motor vehicle increased from 4.4% to 9.1% between 1995 and 1998.

**Table 5.1: Activities undertaken while under the influence of alcohol or other drugs (excluding tobacco) in the past 12 months, by sex, Queensland and the rest of Australia, 1995, 1998**

Influence and activity	Males				Females				Persons			
	1995		1998		1995		1998		1995		1998	
	Aus-Q	Qld	Qld	Aus-Q	Aus-Q	Qld	Qld	Aus-Q	Aus-Q	Qld	Qld	Aus-Q
<b>Alcohol</b>	(per cent)											
Drove a motor vehicle	14.6	<b>12.1</b>	<b>19.8</b>	24.7	7.1	<b>4.4</b>	<b>9.1</b>	11.9	10.8	<b>8.2</b>	<b>14.5</b>	18.2
Operated hazardous machinery	2.6	<b>0.7</b>	<b>1.1</b>	1.7	0.4	—	<b>0.1</b> *	0.1	1.5	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.6</b>	0.9
Verbally abused someone	11.4	<b>10.1</b>	<b>12.0</b>	12.9	4.8	<b>5.8</b>	<b>7.2</b>	5.8	8.0	<b>7.9</b>	<b>9.6</b>	9.3
Physically abused someone	4.5	<b>1.6</b>	<b>2.6</b>	3.1	0.6	<b>2.1</b>	<b>1.8</b>	0.7	2.5	<b>1.9</b>	<b>2.2</b>	1.9
Caused damage to property	4.5	<b>1.3</b>	<b>4.3</b>	4.4	1.4	<b>1.4</b>	<b>1.1</b>	0.9	2.9	<b>1.3</b>	<b>2.7</b>	2.6
Stole property	1.6	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.9</b>	1.7	0.2	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.4</b> *	0.3	0.9	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.6</b>	1.0
Created a public disturbance/nuisance	7.3	<b>3.6</b>	<b>5.5</b>	6.6	3.3	<b>3.0</b>	<b>2.4</b>	2.6	5.3	<b>3.3</b>	<b>3.9</b>	4.6
<b>Other drugs</b>												
Drove a motor vehicle	(a)	(a)	<b>7.7</b>	8.4	(a)	(a)	<b>3.1</b>	4.1	(a)	(a)	<b>5.3</b>	6.2
Operated hazardous machinery	(a)	(a)	<b>1.1</b>	1.3	(a)	(a)	<b>0.1</b> *	0.1	(a)	(a)	<b>0.6</b>	0.7
Verbally abused someone	(a)	(a)	<b>2.1</b>	2.5	(a)	(a)	<b>2.1</b>	1.0	(a)	(a)	<b>2.1</b>	1.7
Physically abused someone	(a)	(a)	<b>0.6</b> *	0.8	(a)	(a)	<b>0.3</b> *	0.2	(a)	(a)	<b>0.5</b>	0.5
Caused damage to property	(a)	(a)	<b>1.0</b>	1.1	(a)	(a)	<b>0.3</b> *	0.2	(a)	(a)	<b>0.7</b>	0.6
Stole property	(a)	(a)	<b>0.4</b> *	0.7	(a)	(a)	<b>0.2</b> *	0.1	(a)	(a)	<b>0.3</b> *	0.4
Created a public disturbance/nuisance	(a)	(a)	<b>1.2</b>	1.4	(a)	(a)	<b>1.1</b>	0.5	(a)	(a)	<b>1.2</b>	0.9

\* RSE greater than 50%.

(a) Not asked in 1995.

Note: Base equals all users of alcohol and other drugs (excluding tobacco).

### Compared to the rest of Australia:

- The proportions of persons in Queensland who undertook an activity while under the influence of alcohol in the last 12 months were similar to those in the rest of Australia. Approximately 14.5% of Queensland persons drove a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol compared to 18.2% of other Australians.
- The proportion of Queensland males who undertook the surveyed activities in the last 12 months was lower than the proportion of males in the rest of Australia for all activities.

- For females in general, the proportions in Queensland who reported being involved in an activity while under the influence of alcohol were higher than proportions in the rest of Australia.

### Activities undertaken while under the influence of drugs other than alcohol

Relative to the rates of alcohol-related activities, the prevalence of selected behaviours while under the influence of drugs other than alcohol was much lower.

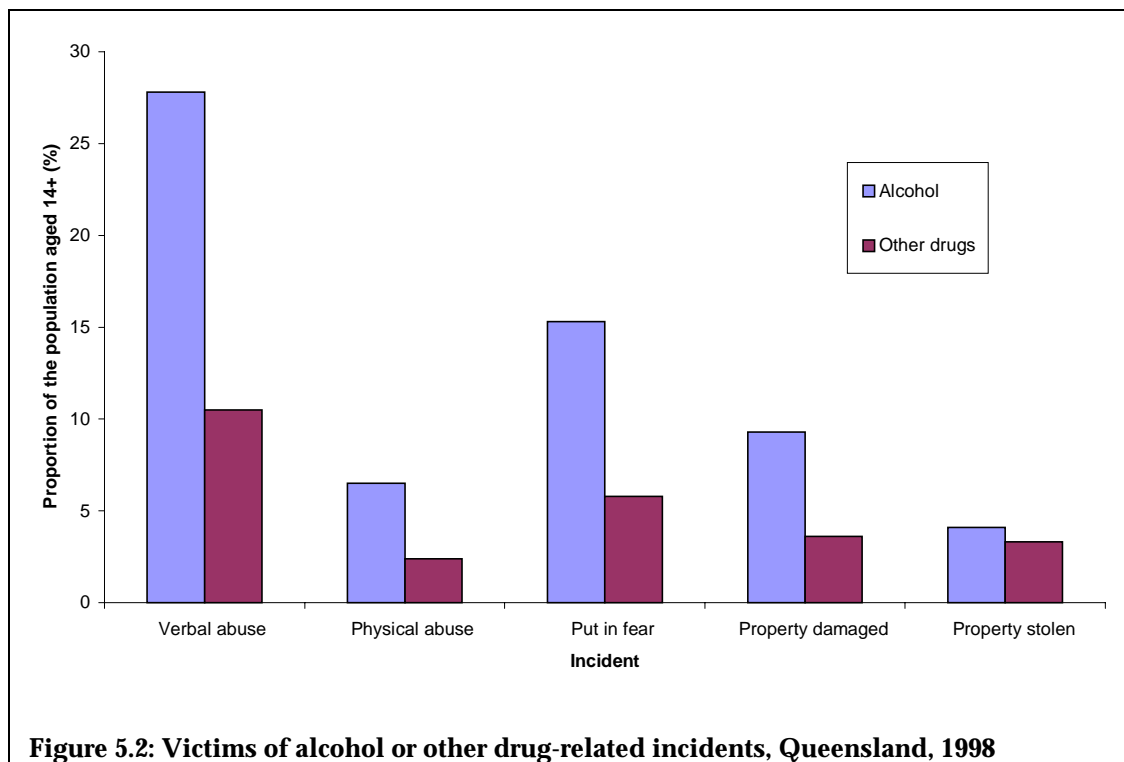
- In 1998, one in 20 persons living in Queensland drove a motor vehicle while under the influence of drugs other than alcohol.
- Males (7.7%) were more than twice as likely as females (3.1%) to drive while under the influence of drugs other than alcohol.
- About 2.0% of persons verbally abused someone in the last 12 months and 1.2% created a public disturbance/nuisance.

The proportions of Queensland respondents engaging in selected behaviours were generally quite similar to those in the rest of Australia.

- Approximately 2.1% of persons living in Queensland, and 1.7% of persons in other States and Territories combined verbally abused someone; less than 1.0% physically abused someone, caused damage to property, or stole property while under the influence of drugs other than alcohol.

### Victims of perceived drug-related harm

In 1998, verbal abuse was the most common type of abuse reported by victims of both perceived alcohol and other drug-related incidents (Figure 5.2).



Persons living in Queensland were more than twice as likely to be victims of perceived alcohol-related incidents than to be victims of incidents perceived related to other drugs (Table 5.2).

**Table 5.2: Proportion of the population aged 14 years and over who have been victims of perceived alcohol or other drug-related incidents, by sex, Queensland and the rest of Australia, 1995, 1998**

Influence and activity	Males				Females				Persons			
	1995		1998		1995		1998		1995		1998	
	Aus-Q	Qld	Qld	Aus-Q	Aus-Q	Qld	Qld	Aus-Q	Aus-Q	Qld	Qld	Aus-Q
<b>Alcohol</b>	(per cent)											
Verbal abuse	39.9	<b>35.0</b>	<b>30.6</b>	32.9	29.3	<b>28.0</b>	<b>24.7</b>	26.3	34.5	<b>31.4</b>	<b>27.6</b>	29.6
Physical abuse	11.8	<b>11.4</b>	<b>6.8</b>	7.9	6.2	<b>5.3</b>	<b>6.0</b>	4.9	9.0	<b>8.3</b>	<b>6.4</b>	6.4
Put in fear	20.2	<b>18.0</b>	<b>11.4</b>	14.6	23.8	<b>24.2</b>	<b>19.0</b>	17.3	22.1	<b>21.2</b>	<b>15.2</b>	16.0
Property damaged	17.2	<b>18.6</b>	<b>8.6</b>	8.9	9.3	<b>8.7</b>	<b>10.0</b>	7.2	13.2	<b>13.6</b>	<b>9.3</b>	8.1
Property stolen	6.0	<b>7.0</b>	<b>3.8</b>	4.3	4.1	<b>4.7</b>	<b>4.3</b>	3.1	5.1	<b>5.8</b>	<b>4.1</b>	3.7
<b>Other drugs</b>												
Verbal abuse	(a)	(a)	<b>12.8</b>	11.8	(a)	(a)	<b>8.2</b>	8.7	(a)	(a)	<b>10.5</b>	10.2
Physical abuse	(a)	(a)	<b>2.7</b>	2.9	(a)	(a)	<b>2.1</b>	1.9	(a)	(a)	<b>2.4</b>	2.4
Put in fear	(a)	(a)	<b>4.7</b>	6.7	(a)	(a)	<b>6.8</b>	8.8	(a)	(a)	<b>5.8</b>	7.7
Property damaged	(a)	(a)	<b>2.9</b>	3.4	(a)	(a)	<b>4.2</b>	2.7	(a)	(a)	<b>3.6</b>	3.0
Property stolen	(a)	(a)	<b>2.8</b>	4.0	(a)	(a)	<b>3.7</b>	2.9	(a)	(a)	<b>3.3</b>	3.4

(a) Not asked in 1995.

## Victims of incidents perceived related to alcohol

### In Queensland:

- The proportion of persons aged 14 years or older who considered they were victims of alcohol-related verbal abuse decreased from 31.4% in 1995 to 27.6% in 1998. Males (30.6%) were more likely than females (24.7%) in 1998 to be victims of alcohol-related verbal abuse.
- The proportion of persons subjected to perceived alcohol-related physical abuse dropped from 8.3% in 1995 to 6.4% in 1998. Males were slightly more likely than females to be victims of perceived alcohol-related physical abuse.
- The likelihood of being put in fear, or having property damaged or stolen in incidents thought to be alcohol-related, decreased between 1995 and 1998 by around 30%.
- In 1998, females were more likely to be victims of being put in fear (males 11.4%, females 19.0%), of having property damaged (males 8.6%, females 10.0%) and of having property stolen (males 3.8%, females 4.3%) in incidents thought to be alcohol-related.

### Compared to the rest of Australia:

- In 1998, the proportions of persons in Queensland who considered they were victims of alcohol-related events were very similar to proportions in the rest of Australia.

## Victims of incidents perceived related to drugs other than alcohol

Compared to alcohol-related incidents, persons living in Queensland were only half as likely to be victims of incidents thought to be related to other drugs.

- In 1998, approximately one in 10 (10.5%) persons aged 14 years or over were victims of verbal abuse from a person perceived to be affected by drugs other than alcohol.
- Slightly more than one in 20 (5.8%) people were put in fear in an incident related to drugs other than alcohol.
- Rates of physical abuse (2.4%) and property damage (3.6%) were less than half the corresponding rates for alcohol-related incidents, and approximately the same proportion of persons reported property theft resulting from drugs other than alcohol as for alcohol (3.3% and 4.1% respectively).

Compared to the rest of Australia:

- As for victims of incidents thought to be related to alcohol, the proportions of victims in other Australia were similar to proportions in Queensland.
- However, the proportion of persons who were put in fear was slightly higher in the rest of Australia (7.7%) than in Queensland (5.8%).

## Estimates of the number of victims of perceived alcohol-related incidents

It is estimated that in Queensland in the 12 months preceding the survey there were over 760,000 victims of perceived alcohol-related verbal abuse and almost 260,000 persons had property damaged in perceived alcohol-related incidents (Table 5.3).

**Table 5.3: Number of victims of perceived alcohol-related incidents, by age and sex, Queensland, 1998**

Incident	Age				All ages
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40+	
	(number)				
	<b>Males</b>				
Verbal abuse	47,000	144,000	99,000	126,000	420,000
Physical abuse	14,000	42,000	16,000	21,000	93,000
Put in fear	24,000	50,000	49,000	32,000	156,000
Property damage	12,000	42,000	29,000	34,000	118,000
Property stolen	5,000	17,000	9,000	21,000	52,000
	<b>Females</b>				
Verbal abuse	59,000	115,000	72,000	88,000	343,000
Physical abuse	10,000	33,000	21,000	16,000	83,000
Put in fear	53,000	95,000	51,000	58,000	264,000
Property damage	24,000	60,000	29,000	21,000	139,000
Property stolen	15,000	28,000	7,000	9,000	60,000
	<b>Persons</b>				
Verbal abuse	106,000	259,000	171,000	215,000	761,000
Physical abuse	24,000	75,000	37,000	38,000	177,000
Put in fear	78,000	145,000	100,000	88,000	419,000
Property damage	37,000	101,000	58,000	56,000	257,000
Property stolen	20,000	46,000	15,000	29,000	110,000

Note: 'All ages', 'Persons' may not add up to sum of components due to rounding.

- There were more almost 180,000 victims of perceived alcohol-related physical assaults and about 110,000 victims of perceived alcohol-related property theft in the 12 months preceding the 1998 survey.
- In 1998, there were approximately 50,000 more female victims of perceived alcohol-related incidents than male victims.
- Females aged 14–19 years experienced higher rates of verbal abuse, property damage, property theft and being put in fear than males in the same age group.

### Injuries resulting from perceived drug-related incidents

Approximately 7.0% of all persons living in Queensland aged 14 years or over suffered an injury (non self-inflicted) as a result of perceived alcohol or other drug-related incidents in the 12 months preceding the 1998 survey (Table 5.4).

**Table 5.4: Most serious injury sustained as a result of a perceived alcohol or other drug-related incident, by sex, Queensland and the rest of Australia, 1998**

Injury	Males		Females		Persons	
	Qld	Aus-Q	Qld	Aus-Q	Qld	Aus-Q
	(per cent)					
<b>Total injured</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>7.0</b>
Bruising, abrasions	<b>76.5</b>	65.4	<b>73.9</b>	68.6	<b>75.0</b>	66.9
Burns, not involving hospital	—	—	<b>0.6 *</b>	0.4 *	<b>0.3 *</b>	0.2 *
Minor lacerations	<b>18.1</b>	14.1	<b>13.5</b>	11.7	<b>15.4</b>	13.0
Lacerations requiring suturing, but not hospital	<b>0.5 *</b>	2.9 *	<b>2.5 *</b>	1.7 *	<b>1.7 *</b>	2.4 *
Fractures not requiring hospital	<b>4.8 *</b>	5.7 *	<b>7.5 *</b>	13.7	<b>6.4 *</b>	9.3
Sufficiently serious to require hospital	—	11.8	<b>2.0 *</b>	3.8 *	<b>1.2 *</b>	8.2

\* RSE greater than 50%.

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

- The most frequent serious injury sustained as a result of perceived alcohol or other drug-related incidents in Queensland was bruises and minor abrasions (75.0%). Males who had been injured (76.5%) were slightly more likely than females (73.9%) who had been injured to sustain bruises or abrasions.
- Bruises and abrasions were also the most common forms of injury in the other States and Territories combined (66.9%).
- The second most common type of injury in Queensland was minor lacerations (15.4%), followed by fractures not requiring hospital admission (6.4%).
- Queensland females who had been injured (7.5%) were more likely than males (4.8%) to have fractures not requiring hospital admission.
- Other than bruises and abrasions and sufficiently serious to require hospital admission, proportions of injured persons in Queensland closely resembled proportions in the rest of Australia.

## Estimates of the number of victims of perceived alcohol or other drug-related incidents

It is estimated that almost 110,000 persons living in Queensland aged 14 years or over were injured as a result of a perceived alcohol or other drug-related incident in the 12 months preceding the 1998 survey (Table 5.5).

**Table 5.5: Number of persons sustaining injuries as a result of a perceived alcohol or other drug-related incident, by age, Queensland, 1998**

Injury	Age				All ages
	14–19	20–29	30–39	40+	
	(number)				
Bruising, abrasions	9,000	33,000	18,000	19,000	80,000
Burns, not involving hospital admission	–	–	–	–	–
Minor lacerations	2,000 *	9,000	1,000 *	5,000	17,000
Lacerations requiring suturing, but not hospital admission	1,000 *	1,000 *	–	–	2,000 *
Fractures not requiring hospital admission	–	3,000 *	4,000 *	–	7,000 *
Sufficiently serious to require hospital admission	–	1,000 *	–	–	1,000 *
<b>Total persons injured</b>	<b>13,000</b>	<b>47,000</b>	<b>23,000</b>	<b>24,000</b>	<b>107,000</b>

\* RSE greater than 50%.

Note: 'All ages' and 'Persons' may not add up to sum of components due to rounding.

- The injury sustained by the largest number of persons as a result of a perceived alcohol or other drug-related incident was bruises and abrasions. In 1998, it was estimated that about 80,000 persons aged 14 years or older sustained injuries of this type. Most victims (33,000) were aged 20–29 years.
- Around 1,000 persons sustained injuries so severe that they required hospitalisation.

## Avoidance of passive smoking

Respondents were asked whether they avoided places where they may be exposed to other people's cigarette smoke (Table 5.6). Almost two-thirds of Queensland respondents (65%) answered either 'Yes, always' or 'Yes, sometimes'.

- In 1998, approximately two-thirds (64.7%) of persons living in Queensland indicated that they would avoid other people's cigarette smoke. This was almost a 10 percentage point increase from 1995 (55.1%).
- In general, females were more likely to avoid other people's smoke than males. However, males aged 14–19 years (65.0%) were more likely to avoid other people's smoke than females in the same age group (62.5%).
- Rates of avoidance were generally lower in Queensland than in the other States and Territories combined, across all ages and for both sexes. For example, 54.8% of Queensland persons aged 20–29 years avoided cigarette smoke compared to 62.0% of other Australians.

**Table 5.6: Persons avoiding places where they may be exposed to other people's tobacco smoke, by age and sex, Queensland and the rest of Australia, 1995, 1998**

Age	1995		1998	
	Aus-Q	Qld	Qld	Aus-Q
(per cent)				
<b>Males</b>				
14-19	64.2	72.7	65.0	61.7
20-29	51.0	45.2	54.1	58.5
30-39	51.1	53.5	60.7	69.2
40+	60.1	41.4	65.0	66.4
<b>All ages</b>	<b>57.2</b>	<b>49.6</b>	<b>61.9</b>	<b>65.0</b>
<b>Females</b>				
14-19	57.6	69.5	62.5	67.3
20-29	50.4	39.9	55.6	65.6
30-39	66.6	66.6	67.6	74.2
40+	63.5	62.2	73.0	69.0
<b>All ages</b>	<b>61.2</b>	<b>60.6</b>	<b>67.6</b>	<b>69.3</b>
<b>Persons</b>				
14-19	61.1	71.4	63.7	64.4
20-29	50.7	42.5	54.8	62.0
30-39	59.2	60.6	64.2	71.7
40+	61.9	52.0	69.1	67.7
<b>All ages</b>	<b>59.3</b>	<b>55.1</b>	<b>64.7</b>	<b>67.2</b>