

# Place managers in an entertainment district

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## Research site

- Fortitude Valley, Brisbane
- 60,000 patrons every weekend (est.)
- 95 licensed premises per square kilometre
- 33 nightclubs/bars per square kilometre





# hellfire club

## UNIFORM PARTY

SAT  
SEPTEMBER  
27

9pm-3am

Consensual B&B play supervised by Masters & Mistresses

ADMISSION \$25  
MEMBERS \$10



**TABU LOUNGE BAR-NIGHTCLUB**  
243 BRUNSWICK ST FORTITUDE VALLEY 4006

( ARRIVE BEFORE 10 PM IN UNIFORM AND RECEIVE SPECIAL ADMISSION FOR \$ 20.00 )





- Officer ‘had capsicum spray wiped in her face and had a fingernail ripped off’ (June 16)
- Patron outside nightclub ‘with about 160 ecstasy tablets in his underwear’ (June 30)
- Patron hospitalised for ‘facial injuries after an alleged glassing’ attack (Sept 28)
- 27 people charged with trafficking, supplying and possessing illicit drugs to Valley (Oct 2)
- 1,000 people evacuated from nightclub after a patron spotted with a loaded handgun (Oct 27)



# Precursors to intervention

- Liquor Enforcement And Proactive Strategies (LEAPS) Unit **December 2004**
- Death of Nigel Lee **January 2005**
- Death of Paul Markham **February 2005**
- Brisbane City Safety Action Plan ('17-point-plan') **March 2005**



## The intervention: LEAPS

- Problem-oriented and partnership policing initiative
- Harm-reduction strategy using a mix of proactive and reactive tactics
- Goal is to make licensed premises safer for all patrons and staff
- Operate in an intelligence-led framework
  - Number and type of problems
  - Direct resources to problem venues
- Communicate with other agencies
  - Security industry
  - Outreach workers
  - Health, local council, fire and rescue, immigration, WHS



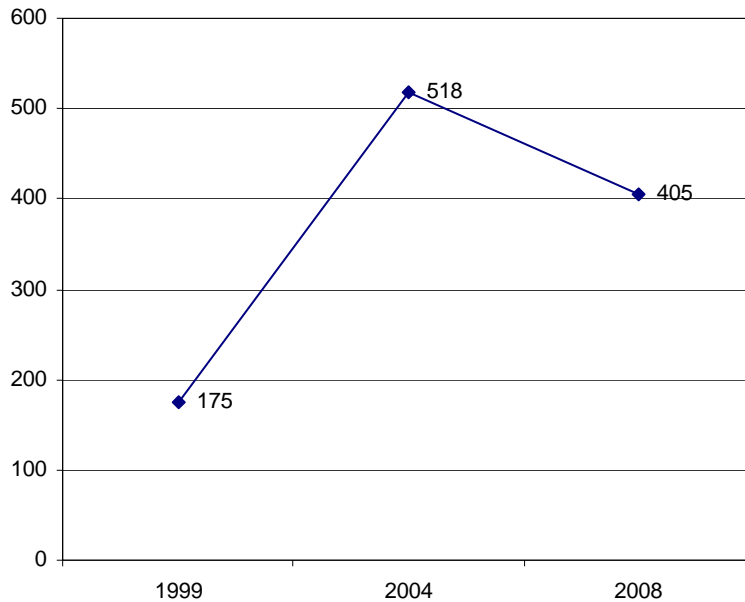
# LEAPS activities

- Proactive
  - Free safety audits of licensed premises
  - Liaison (security, licensees/nominees)
  - Chair/attend community meetings
- Reactive
  - Low impact enforcement
  - Cite venues for breaches of Liquor Act 1992
  - Distribute warning letters
  - Assist in liquor tribunal proceedings

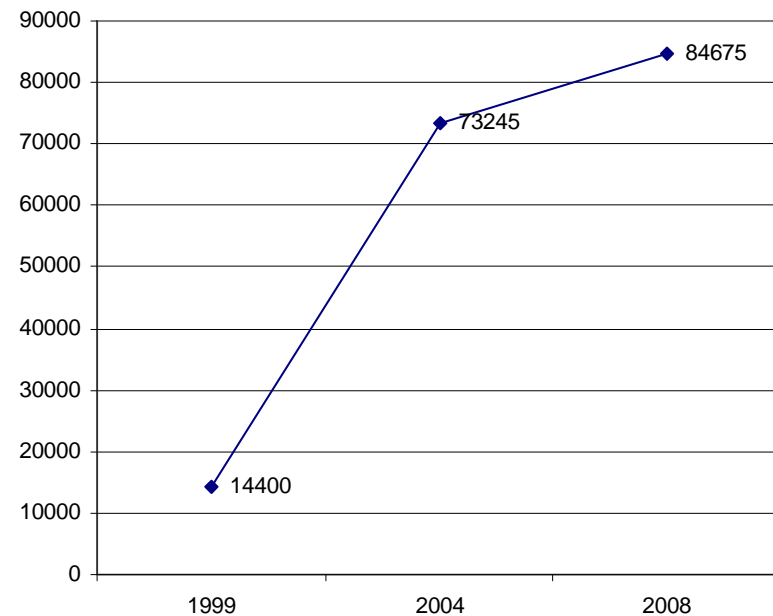


# Liquor Licensing breaches

Number of Liquor Incident Notices



Value of fines





# Research design

- Place managers from all nightclubs, bars, taverns, lounge bars, cocktail bars, adult entertainment premises
- Pre-post correlational research design
- Pre-intervention: November 2004 ( $N=26$ )
- Post-intervention: May 2007 ( $N=31$ )



# The role of place managers





# Perceptions of drug problems

- Drug dealing decreased
  - 'Big problem' responses dropped from 58% to 39%
  - 'No problem' responses increased from nil to 7%
- Drug use decreased
  - 'Big problem' responses dropped from 39% to 32%
  - 'No problem' responses increased from 4% to 13%
- Chroming decreased
  - 'Big problem' responses dropped from 31% to 23%



# Perceptions of disorder

- Increase in:
  - Urinating/vomiting
  - 'Hooning'
- Decrease in:
  - Excessive noise
  - Prostitution
  - Homelessness
- Stable:
  - Vandalism

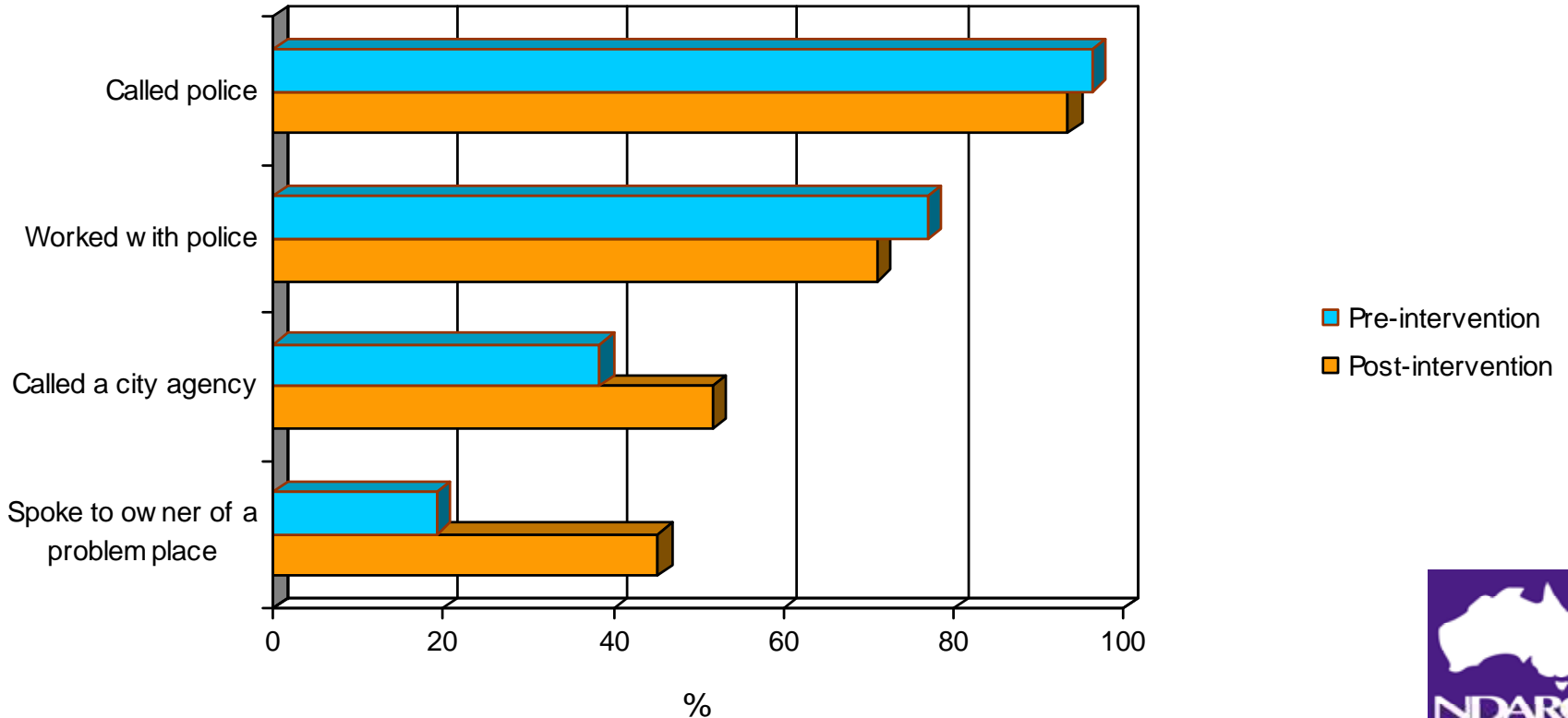


# Perceptions of violence

- Increase in:
  - Robberies/muggings (from 'rarely' to 'sometimes' as modal category)
  - Fights with weapons (from nil in 'often' category to 6.5 per cent)
  - Sexual assaults (from 16% in 'sometimes' category to 26%; from nil in 'often' category to 10%)
- Decrease in:
  - Violent arguments (from 'often' to 'sometimes' as modal category)

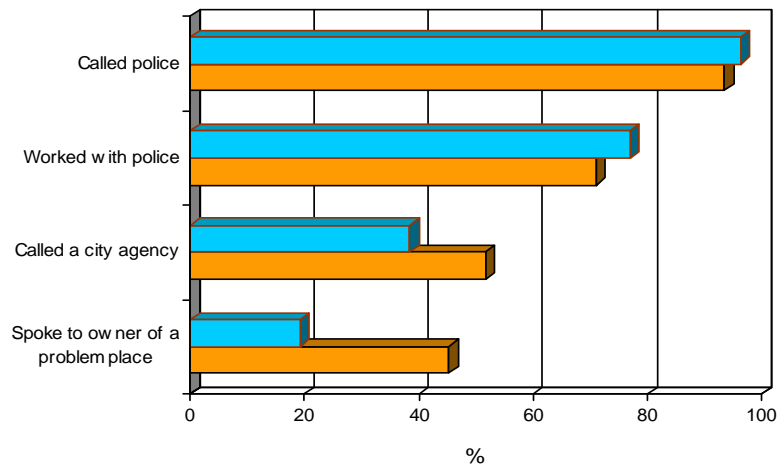
# Positive action

Place managers' responses to community problems before and after LEAPS intervention



## Self-reported positive action

- “...**self-regulation** and related notions of community cohesiveness and local social ties **have been conceptualized and found to be important insulators against crime problems at the neighbourhood and street-block level**” (Mazerolle, Kadleck & Roehl, 1998, p.374).
- “...collective efficacy among neighbours, defined as social cohesion among neighbors combined with their **willingness to intervene on behalf of the common good, is linked to reduced violence**” (Sampson, Raudenbush & Earls, 1997, p.916)





## Conclusions

- License type helps understand perceptions
  - Situational environment
  - Different personality traits (e.g. Quigley, Leonard & Collins, 2003)
- Perceptions of drug problems decreased
- Targets drift away from traditional law enforcement reactions to problems

## Papers in development

Manning, M., Ferguson, P., Mazerolle, P., & Mazerolle, L. 'Place managers in an entertainment district: Perceptions of disorder and engagement in positive action'.

Ferguson, P., Manning, M., Jackson, S., Mazerolle, P., & Mazerolle, L. 'Conflicting police strategies in an entertainment district: Implications for procedural justice'.