

Alcohol and Communities Survey



The Ripple Effect Toryglen

How Does Alcohol Affect Communities in the City of Glasgow?

Toryglen

Prefix

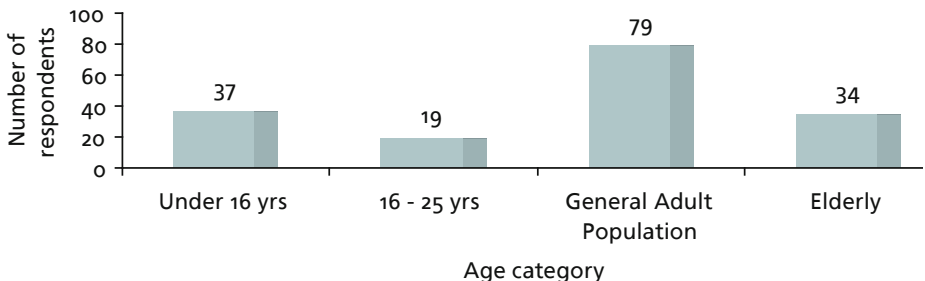
Through direct community consultation, the research examined whether people in Glasgow City felt alcohol affected their community, and if so, to identify and examine these effects. Like the ripple effect created by a pebble in a pond the 'ripple effect' of alcohol was found to go far beyond the individual and their immediate family and affect many aspects of community life.

Various research techniques were used by the Community Researchers to collect data from 4697 people across the city. The following information relates specifically to the responses recorded from community participants in Toryglen.

How many people we spoke to from Toryglen area?

We have spoken to 169 people from Toryglen dispersion of age groups are shown below

Graph 1 - Age dispersion: Toryglen

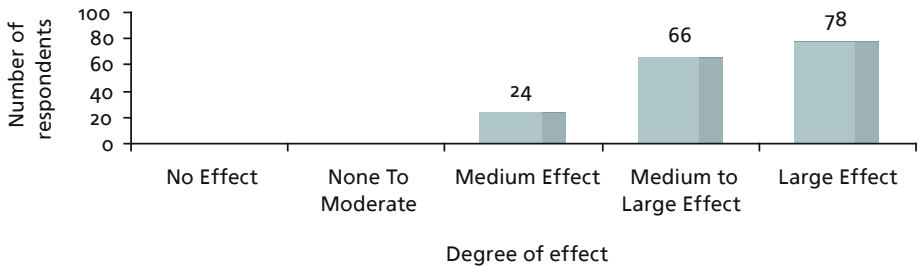


Did residents feel alcohol affected the Toryglen area?

- 1 person felt affects were moderate on weekdays and medium to high at weekends

All other people noted the following degree of effects:

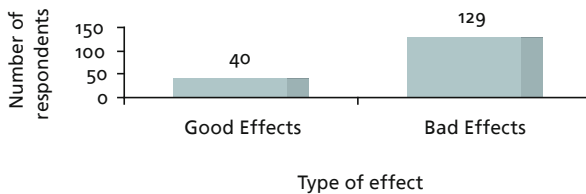
Graph 2 - Degree of effect noted by Toryglen residents



What was the nature of the effect?

- Far more people noted bad effects than good effects

Graph 3 - Number of respondents noting good/bad effects



Key good effects noted

- The following 2 effects were said to be good if alcohol was used in moderation:
 - ▶ Social
 - ▶ Help to de-stress/relax
- Other good effects noted were:
 - ▶ Get you smashed
 - ▶ It's fun
 - ▶ Make you forget

Key bad effects noted

- Causes increase in:
 - ▶ Violence, antisocial behaviour (general disorder), territorialism/gang-fighting, stabbings, vandalism
 - ▶ Street crime in general
 - ▶ Noise (particularly young people at night)
 - ▶ Underage sex, rapes, sexual assaults
 - ▶ Increases violence, sexual abuse and neglect in homes
 - ▶ Girls increasingly involved in behaviour traditionally associated with young men
 - ▶ Depression and suicides
 - ▶ Litter (particularly bottles - dangerous for younger children and pets) – this was noted particularly in relation to an area of derelict ground in Prospecthill Circus
- Intimidating at particular times to go out – from Thursday evening through to Sunday and most evenings/nights
- Children's play parks largely unusable due to broken bottles and vandalism of equipment
- Sustains poverty cycle for individuals and families
- Negative health effect in community
- Accident and Emergency admissions affect others ability to access service quickly
- Damages areas reputation (housing) people not wanting to move in
- Young people abusing the general public and the elderly when they refuse to buy them drink
- Wasting of police/courts time with general drunk disorderly charges so unable to respond to more serious incidents quickly

How can we improve things?

- 19 people said they did not know of any way to do this
- 8 people felt you simply could not improve things with 3 of these explaining, "it is a culture...you can't do anything"
- The remaining people asked gave a variety of solutions listed under key ideas for improving things:

Key ideas for improving things

- Grant less licences and enforce licence regulations more rigorously
- Do not sell from off licences on Sundays and close them earlier
- Increase police on beat and community police
- Bring street cleaners round more often
- More education/awareness
- Things to do for young people
- Increase prices and/or limit amounts of alcohol sold to one person
- More parental education and ways of enforcing parental control
- Build a youth pub/somewhere with atmosphere for young people to go to with no alcohol and transport home - teach them to have fun without alcohol
- More CCTV cameras that work and more street lighting in secluded lanes/back streets
- Increase age limit and/or enforce current legislation better
- Increase penalties for those buying/selling to young people and punish young people caught intimidating people to buy for them
- Bring back some form of national service and/or increase prospects of young people through enforced training, job and education schemes for under 21s
- Ban glamorous advertising of alcohol

- Only sell from pubs
- Stop giving more benefits if registered alcoholic – use money to pay for help to stop them being alcoholics instead
- Introduce curfews for young people
- Build more local amenities on redundant ground especially for young people (particular area noted was directly behind shops at Prospecthill Circus)

Were there any areas people felt were more affected?

- 53 people felt it was mainly around areas that sell alcohol
- 51 people felt the effects were all over the area
- 29 people felt young people hung around in any secluded area in the community to drink
- 22 people simply highlighted 'the circus' (Prospecthill Circus) and noted growing culture of drug/alcohol cocktails taken by young people
- 17 people felt park areas were more affected

Specific areas noted

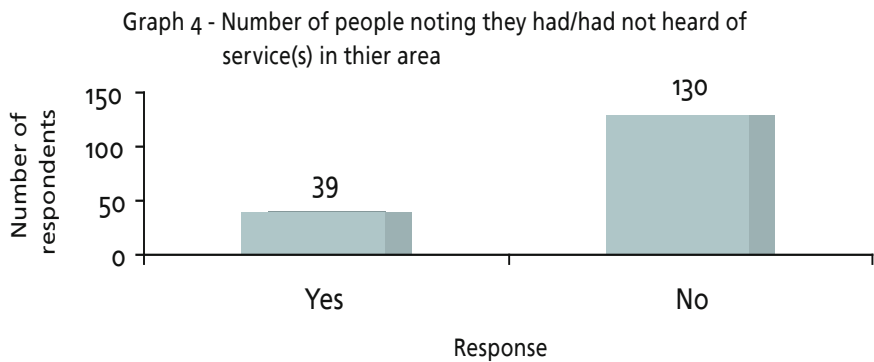
- Field beside Prospecthill Crescent (commonly known as 'fighting field')
- End of path leading to local Asda at park and tower block 99
- Prospecthill Square shops, especially behind them – (this area is where researchers felt glass crunching beneath their feet while trying to walk across ground behind shops)

Groups of people more affected

- Most people felt three key groups were more affected:
 - ▶ Young People – particularly drinking alcohol through boredom
 - ▶ Younger children unable to play outside safely
 - ▶ Elderly – intimidation fear going out at certain time

Do you know of any alcohol services in your area?

- AA and it's sister services were noted most



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**Electronic versions of The Ripple Effect
documents are available on
www.glasgowgrand.org**



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the Greater Glasgow and Clyde Alcohol Action Team**