

Six month snapshot: Surfers Paradise Drink Safe Precinct trial

About the Surfers Paradise Drink Safe Precinct

Surfers Paradise is a major tourist destination and attracts large numbers of foreign and domestic tourists. It has the highest concentration of licensed premises in Queensland in the Cavill and Orchid Avenue precinct.

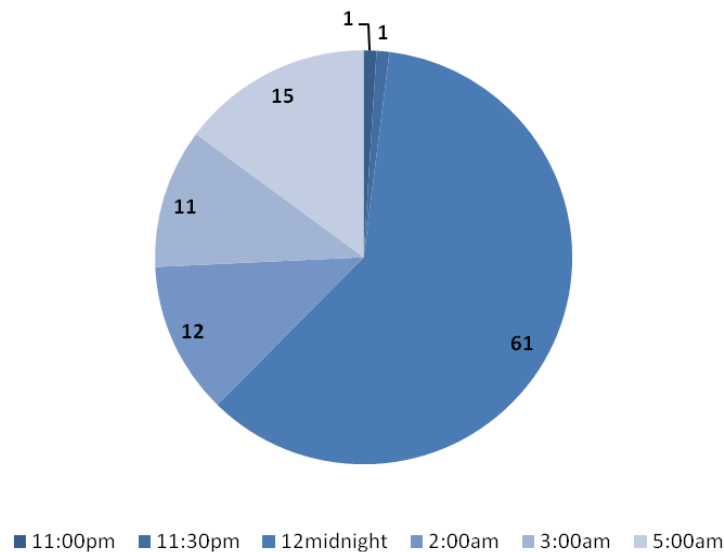
The Surfers Paradise Drink Safe Precinct covers the area between Cypress Avenue and Hamilton Avenue and Ferny Avenue and the Surfers Paradise Esplanade. The area includes many of major licensed venues and popular nightclubs in Surfers Paradise – including Cavill Avenue and Orchid Avenue.

It is estimated that more than 30,000 people visit the Surfers Paradise precinct on an average Friday and Saturday night, with these numbers increasing to at least 50,000 during major events such as Gold Coast 600 (formerly Indy), Schoolies and New Year's Eve. More than 18,000 people live in the Surfers Paradise suburb.

There are currently 101 licensed venues in the Surfers Paradise Drink Safe Precinct. As shown in Figure 1:

- 63 venues close at or before midnight and 38 venues trade past midnight.
- 12 venues trade until 2am, 11 venues trade until 3am and 15 venues have licenses to trade past lockout (i.e. 3am).

Figure 1: Trading hours of venues located in the Surfers Paradise Drink Safe Precinct



Source: Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation (OLGR) 2011.

The Surfers Paradise Drink Safe Precinct has been in operation since December 2010. Some information about what happened during the first six months of the trial is described below.

What strategies are in place in the Surfers Paradise Drink Safe Precinct?

A number of strategies aimed at reducing alcohol-related violence and improving community safety exist in Surfers Paradise, including:

- **Safety Camera Network** – The Gold Coast City Council has more than 50 CCTV cameras to provide information about incidents to Queensland Police Service (QPS) and facilitate a fast response to incidents and the apprehension of alleged offenders.
- **Inter-venue Radio Communication Network** – This radio network links the Gold Coast City Council Safety Camera Network, licensed venues, QPS and the Chill Out Zone. The radio network is used to share information about incidents or persons causing concern, identify potential incidents and facilitate fast responses to incidents.
- **Taxi marshals and security guards at Secure Taxi Ranks** – Taxi marshals and security guards are located at the Secure taxi rank (Cavill and Orchid Avenues) and FlatFare rank (Cavill Ave) on Friday and Saturday nights and on public holidays to ensure that patrons are loaded into taxis in a safe and efficient way.
- **Mobile security patrol on Surfside Buslines** – Mobile security patrols on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights. If an issue on the bus arises the driver can call security and a mobile patrol vehicle is sent to the bus to resolve the issue.
- **Foreshore upgrade** – The redevelopment of the Esplanade foreshore incorporates best practice Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design.
- **Chill Out Zone** – Provides rest and recovery space for intoxicated and vulnerable people. The service also includes a mobile foot patrol which patrols the precinct assisting intoxicated people who are in need.
- **Responsible Service of Alcohol (RSA) forums** in conjunction with licensees, OLGR is providing Responsible Service of Alcohol (RSA) forums to staff and management from licensed premises within the Drink Safe Precinct areas. The forums provide an opportunity for OLGR to impart examples of RSA practices and provide contextual material complimenting RSA course content. The forums are well received with attendees indicating their appreciation for the opportunity to receive further education and to discuss RSA issues with OLGR representatives.
- **Get Home Safely Campaign** – This local campaign promotes personal safety and provides information about the location of late night transport options to patrons of Surfers Paradise

Figure 2: 'Get Home Safely' Wallet Card

Emergency Numbers
Where to get help

- Police, Ambulance, Fire
000
- Gold Coast Hospital
5519 8211
- Alcohol and Drug Information
1800 177 833
- Gold Coast Youth Service
5572 0400
- Lifeline Gold Coast
131 114
- Sexual Assault Help Line
1800 010 120
- Chill Out Zone (Thurs-Sat nights)
0414 235 561

New NightLink Bus Services
Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays. Hourly from 2.30am to 5.30am.

N750 - Surfers Paradise to Mudgeeraba via Broadbeach and Robina
(pick up from Surfers Paradise Boulevard near Cavill Ave)

N21 - Surfers Paradise to Nerang via Chevron Island and Ashmore
(pick up from Appel Park on Ferny Ave)

Standard Translink fares apply
Visit www.translink.com.au or phone 13 12 30.

Funded by Gold Coast City Council and delivered in partnership with Translink and Surfside Buslines. GCCC6865

Working for our future – today
goldcoastcity.com.au/homesafely
Don't get SMASHED
... get home safely

Gold Coast City Council

Source: Gold Coast City Council 2011.

What's been happening in the Surfers Paradise Drink Safe Precinct?

Queensland Police Service activity¹

Activity

During the six months of the trial in Surfers Paradise:

- 1044 people were arrested – mainly for liquor and good order type offences
- 71 Notices to Appear were issued
- 2062 street checks were conducted
- 1075 Random Breath Tests (RBTs) were conducted
- 264 Traffic Infringement Notices (TINs) were issued.

During this period police conducted 1281 walkthroughs of licensed premises,² detected 221 breaches against licensed premises³ and exercised tip out powers 1017 times.

Diversions activity by QPS

As part of the trial, police in Surfers Paradise have started to record more information about the use of diversionary strategies and policing that resolves incidents informally, without recourse to the criminal justice system.

During the first six months of the trial, police officers patrolling the precinct used diversionary strategies more than 1500 times.⁴ This included:

- taking 311 people to a place of safety or rest and recovery area
- using conflict intervention/tactical communication 459 times
- diffusing 254 potential incidents through using de-escalation techniques
- issuing 386 move-on directions
- 92 detentions for breaches of the peace
- 28 handovers to QAS paramedics.

Assaults

During the first six month period of the trial, 19 people were arrested for assault-related offences in the Surfers Paradise Drink Safe Precinct (including one juvenile) and four Notices to Appear were issued.

Sixteen adults were arrested for assaults against police in Surfers Paradise during the first six months of the trial.

¹ The data presented here has been obtained from QPS nightly Returns Sheets and not from QPRIME which is QPS's principal crime recording database. There may be some discrepancies between Returns Sheet data and data obtained from QPRIME and where this occurs QPRIME is to be regarded as authoritative. It should be noted that the Drink Safe Precinct evaluation which is being conducted of the course of the two year Drink Safe Precinct trial will principally be based on QPRIME data. The Returns Sheets, however, provide some data that is not otherwise recorded in QPRIME or elsewhere and these data will also be used to inform the evaluation. The figures presented in this snapshot are based on the total amount of activity recorded on returns sheets (i.e. returns sheets completed by overtime and rostered personnel have been aggregated to provide a better indication of the total amount of police activity occurring in the precinct).

² A walkthrough is where police conduct a foot patrol of a licensed premise and includes: maintaining a police presence; rapport building between police and patrons/venue management; and police observation of a venue's operation, for example, patron intoxication levels and behaviour, serving of alcohol to patrons, and compliance with relevant legislation

³ QPS figures for breaches detected against licensed premises do not necessarily mean that enforcement action was taken. Most of these breaches are reported to OLGR to action.

⁴ Some interventions may have involved more than one person. For example, the use of conflict intervention/tactical communication may have been used to deescalate a possible assault occurring between two or more persons.

Good Order Offences

During the first six months of the trial police arrested 379 people (including six juveniles) for good order offences.⁵ Police issued 181 tickets and eight Notices to Appear during this period.

Liquor Offences

Police arrested 472 people (including six juveniles) for liquor offences during the first six months of the trial.⁶ Police issued 483 tickets and two Notices to Appear during this period.

Drug Offences and Drink or Drug Driving

During the first six months of the trial, police arrested 50 people and issued 27 Notices to Appear for drug related offences.

During this period, 32 people were arrested and 27 Notices to Appear were issued for drink or drug driving offences.

Other offences

In addition to the offences listed above, an additional 76 people were arrested, 16 Notices to Appear and four tickets were issued for other types of offences during the first six months of the trial.

Banning orders

During the first six months of the Drink Safe Precinct trial, nine people have been banned from entering the Surfers Paradise Drink Safe Precinct for between six – 13 months for offences including:

- assault occasioning bodily harm
- disorderly in licensed premises
- public nuisance
- obstruct police.

One person was arrested for breaching a banning order in March and charged with the offence of Contravention of Banning Order under the *Penalties and Sentences Act 1992* (section 42O). This person was convicted and fined \$750 for the breach, but a return-to-prison warrant was issued because this offence breached existing parole conditions.

Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation Activity

As part of the Drink Safe Precinct trials, OLGR plan, co-ordinate and participate in multi-disciplinary compliance operations of licensed premises within the Surfers Paradise Drink Safe Precinct targeting Liquor and Security Provider Act compliance. During the first six months of the trial, OLGR conducted seven joint operations targeting licensed venues located in the Surfers Paradise Drink Safe Precinct.

As well as conducting special joint operations, OLGR monitors the compliance of licensed premises and routinely conducts compliance audits and investigations. During the first six months of the trial, 105 compliance operations were conducted on licensed venues in the Surfers Paradise Drink Safe Precinct.⁷

⁵ Good Order offences recorded on the Drink Safe Precinct returns sheets include 'disobey move-on direction', 'resist, incite, hinder, and obstruct police', 'public nuisance' and 'public urination'.

⁶ Liquor offences recorded on the Drink Safe Precinct returns sheets include 'consume liquor in a public place', 'non-exempt minor in licensed premises', 'adult supply to a minor in public place', 'public drunkenness', 'disorderly on licensed premises', 'drunk in licensed premises', 'fail to leave licensed premises' and 'other Liquor Act offences'.

⁷ For the purposes of this snapshot, compliance operations include after hours inspections and day time inspections.

OLGR conducted an additional 39 investigations in response to complaints from members of public, police and other sources.

A total of 149 breaches against licensed premises were detected during this period.

In addition to this, OLGR, in conjunction with licensees in Surfers Paradise, conducted two Responsible Service of Alcohol forums during the first six months of the trial.

Support services

The Chill Out Zone has been established in Surfers Paradise for more than 10 years. The Chill Out Zone continues to operate as the main mechanism of support for patrons in Surfers Paradise during the Drink Safe Precinct trial.

Chill Out Zone

The Chill Out Zone includes a purpose built van where patrons can go to rest, recover and relax as well as a mobile foot patrol team that patrols looking for people who might be in need of assistance or referral to the Chill Out Zone. The Chill Out Zone is located on Orchid Avenue and operates on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights.⁸

Figure 3: Chill Out Zone in Surfers Paradise

Chill Out Zone at night-time



Chill Out Zone



Source: Chill Out Zone 2011.

During the first six months of the trial, the Chill Out Zone offered support to patrons in the precinct on 75 nights – including regular Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights as well as Sunday 26 December 2010, Sunday 2 January 2011, Tuesday 25 January 2011, Monday 25 April 2011 and Sunday 1 May 2011.

The Chill Out Zone provided support to patrons in the Surfers Paradise Drink Safe Precinct for close to 500 hours during the first six months of the trial.

⁸ In Surfers Paradise, the support service has been funded to provide support on Thursday nights through the Drink Safe Precinct initiative for the first six-months of the trial.

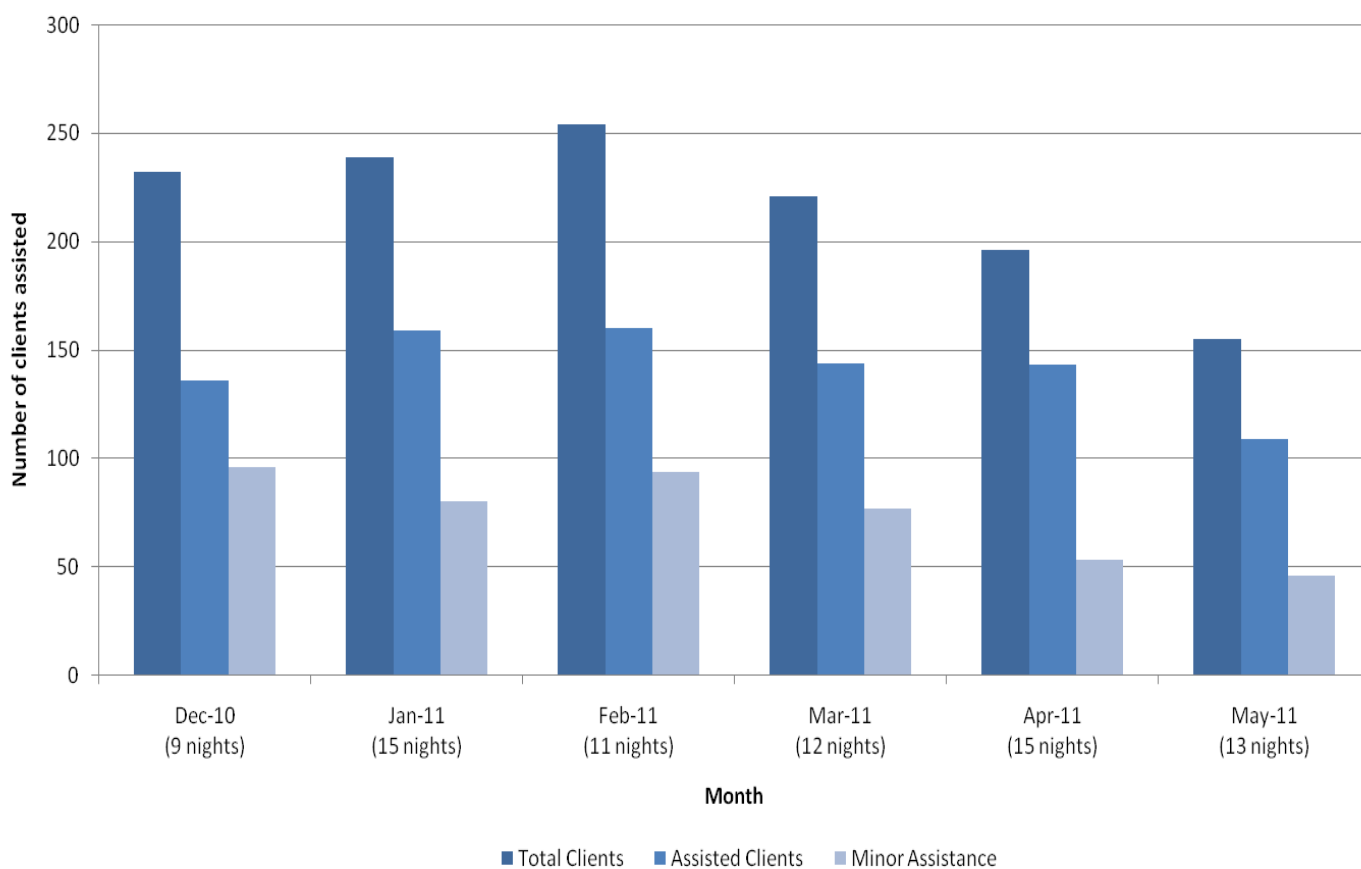
During this period, the Chill Out Zone provided support to 1297 patrons in the Surfers Paradise Drink Safe Precinct, including:

- 851 'assisted clients' – this includes patrons who require a higher level of care, such as those who are injured or sick
- 446 'minor assistance' – this includes patrons who require a lower level of care.

An average of 17 patrons were assisted by the Chill Out Zone per night that it operated during the first six months of the trial.

Figure 4 shows the number of assisted clients and minor clients per month between December 2010 and May 2011. It is important to note that comparisons between months can be misleading due to variation in the number of nights that the service operated per month.

Figure 4: Number of clients assisted and type of assistance between December 2010 and May 2011



Source: Chill Out Zone 2011.

Note: The figures in the brackets beneath the month show the number of nights that the service operated during that month.

In addition to providing support to patrons, the Chill Out Zone handed out 24,600 plastic cups of water during the first six months of the trial.⁹

⁹ This figure includes patrons assisted on Friday and Saturday nights as well as additional Drink Safe Precinct nights that may be allocated according to need on public holidays or for particular events.

Transport Activity

A number of transport options exist for patrons to get to and from the Surfers Paradise Drink Safe Precinct – including bus services, private transport and taxi services. One of the most common ways is by taxi service.

There are currently three secure taxi ranks in the Surfers Paradise Drink Safe Precinct. The secure ranks are located at:

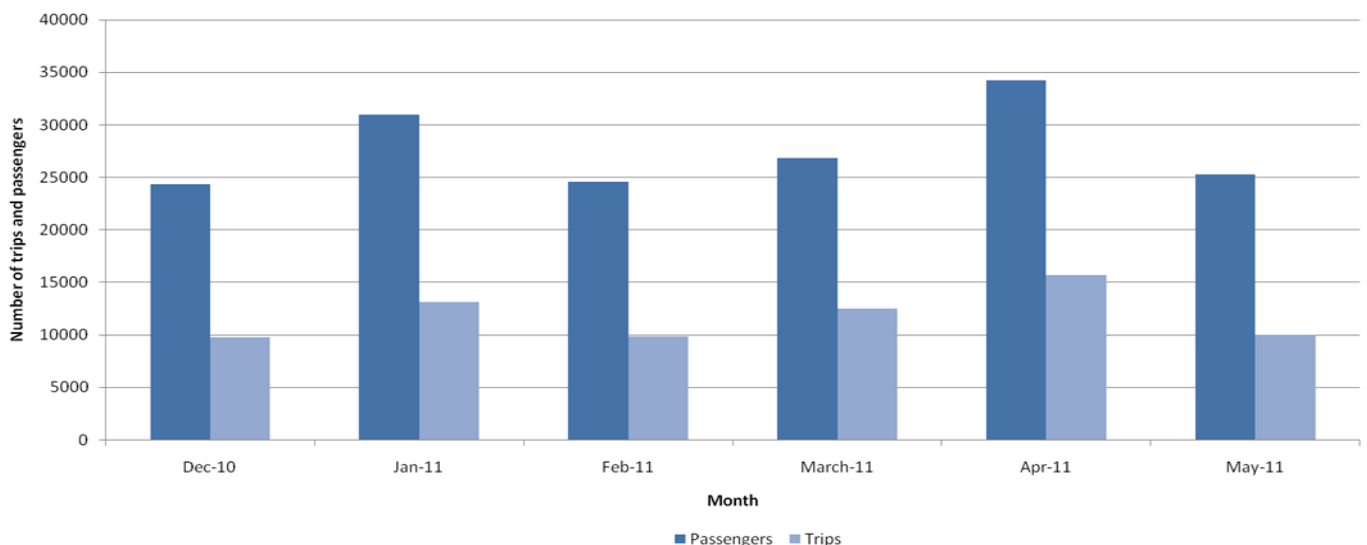
- Cavill Ave North
- Cavill Ave South (FlatFare rank)
- Orchid Ave.

The secure taxi rank in the Surfers Paradise Drink Safe Precinct typically operates on Friday and Saturday nights between midnight and 6.00am, and during special events (e.g. public holidays). The secure taxi rank is staffed by rank marshals and security guards to help nightclub patrons get home quickly and safely.

During the first six months of the trial,¹⁰ the secure taxi ranks in Surfers Paradise operated on 65 nights – including regular Friday and Saturday nights as well as Sunday 26 December 2010, Monday 27 December 2010, Tuesday 28 December 2010, Sunday 2 January 2011, Tuesday 25 January 2011, Monday 25 April 2011 and Sunday 1 May 2011.

On nights that the secure ranks operated, taxi services transported 166,351 people home from the Surfers Paradise Drink Safe Precinct.¹¹ More than 71,000 taxi trips departed the Drink Safe Precinct during this period.

Figure 5: Number of trips and passengers collected from Secure Taxi Ranks in the Surfers Paradise Drink Safe Precinct between December 2010 and May 2011



Source: DTMR 2011.

Note: Figures for the first weekend in December 2010 (3-4 December) have been excluded from the figures presented in this graph as the Surfers Paradise trial did not officially commence until Thursday 9 December 2010.

¹⁰ Taxi patronage figures for the first weekend in December 2010 (4-5 December) have been excluded when reporting number of trips and passengers as the Drink Safe Precinct trial in Surfers Paradise did not commence until Thursday 9 December 2010.

¹¹ These figures only include passengers and trips that departed from the Secure Taxi Ranks located in the Surfers Paradise Drink Safe Precinct and do not include trips or passengers collected in other parts of Surfers Paradise or trips that were hailed by passengers.

Drink Safe Precinct Online Surveys

About the surveys

Online surveys were developed in close consultation with each of the local Drink Safe Precinct committees as one way to let people who use these areas have their say about alcohol-related violence, the Drink Safe Precinct initiatives and what more they think should be done to improve community safety in these areas.

Surveys will help to measure whether the Drink Safe Precinct is successful in achieving its aims. Some of the target outcomes that Local Drink Safe Precinct committees hope will be achieved during the Drink Safe Precinct trial cannot be easily or comprehensively measured through other data sources (e.g. perceptions of safety, public amenity issues, awareness of initiatives, and perceptions of effectiveness of Drink Safe Precinct initiatives).

Surveys will also help to inform local-level decision making throughout the trial. It is proposed the surveys will be conducted at regular intervals during the trial in order to measure change over the period of the trial.¹²

Surveys were developed targeting five key groups of stakeholders in the Drink Safe Precincts:

1. Patron Survey
2. Resident Survey
3. Business Survey
4. Licensee/Approved Manager Survey
5. Service Provider Survey (e.g. police officers, ambulance paramedics, transport drivers and bar staff).

The survey went 'live' on the 'Get Involved' website on 22 March 2011 and closed for consultation at midnight Friday, 29 April 2011.

What did patrons tell us about the Surfers Paradise Drink Safe Precinct?

Local Drink Safe Precinct committees wanted people who know and use Drink Safe Precincts to have their say about alcohol-related violence and what they think should be done to improve community safety in these areas. The patron survey was an opportunity for patrons to have their say about the issues that affect them as a patron in these precincts.

In total 1398 people responded to the Patron Survey. Of those respondents, 118 (8.6% of all responses) indicated that they usually visit the Surfers Paradise Drink Safe Precinct. This section provides a brief overview of some of the responses to the Patron Survey from respondents who identified that they usually visit the Surfers Paradise Drink Safe Precinct.

Issues in the Surfers Paradise Drink Safe Precinct

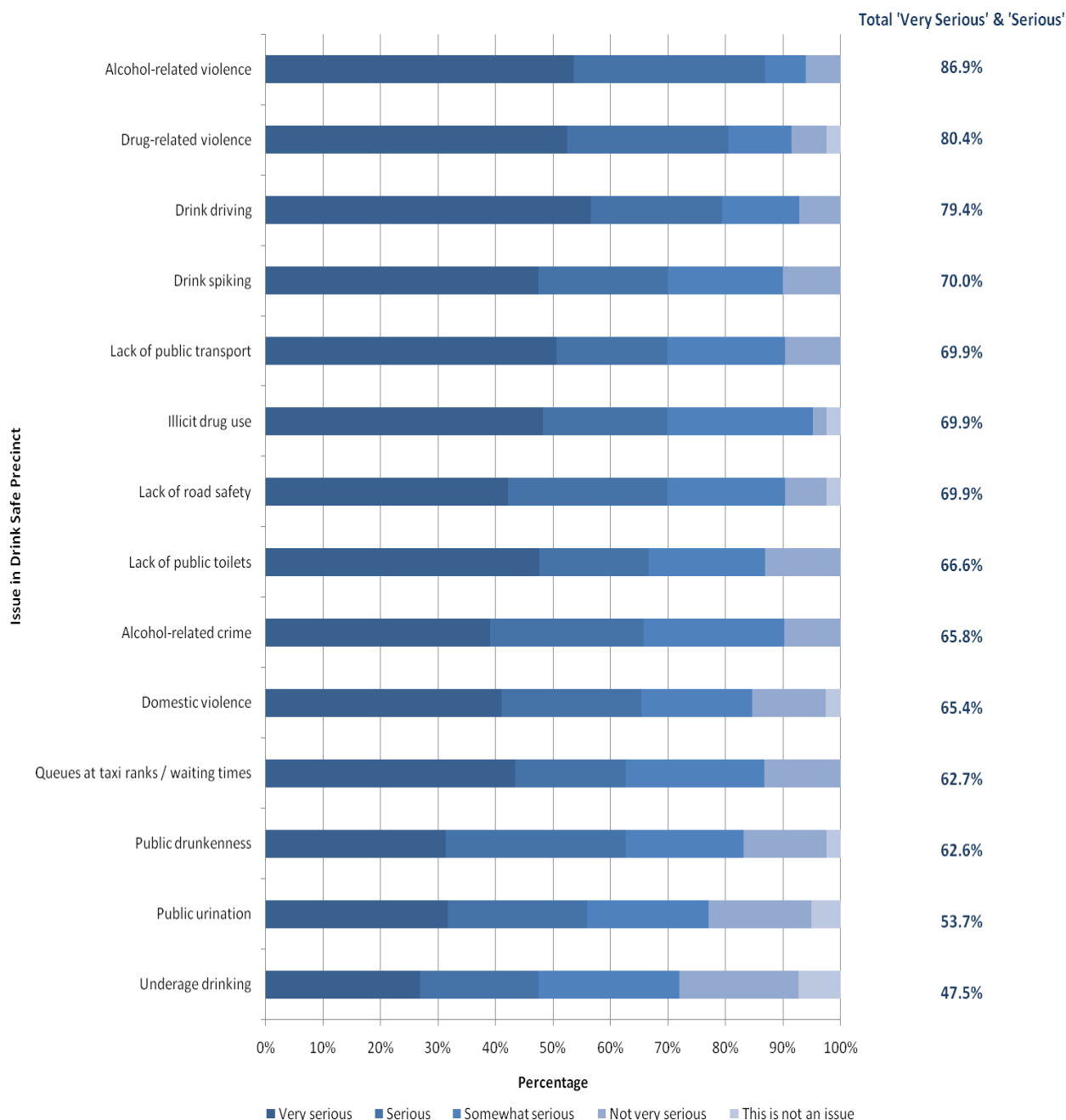
Respondents were asked about issues in the Drink Safe Precinct that they usually visit and whether these issues have increased during the past two years.

¹² It is anticipated that the surveys will be conducted on a six-monthly basis to measure any change over time (e.g. changes in awareness about Drink Safe Precinct initiatives). The next round of surveys is scheduled for November 2011.

As shown in Figure 6, patrons who identified that they usually visit the Surfers Paradise Drink Safe Precinct considered most of the issues listed in the survey to be either 'serious' or 'very serious':

- Alcohol-related violence (86.9%, n = 73) was considered by patrons who visit this precinct to be the most serious issue followed by drug-related violence (80.4%, n = 66) and drink driving (79.4%, n = 66).
- Public urination (53.7%, n = 44) and underage drinking (47.5%, n = 39) were identified as the least serious issues in the Surfers Paradise Drink Safe Precinct by patrons who usually visit this area.

Figure 6: Seriousness of issues in the Surfers Paradise Drink Safe Precinct

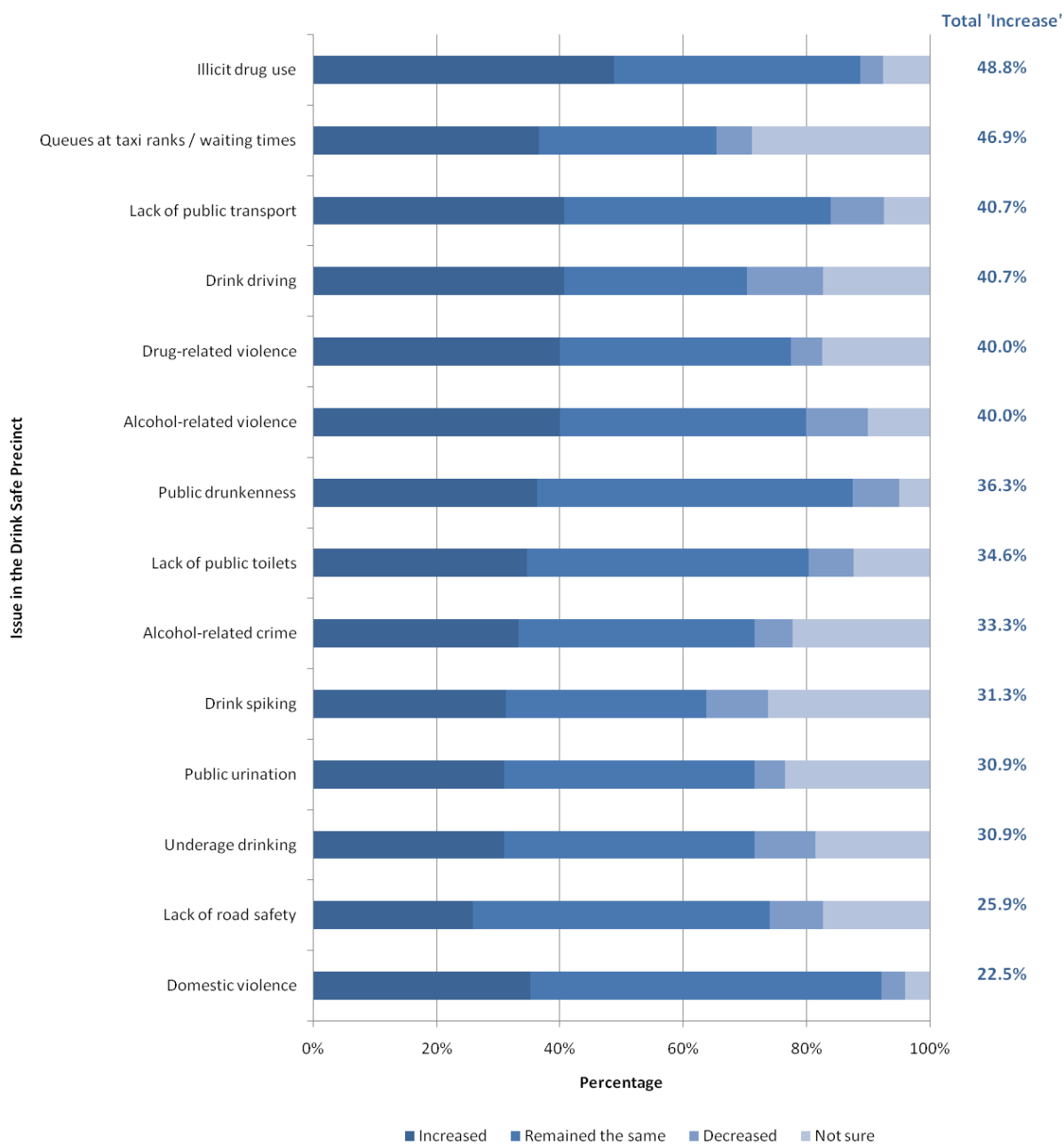


Source: Drink Safe Precinct Patron Survey 2011.

Respondents were also asked questions about whether the issues associated with the Surfers Paradise Drink Safe Precinct have changed during the past two years. As shown in Figure 7, most respondents identified that the issues associated with the Surfers Paradise Drink Safe precinct have remained the same during the past two years.

- A number of respondents, however, identified that illicit drug use (48.8%, n = 39) and queues at taxi ranks/waiting times (46.9%, n = 38) have increased during the past two years.
- Some respondents also identified that some issues associated with the Surfers Paradise Drink Safe Precinct have decreased during the past two years, and in particular drink driving (12.3%, n = 10), alcohol-related violence (10.0%, n = 8) and drink spiking (10.0%, n = 8).

Figure 7: Change in issues associated with the Surfers Paradise Drink Safe Precinct



Source: Drink Safe Precinct Patron Survey 2011.

During consultation with the local Drink Safe Precinct committees, the lack of public toilets and lack of clean public toilets in the Surfers Paradise Drink Safe Precinct was highlighted as an important issue. For this reason, patrons were specifically asked questions about public toilets.

A number of patrons highlighted the issues associated with public toilets in the Surfers Paradise Drink Safe Precinct, and in particular, the availability (47.5%, n = 56) and cleanliness (46.6%, n = 55).

Respondents could also comment on what could be done to improve the public amenity issues and issues associated with public toilets in the Drink Safe Precinct. These suggestions mainly related to the installation of public toilets in the precinct, for example:

“Portable toilets being put in places closer to the club strip.”

“Some toilet facilities maintained by the clubs that can be accessed without entering the venue.”

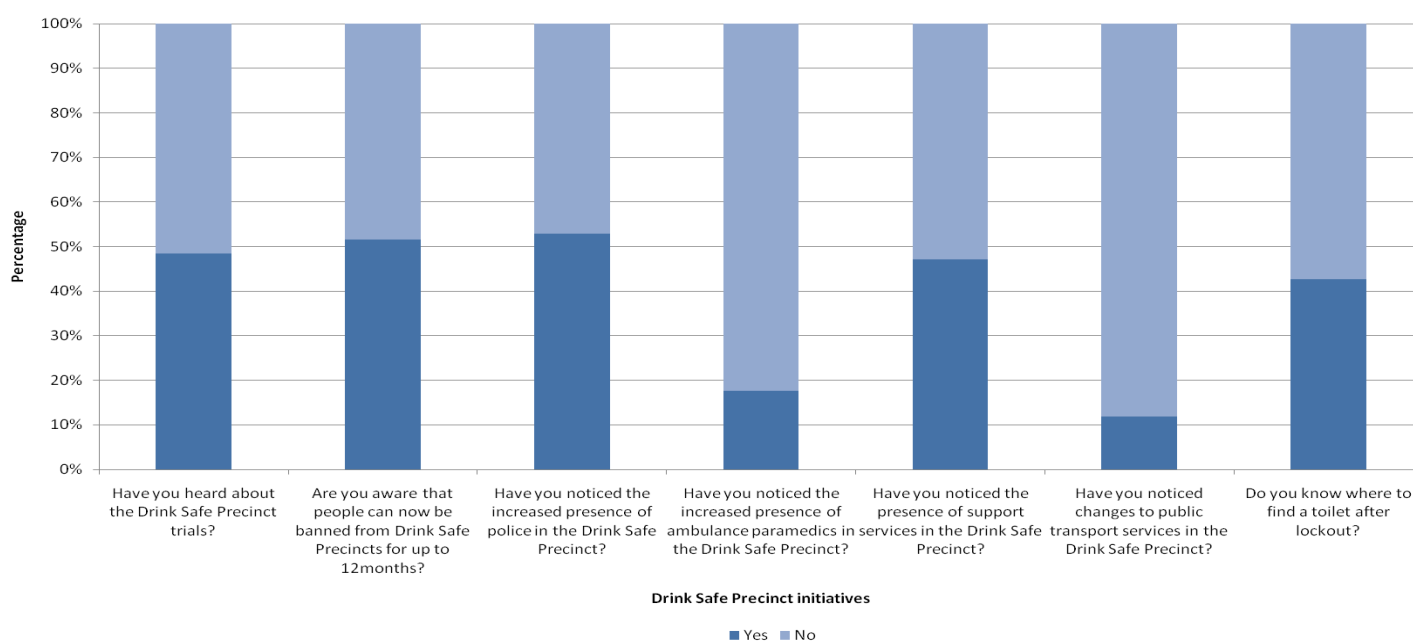
“More toilet facilities in the clubs, this will stop people wandering the street to avoid large queues in the clubs.”

Drink Safe Precinct initiatives and effectiveness of strategies aimed at reducing alcohol-related violence

Respondents were asked about their awareness of Drink Safe Precinct initiatives in Surfers Paradise. As shown in Figure 8:

- just under half of respondents had heard about the Surfers Paradise Drink Safe Precinct trial before completing the survey (48.5%, n = 33)
- more than half of the respondents, however, reported that they have noticed the increased presence of police in the Surfers Paradise precinct (52.9%, n = 36) and are aware that people can now be banned from these areas (51.5%, n = 35)
- just fewer than half of the respondents who usually visit the Surfers Paradise Drink Safe Precinct reported that have noticed the presence of support services in the precinct (47.1%, n = 32).

Figure 8: Awareness of Drink Safe Precinct Initiatives



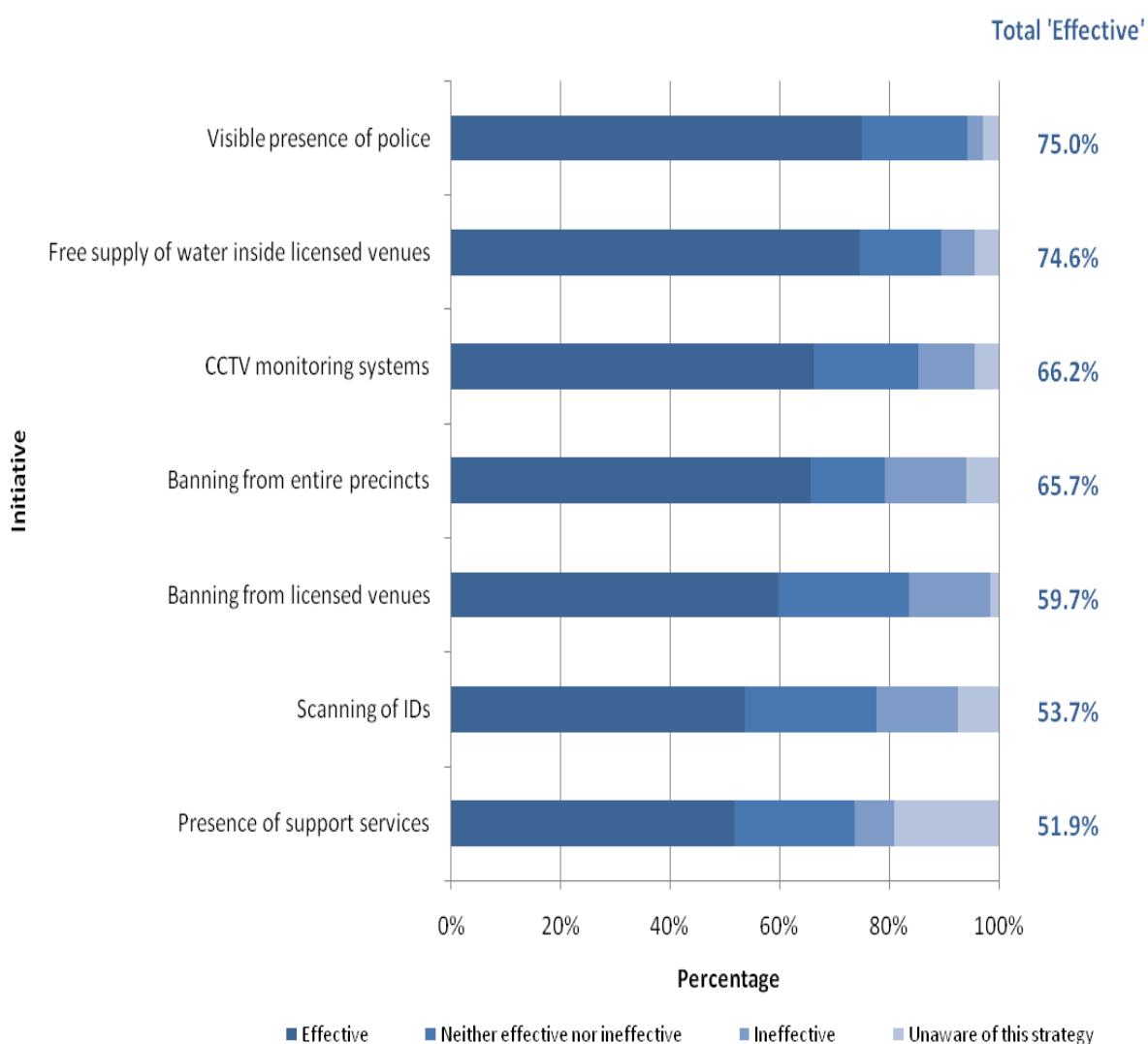
Source: Drink Safe Precinct Patron Survey 2011.

As well as awareness of these initiatives, patrons were also asked to identify how effective they think these initiatives are at reducing alcohol-related violence and improving community safety in the Surfers Paradise Drink Safe Precinct.

As shown in Figure 9, overall, most patrons agreed that the initiatives listed in the survey are effective at reducing alcohol-related violence:

- three-quarters of respondents identified that the visible presence of police is an effective strategy to reduce alcohol-related violence and improve community safety (75.0%, n = 51)
- a large number of respondents indicated that they believe the free supply of water inside licensed venues is an effective strategy to reduce alcohol-related violence (74.6%, n = 50)
- more than two-thirds of respondents indicated that CCTV monitoring systems are an effective strategy (66.2%, n = 45).

Figure 9: Effectiveness of initiatives aimed at reducing alcohol-related violence



Source: Drink Safe Precinct Patron Survey 2011.

What else did patrons tell us about the Surfers Paradise Drink Safe Precinct?

The last two questions of the survey allowed respondents to make comments about what they think should be done to improve safety in the Surfers Paradise Drink Safe Precincts and to make any other comment about violence or safety issues in the precincts.

Patrons made a number of suggestions to further improve safety in the Surfers Paradise Drink Safe Precinct, these suggestions included:

“Ban pub crawl businesses from operating.”

“I think people under the influence of any substance will have better reaction to people who are not in a uniform. So more support workers.”

“Better public transport with more frequency service. Remove lock out, forces lots of intox [sic] and drunk people onto the streets fighting for cabs etc to go home. Remove lock out and people would slowly go home at will during the night.”

“Light the place up with lights, make everyone more visible.”

Some patrons also made comments about the progress of the trial and the initiatives that are currently in place in the Surfers Drink Safe Precinct, for example:

“I think the Chill Out Zone is excellent!”

“The presence of police is good.”

What did people who work or live in the Drink Safe Precinct tell us about the Surfers Paradise Drink Safe Precinct trial?

In addition to conducting a survey of venue patrons, the local Drink Safe Precinct committees wanted other people who use Drink Safe Precincts to have their say about alcohol-related violence and what they think should be done to improve community safety in these areas.

To let other people who work and live in the Drink Safe Precinct have their say, the following four surveys were developed in close consultation with the local Drink Safe Precinct committees:

1. Service Provider Survey: for people who work in a Drink Safe Precinct (e.g. police officers, ambulance paramedics, security, transport drivers and support service workers)
2. Resident Survey: for people who live in a Drink Safe Precinct area.
3. Business Survey: for people who own or run a business located in a Drink Safe Precinct area.
4. Licensee/Approved Managers Survey: for licensees and approved managers who own or manage a licensed venue in a Drink Safe Precinct.

These surveys provide one way to measure whether people who work and live in the Drink Safe Precincts believe the trial to be successful in achieving its aims (e.g. improving perceptions of safety) and they provide a way for the local committees to get better understanding of the experiences of people who work or live in a Drink Safe Precinct and the issues that affect them in these areas.

In total, 225 people responded to Service Provider, Resident, Business and Licensee/Approved Managers Surveys. Of those respondents, 96 responses (43.2% of all responses) were from people who work or live in the Surfers Paradise Drink Safe Precinct. For the purposes of this summary, responses from the Service Provider, Resident, Business and Licensee/Approved Managers Surveys have been aggregated.

This section provides a brief overview of some of the responses from respondents who identified that they live or work in the Surfers Paradise Drink Safe Precinct.

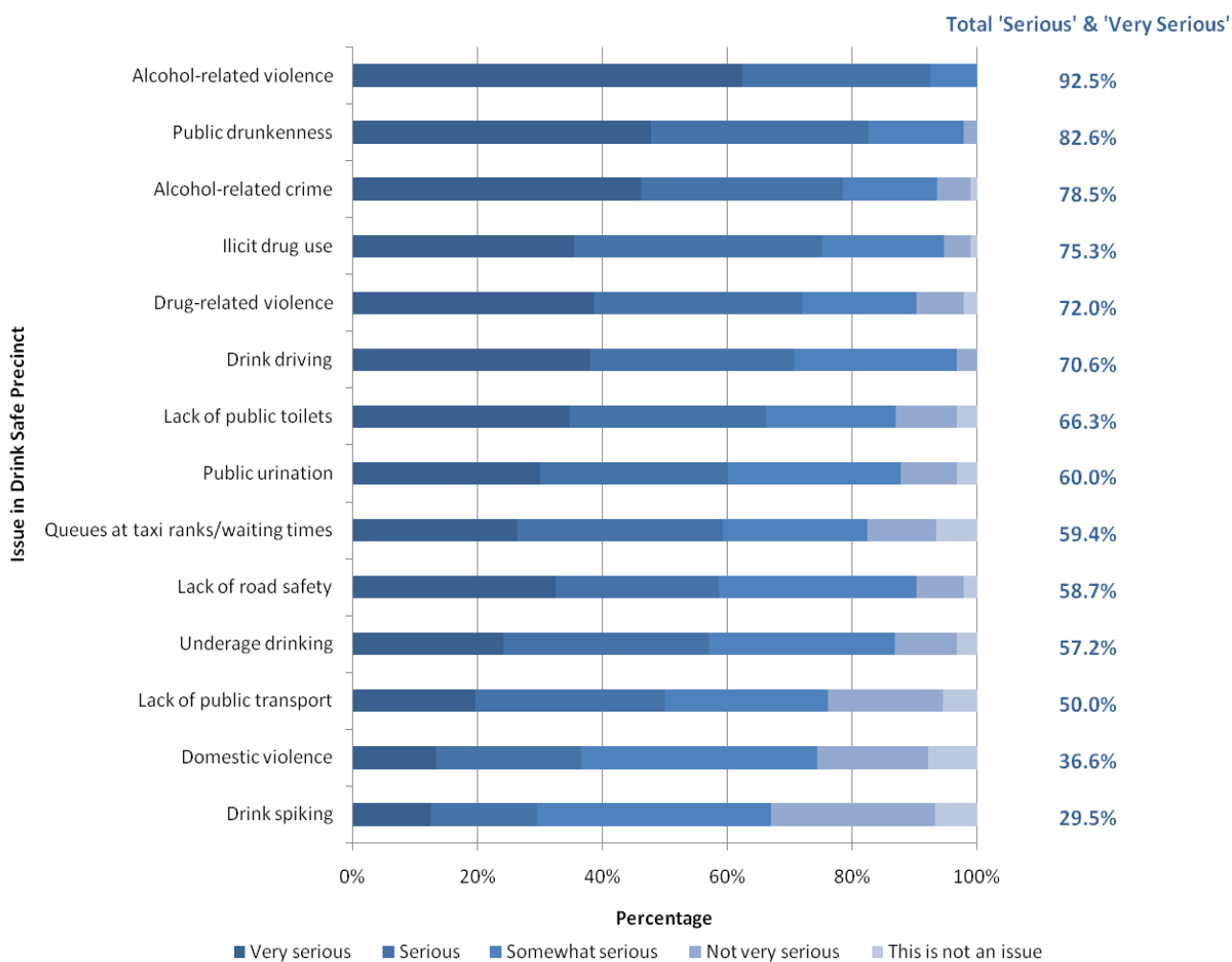
Issues in the Surfers Paradise Drink Safe Precinct

Respondents were asked about issues in the Drink Safe Precinct where they work or live.

As shown in Figure 10, a number of respondents who live or work in the Surfers Paradise Drink Safe Precinct considered most of the issues listed in the survey to be either 'serious' or 'very serious':

- Alcohol-related violence was identified as the most serious issue in the Surfers Paradise Drink Safe Precinct (92.5%, n = 86), followed by public drunkenness (82.6%, n = 76), alcohol-related crime (78.5%, n = 73) and illicit drug use (75.3%, n = 70).

Figure 10: Issues in the Surfers Paradise Drink Safe Precinct



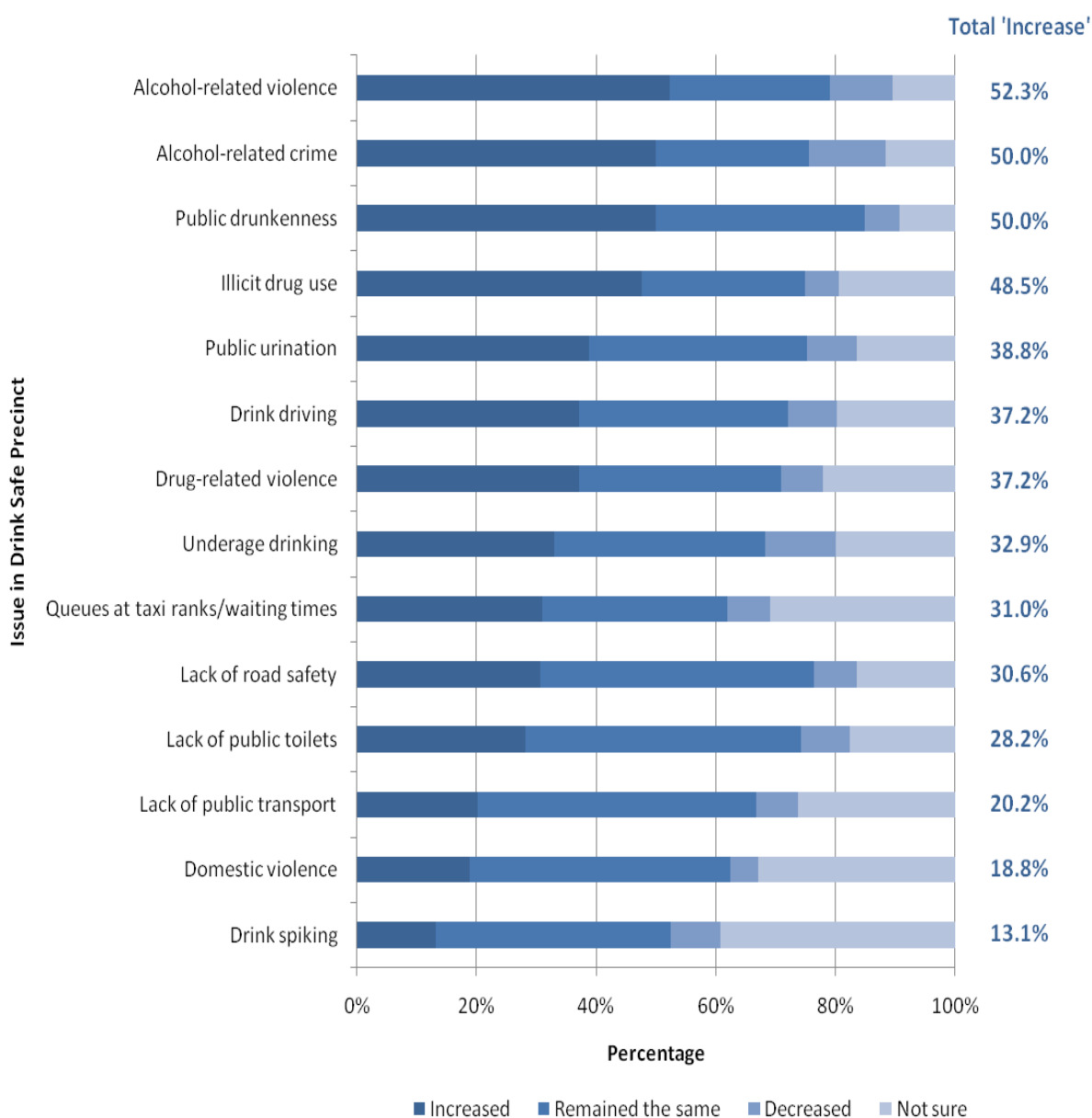
Source: Resident, Business, Service Provider and Licensee/Approved Managers Surveys 2011.

People who work or live in the Surfers Paradise Drink Safe Precinct were also asked questions about whether the issues associated with the Drink Safe Precinct where they work or live have changed during the past two years.

As shown in Figure 11, most respondents identified that the issues associated with the Surfers Paradise Drink Safe precinct have remained the same during the past two years.

- Just over half of respondents identified that alcohol-related violence has increased during the past two years (52.3%, n = 45) and half of the respondents reported that they believe that public drunkenness (50.0%, n = 43) and alcohol-related crime (50%, n = 43) have increased during the past two years.

Figure 11: Change in issues associated with the Surfers Paradise Drink Safe Precinct



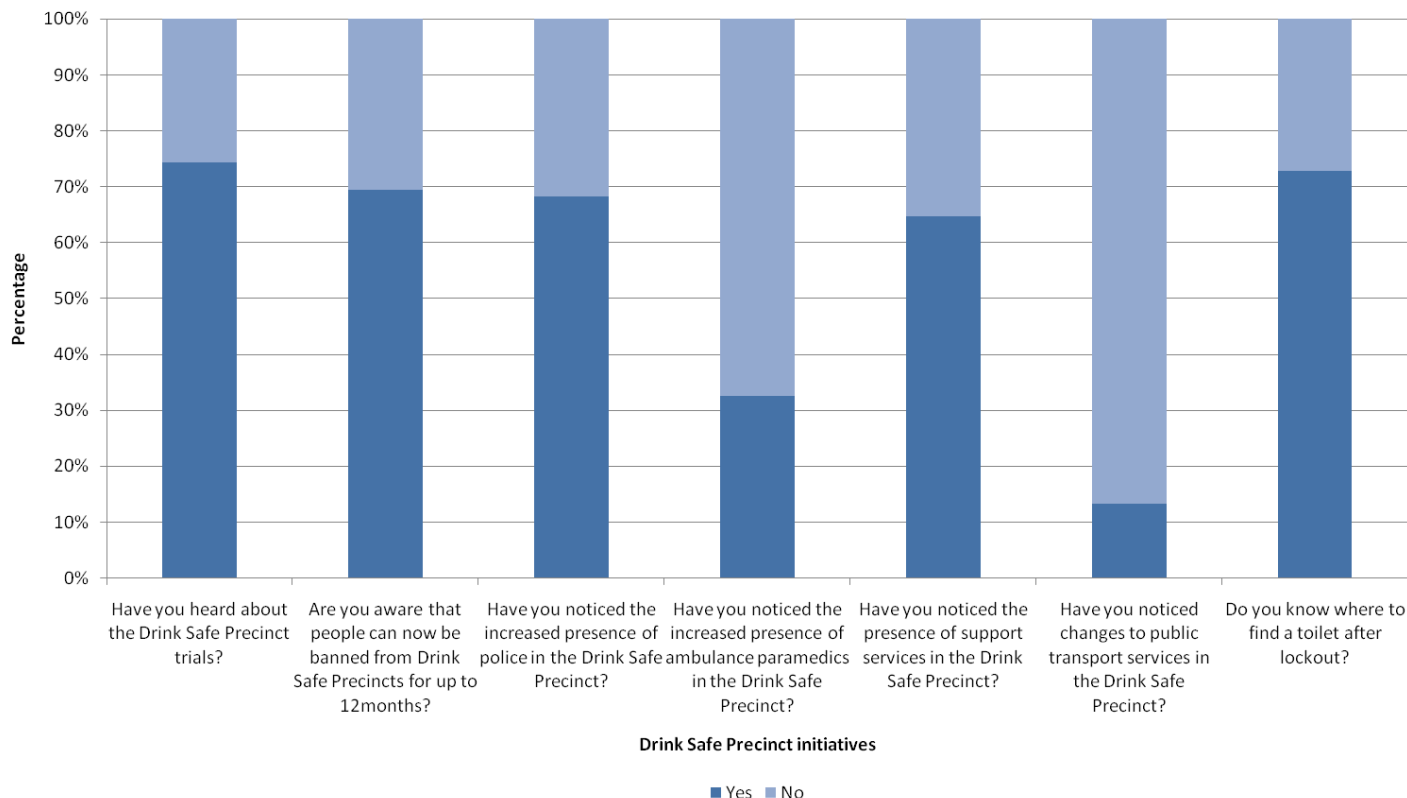
Source: Resident, Business, Service Provider and Licensee/Approved Managers Surveys 2011.

Drink Safe Precinct initiatives and effectiveness of strategies aimed at reducing alcohol-related violence

Respondents were asked about their awareness of Drink Safe Precinct initiatives in Surfers Paradise. As shown in Figure 12:

- three-quarters of respondents had heard about the Drink Safe Precinct trial in Surfers Paradise before completing the survey (74.4%, n = 64)
- just under 70 per cent of respondents are aware that people can now be banned from Drink Safe Precincts (69.4%, n = 59) and 68 per cent have noticed the increased presence of police in the Surfers Paradise Drink Safe Precinct (n = 58).

Figure 12: Awareness of Drink Safe Precinct Initiatives



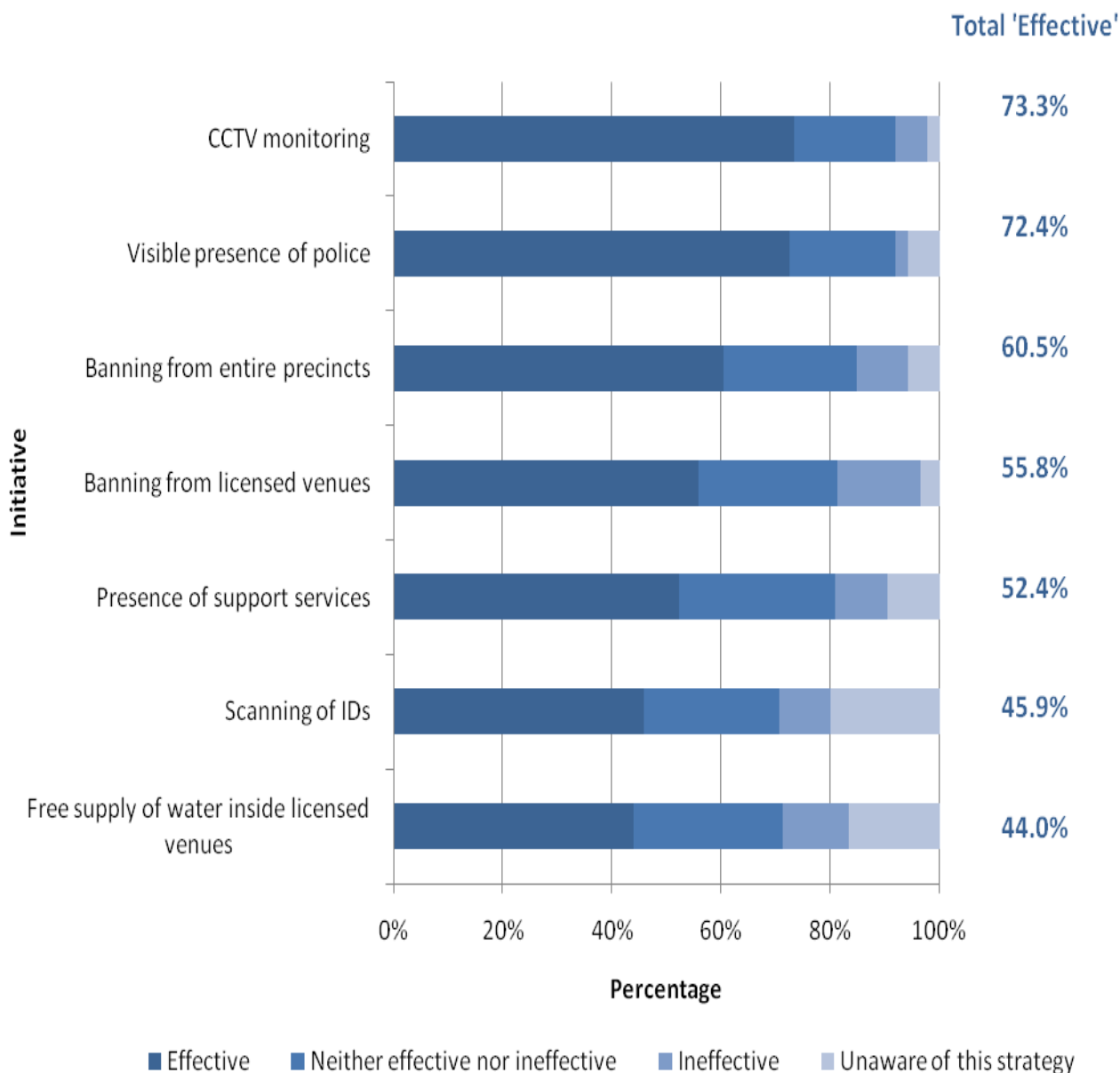
Source: Resident, Business, Service Provider and Licensee/Approved Managers Surveys 2011.

As well as awareness of these initiatives, people who work or live in the Surfers Paradise Drink Safe Precinct were also asked to identify how effective they think these initiatives are at reducing alcohol-related violence and improving community safety in this area.

As shown in Figure 13, overall, most respondents agreed that the initiatives listed in the survey are effective at reducing alcohol-related violence:

- just under three-quarters of respondents identified that CCTV monitoring is an effective strategy to reduce alcohol-related violence and improve community safety (73.3%, n = 63)
- more than 70 per cent of respondents identified that the visible presence of police is an effective strategy to reduce alcohol-related violence and improve community safety (72.4%, n = 63).

Figure 13: Effectiveness of initiatives aimed at reducing alcohol-related violence



Source: Resident, Business, Service Provider and Licensee/Approved Managers Surveys 2011.

What else did people who work or live in the Surfers Paradise Drink Safe Precinct tell us about the Surfers Paradise Drink Safe Precinct trial?

Similar to the Patron Survey, the last two questions of the Resident, Business, Service Provider and Licensee/Approved Managers Surveys allowed respondents to make comments about what they think should be done to improve safety in the Surfers Paradise Drink Safe Precinct and to make any other comment about violence or safety issues in the precinct.

People who work or live in the Surfers Paradise Drink Safe Precinct made a number of suggestions to further improve safety in this area, these suggestions included:

*“Keep the Police numbers up in an attempt to dissuade intoxicated persons from starting fights.”
{Respondent to Service Provider Survey}*

“Increase police presence and penalties for anti-social behaviour in the precinct.” {Respondent to Resident Survey}

“Close all clubs at 3am with a 1am lockout. Incentives to encourage patrons to come out earlier and leave earlier.” {Respondent to Service Provider Survey}

“RSA within establishment ... health advice for employees.” {respondent to Licensee/Approved Managers Survey}

Where to from here?

Results from the first round of the online surveys are currently being discussed with the local Drink Safe Precinct committees in each area to help inform local level decision making and action. The issues which have been highlighted for each of the three Drink Safe Precincts as requiring further attention include:

1. The need for information campaigns in Drink Safe Precincts focusing on the issue of alcohol-related violence and public drunkenness in order to communicate, inform and change behaviour.
2. The need for there to be further work done to respond to the amenity issues identified, in particular through the provision of toilet facilities to reduce public urination.

It is anticipated that the Drink Safe Precinct surveys will be conducted on a six-monthly basis for the two-year duration of the trial to measure any change over time (e.g. changes in awareness about Drink Safe Precinct initiatives). The next round of surveys will be conducted in November 2011 through the ‘Get Involved’ website.