



HUNTER NEW ENGLAND
NSW HEALTH

‘Newcastle by night’ – Newcastle City Council Community Workshop

John Wiggers

Hunter New England Population Health

Presentation Overview

- **Defining the alcohol problem**
 - What are the health outcomes of risky drinking?

- **Opportunities for addressing the local alcohol problem**
 - What does the research tell us?

Defining the alcohol problem

What are the health outcomes of risky drinking?

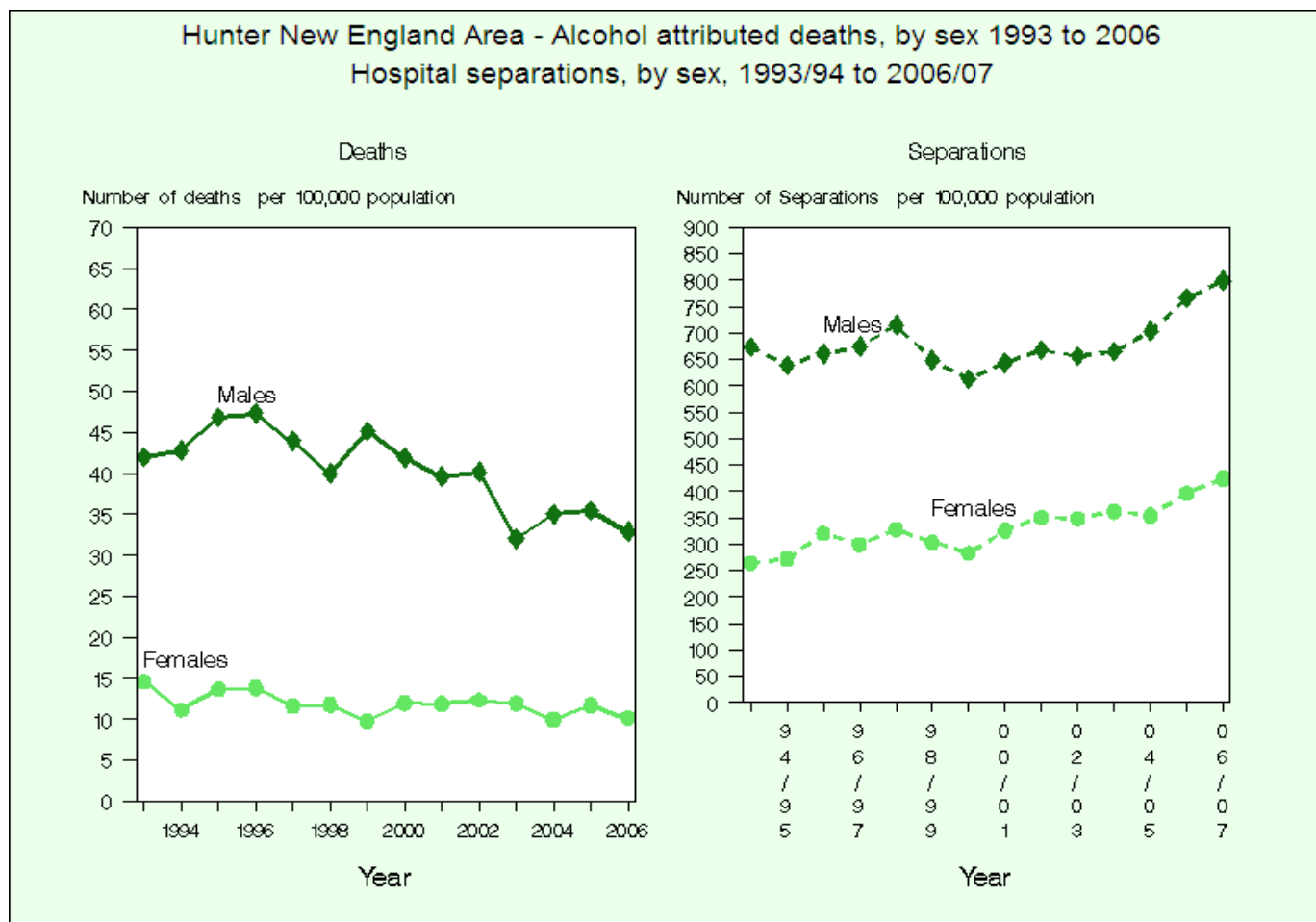


Alcohol-related hospital admissions - NSW

- From 1998/99 to 2007/08:
 - 31.5% increase overall
 - 45.5% increase - females
 - 24.5% increase - males

(NSW Population Health Survey, 2008)¹

Alcohol-related deaths & admissions – HNE Health



(Hunter New England Population Health, *Health in Hunter New England HealthResource*, 2009)²

Opportunities for addressing the local alcohol problem

What does the research tell us?



What does the research tell us?

■ *Reviews of the literature*

- *Babor T et al, (WHO) 2004. Alcohol - No ordinary commodity³*

Highly effective	+++
------------------	-----

Moderately effective	++
----------------------	----

Limited effectiveness	+
-----------------------	---

Not effective	0
---------------	---

- *National Drug Research Institute (NDRI) 2007. Restrictions on the sale and supply of alcohol: Evidence and Outcomes⁴*

Strong +ve evidence	\$\$
---------------------	------

Some +ve evidence	\$
-------------------	----

Further evidence needed	?
-------------------------	---

No +ve evidence	X
-----------------	---

What does the research tell us?

- **Regulating the supply of alcohol**

Restricting trading hours

++

\$\$



Restricting trading hours

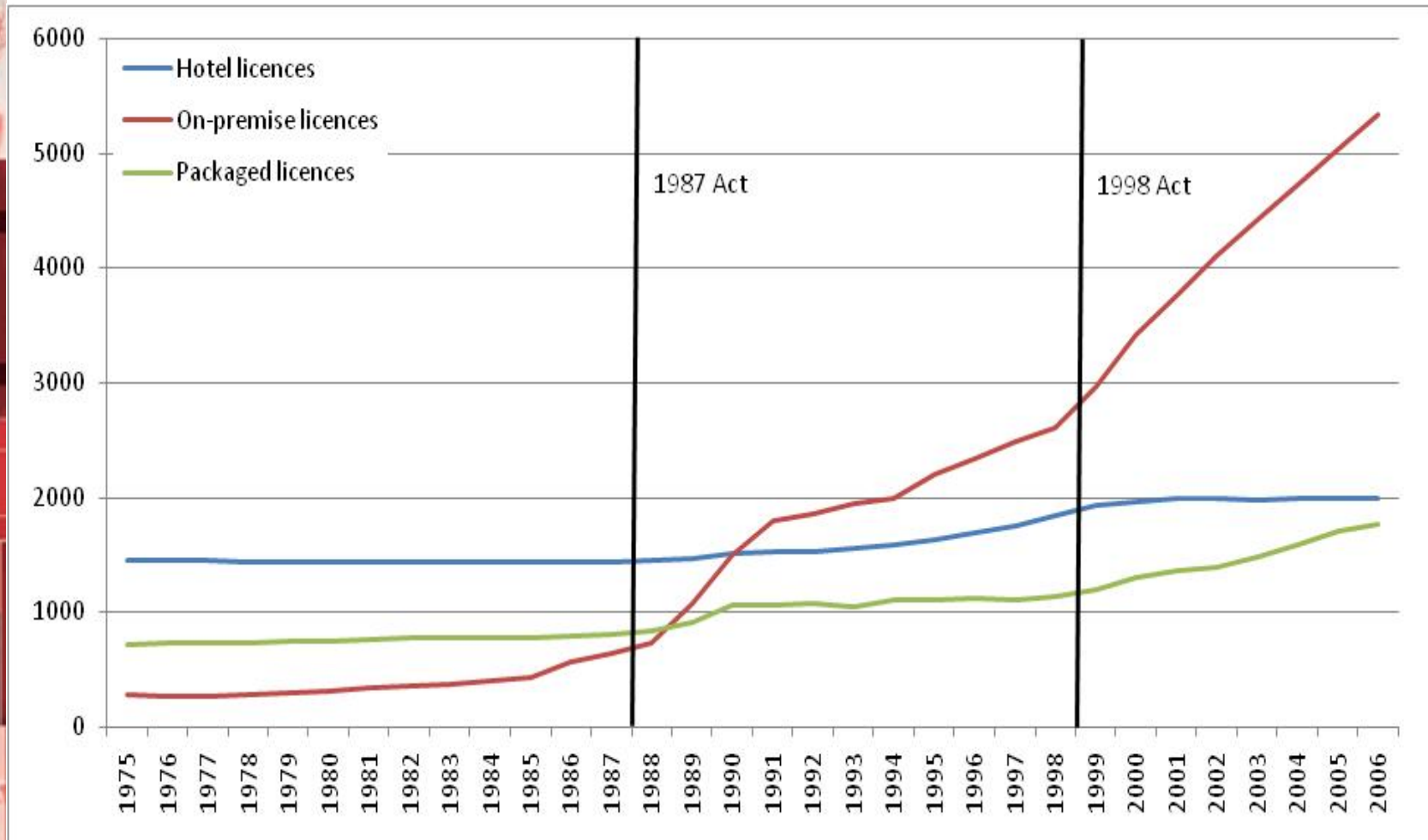
- Chikritzhs et al 2002⁵; 2006⁶:
 - Increase in trading hours by 1 hour from midnight to 1am (Perth):
 - 54.5% increase in assaults in and around premises
 - 47% increase in drink driver crashes

What does the research tell us?

- **Regulating the supply of alcohol**

Restricting trading hours	++	\$\$
Restrictions on outlet density	++	\$

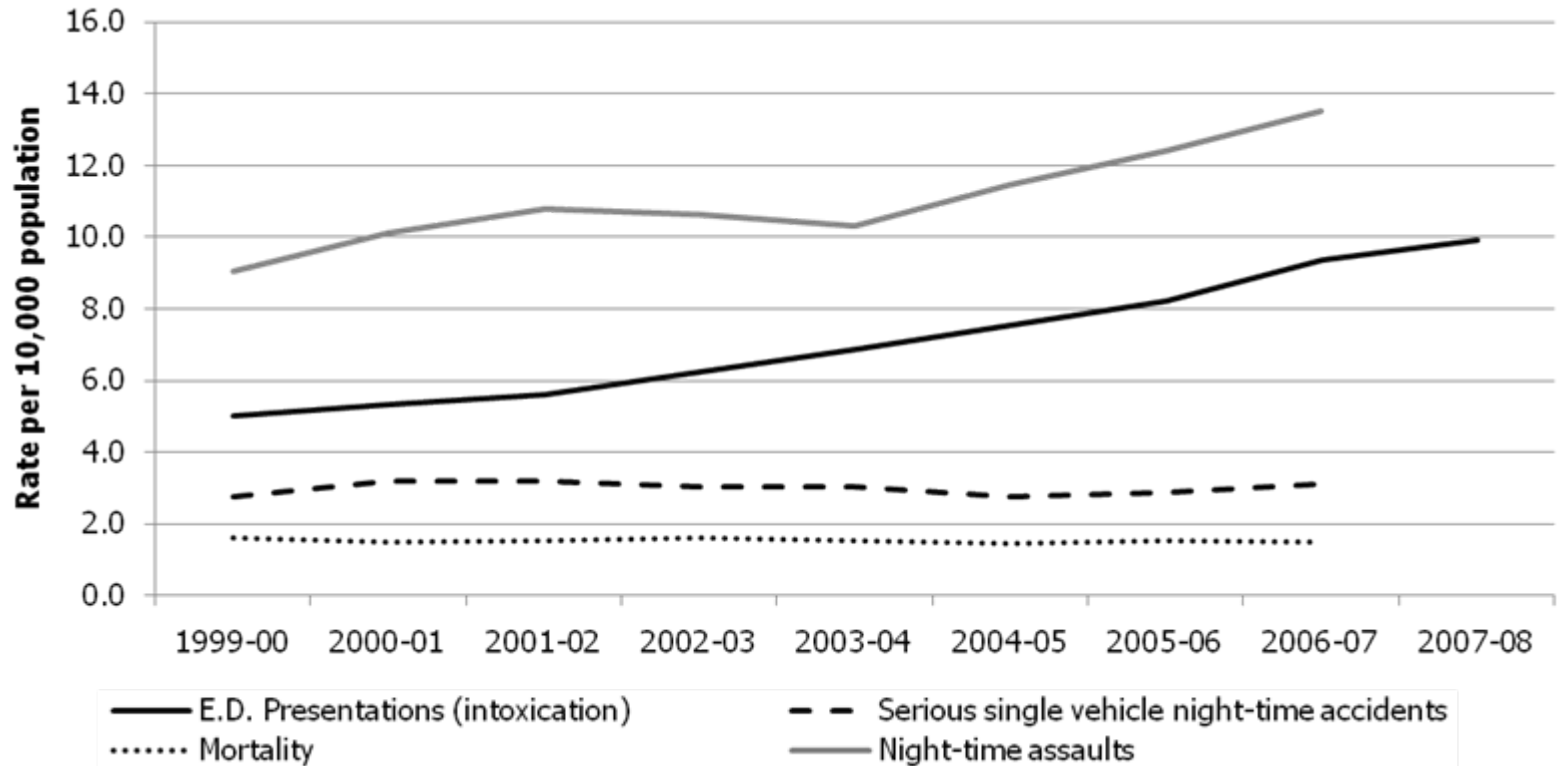
Outlet density - Victoria



- Livingston (2009 ADF 'Thinking Drinking' Conference)⁷

Trends in alcohol-related harm: Victoria

- 1998 to 2008 (ED, deaths, serious single-vehicle night-time & night-time assaults)



- Livingston (2009 ADF 'Thinking Drinking' Conference)⁷

Density of premises and harm

■ Victoria

- Positive association between density of premises and assaults – both on-license and off-license
- Positive association between density of premises and domestic violence – particularly off-license

– *Livingston, 2009⁷*

What does the research tell us?

- **Regulating the supply of alcohol**

Total or partial bans/restrictions on sales	+++	\$
Restricting alcohol strength	++	\$
Local 'dry areas' (AFZ)	-	X

What does the research tell us?

■ Regulating the supply of alcohol

Lock-outs (entry restrictions)	-	?
RSA Policy	+	-
Bar staff training	+	-
RSA		
<i>with enforcement</i>	++	\$
<i>without enforcement</i>	-	X

What does the research tell us?

■ Multi-strategy approaches

Multiple strategy approaches - ?

(restrictions plus other strategies)

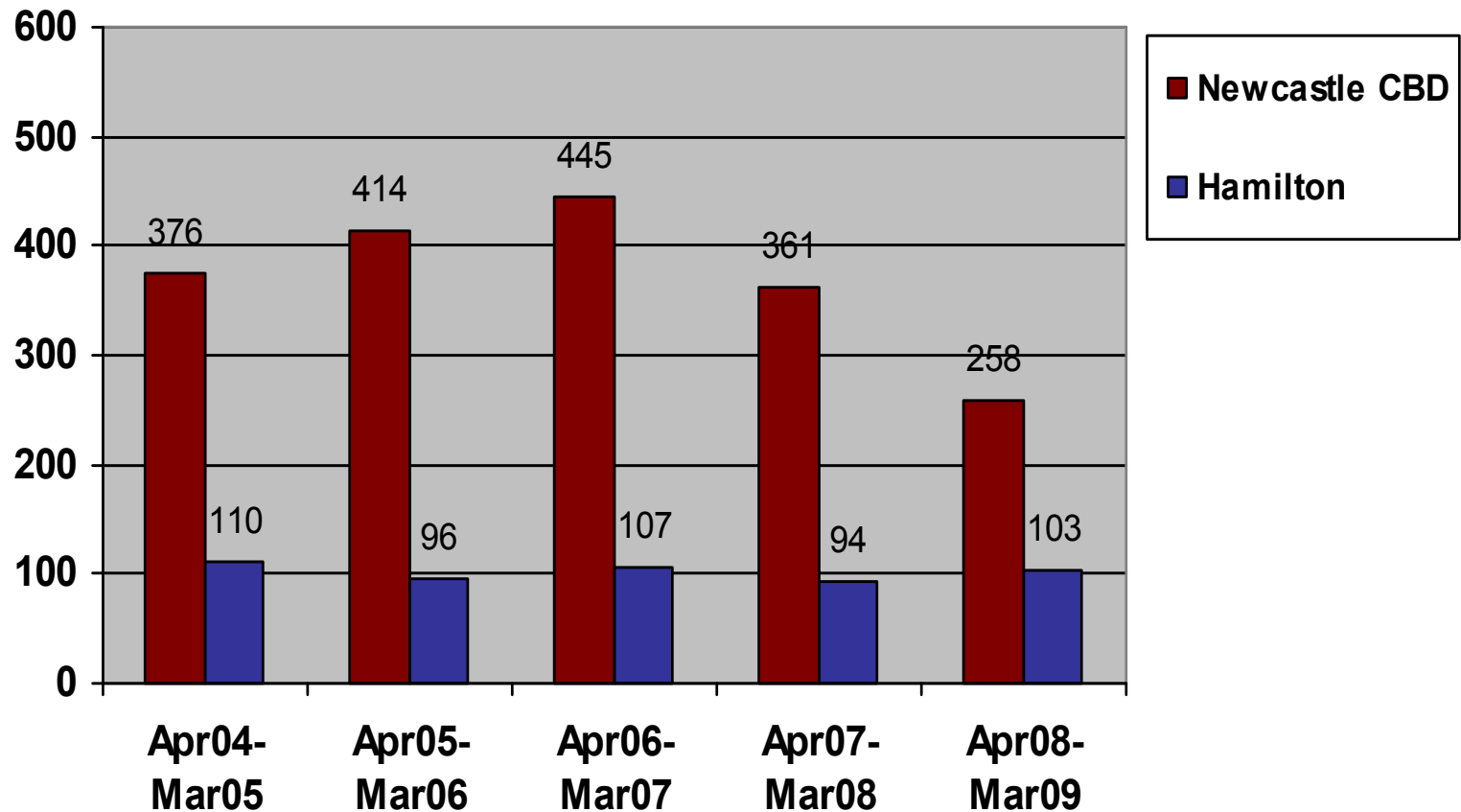
Community mobilisation/Accords

with enforcement ++ \$

without enforcement 0 X

'Multiple strategy interventions'

- **'Newcastle Intervention'**: Annual number of night-time non-DV assaults in Newcastle and Hamilton before and after intervention (Jones et al, 2009)⁸



'Newcastle Intervention'

- **Results**

- **Proximal hospitals:** In 2008, 132 presentations predicted, 95 presentations recorded (28% fewer incidents)
- **Distal hospitals:** No significant difference

What does the research tell us?

■ Reducing the demand for alcohol

Increasing price	++	\$\$
Alcohol education in schools	0	-
Public service messages	0	-
Warning labels	0	-

■ Treatment and early intervention

Brief intervention with at-risk drinkers	++	-
Treatment	+	-

What does the research tell us?

■ Drink driving

Random Breath Testing

+++

-

Designated driver programs

0

-



Conclusion

- Increasing harm (hospitalisations)
- Regulatory approaches have strongest evidence: density, tax, hours, enforcement of RSA
- Multi-strategic approach effective
- More to do
- Opportunities:
 - density
 - Harm minimisation; transport
 - Adolescent drinking
 - Enhanced accords
 - Enforcement of RSA
 - ? premises design and management

References

1. Population Health Division. The health of the people of New South Wales - Report of the Chief Health Officer. Sydney: NSW Department of Health. Available at: www.health.nsw.gov.au/publichealth/chorep/. Accessed (18/2/2010).
2. Hunter New England Population Health, *Health in Hunter New England HealthResource*, Hunter New England Area Health Service, 2009. Available at: <http://www1.hnehealth.nsw.gov.au/HNEPH/HHNE/beh/behalfcaf4.htm> - Accessed (18/2/2010).
3. Babor T, Caetano R, Casswell S, Edwards G et al (2003). Alcohol: no ordinary commodity – research and public policy. Oxford University Press.
4. National Drug Research Institute (2007). Restrictions on the sale and supply of alcohol: Evidence and Outcomes. Perth: National Drug Research Institute, Curtin University of Technology. Accessed at: <http://ndri.curtin.edu.au/local/docs/pdf/publications/R207.pdf>
5. Chikritzhs T & Stockwell T (2002). The impact of later trading hours for Australian public houses (hotels) on levels of violence. *Journal of Studies on Alcohol*, 63(5): 591-599.

References cont..

6. Chikritzhs T & Stockwell T (2002). The impact of later trading hours for hotels on levels of impaired driver road crashes and driver breath alcohol levels. *Addiction*, 1254-1264.
7. Livingston M (2009). Alcohol outlet density and alcohol-related problems: The view from Victoria – Research into alcohol availability. Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre. Accessed: <http://newsroom-adf.org.au/http://newsroom-adf.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/08/15.-Michael-Livingston.ppt>
8. Jones C, Kypri K, Moffatt S et al (2009). The impact of restricted alcohol availability on alcohol-related violence in Newcastle, NSW. *Crime and Justice Bulletin* Number 137. NSW Bureau of Crime, Statistics and Research & The University of Newcastle. Accessed: [http://www.bocsar.nsw.gov.au/lawlink/bocsar/ll_bocsar.nsf/vwFiles/CJB137.pdf/\\$file/CJB137.pdf](http://www.bocsar.nsw.gov.au/lawlink/bocsar/ll_bocsar.nsf/vwFiles/CJB137.pdf/$file/CJB137.pdf)
9. Hunter New England Population Health (2009). Unpublished data.