

**Title: Qualitative and Quantitative Insights on Australian Living with a Heavy Drinking Intimate Partner**

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**Introduction:** *Although the association between heavy drinking and intimate partner violence (IPV) is well-documented, the characteristics of those affected and the diverse harms they experience in a home setting remain underexplored. This study explores the characteristics of individuals harmed by a partner's heavy drinking and the situational and relationship dynamics involved.*

**Methods:** *Utilizing data from the 2008 and 2021 Australian Alcohol's Harm to Others surveys and 15 qualitative interviews from the 2021 follow-up component, we conducted descriptive analyses and logistic regression to identify factors influencing harm. Qualitative thematic analysis of individuals' lived experiences will offer crucial insights into the events involving their heavy-drinking partners.*

**Results:** *A total of 156 respondents (90 in 2008 and 66 in 2021) identified that their partner had been the most harmful drinker in the past year, with 71% of respondents being women. In 2008 younger (61.1% under 45) and with educational attainment less than bachelor's degree (63.3%), with partners primarily men (72.2%), aged 18-44 and drinking heavily 1-4 days per week (45.5%). By 2021, respondents were older (66.7% over 45) and with slightly more individuals holding a bachelor's degree (50.8% without a bachelor's degree), with partners were men (72.7%) evenly split between ages 18-44 and 45-75+ and similar drinking patterns. Reported harms included physical harm, harassment, social issues, and unmet obligations, with slight variations between years. Preliminary thematic analysis revealed two theme groups: those from participants who experienced IPV themselves and those who witnessed parental IPV in childhood. For the first group, themes included changes in partner behaviour, feelings of fear and helplessness, negative family dynamics, and long-term consequences.*

**Discussions and Conclusions:** *The analysis is continuing. However, to date, we have found that combining quantitative evidence with qualitative insights has contributed to understanding the complexities surrounding intimate partner harm in the context of heavy drinking.*

**Disclosure of Interest Statement:** *The authors declare no conflicts of interest. AT was supported by a La Trobe University Full-Fee Research Scholarship (LTUFFRS) and La Trobe University Graduate Research Scholarship (LTGRS). HJ was supported by the Australian Research Council Discovery Project (DP200101781). RJ is funded by the Australian Human Rights Commission. AML was supported by the Australian Research*

*Council (DE190100329), veski and the National Health and Medical Research Council (GNT 2016706).*