



Qualitative and Quantitative Insights on Australians Living with a Heavy Drinking Intimate Partner

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Declaration

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Acknowledgment of Country

I'd like to begin by acknowledging the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet today the Ngunnawal people. I would also like to pay my respects to Elders past and present.

Introduction

- Intimate partner (IP) relationships are essential for human connection, trust, and mutual support (Howe, 2002).
- Heavy drinking disturbs relationships, causing numerous negative consequences (Crane et al., 2014; Laslett et al., 2017).
- Prevalence of heavy episodic drinking for the adult population is 18.4% globally (Peacock et al., 2018)
- Australia (2022): 26.8% of adults exceeded guidelines; 35.8% men, 18.1% women (ABS, 2022).
- The association between heavy drinking and intimate partner violence (IPV) is well-documented (Callinan et al., 2019).

Introduction 'cont.'

- Gender Disparity: Women are more affected than men by alcohol-related intimate partner violence (ARIPV) (Kilian et al., 2024)
- Alcohol linked to increased frequency and severity (Graham et al., 2011)
- Intersectionality of different factors

Study objectives: Mixed method study

Quantitative component

- Characteristics of the group of people who report harm from a partner's drinking
- The prevalence of alcohol-related IP harms identified in the two Australian AHTO surveys in 2008 and 2021

Qualitative component

- Nature of harm in home settings.

Methods

Source of data:

- 2008 and 2021 Australian Alcohol's Harm to Others (AHTO) surveys.
- (n= 156, 90 in 2008 and 66 in 2021)
- 2021 qualitative interviews.

Data Analysis:

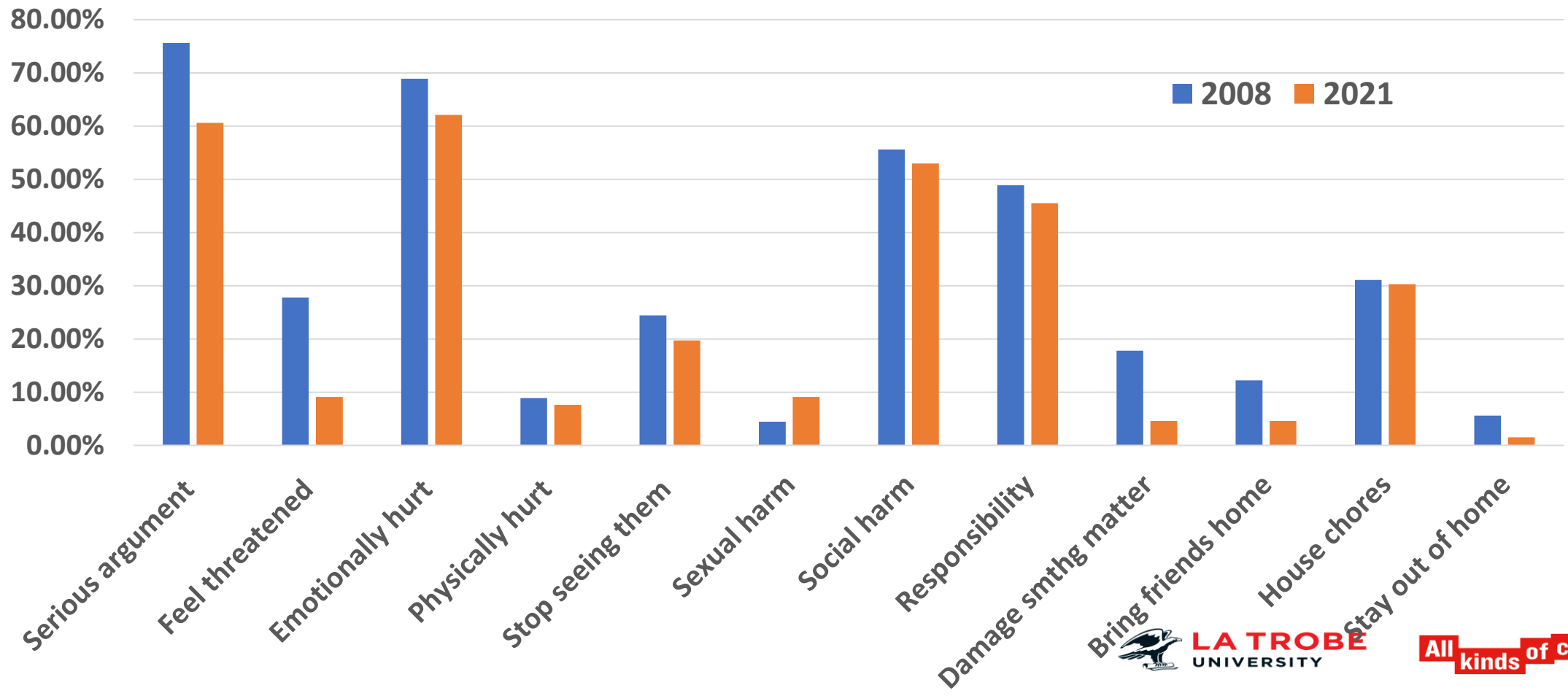
- Descriptive statistics
- Thematic analysis for qualitative interviews
(Braun & Clarke, 2021)

Results

	Participant		Drinker	
	2008	2021	2008	2021
	n=90	n=66	n=90	n=66
	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)
Gender:				
Men	26 (28.9%)* ¹	19 (28.8%)**	65 (72.2%)	48 (72.7%)
Women	64 (71.1%)*	47 (71.2%)**	25 (27.8%)	18 (27.3%)
Age:				
18-44	55 (61.1%)*	22 (33.3%)	67 (74.4%)	33 (50.0%)
45-75+	35 (38.9%)*	44 (66.7%)	23 (25.6%)	33 (50.0%)
Heavy episodic drinking (HED):				
5+ day/week	-	-	26 (29.6%)*	20 (30.3%)*
1-4 days/week	13 (15.7%)	7 (11.9%)	40 (45.5%)*	30 (45.5%)*
Less than 1 time/week	68 (81.9%)	49 (83.1%)	22 (25.0%)*	16 (24.2%)*
Alcohol use guideline				
Below 10 standard drinks/week	65 (77.4%)	49 (83.1%)	25 (32.1%)*	24 (38.1%)*
Above 10 standard drinks/week	19 (22.6%)	10 (17.0%)	53 (68.0%)*	39 (61.9%)*

Prevalence of harm items comparing 2008 with 2021 when the respondents identified a harmful heavy drinking intimate partner in their life

Percentages of harm items comparing 2008 with 2021 when the respondents identified a harmful heavy drinking intimate partner in their life



Qualitative Findings

Demographic characteristics of the interviewees in the qualitative component of the study

	Females	Males	Total (n= 12)
Age			
18 – 44	2	1	3
45 – 54	4	1	5
55 – 75+	4	0	4
COB			
Australia	9	2	11
Other (SEA)	1	0	1
Main Activity			
Retired	3	0	3
Unable to work	1	0	1
Working in paid employment	6	2	8
Relationship fate			
Continued	5	1	6
Ended	5	1	6

Conclusion

We have found that combining quantitative evidence with qualitative insights has contributed to understanding of the complexities surrounding intimate partner harm in the context of heavy drinking.



Thank you

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