

## **EXPERIENCE OF HARM FROM OTHERS' DRINKING AMONGST RISKY DRINKING ADOLESCENTS ACROSS AUSTRALIA**

**Authors:** Lam T<sup>1</sup>, Laslett AM<sup>1,2</sup>, Chikritzhs T<sup>1</sup>, Lenton S<sup>1</sup>, Gilmore W<sup>1</sup>, Liang W<sup>1</sup>, Pandzic I<sup>1</sup>, Ogeil R<sup>3</sup>, Aiken A<sup>4</sup>, Burns L<sup>4</sup>, Lloyd B<sup>3</sup>, Lubman D<sup>3</sup>, Mattick R<sup>4</sup>, Bruno R<sup>5</sup>, Fischer J<sup>6</sup>, Trifonoff A<sup>6</sup>, Roche A<sup>6</sup>, Salom C<sup>7</sup>, Alati R<sup>7</sup>, Midford R<sup>8</sup>, Allsop S<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> National Drug Research Institute, Curtin University, Perth, <sup>2</sup> Centre for Alcohol Policy Research, Melbourne, <sup>3</sup> Turning Point and Eastern Health Clinical School, Monash University, Melbourne, <sup>4</sup> National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, University of New South Wales, Sydney, <sup>5</sup> School of Psychology, University of Tasmania, Hobart, <sup>6</sup> National Center for Education and Training on Addiction, Flinders University, Adelaide, <sup>7</sup> The Institute for Social Sciences Research, The University of Queensland, Brisbane, <sup>8</sup> Menzies School of Health Research, Charles Darwin University, Darwin

Presenter's email: [tina.lam@curtin.edu.au](mailto:tina.lam@curtin.edu.au)

### **Introduction:**

In addition to harms due to their own alcohol use, risky drinking young people are particularly vulnerable to consequences attributable to other people's drinking. The harms to others literature on adolescents is scant, and we aimed to provide insight into a range of alcohol related secondary harms not otherwise documented.

### **Methods:**

Participants were 14-19 years old, and screened as the riskiest drinking 25% of their age cohort. Face-to-face interviews were conducted in 2016-17 in all eight Australian capital cities (n=600), supplemented by online surveys (n=2,300).

Past 12 month experience of 13 harms due others' drinking were assessed in relation to age, gender, alcohol and other drug use, harm reduction strategy use, and experience of physical punishment as a child.

### **Results:**

Females were more likely to experience a greater range of the 13 harms (e.g. 41% of females reported being harassed or bothered at a party or some other private setting compared to 34% of males). Males were more likely to experience more tangible harms such as being physically hurt (11% vs 17%).

Older teenagers were more likely to experience harassment in public settings and unwanted sexual attention. Harms were perpetrated by strangers and people the respondents knew at similar rates.

### **Conclusion:**

Younger people who are also risky drinkers were particularly susceptible to experiencing harms from others; childhood physical punishment compounded this vulnerability. Many of these harms are not reported elsewhere, for example, as they occurred in private locations.