Place managers in an entertainment district

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Research site

- Fortitude Valley, Brisbane
- 60,000 patrons every weekend (est.)
- 95 licensed premises per square kilometre
- 33 nightclubs/bars per square kilometre
Officer ‘had capsicum spray wiped in her face and had a fingernail ripped off’ (June 16)

Patron outside nightclub ‘with about 160 ecstasy tablets in his underwear’ (June 30)

Patron hospitalised for ‘facial injuries after an alleged glassing’ attack (Sept 28)

27 people charged with trafficking, supplying and possessing illicit drugs to Valley (Oct 2)

1,000 people evacuated from nightclub after a patron spotted with a loaded handgun (Oct 27)
Precursors to intervention

• Liquor Enforcement And Proactive Strategies (LEAPS) Unit  December 2004

• Death of Nigel Lee  January 2005

• Death of Paul Markham  February 2005

• Brisbane City Safety Action Plan (‘17-point-plan’)  March 2005
The intervention: LEAPS

- Problem-oriented and partnership policing initiative
- Harm-reduction strategy using a mix of proactive and reactive tactics
- Goal is to make licensed premises safer for all patrons and staff
- Operate in an intelligence-led framework
  - Number and type of problems
  - Direct resources to problem venues
- Communicate with other agencies
  - Security industry
  - Outreach workers
  - Health, local council, fire and rescue, immigration, WHS
LEAPS activities

• Proactive
  • Free safety audits of licensed premises
  • Liaison (security, licensees/nominees)
  • Chair/attend community meetings

• Reactive
  • Low impact enforcement
  • Cite venues for breaches of Liquor Act 1992
  • Distribute warning letters
  • Assist in liquor tribunal proceedings
Liquor Licensing breaches

Number of Liquor Incident Notices

Value of fines

0 10000 20000 30000 40000 50000 60000 70000 80000 90000

1999 2004 2008

175 405 518

0 100 200 300 400 500 600 700 800 900

1999 2004 2008

14400 73245 84675
Research design

- Place managers from all nightclubs, bars, taverns, lounge bars, cocktail bars, adult entertainment premises
- Pre-post correlational research design
- Pre-intervention: November 2004 (N=26)
- Post-intervention: May 2007 (N=31)
The role of place managers

Source: Home Office, 2004
Perceptions of drug problems

• Drug dealing decreased
  • ‘Big problem’ responses dropped from 58% to 39%
  • ‘No problem’ responses increased from nil to 7%

• Drug use decreased
  • ‘Big problem’ responses dropped from 39% to 32%
  • ‘No problem’ responses increased from 4% to 13%

• Chroming decreased
  • ‘Big problem’ responses dropped from 31% to 23%
Perceptions of disorder

• Increase in:
  • Urinating/vomiting
  • ‘Hooning’

• Decrease in:
  • Excessive noise
  • Prostitution
  • Homelessness

• Stable:
  • Vandalism
Perceptions of violence

• Increase in:
  - Robberies/muggings (from ‘rarely’ to ‘sometimes’ as modal category)
  - Fights with weapons (from nil in ‘often’ category to 6.5 per cent)
  - Sexual assaults (from 16% in ‘sometimes’ category to 26%; from nil in ‘often’ category to 10%)

• Decrease in:
  - Violent arguments (from ‘often’ to ‘sometimes’ as modal category)
Positive action

Place managers’ responses to community problems before and after LEAPS intervention

- Called police
- Worked with police
- Called a city agency
- Spoke to owner of a problem place

Pre-intervention vs. Post-intervention
Self-reported positive action

- “...self-regulation and related notions of community cohesiveness and local social ties have been conceptualized and found to be important insulators against crime problems at the neighbourhood and street-block level” (Mazerolle, Kadlec & Roehl, 1998, p.374).

- “...collective efficacy among neighbours, defined as social cohesion among neighbors combined with their willingness to intervene on behalf of the common good, is linked to reduced violence” (Sampson, Raudenbush & Earls, 1997, p.916)
Conclusions

• License type helps understand perceptions
  - Situational environment
  - Different personality traits (e.g. Quigley, Leonard & Collins, 2003)

• Perceptions of drug problems decreased

• Targets drift away from traditional law enforcement reactions to problems
Manning, M., Ferguson, P., Mazerolle, P., & Mazerolle, L. ‘Place managers in an entertainment district: Perceptions of disorder and engagement in positive action’.

Ferguson, P., Manning, M., Jackson, S., Mazerolle, P., & Mazerolle, L. ‘Conflicting police strategies in an entertainment district: Implications for procedural justice’.