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Attorney General's Department

Developing an assault reduction strategy

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Background



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- An upward trend in the number of assaults recorded by NSW police and in self report measures over the last decade
- Police recorded crime statistics for 2007 flagged 44% of all recorded incidents of assault in NSW to be alcohol related
- There is a relationship between the density of licensed premises and the occurrence of criminal activity.

Assaults in NSW



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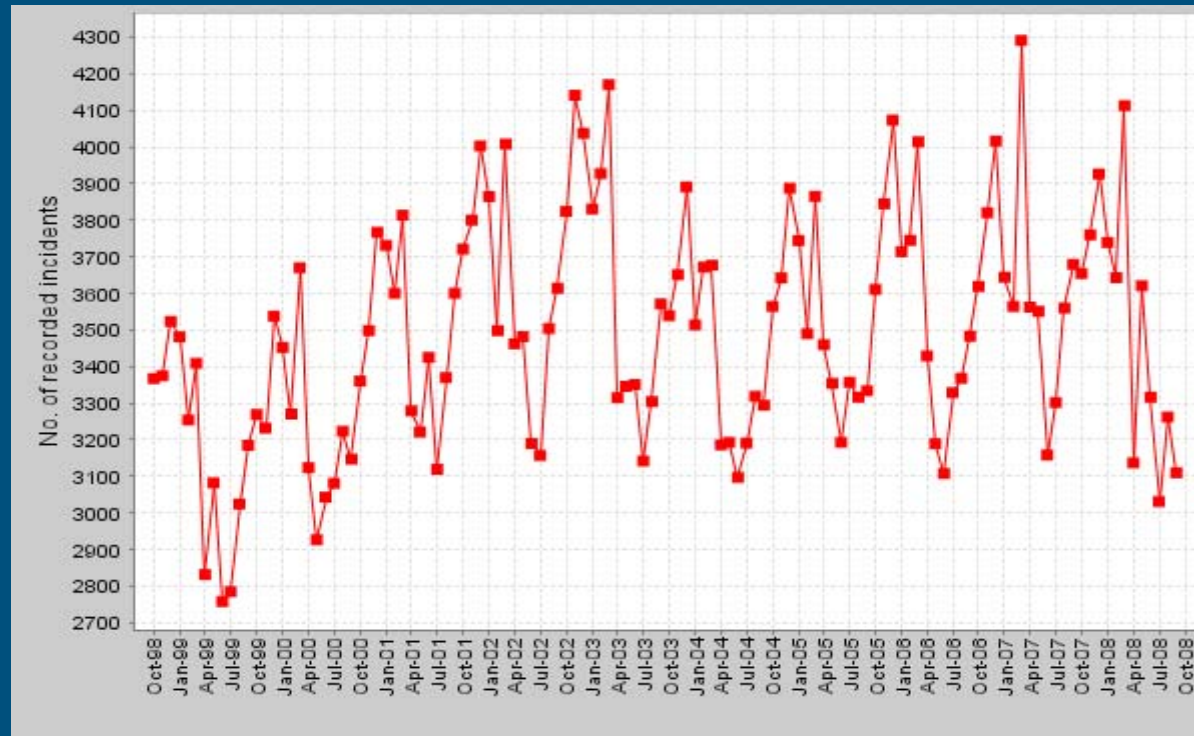
October 1998 to September 2008:

Assault, non domestic violence, NSW

Statistically significant upward trend over 120 month period.

Average annual percentage change: up 1.2%

(source: BOCSAR crime trends tool, ref 2009-74866-3)



CPD project brief



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- Identify high incident assault areas in NSW that can be linked to licensed premises density.
- Identify risk factors in and around the identified licensed premises hot-spots that contribute to the opportunity for assaults to take place.
- Implement strategies aimed at reducing the incidence of assaults in and around the identified licensed premises.

This presentation



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- Identifying hot-spot Local Government Areas (LGAs) and hot-spot licensed premises within the LGAs.
- The development of tools to undertake audits of identified licensed premises to identify risks in and around the premises that create the opportunity for assaults to take place.
- Strategies identified that aim to reduce the opportunity for assaults in and around the premises.

Local Government Area (LGA) selection



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- 1) 1800+ recorded incidents of non-domestic violence related assaults in 2006 & 2007
- 2) LGA has an assault rate per 100,000 population that is higher than that for the state (2006 & 2007)
- 3) LGA has a high incidence of weekend assaults (2006/2007)
- 4) LGA has a high density of licensed premises
- 5) LGA a CPD identified priority area



Local Area Commands (LACs) selected

- The Sydney LGA:
 - ***Rocks LAC***
 - Kings Cross LAC
 - City Central LAC

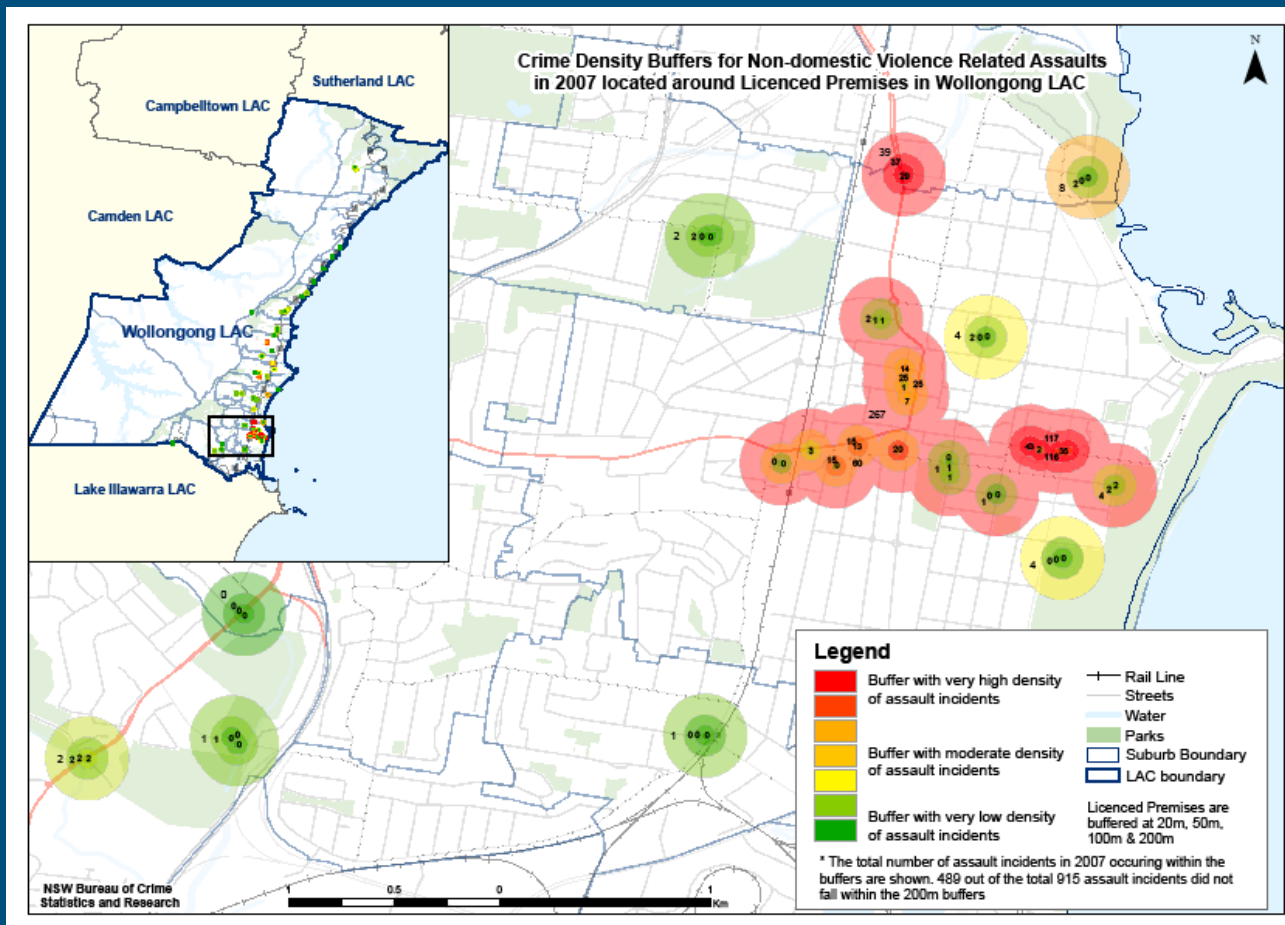
- Wollongong LGA:
 - ***Wollongong LAC***
 - Lake Illawarra LAC



Assault incidents & licensed premises

The ROCKS LAC		
Total number of licensed premises = 104		
Non-dv assault	n	%
Total recorded incidents	440	
Total within 20m buffer	177	40.2
Total within 50m buffer	260	59.1
Total within 100m buffer	399	90.7
Total within 200m buffer	423	96.1
The Wollongong LAC		
Total number of licensed premises = 64		
Non-dv assault	n	%
Total recorded incidents	915	
Total within 20m buffer	210	23.0
Total within 50m buffer	293	32.0
Total within 100m buffer	327	35.7
Total within 200m buffer	426	46.6

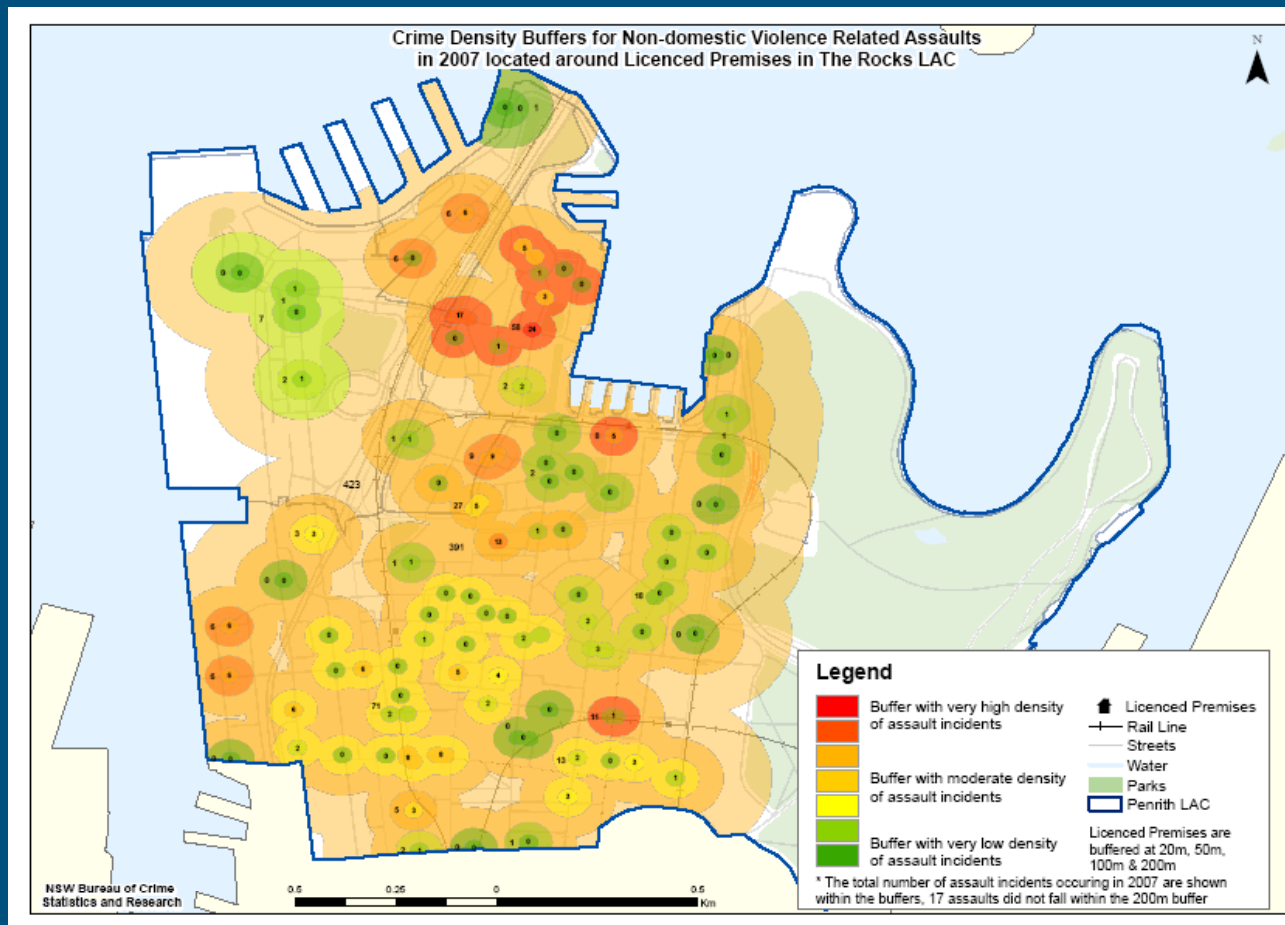
Wollongong LAC



The Rocks LAC



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The audit process



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- Physical environment
- Behaviour of security & door staff
- Responsible service alcohol practices
- How intoxicated patrons are dealt with
- Patron demographics
- Staff characteristics
- Level of intoxication
- Closing/lock-out times
- Transport options

Potential strategies



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- Design improvements
- Reduced venue capacity
- Cessation of alcohol promotions
- Improved security management
- Increased enforcement of RSA
- Late night transport strategies
- Use of “shatter proof” bar glasses
- High visibility policing operations

Evaluation strategy



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- Quantitative – pre/post
 - BOCSAR recorded crime
 - Emergency services
 - Licensed premises incident reports
 - OLGR
- Qualitative – pre/post
 - Survey hoteliers & staff
 - Survey residents/businesses/employees
 - Police narratives of assault incidents
 - Structured interviews with police



Questions?