

Calls to Police related to alcohol

Masterton District

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CAVEAT

Police data examined in this report is drawn from a dynamic operational database and is subject to change as new information is continually recorded. It is only as accurate as the information contained in the databases at the time that it is sourced. Statistics from provisional data are counted differently than official statistics and should not be compared.



Key Findings

Analysis of calls to Police was conducted in relation to events occurring within Masterton District from January 2008 to December 2012. During that time, within this area, Police received 7,762 calls for types of events that are typically related to alcohol (approximately 1,550 per year).

The following has been identified:

- Much of the alcohol related calls to police occur within the current Masterton central business district (CBD), bounded by Chapel, Dixon and Queen Streets. This area has had an alcohol ban area for some years but has recently been extended to include the Kuripuni shopping village area.
- A number of other areas have been identified as hotspots and have been identified as main routes into the CBD. Much of these calls to police are likely to relate to damage, disorder and family violence.
- During the reporting period the number of calls to police where alcohol is believed to be a factor steadily increased from 2008, peaking in 2011 before dropping again in 2012. An increased focus during 2012 on high risk families may have been a factor in the decline during that year.

Police would like to strengthen partnerships with the Masterton District Territorial Authority (TA) to develop solutions that will reduce the demand currently placed on police resources. This can be achieved by:

- Reducing on-licence closing hours from 2 am to 1 am. This will reduce the window in which offending and social harm can occur and bring on-licence premises in line with those of neighbouring TA's of Carterton and South Wairarapa.
- Reducing off-licence alcohol trading hours by one hour to between 7am and 9pm is likely to limit the opportunities for purchasing alcohol for sole purpose of becoming intoxicated. It will require patrons to plan their evening better, lowering the chances of offending and victimisation.
- Introducing a one-way door policy at 12am for on-licence premises, across the Masterton TA area. This would align Masterton TA on-licence premises with neighbouring on-licence premises in Carterton and South Wairarapa TA's. International research supports this to be an effective tool in reducing alcohol related offending, within an overall robust alcohol policy.
- Collaboration between community partners on maximum numbers or 'capping' of both on and off-licensed premises is likely to assist with reducing levels of alcohol related harm. Careful consideration on location of any future premises, to ensure vulnerable communities are not further exposed to alcohol related harm.
- Consideration should be given to signage and clear delineation between on-licence 'outside space' and public place to ensure accurate policing of the current Masterton alcohol ban area.



Introduction

1. The operating strategy for New Zealand Police to 2015 is *Prevention First*. The strategy is aimed at preventing crime before it happens using targeted policing, partnerships, and focusing on the drivers of crime.
2. The new Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 states that when developing a draft or provisional Local Alcohol Policy (LAP), a Territorial Authority must consider a range of factors set out in the Act, including the nature and severity of the alcohol-related problems arising in the district¹. To that end, Police (along with Licensing Inspectors and Medical Officers of Health) must make reasonable efforts to give the Territorial Authority any relevant information they may hold².
3. This report analyses calls made by the public to police. In each case the Police employee who takes the call, categorises the incident based on what the caller tells them into basic event types such as violence, disorder, etc. These calls are then recorded in the Police Communications and Resource Deployment database (CARD). An event can be re-categorised into different types throughout the life of a call, so for the purposes of this analysis, event types are considered at the time of call closure.
4. Although CARD does not hold information on whether alcohol was consumed by the offender or by the victim, certain types of events are typically considered to be related to alcohol. These are:

Grievous Assaults	Sexual Affronts	Disorder
Serious Assaults	Abduction For Sex	Breach Of The Peace
Minor Assaults	Sexual Attacks	Obstructing/Hindering/Resisting
Intimidation/Threats	Rape	Unlawful Assembly
Crimes Against Personal Privacy	Domestic Dispute	Breach Of Local Council Liquor Ban
Drunk Custody/Detox Centre	Domestic Violence	Sale of Liquor offences (old Act)
Drunk Home	(Sale and Supply of Alcohol offences – new Act)	

5. The calls analysed in this report were made between 1 January 2008 and 31 December 2012 and fall into the categories listed above. They are presented visually in the attached maps by individual years. In the future, yearly updates will be provided. The calls do not include those initiated by Police (i.e., officer-discovered contact with the Communications Centre) and exclude duplicate calls.
6. In this analysis, the calls to Police were spatially analysed using a hotspotting technique called Gi*. The Gi* technique aggregates events to a grid, the size of which depends on the area of analysis. The totals within each grid square are then compared with each other across the entire study area.
7. Gi* compares local averages with global averages, identifying those areas where the local averages (e.g., concentrations of crime) are significantly different from the global averages (i.e., in comparison to what is generally observed across the whole study area).
8. Gi* identifies if the local pattern of crime is different from what is generally observed across the whole study area, and produces a level of significance. The areas identified as not significant are those where clustering would likely have occurred due to chance and not due to the location itself.
9. As Gi* adds statistical significance to hotspot analysis, it shows which hotspots are significant, and alerts to something unusual occurring at specific locations.

¹ Sections 78 and 79(2) of the Act

² Section 78(4) of the Act



10. Hotspots identified as 99.9% significant using the Gi* technique are most likely to be locations that are generators, attractors, or enablers of crime. Focusing on these locations and determining the underlying causes of crime happening there is likely to reduce the level of crime across the overall study area.
11. The Appendix includes:
 - Map one – first level hotspots; Gi* analysis of alcohol-related events in the given year for the entire Territorial Authority.
 - Map two – second level hotspots; Gi* analysis of alcohol-related events that occurred only in those locations that were identified as 90% significant hotspots from map one. If multiple second level hotspots are present, multiple maps are provided.
 - Data clocks – time distribution of events that occurred within the second-level hotspots, showing when those events took place.
 - Map of licensed premises – the data (current as at 2011) was sourced from the Local Licensing Authority and provided to Police by Massey University in May 2013. The displayed licensed premises are only those types that Massey University consider to contribute to alcohol-related harm; these are supermarkets, bottle stores, grocery stores, night clubs, and taverns. The map shows the distribution and number of on-licensed and off-licensed premises. As the data relates to 2011, there may have been some changes to the licensed premises since that time.

Analysis

HIGH RISK AREAS

12. The first level yearly hot spots for the Masterton residential and business areas show alcohol related calls to police have occurred across much of the town during the reporting period.
13. Second level hotspots point to more localised areas including the CBD where many of the on and off-licences are situated, and within the current boundaries of the Masterton alcohol ban areas of Queen, Dixon and Chapel Streets. Much of this area is also covered by closed circuit television cameras.
14. Close by is the public space of Queen Elizabeth Park, traditionally favoured by youth as an area to gather and socialise. This area is also part of the Masterton alcohol ban area.
15. Another hotspot cluster is eastern residential areas and roads leading to and from the main CBD, including Bannister Street, Worksop Road and Church Street. This residential area is within walking distance from the CBD. Many of the calls to police from this area are likely to relate to disorder and family violence offending.
16. Further smaller hotspots occur in the Perry Street and Lincoln Road areas which are also main arterial routes for pedestrians moving to and from the CBD. Again, many of the calls to police are likely to relate to damage, disorder and family violence related offending.

RECENT OBSERVATIONS

17. During Operation UNITE 2013³, confusion arose in delineating public (liquor ban) areas and premises with outdoor dining. These issues may be resolved by signage and clearly delineated areas between on-licence space and public space (liquor ban) area.

³ Operation UNITE is a joint New Zealand and Australian Police initiative to combat alcohol-fuelled crime, anti-social behaviour and road trauma across both countries during one weekend in December, each year since 2009. It is designed to assist a change in our cultures, of binge-drinking in public places and challenge individuals in both countries to take greater responsibility for their conduct.



TEMPORAL ANALYSIS

18. The spring and summer months (October through to March) is when the greatest numbers of calls to police occur. Calls to police predominantly occur Thursday through Sunday between 7pm and 4am, peaking between 11pm and 3am, particularly during Friday nights and Sunday morning.

COLLABORATION BETWEEN WAIRARAPA TERRITORIAL AUTHORITIES

19. All three Wairarapa territorial authority (TA) licensing inspectors, police and health representatives meet together regularly to discuss licensing issues. The Wairarapa Area TAs have chosen to collaborate to ensure agreements made are consistent across the region. A recent decision will see those wishing to hire community premises controlled by any of the Wairarapa TAs, will be supplied with guidelines outlining their responsibilities under the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012. This seen as a valuable tool in reducing the alcohol related harm by educating hirers of their responsibilities, giving rise enforcement opportunities should breaches occur, throughout all three TAs.

FIVE YEAR TREND

20. Calls to police have fluctuated during the reporting period, peaking in 2011 before falling again in 2012. A greater focus on at risk families during 2012 is likely to have assisted in reducing the levels of calls to police.

Year	Alcohol-related events
2008	1,416
2009	1,464
2010	1,628
2011	1,729
2012	1,525
Total	7,762

Possible Prevention Measures

21. Wairarapa Police ask that consideration be given to the following measures to assist with reducing calls to police relating to alcohol.
- Reducing trading hours of on-licence premises to 1am and bringing on-licensed premises in the Masterton TA in alignment with the majority of licensed premises in Carterton TA and all on-licensed premises in the South Wairarapa TA. This is likely to reduce the level of calls to police between 1am and 4am, particularly during weekends. It will also assist with reducing 'patron drift' from the neighbouring TAs, when premises in these areas close at 1am. International research suggests the longer licensed premises trade the greater alcohol-related harm can result in communities.
 - Adopt maximum trading hours for off-licence premises from between 7 am and 10pm, to between 7am and 9pm, a reduction of one hour. This will reduce opportunities for alcohol to be purchased with the sole purpose of becoming intoxicated, leading to less offending and victimisation.
 - Adopt a one-way door policy for all on-licence premises from 12am. This is considered to be a good tool within a robust alcohol policy with both local and international studies suggesting this measure assists with reducing alcohol related harm in communities.
 - An education programme involving community partners could be developed, intended to inform local and visiting patrons and owner operators of licensed premises about Wairarapa TAs alcohol policies, designed to reduce alcohol-related harm. The use of print, digital, social and hypermedia could be used to deliver this information to patrons of all age groups giving access to this information at home or on the go.
 - Collaboration between community partners when considering granting further alcohol off-licences, to ensure proposed new premise are not located in vulnerable areas of the community.

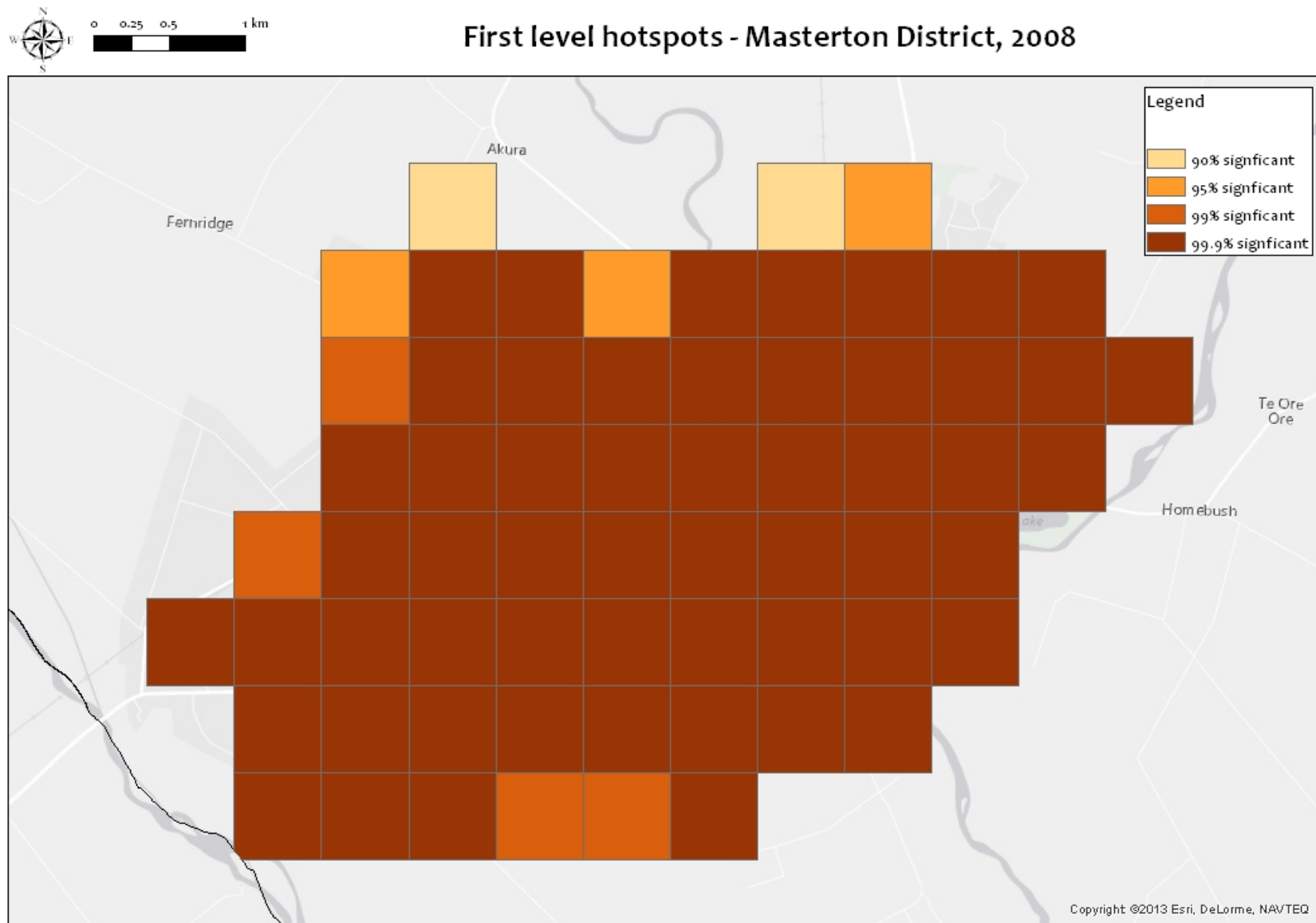


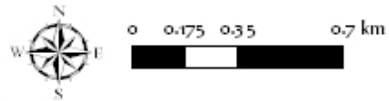
Consideration should also be given to maximum numbers of on and off-licences within Masterton communities.

- Consideration should be given to introducing signage clearly identifying an on-licence premise which has outside space for the use of patrons. A well delineated area between on-licence area and public space will assist with identifying those in breach of the current alcohol ban area.

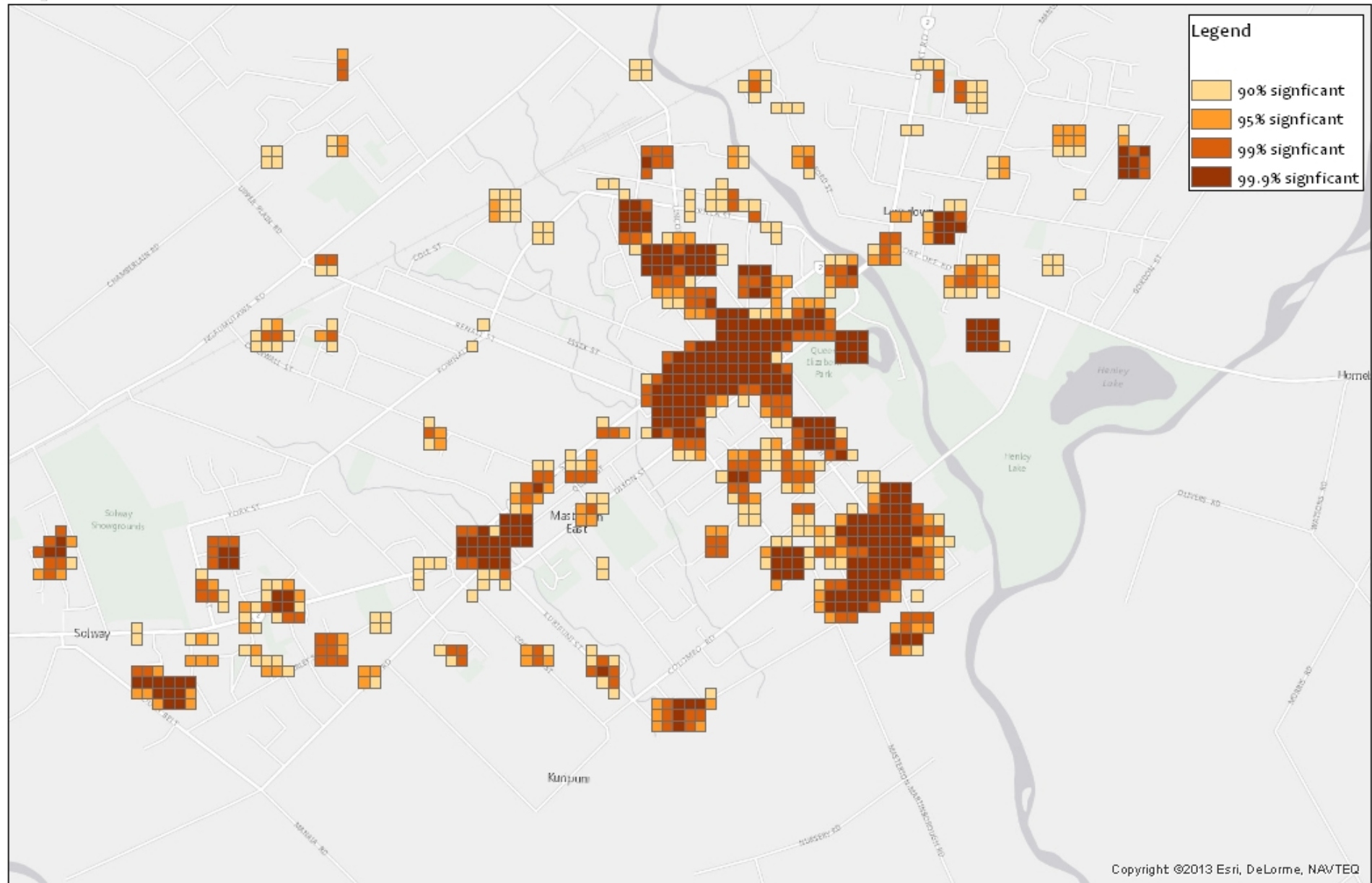
Appendix – Hotspot Maps and Data clocks

2008

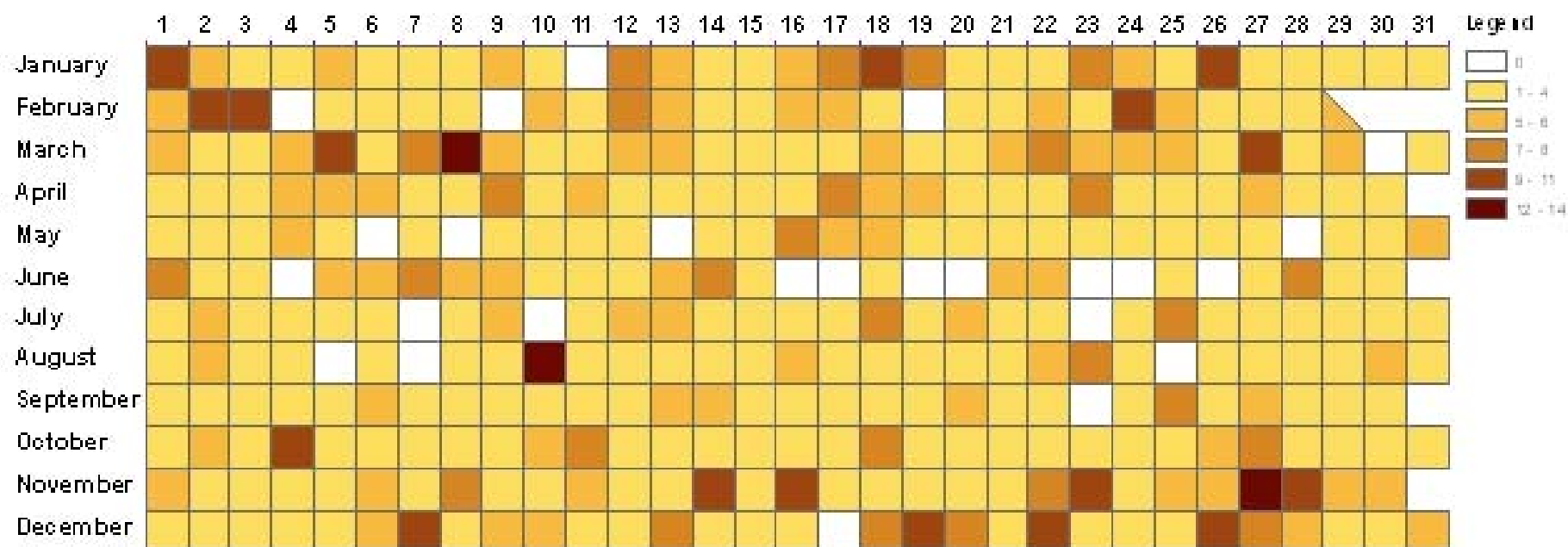




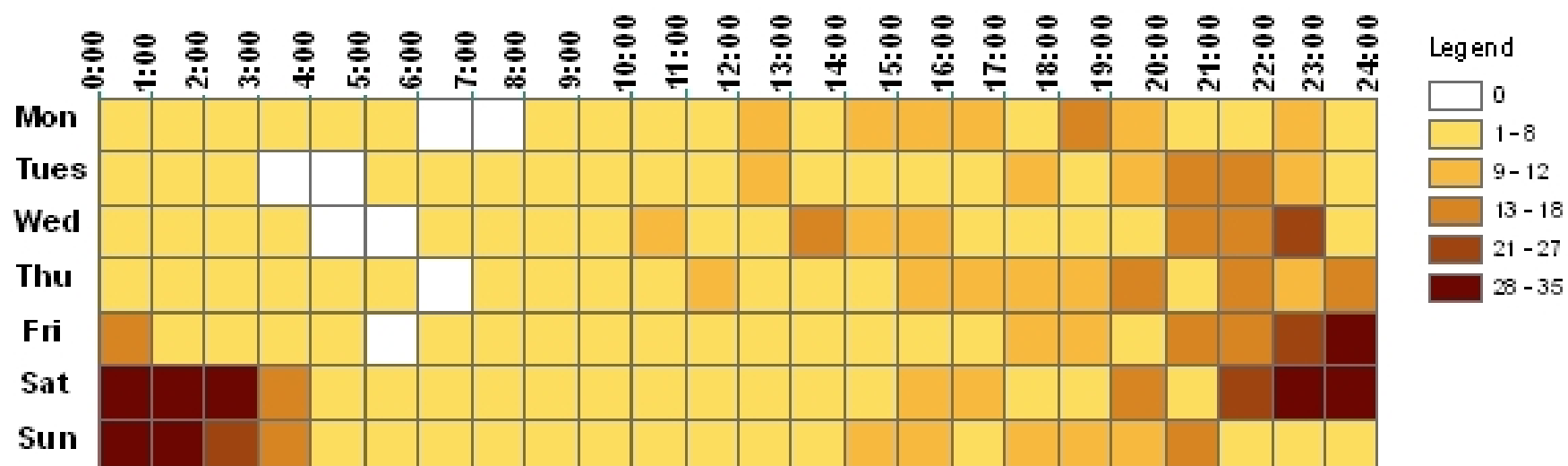
Second level hotspots - Masterton District, 2008



Alcohol-related calls that occurred in second level hotspots - Masterton District, 2008

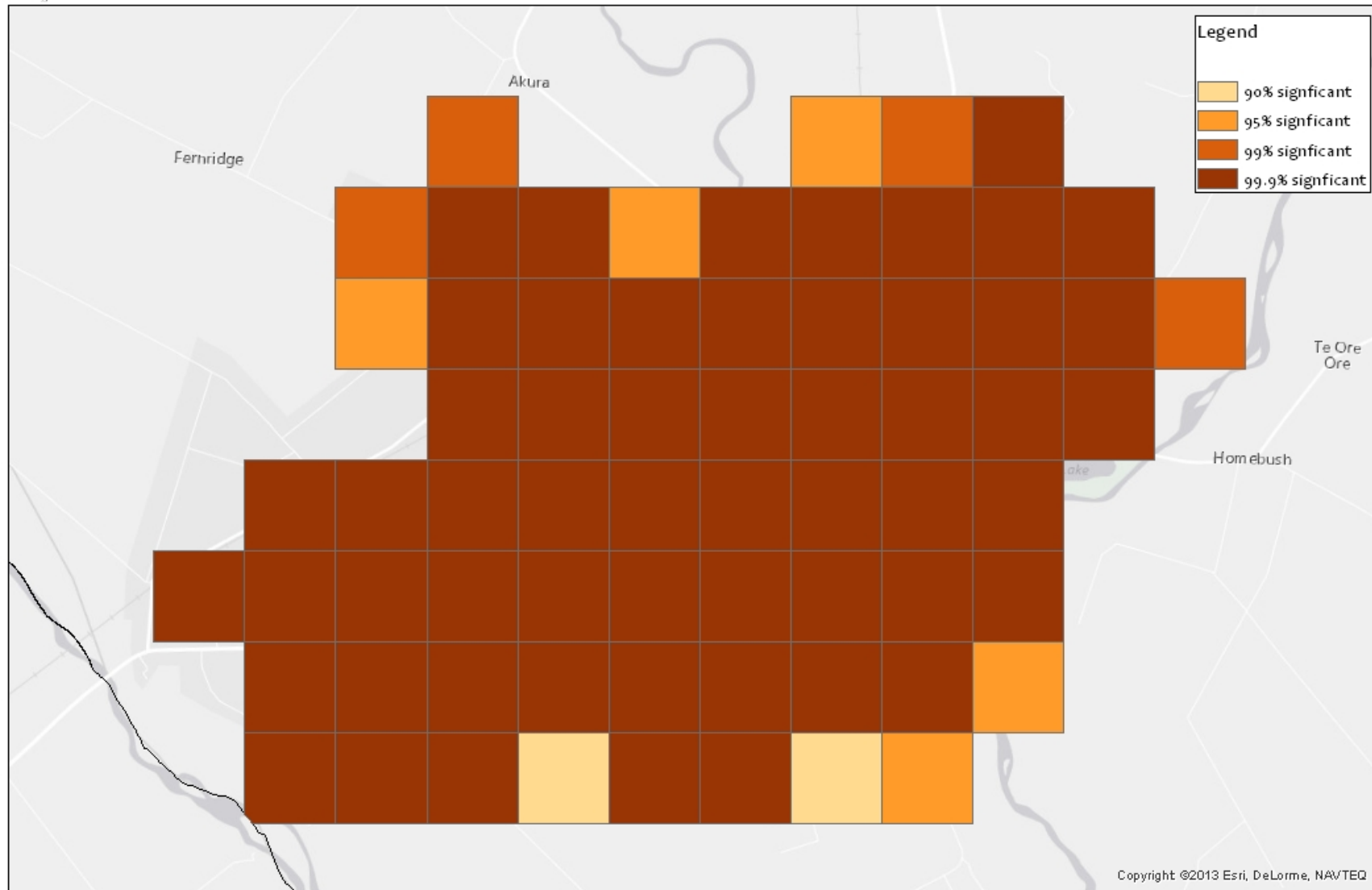


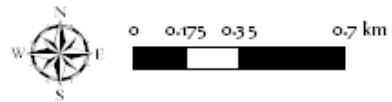
Alcohol-related calls that occurred in second level hotspots - Masterton District, 2008



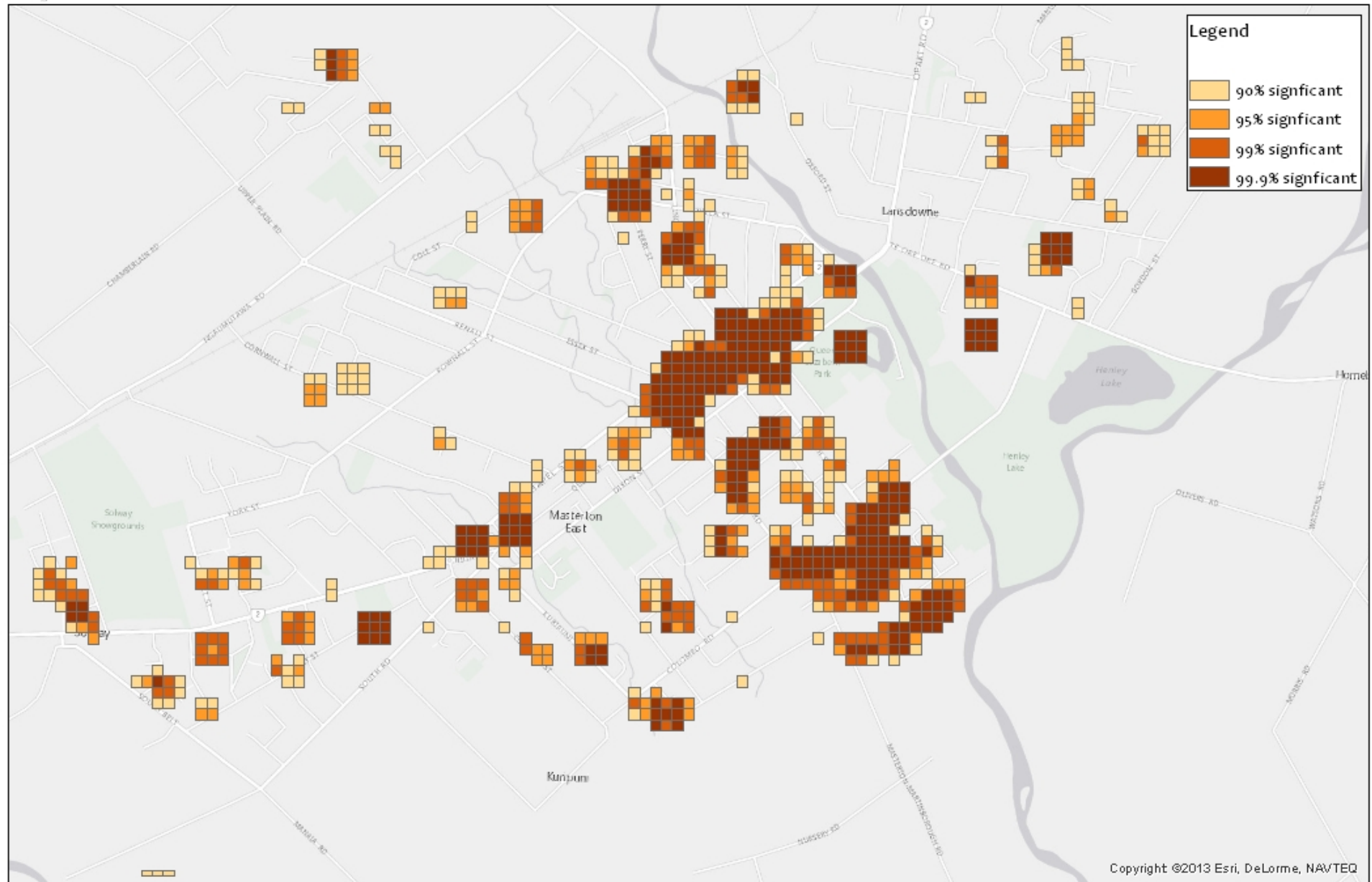


First level hotspots - Masterton District, 2009

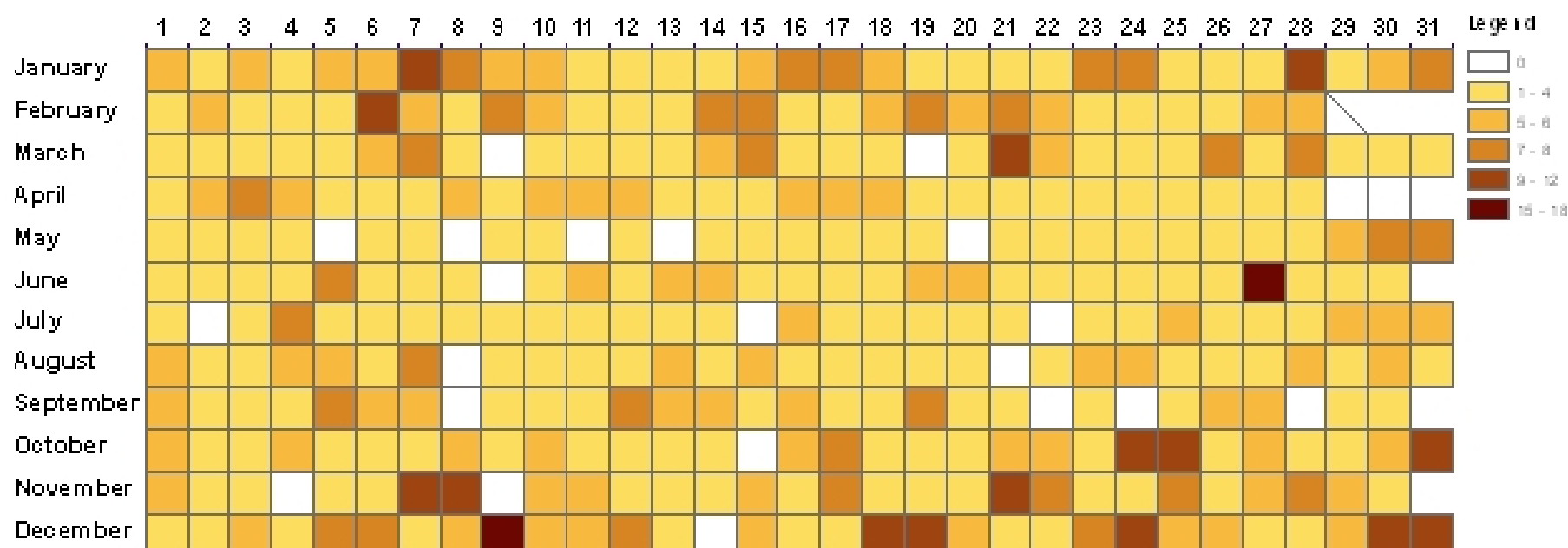




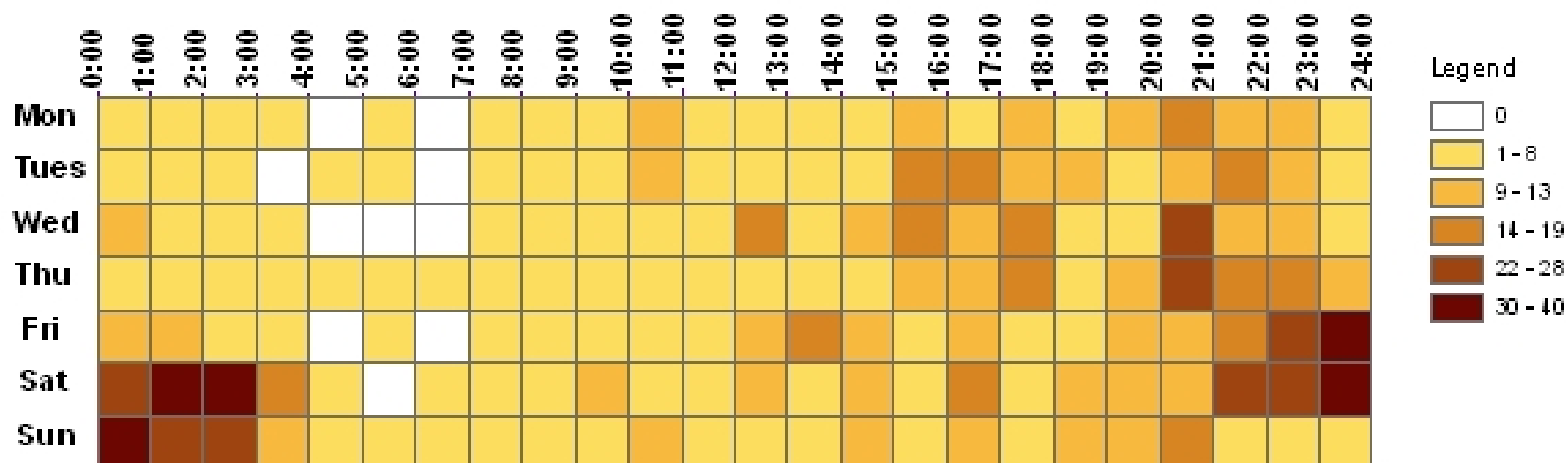
Second level hotspots - Masterton District, 2009



Alcohol-related calls that occurred in second level hotspots - Masterton District, 2009

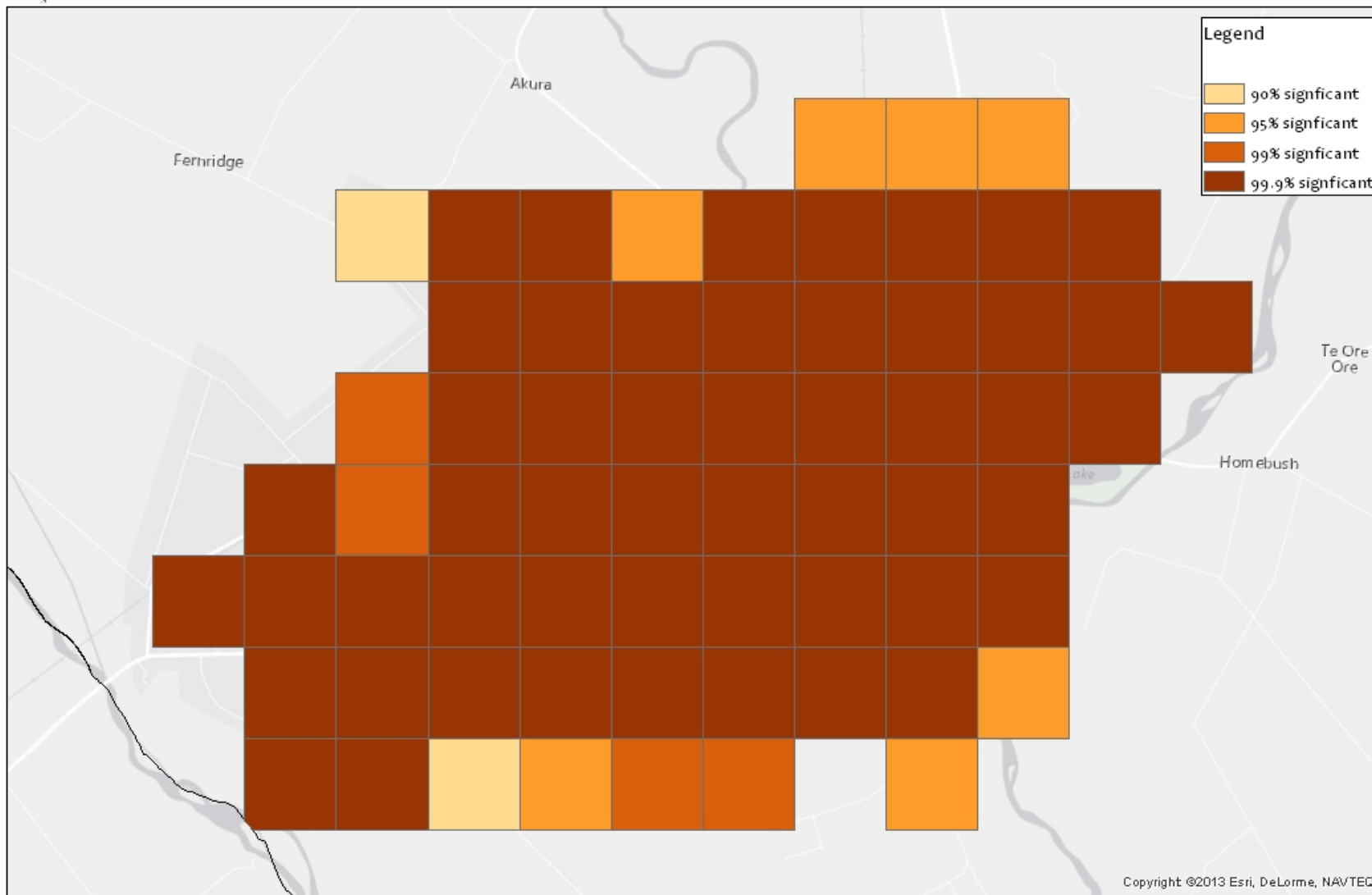


Alcohol-related calls that occurred in second level hotspots - Masterton District, 2009

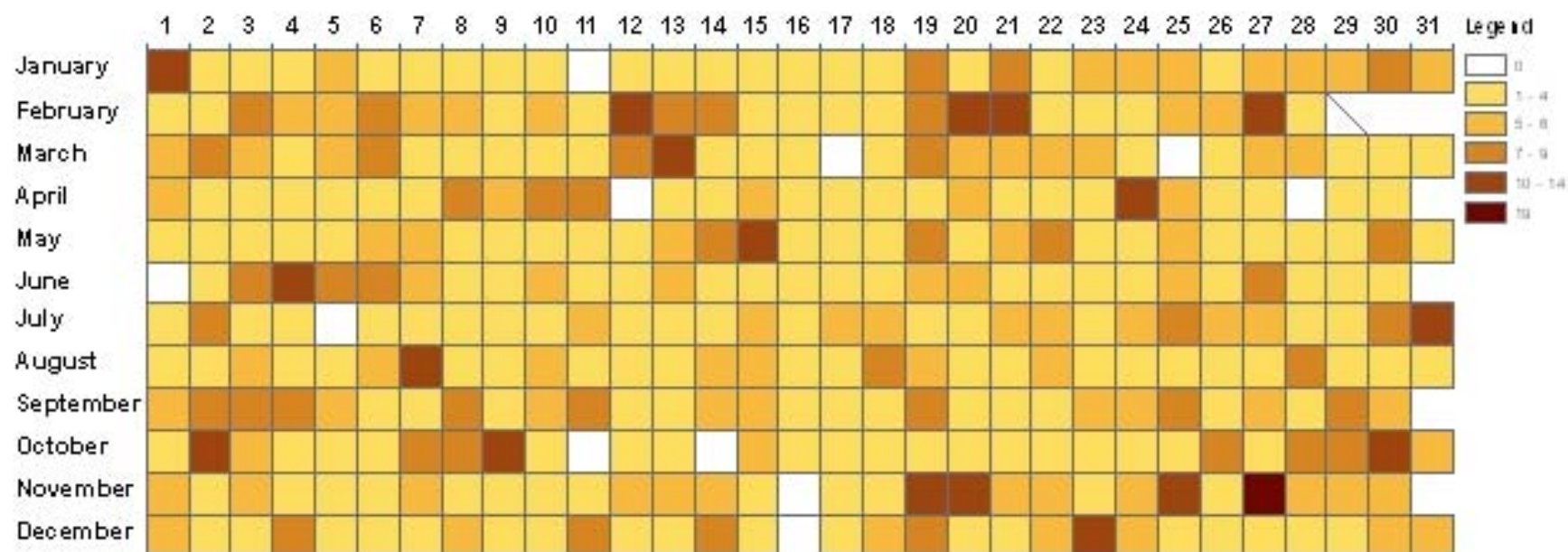




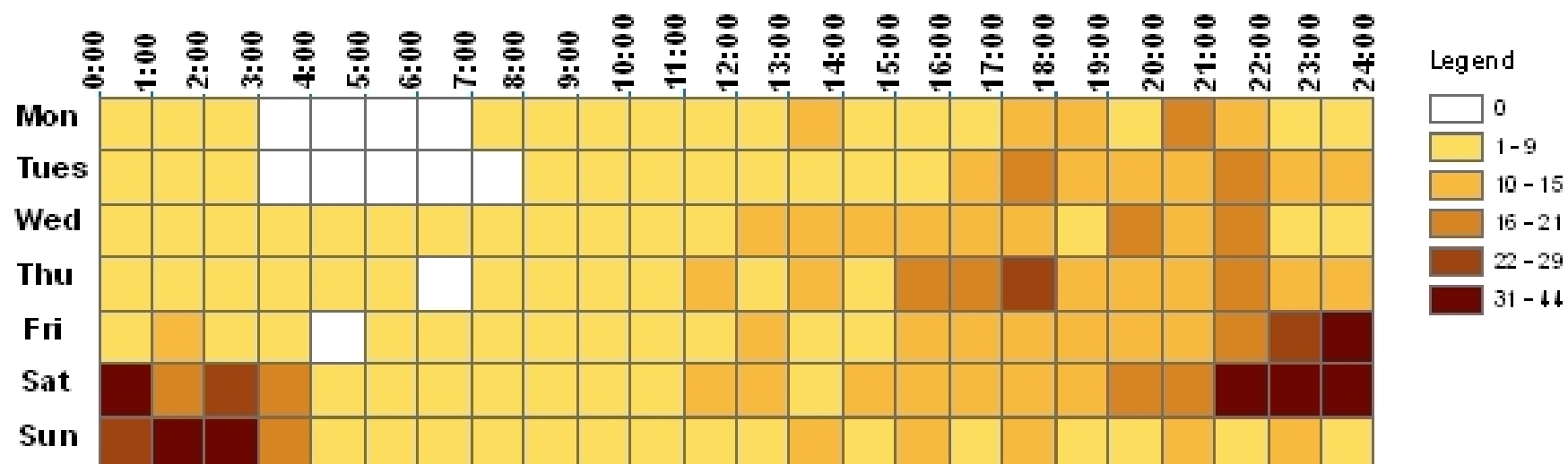
First level hotspots - Masterton District, 2010

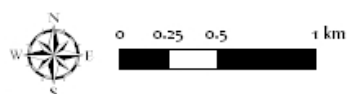


Alcohol-related calls that occurred in second level hotspots - Masterton District, 2010

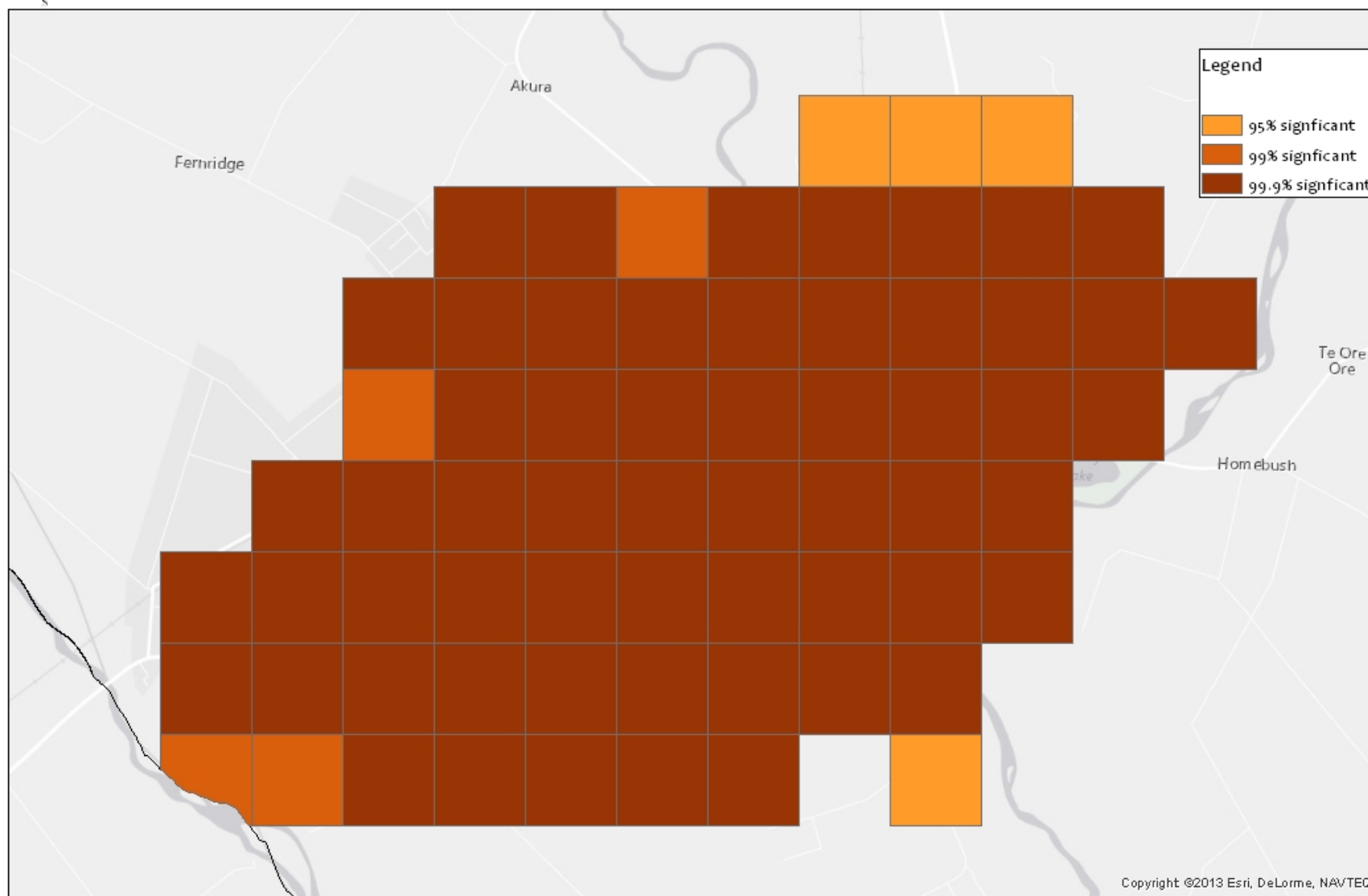


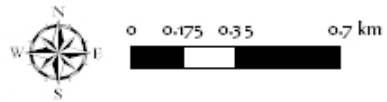
Alcohol-related calls that occurred in second level hotspots - Masterton District, 2010



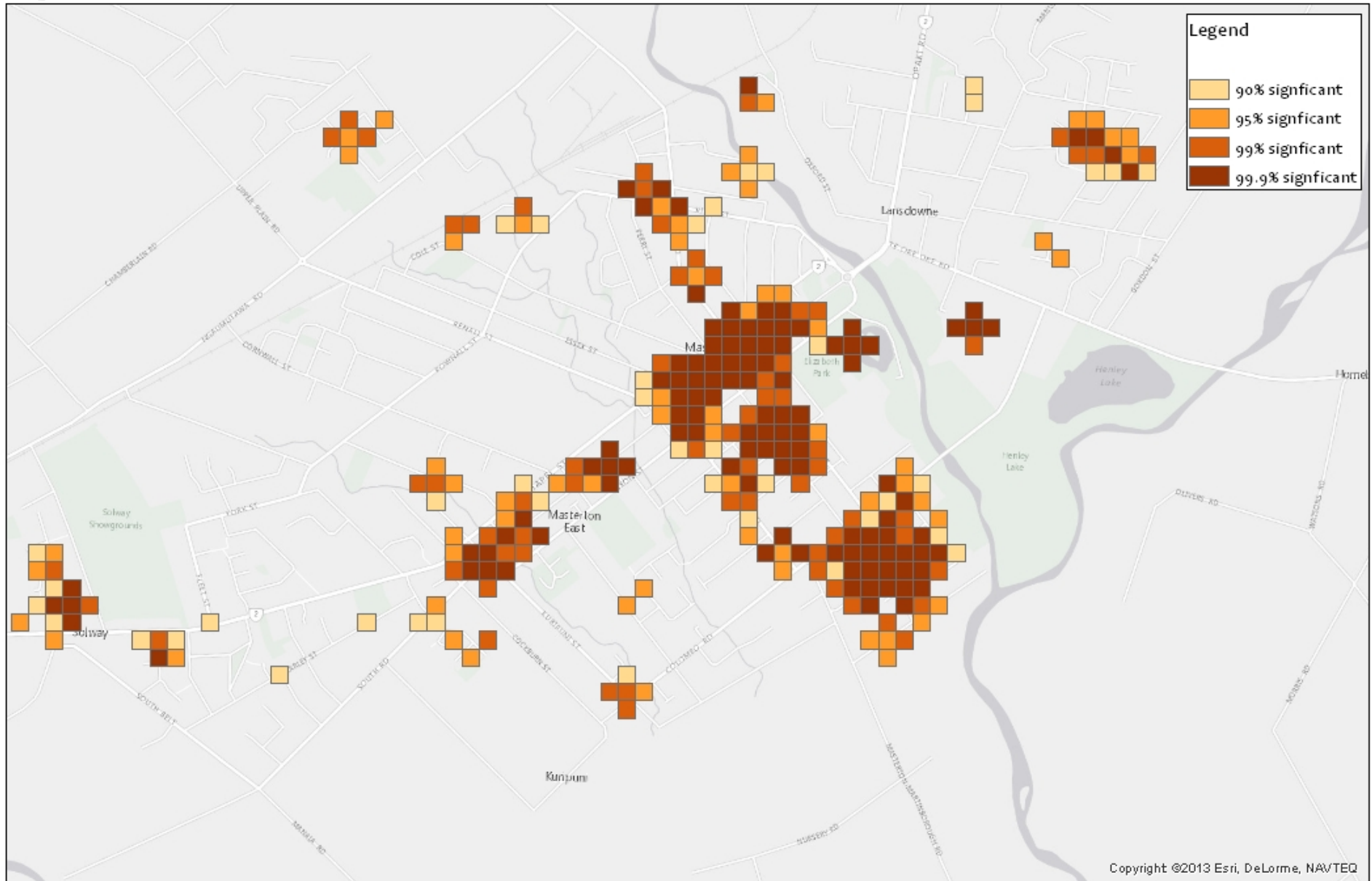


First level hotspots - Masterton District, 2011

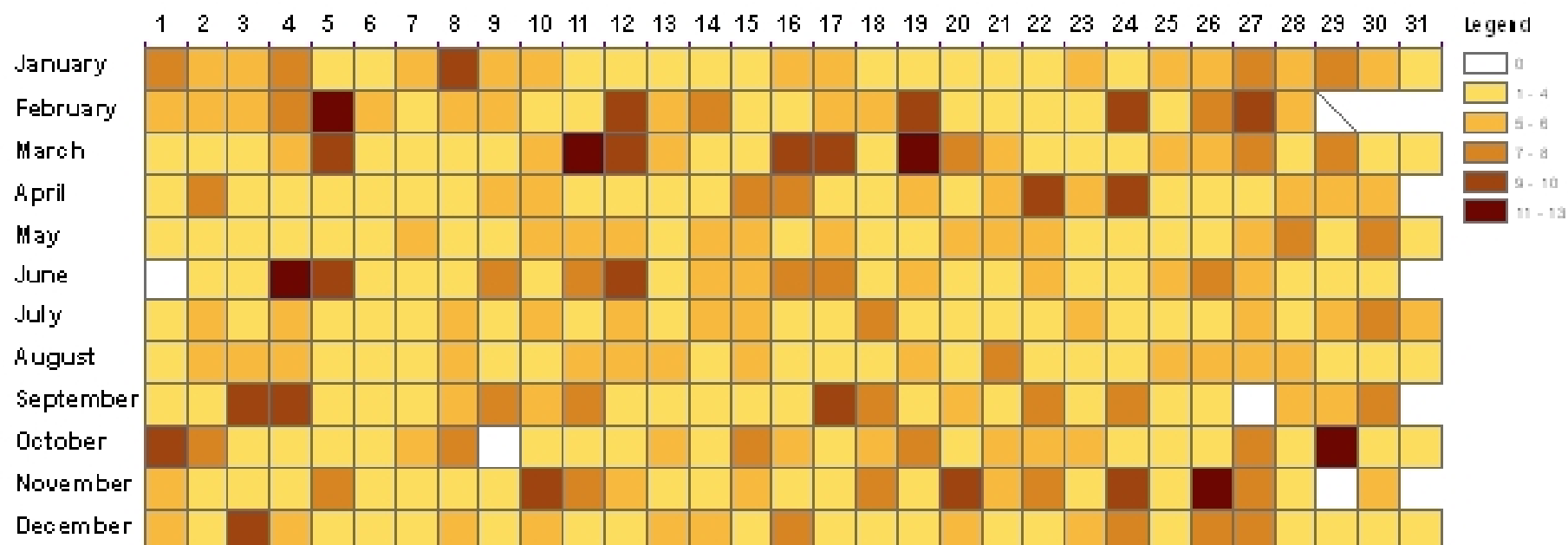




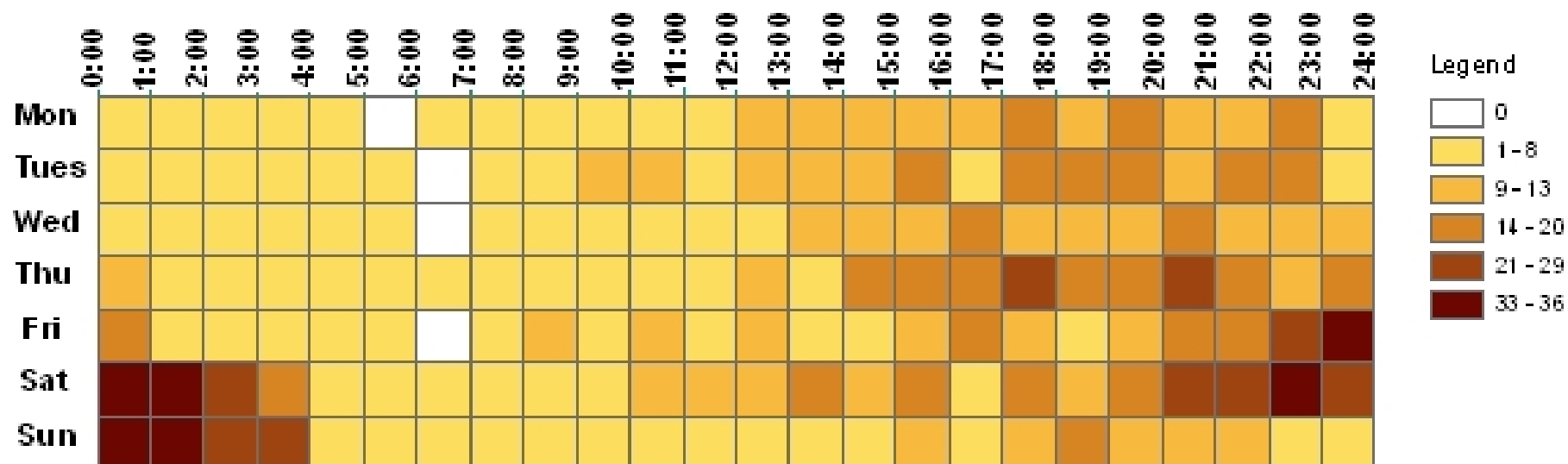
Second level hotspots - Masterton District, 2011



Alcohol-related calls that occurred in second level hotspots - Masterton District, 2011

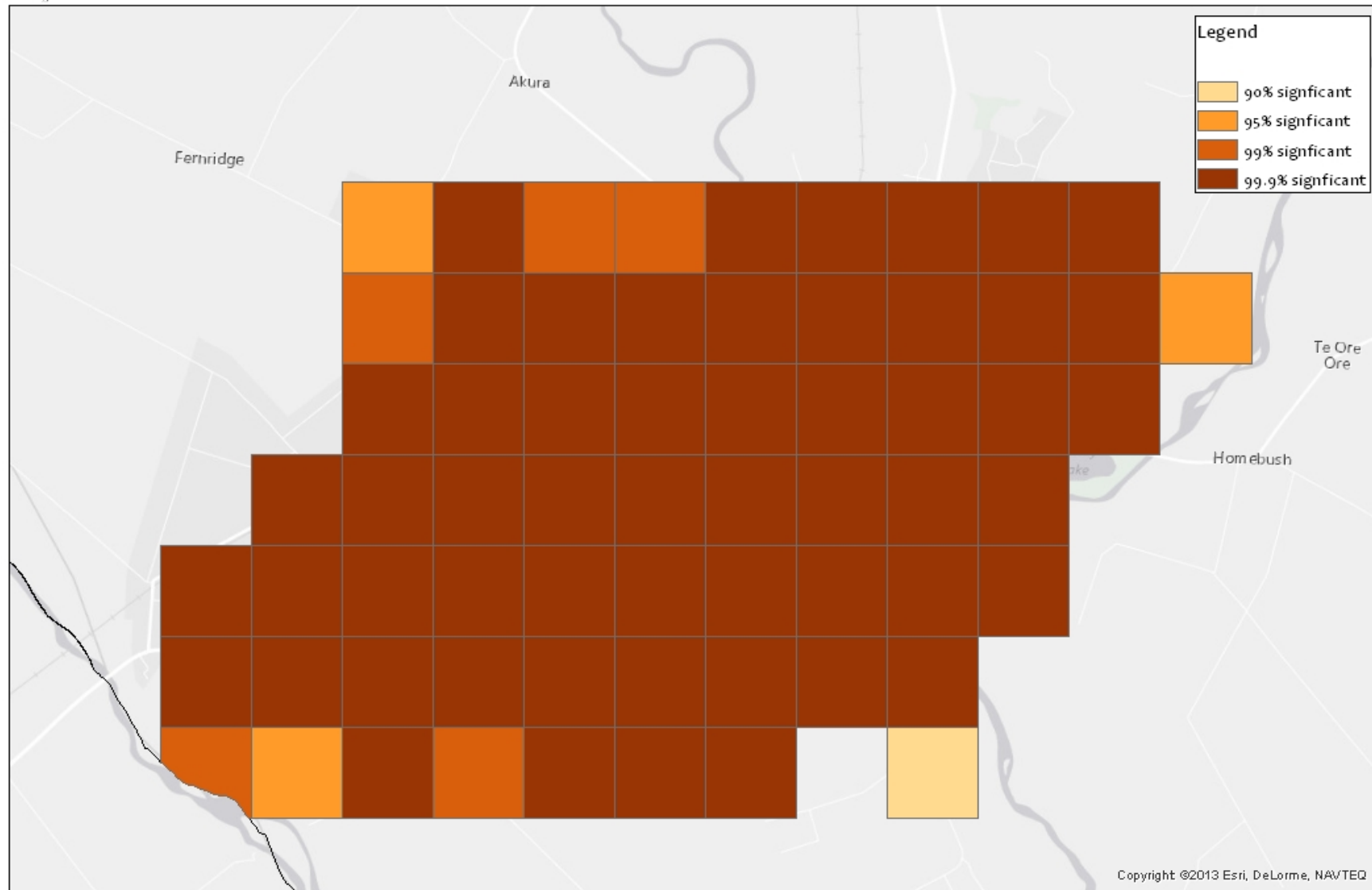


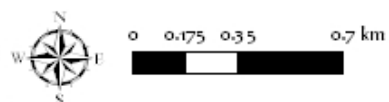
Alcohol-related calls that occurred in second level hotspots - Masterton District, 2011



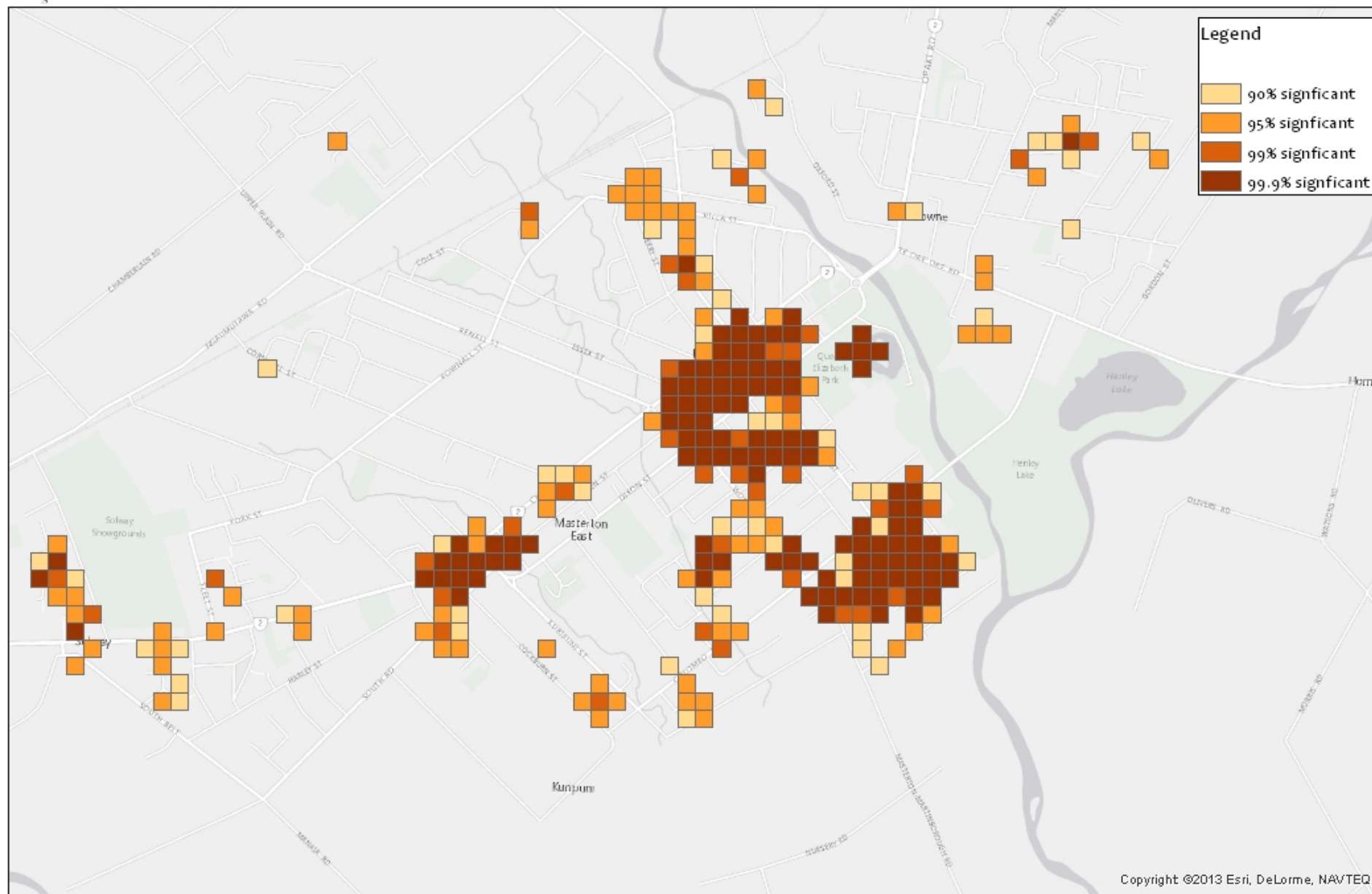


First level hotspots - Masterton District, 2012

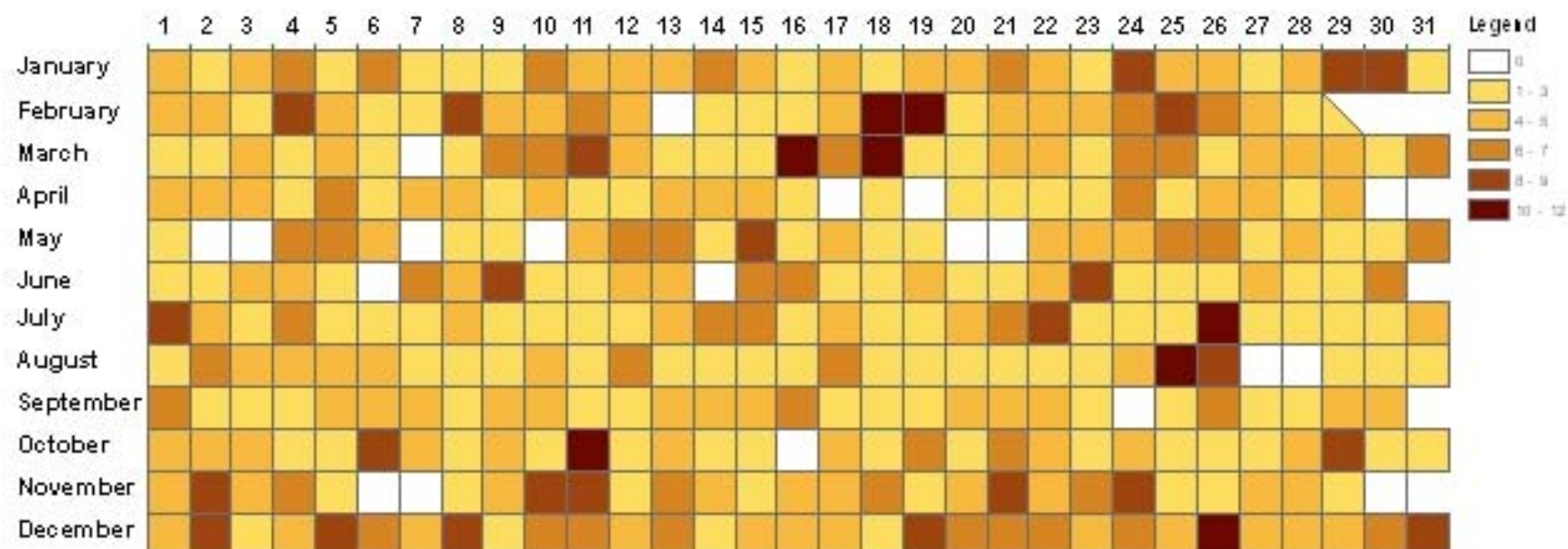




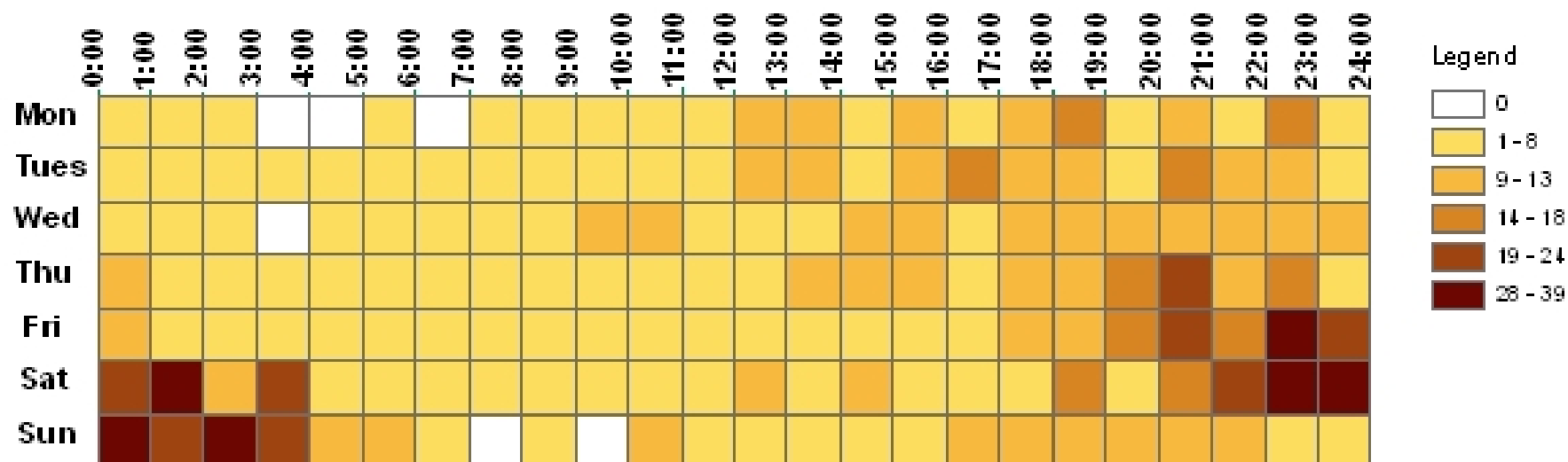
Second level hotspots - Masterton District, 2012



Alcohol-related calls that occurred in second level hotspots - Masterton District, 2012



Alcohol-related calls that occurred in second level hotspots - Masterton District, 2012



Appendix – Licensed Premises

