

Offences related to alcohol

Wellington City

Released 1 September 2013



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CAVEAT

Numbers included in this report have been produced from a new database that is still under development, and which will in the future produce Official Statistics. Numbers reported from this database are subject to change as new information is continually recorded. They are only as accurate as the information contained in the database at the time that it is sourced. These are counted differently than Official Statistics and should not be compared.



Key Findings

Analysis was conducted in relation to offences committed within Wellington City from January 2008 to December 2012. During that time, within this area, Police recorded 24,799 offences for types of events that are typically related to alcohol (approximately 4,900 per year).

The following has been identified:

- The second level hotspot over Wellington covers the suburb of Te Aro. Te Aro sits at the southern end of what is considered the Wellington CBD. It covers Manners Street, Cuba Street, Vivian Street, and Courtenay Place. Wellingtons cultural and nightlife venues concentrate in this area, making the Te Aro area one of the largest entertainment destinations in New Zealand.
- Total number of alcohol-related offences by year is trending down. The impact of the economic climate, legislation changes, media scrutiny, local body bylaws and regulations and police initiatives in reducing alcohol related harm in the suburb of Te Aro will be the main factors contributing to this trend.
- The most at risk group for committing alcohol-related offences is between 18-24 years old. Excessive alcohol consumption and alcohol preloading by youth and young adults, in particular, are likely to be responsible for a considerable amount of crime and victimisation in the southern CBD. The close proximity of Massey and Victoria University and related accommodation, general New Zealand drinking culture and Wellington's status as the entertainment hub of the district attracts this age group into the Wellington city.
- The highest concentrations of antisocial and violence offending occur mainly around Te Aro Park and the eastern end of Courtenay Place between 0100hrs and 0400hrs on Sunday. The majority of the night entertainment venues are located in these locations.
- Twenty one percent of Wellington Area's crime occurs in the area bounded by Victoria Street, Cable Street, Cambridge Terrace and Vivian Street. The highest levels of crime in this location occur between 0000hrs and 0400hrs on Saturdays and Sundays.
- Alcohol-related offences committed in second level hotspots by day and month show the most offences generally occur from Friday to Sunday. February has the most consistent clusters of the highest incidents of alcohol related crime year to year due to the sevens rugby tournament held in the first week of February and the influx of students coming back to university.

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

- 3.00am closing for on-licence premises in the entertainment precinct and Midnight closing time for on-licence premises outside the entertainment precinct and in the suburbs.
- A one-way door policy from 1.00am for on-licence premises in the entertainment precinct.
- Maximum trading hours of 7.00am to 9.00pm for off-licence outlets.



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, 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 offences recorded by police. These offences do not reflect whether alcohol was consumed by the offender or by the victim at the time of offence, although certain types of offences are typically considered to be related to alcohol – 338 offence codes contribute to this assessment.
4. The offences in this report were committed between 1 January 2008 and 31 December 2012. They are presented visually in the attached maps by individual years. In the future, yearly updates will be provided. Demographics of offenders within this Territorial Authority are also provided in table format.
5. In this analysis, the offences 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.
6. Gi* compares local averages with global averages, identifying those areas where the local averages (eg, concentrations of crime) are significantly different from the global averages (ie, in comparison to what is generally observed across the whole study area).
7. 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.
8. As Gi* adds statistical significance to hotspot analysis, it shows which hotspots are significant, and alerts to something unusual occurring at specific locations.
9. 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.
10. The report includes demographics of the offenders in the alcohol-related offences. These are unique offenders for each occurrence, even if multiple offences were committed by the same offender on the one occasion. However, if the same offender has committed offences on different occasions, then they are counted more than once. In some instances, offenders are organisations, and their demographics are recorded in a separate row.
11. The Appendix includes:
 - Map one – first level hotspots; Gi* analysis of alcohol-related offences in the given year for the entire Territorial Authority.

¹ Sections 78 and 79(2) of the Act

² Section 78(4) of the Act



- Map two – second level hotspots; Gi* analysis of alcohol-related offences 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 offences that occurred within the second-level hotspots, showing when those events took place.

Analysis

- The yearly second level hotspot map over Wellington covers the suburb of Te Aro. Te Aro sits at the southern end of what is considered the Wellington CBD. It covers Manners Street, Cuba Street, Vivian Street, and Courtenay Place. Wellingtons cultural and nightlife venues concentrate in this area, making the Te Aro area one of the largest entertainment destinations in New Zealand.³
- Total number of alcohol-related offences by year is trending down. The impact of the economic climate, legislation changes, media scrutiny, local body bylaws and regulations and police initiatives in reducing alcohol related harm in the suburb of Te Aro will be the main factors contributing to this trend.

Table 1. Total number of alcohol-related offences by year of when the offence was committed

Year	Alcohol-related offences
2008	5,416
2009	5,629
2010	4,880
2011	4,627
2012	4,247
Total	24,799

- The most at risk group for committing alcohol-related offences is between 18-24 years old. Excessive alcohol consumption and alcohol preloading by youth and young adults, in particular, are likely to be responsible for a considerable amount of crime and victimisation in the southern CBD. The close proximity of Massey and Victoria University and related accommodation, general New Zealand drinking culture and Wellington's status as the entertainment hub of the district attracts this age group into the Wellington city.

Table 2. Age of offenders in alcohol-related offences by year of when the offence was committed

Age\Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
0-9	1	3	3	1	1
10-13	64	49	30	16	18
14-17	452	420	336	333	302
18-24	1,357	1,542	1,296	1,260	1,079
25-30	544	624	534	524	409
31-50	1,006	1,093	901	865	853
51 and above	187	183	179	156	221
Organisation	0	0	3	3	11
Unknown	0	0	1	0	2
Total	3,611	3,914	3,283	3,158	2,896

³ NIC-IR-121029 Crime Analysis Wellington CBD



Table 3. Gender of offenders in alcohol-related offences by year of when the offence was committed

Gender\Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Female	461	562	449	391	368
Male	3,012	3,228	2,714	2,662	2,423
Organisation	138	124	117	102	94
Unknown	0	0	3	3	11
Total	3,611	3,914	3,283	3,158	2,896

Table 4. Ethnicity of offenders in alcohol-related offences by year of when the offence was committed

Ethnicity\Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Asian	68	85	61	66	68
Caucasian	1,669	1,993	1,605	1,540	1,307
Indian	59	90	73	54	81
Māori	1,130	1,134	963	933	982
Pacific Isle	420	430	392	375	288
Organisation	0	0	3	3	11
Other/Unknown	265	182	186	187	159
Total	3,611	3,914	3,283	3,158	2,896

15. Alcohol-related offences committed in second level hotspots by day and month show the most offences generally occur from Friday to Sunday. February has the most consistent clusters of the highest incidents of alcohol related crime year to year. The first week of February is when the sevens rugby tournament is held and returning students come back for the start of university during this month.
16. The highest concentrations of antisocial and violence offending occur mainly around Te Aro Park and the eastern end of Courtenay Place between 0100hrs and 0400hrs on Sunday. The majority of the night entertainment venues are located in these locations. Twenty one percent of Wellington Area's crime occurs in the area bounded by Victoria Street, Cable Street, Cambridge Terrace and Vivian Street. The highest levels of crime in this location occur between 0000hrs and 0400hrs on Saturdays and Sundays.⁴
17. The findings of the residential surveys conducted by Colmar Brunton state "*Residents believe that problems with excessive drinking are most likely to occur in pubs/bars or clubs and at public events. They are less concerned about excessive drinking in restaurants and cafes. Residents believe Courtenay Place is the most problematic area in the central city, when it comes to the negative impacts of alcohol*".⁵

Possible Prevention Measures

18. The key provisions of the recommendations from Wellington Police are:⁶
 - 3.00am closing for on-licence premises in the entertainment precinct and a Midnight closing time for on-licence premises outside the entertainment precinct and in the suburbs. The rationale for this view is that both international and domestic evidence

⁴ Ibid

⁵ Local Alcohol Policy_Wellington Area Submission

⁶ Ibid



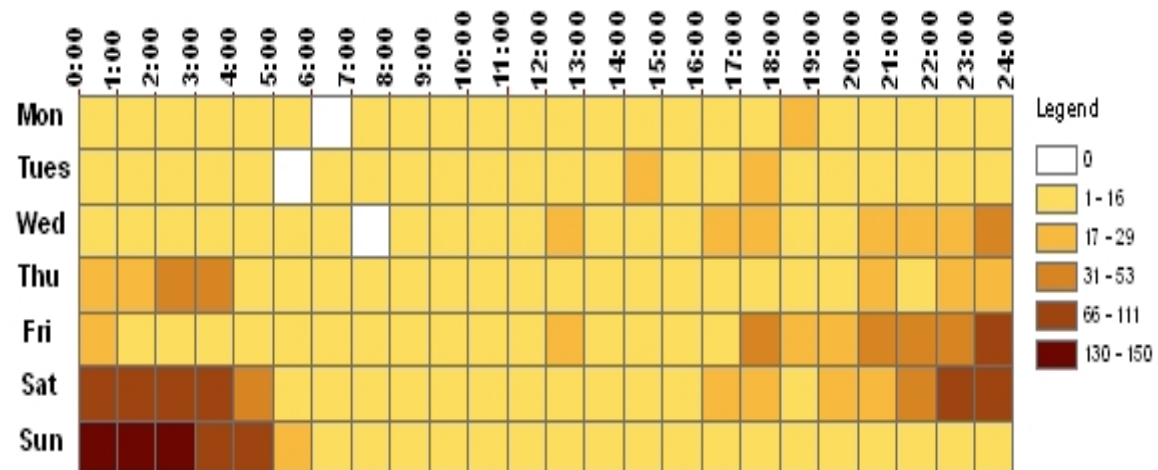
supports the proposition that the longer licensed premises are open, the more alcohol-related harm can be attributed to them. A 3.00am closing time for the entertainment precinct acknowledges a community desire for a late night entertainment area while allowing harm to be minimised.

- A one-way door policy from 1.00am for on-licence premises in the entertainment precinct. A New South Wales study identified a 50% reduction in night time crime and a 26% reduction in alcohol related emergency admissions to hospital with a one way door policy in place. Based on national and international research, there is strong evidence that a one-way door policy is an effective part of an overall alcohol harm reduction strategy.
- Maximum trading hours of 7.00am to 9.00pm for off-licence outlets. Reducing the hours that takeaway alcohol can be purchased will impact on the access and availability of alcohol. By not allowing off licences to trade late at night, it reduces the ability of people to drink alcohol immediately in an uncontrolled environment for the sole purpose of getting intoxicated.

Appendix – Hotspot Maps and Data clocks

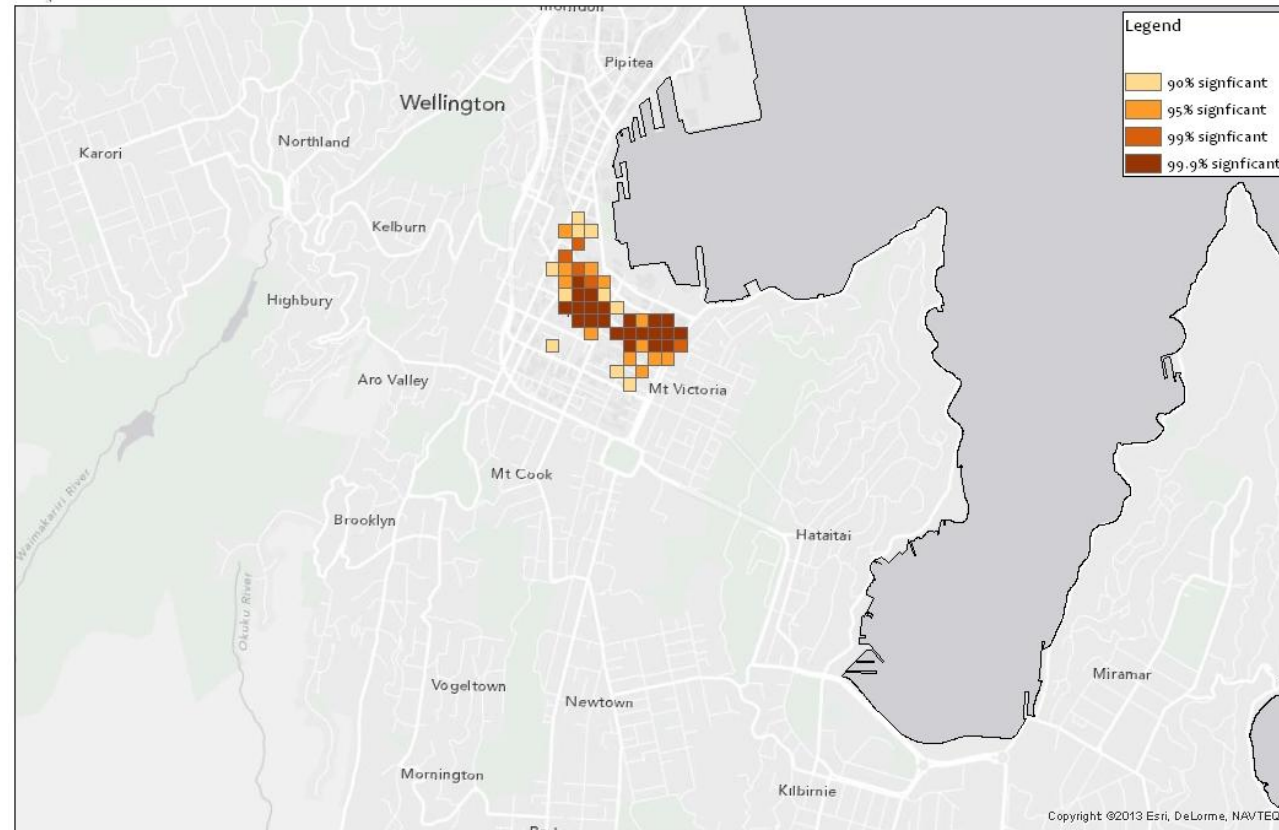
2008

Alcohol-related offences committed in second level hotspots -
Wellington City, 2008

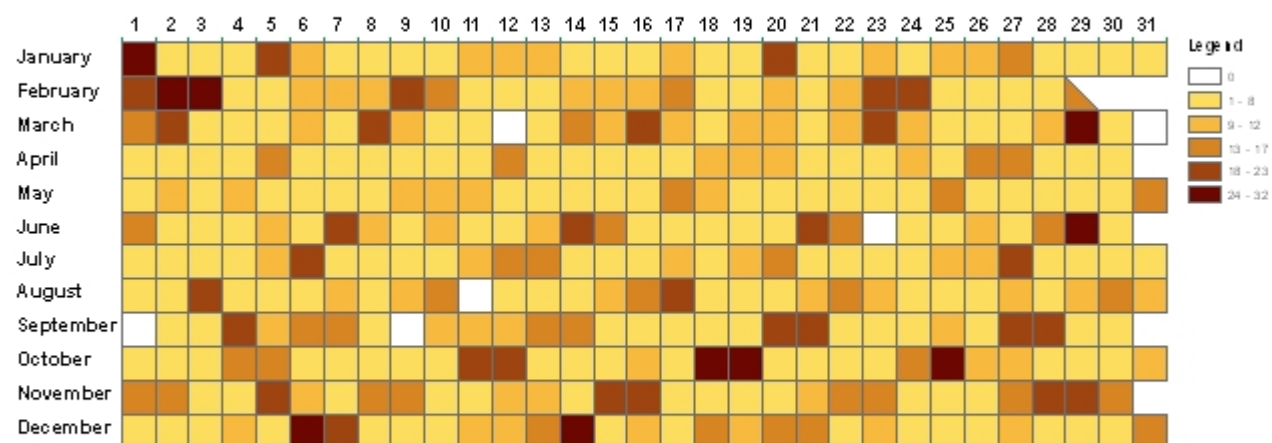




Second level hotspots - Wellington City, offences, 2008

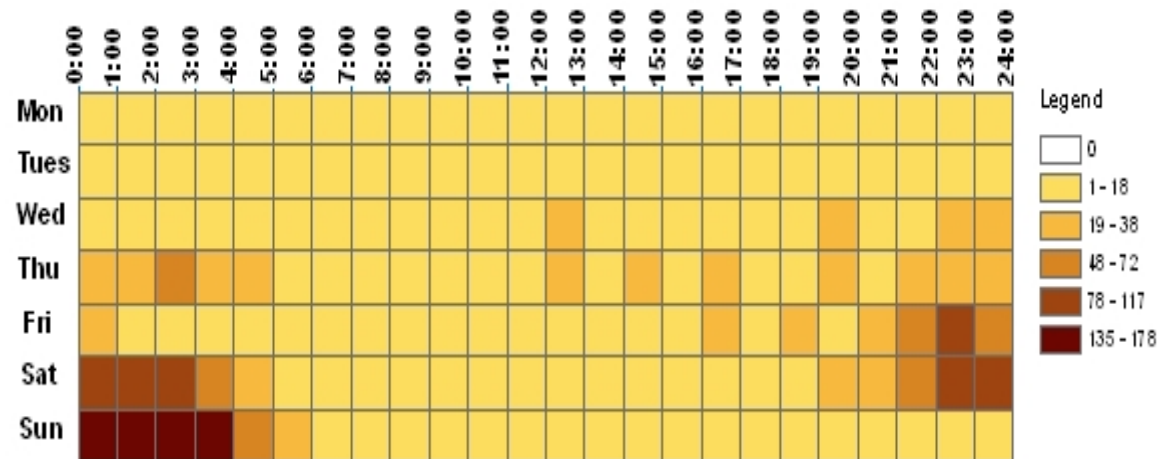


Alcohol-related offences committed in second level hotspots - Wellington City, 2008



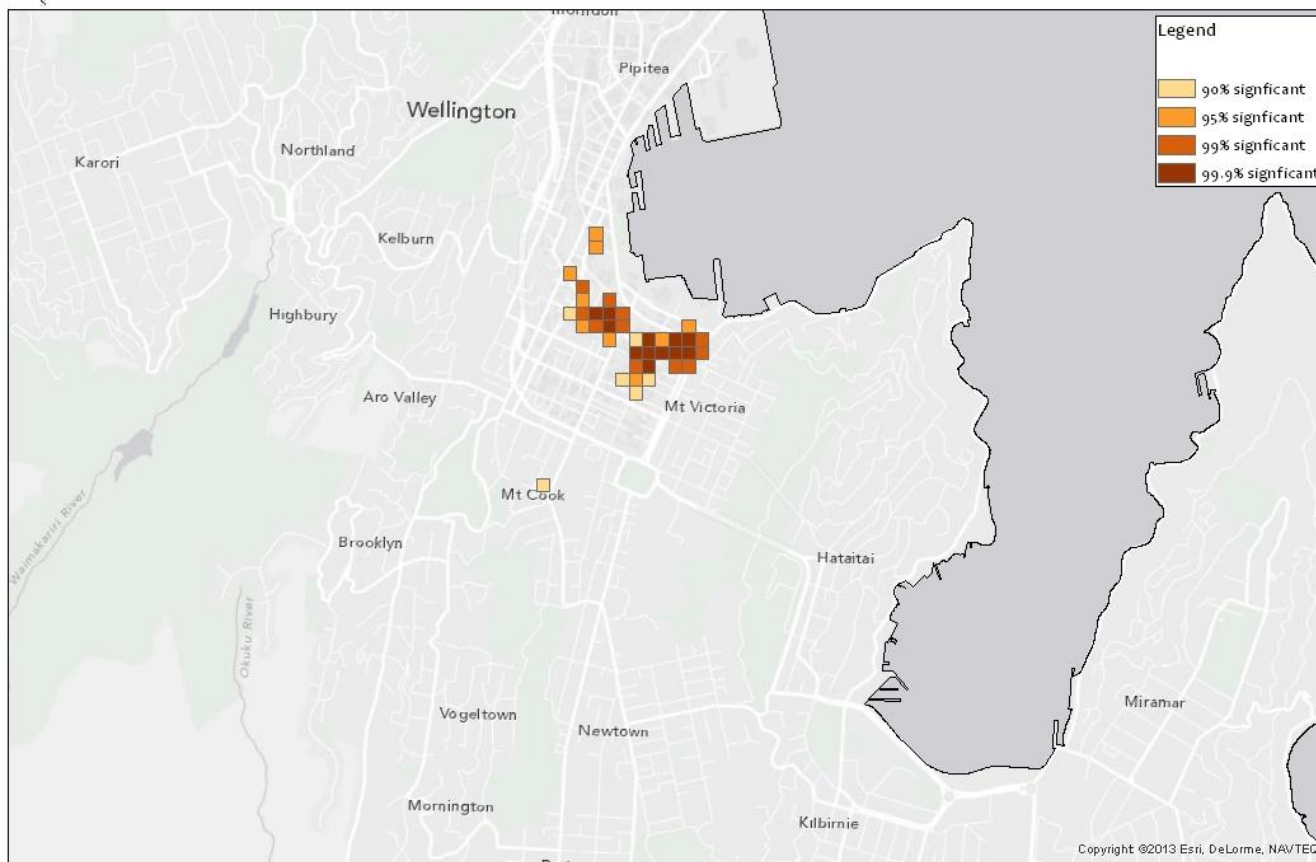
2009

Alcohol-related offences committed in second level hotspots -
Wellington City, 2009

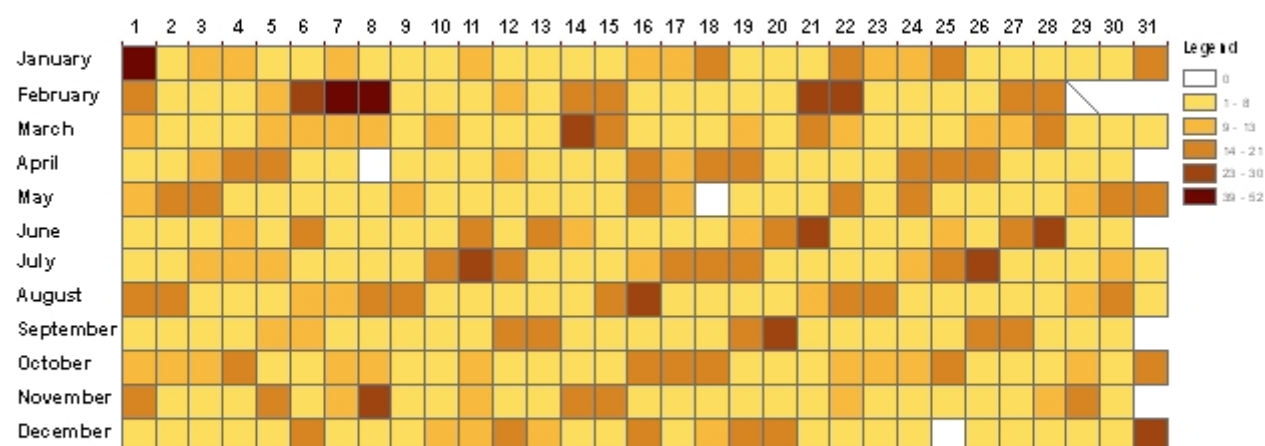




Second level hotspots - Wellington City, offences, 2009

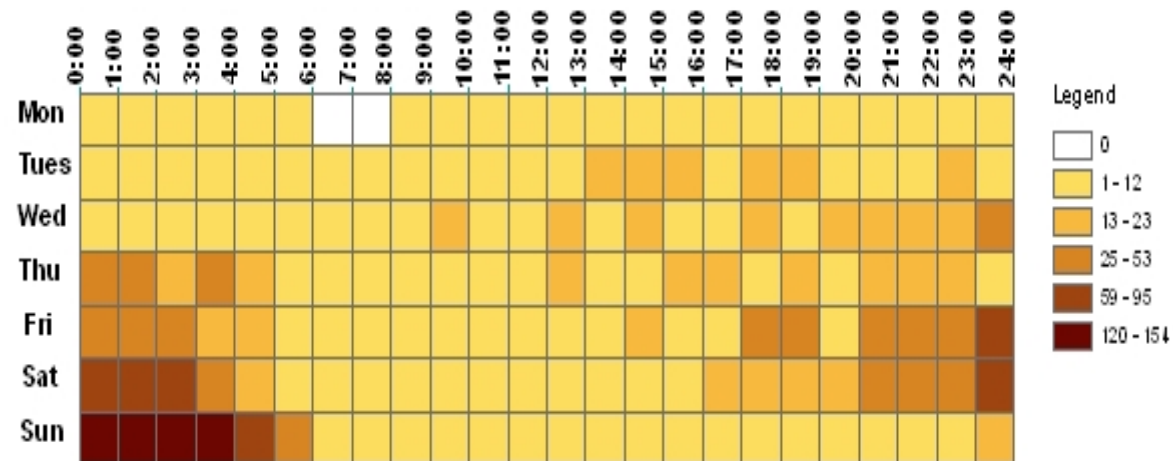


Alcohol-related offences committed in second level hotspots -
Wellington City, 2009



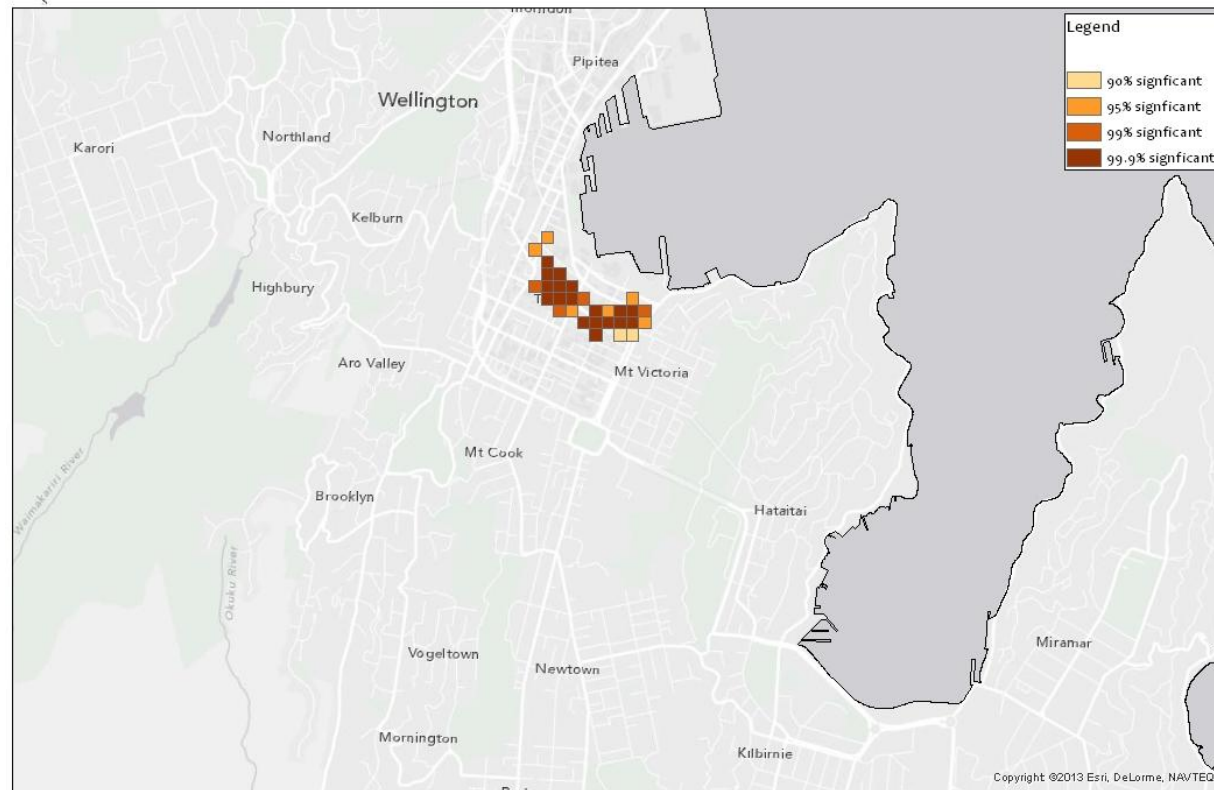
2010

Alcohol-related offences committed in second level hotspots -
Wellington City, 2010

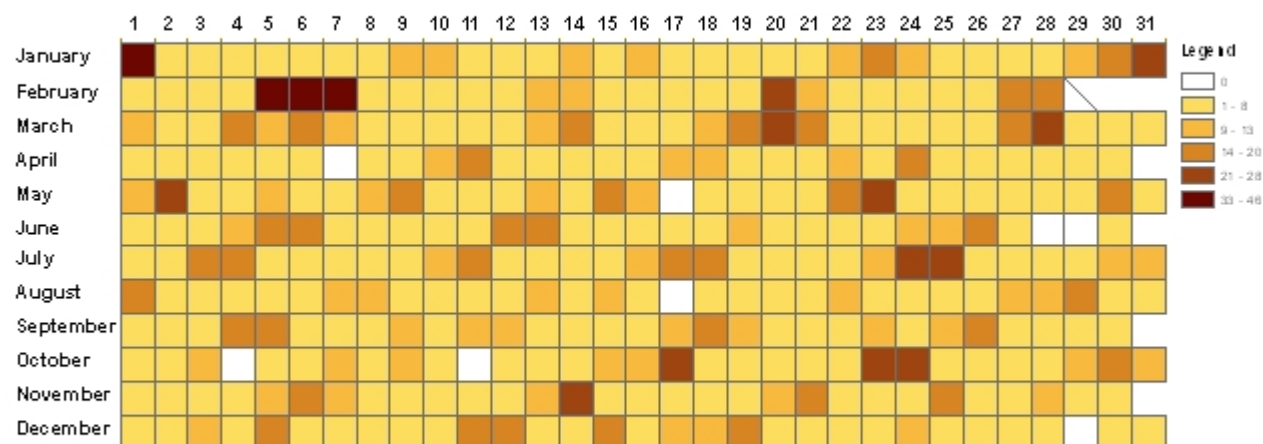




Second level hotspots - Wellington City, offences, 2010

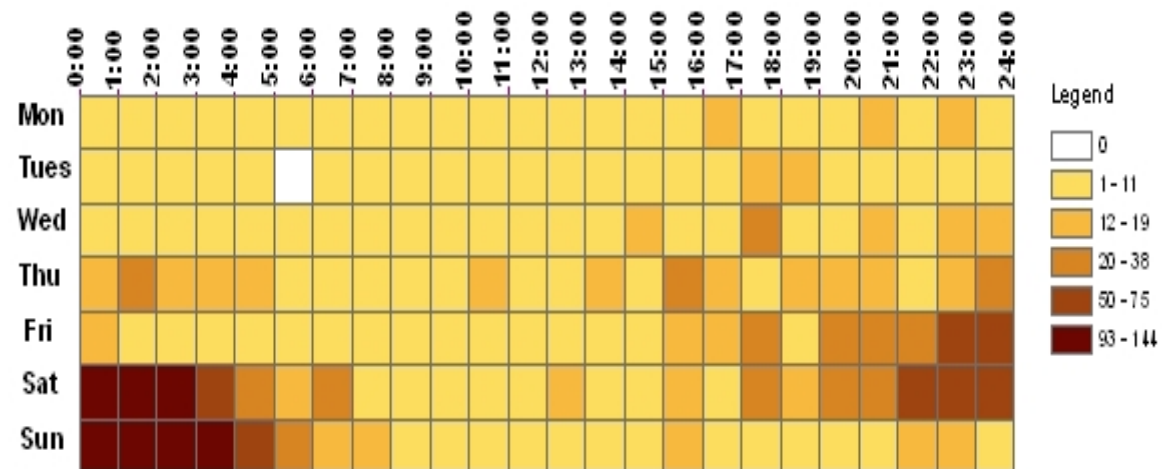


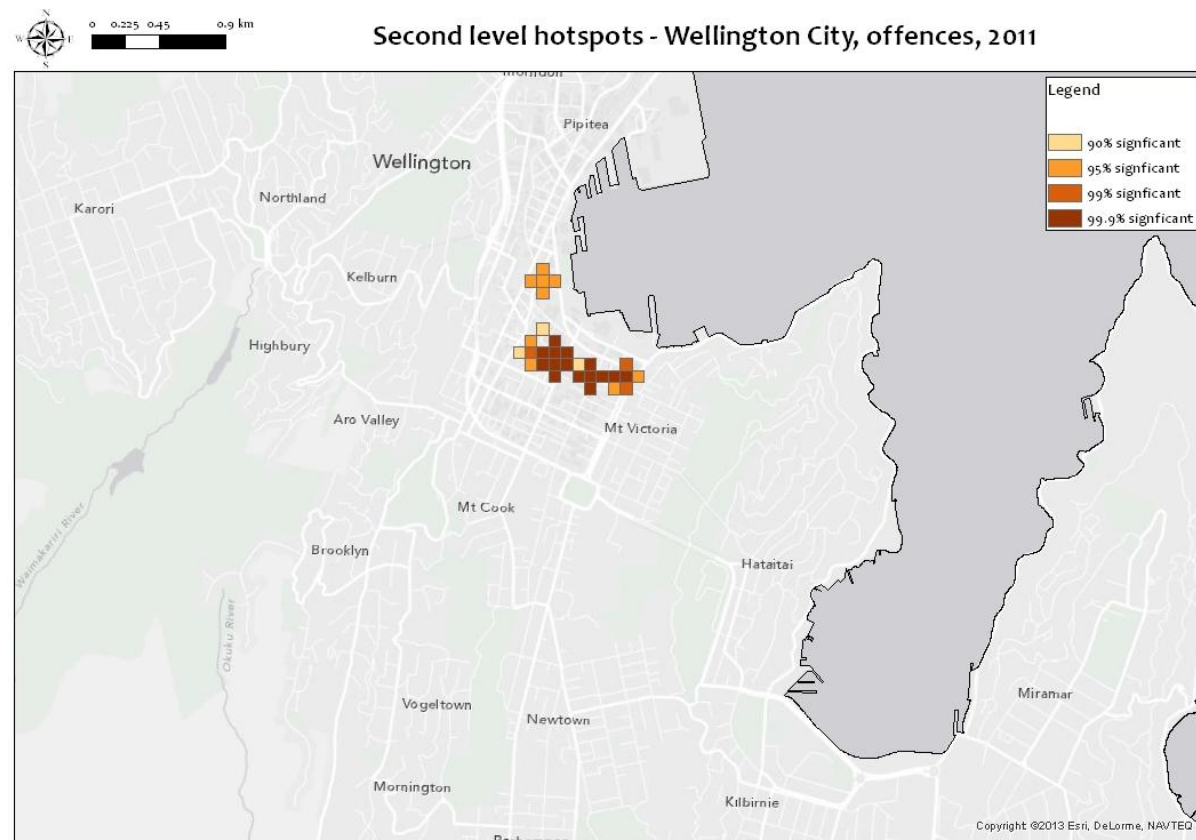
Alcohol-related offences committed in second level hotspots - Wellington City, 2010



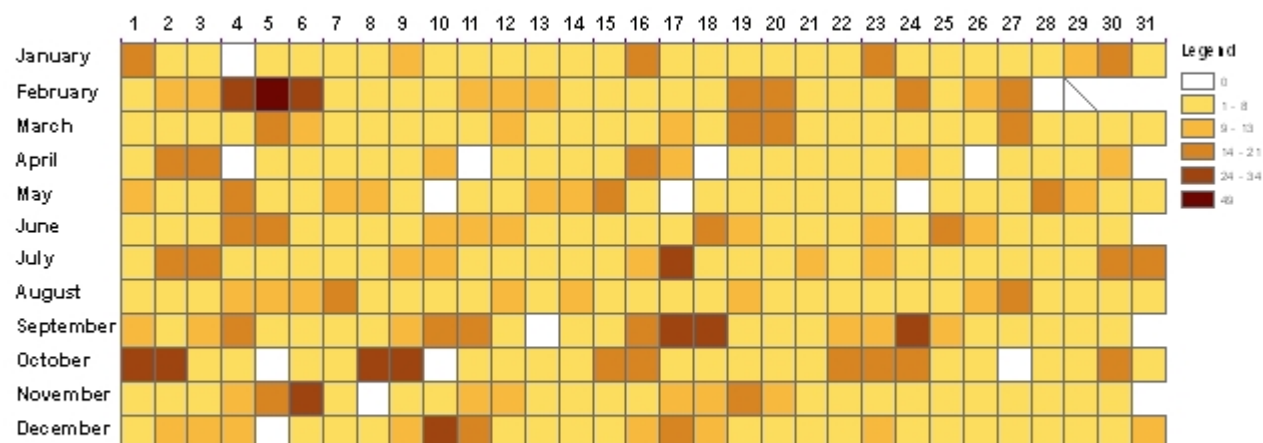
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Alcohol-related offences committed in second level hotspots - Wellington City, 2011



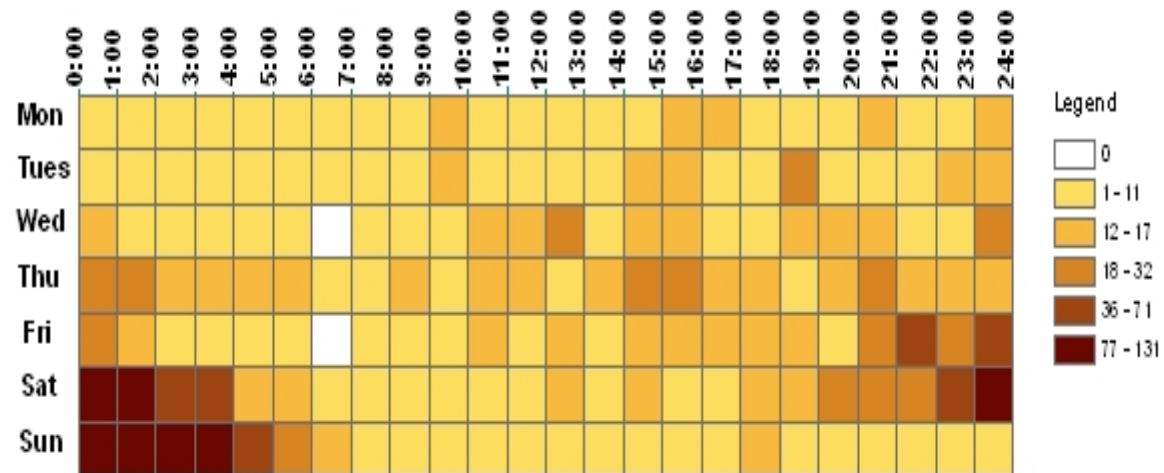


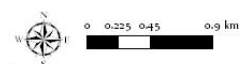
Alcohol-related offences committed in second level hotspots - Wellington City, 2011



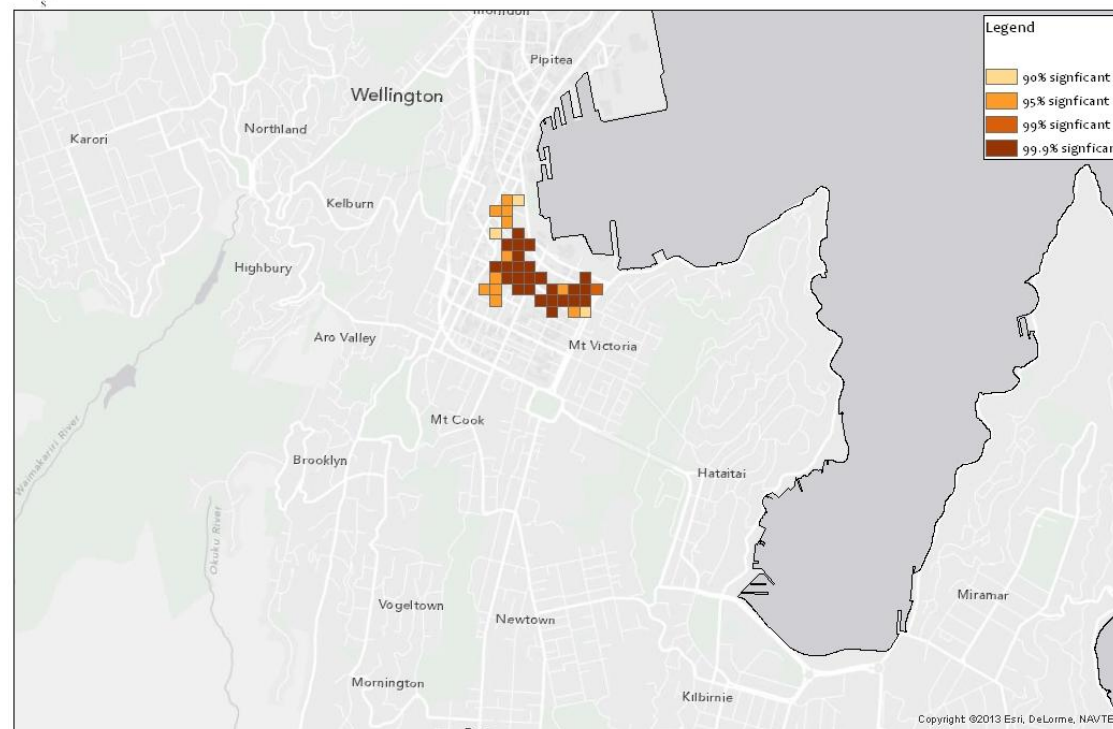
2012

Alcohol-related offences committed in second level hotspots - Wellington City, 2012





Second level hotspots - Wellington City, offences, 2012



Alcohol-related offences committed in second level hotspots -
Wellington City, 2012

