

Licensed Premises Identification System

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ABSTRACT

Victoria has a highly successful alcohol impaired driver enforcement program. To enhance the program a computer database has been developed which is known as the Licensed Premises Identification System (LPIS), where details of every evidential breath test conducted in the State of Victoria is recorded. The data base was designed to provide information on Licensed Premises where drink drivers have been drinking but it soon became evident that the system provided other valuable information.

The system is able to provide a print out of the names and addresses of all Licensed Premises from which drink drivers have been apprehended. Police use this information to draft strategies to reduce drink driving from the identified premises.

As well as providing information on Licensed Premises, LPIS has also provided police with information about the profile of a drink driver. This information includes age, sex and occupation as well as other information such as the type of alcohol consumed.

Details of drink driving prior convictions are also recorded on the system and valuable information is now available on recidivism.

INTRODUCTION

Victoria has a highly successful alcohol impaired driver enforcement program. Since 1990 the majority of Victorians have gained a better understanding of the dangers and consequences of drink driving and have modified their behaviour accordingly. However, to improve our enforcement strategies and better target our resources, it became clear that we required information on the drinking places and a profile of the drink driver.

Together with the highly visible Victorian Booze Bus campaign an additional means of reducing the level of impaired driving on Victorian roads has been collecting information from police enforcement activity to identify licensed premises that generate a significant number of drink drivers. Once identified, the information can be used to target intoxicated persons leaving licensed establishments who then choose to drive, and remove them from the road. Measures can also be taken to rehabilitate the licensed

premises.

The information obtained can be used in two ways:

- a) The immediate environs of licensed premises identified as a 'problem' can be actively targeted by police, either covertly or overtly and/or;
- b) Measures can be taken to ensure licensees of 'problem' premises are made aware of their patrons' behaviour, both at the premises and when they leave. This should ensure that licensees are made fully aware of their responsibilities to their patrons and to motivate licensees to change their business practices, where appropriate.

The Victoria Police Traffic Alcohol Section (TAS), together with the Victorian Transport Accident Commission (TAC), have instituted a system that allows licensed premises which generate a 'significant' number of detected impaired drivers and the profile of a drink driver to be identified.

This paper details some of the findings for 1999.

Results

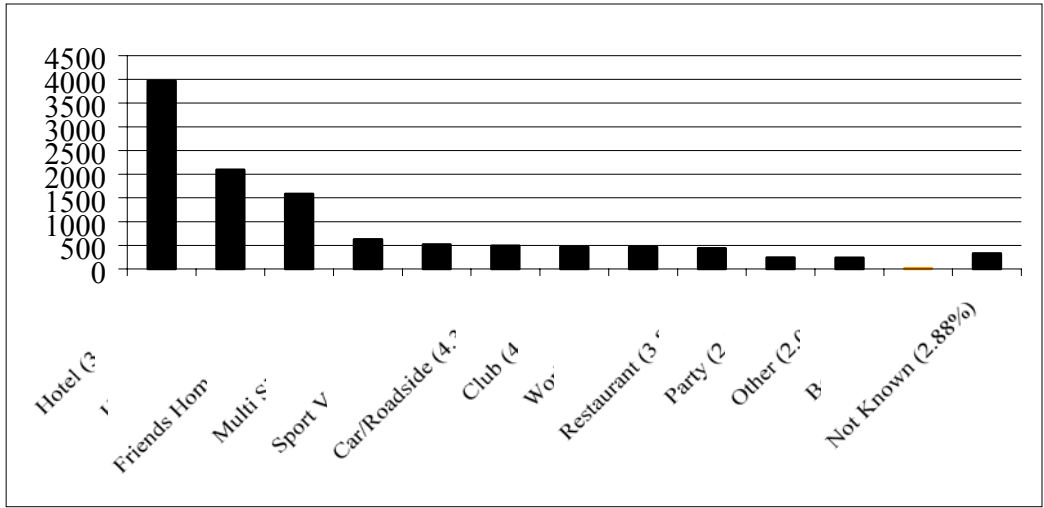
The system commenced on the 1st February 1999 and captures all Evidential Breath Tests (EBT's) conducted in Victoria. All findings documented in this paper are from data beginning the 1st February 1999 to the 31st December 1999 inclusive. During this period 11,478 evidential breath tests were entered on LPIS. Offenders were predominantly male, 9,859 (85.89%) and females accounted for 1,619 (14.11%). Of all the drivers breath tested 3,977 (34.65%) had one or more prior convictions for drink driving. Hotels accounted for 3,966 (34.55%) of all drink driver.

The system has been designed to generate automatic reports and has the capacity to generate specific 'ad-hoc' reports when required. The reporting component of the system enables police to produce a profile of the typical alcohol impaired driver and it will also enable them to pinpoint impaired driving 'hot spots' or venues that are generating a high number of impaired drivers. Simply stated, it allows the police to use information to develop strategies to reduce the incidence of impaired driving.

Drinking Place

The data presented in Table 1 shows the location where drink drivers had been drinking prior to being intercepted by police. It is interesting to note that 3,966 (34.55%) had been drinking at hotels that can be targeted by police enforcement. 2,096 (18.26%) had been drinking at their home but were still detected drink driving. Other licensed venues are responsible for significantly less drink drivers than hotels.

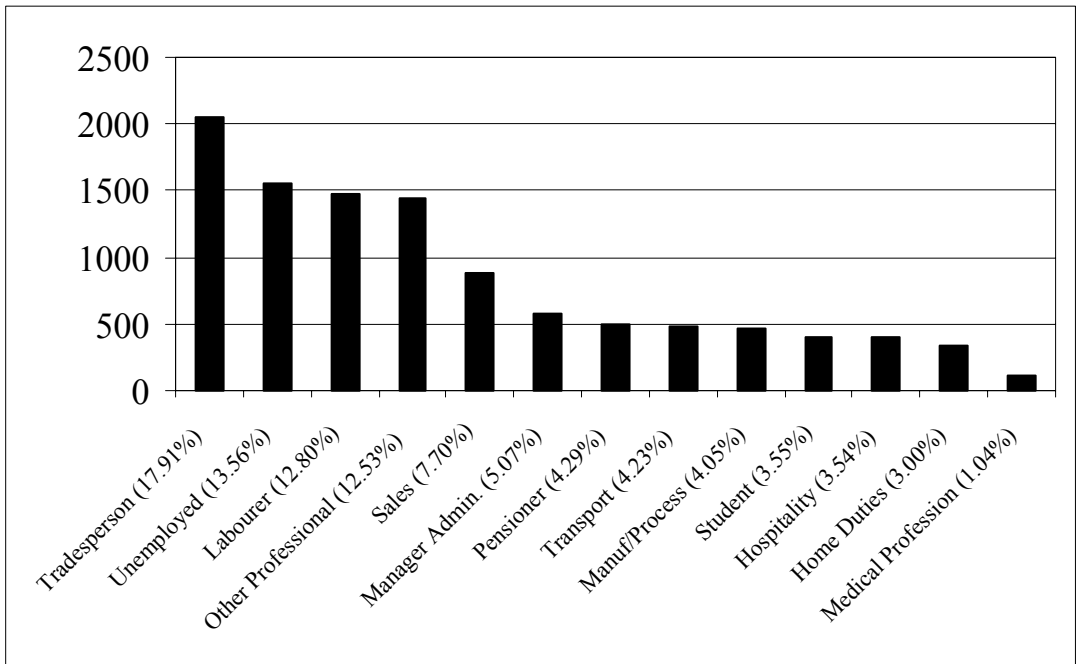
Table 1 – Drinking Locations Prior to Interception



Employment

The data presented in Table 2 shows the occupations of drink drivers. Tradespeople, labourers and unemployed people made up for 5,081 (44.27%) of all drink drivers.

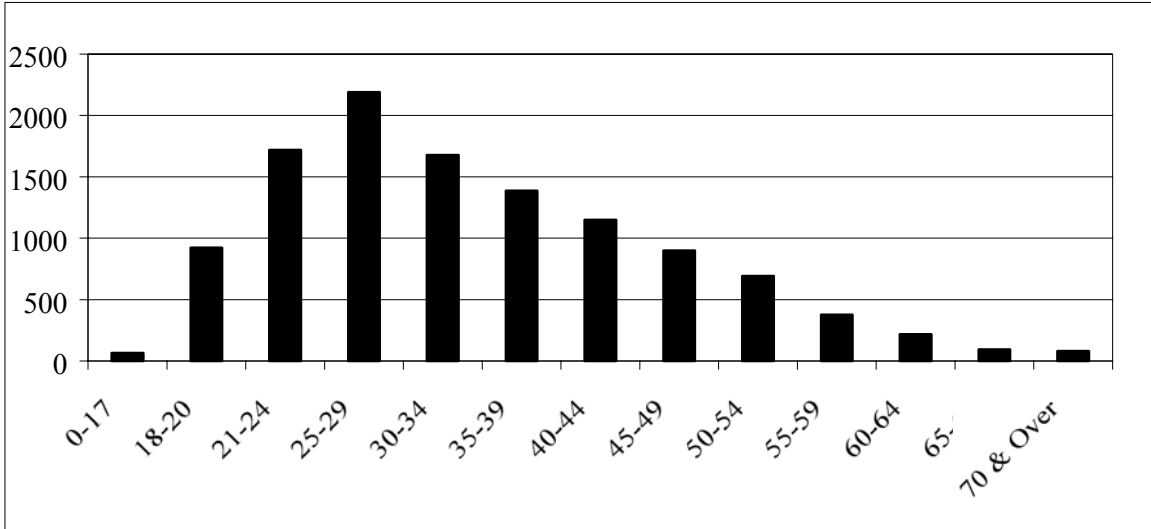
Table 2 - Employment



Age Break Up

The data presented in Table 3 shows the age break up of all the drink drivers and that 7,900 (68.82%) are between 18 and 39. In Victoria new licence holders are placed on Probation for 3 years and during that period they are subject to zero BAC legislation, however 923 (8.04%) of the drivers breath tested were aged from 18 to 20 when they would have held a probationary licence.

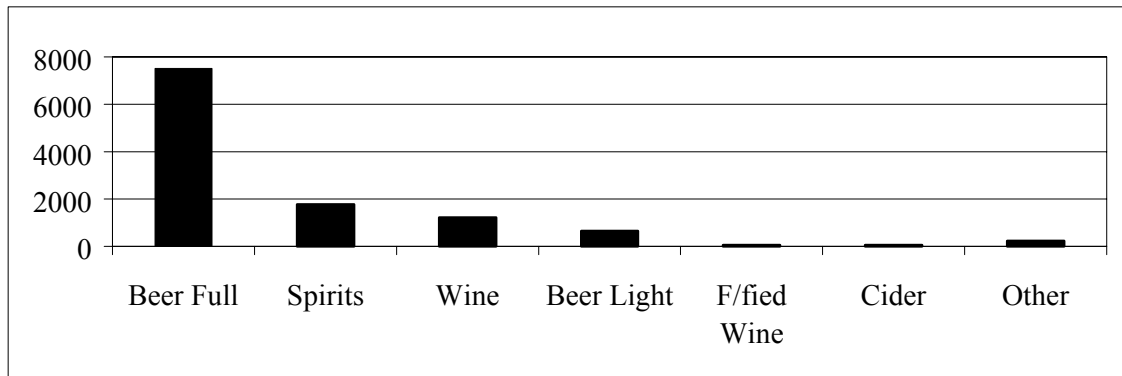
Table 3 Age Break Up



Type of Alcohol Consumed

The data presented in Table 4 shows the type of alcohol consumed by drink drivers prior to interception. Full strength beer was consumed by 7,515 (65.47%) drink drivers followed by spirits, 1,761 (15.34%) and wine 1,217 (10.60%).

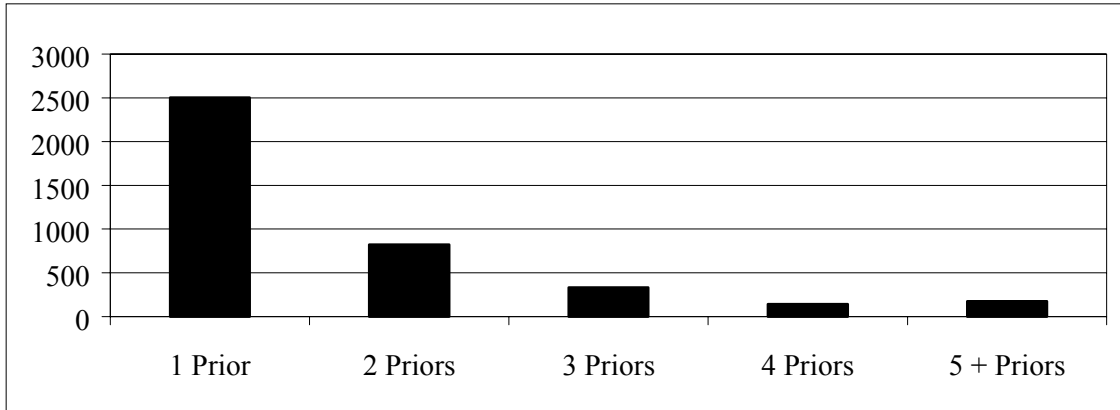
Table 4 Type of Alcohol Consumed



Recidivists

The data presented in Table 5 shows the number of drivers breath tested with one or more prior convictions for drink driving (Recidivists). 3,977 (34.65%) were recidivist drink drivers with 2,503 (62.94%) having one prior conviction, 823 (20.69%) having 2 prior convictions, 334 (8.40%) having 3 prior convictions and 317 (7.98%) having 4 or more prior convictions.

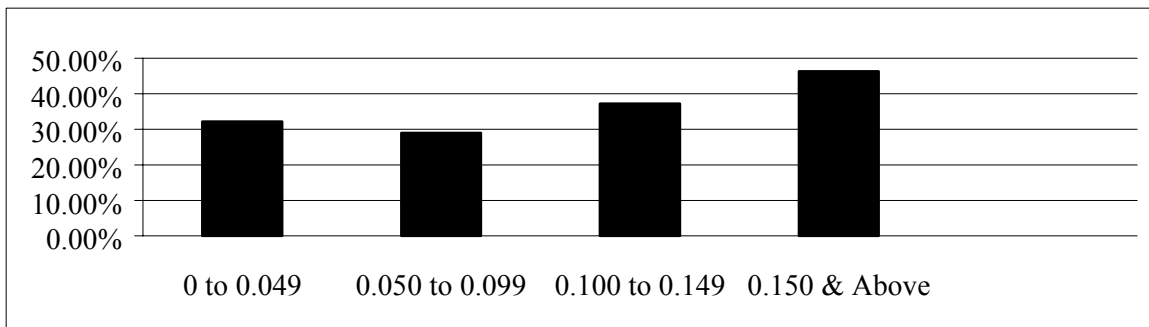
Table 5 Recidivists



Recidivist BAC Comparison

The data presented in table six shows the percentage of recidivist drink drivers in four blood alcohol concentration (BAC) groupings. Of all persons breath tested with a BAC of 0 to 0.049%, 531 (32.22%) were recidivists, BAC of 0.050% to 0.099%, 1,264 (28.93%) were recidivists, BAC of 0.100% to 0.149%, 1,427 (37.24%) were recidivists and BAC of 0.150% and above, 755 (46.34%) were recidivists.

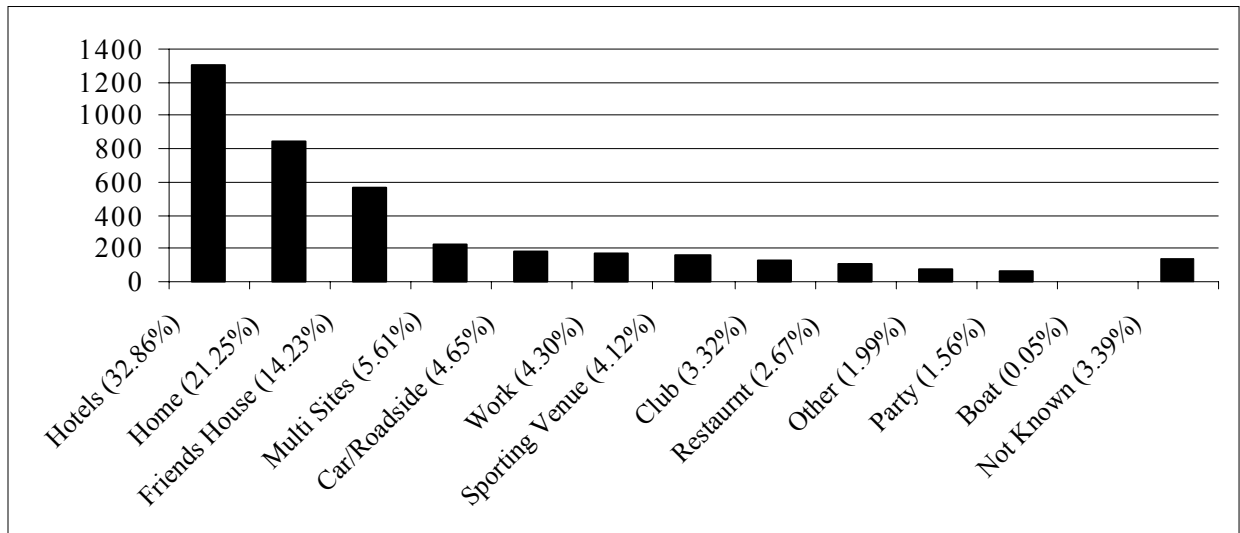
Table 6 Recidivist BAC Comparison



Recidivist Drinking Locations

The data presented in Table 7 shows the location recidivist drinks drivers had been drinking prior to being intercepted by the police. It is interesting to note that a large number of recidivist drink drivers, 1,307 (32.86%) had been drinking at hotels following the same trend as all drink drivers, these premises can be targeted by police enforcement.

Table 7 Recidivist Drinking Locations



Conclusion

The goal now will be to maximise the use of this data by taking appropriate strategic action to reduce the level of impaired driving on Victorian roads. Reports regarding the licensed premises responsible for drink drivers are being distributed to Regional Police Traffic Inspectors to enable police to strategically target identified premises and take appropriate enforcement action. The data will allow police to identify trends, plan strategies and effectively target resources and impaired driving initiatives. It will also be useful in determining appropriate locations for booze bus or other random breath testing operations.