

Alcohol and the Community

Curricular Area:**Social Studies**

CfE Level(s):

Third & Fourth

CfE Experiences & Outcomes:

HWB 3-43b, Soc4-16b

Learning Intention:

To explore the impact of Alcohol misuse on local communities.

Success Criteria:

Young people will begin to understand how Alcohol misuse can have a negative effect on the local community.

Duration:

50 minutes

Background

'Like the ripple effect created by a pebble in a pond, the 'ripple' effect of alcohol is thought to go far beyond the individual and their immediate family'.

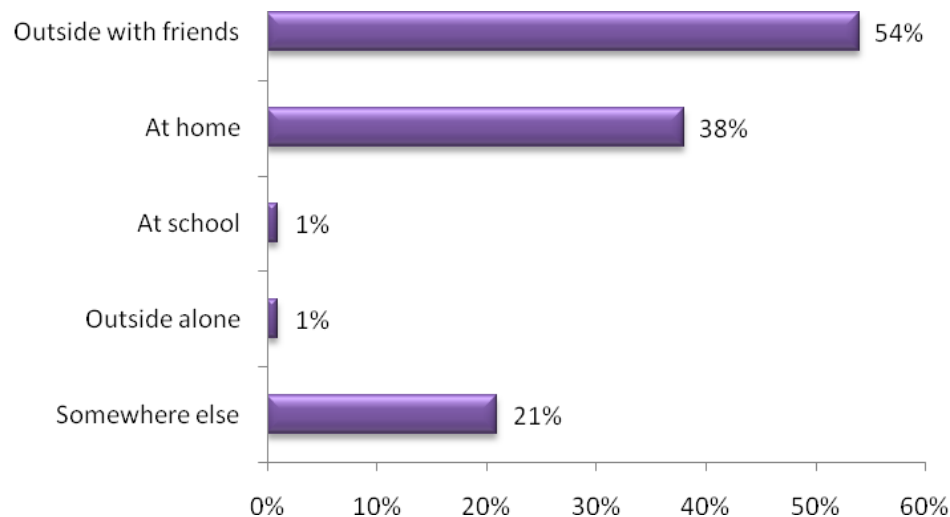
"The Ripple Effect" survey was carried out in various communities across Glasgow to gauge the perceived impact that alcohol has on local communities. The research highlighted that 99% of people feel that alcohol has between a 'medium to large' and 'large' effect on their communities; that effect was considered 'good' by 5% and 'bad' by 95% of respondents. These effects included:

- Violence & Anti Social Behaviour
- Young People and Drinking
- Litter
- Sexual Assaults
- Noise
- Intimidation
- Neglect in Families
- Unsafe areas within Community
- Bad reputation

Suggested Activities**How does alcohol affect communities?**

In small groups, discuss the variety of ways in which alcohol can impact on the local community and/or wider society. Answers can be written or drawn onto flip chart paper to then feedback to the wider class. Suggestions can include: health impacts, cost to society, cost to NHS, Police, Fire and Rescue Services (due to traffic accidents, fires in the home, accidents at home, anti social behaviour, domestic abuse) and negative impacts on relationships and friendships.

The recent Glasgow Schools Health & Wellbeing Survey (2010), reported that of those who ever drank alcohol, just over half (54%, 1,575 pupils) said they drank alcohol outside with friends.



Ask the young people to consider how this may affect their local environment? e.g. broken bottles, increased noise levels, vandalism, gangs of people drinking in the street or park which may intimidate others.

Pupils could thereafter explore the findings from the Glasgow Secondary Schools Health and wellbeing survey results further by accessing results for their school, the local area and city wide reports (web link provided below). Individual school reports are available from your health and wellbeing coordinator/head teacher.

Healthier and Safer Play Areas

Due to issues arising through smoking and alcohol misuse in children's play areas, Glasgow City Community Health Partnership (CHP), Glasgow City Council, Glasgow Community and Safety Services and Glasgow Life launched a Healthier and Safer Play Areas campaign.

New signs were erected to discourage adults and young people from smoking and drinking at the play areas and to remind them of the possible consequences of them doing so.

Ask the young people to design their own signs that they would like to see in their community to discourage alcohol consumption in public places.

For further information:

- Glasgow Secondary Schools Health and Wellbeing Survey results: <http://www.phru.net/rande/Web%20Pages/Schools%20Survey%202010.aspx>
- <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2009/12/29122804/9> - societal costs of alcohol
- <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/05/06091510/4> - cost of alcohol use and misuse in Scotland