

Passive Drinking Conference, Tallinn, Estonia, 30 March 2015

Alcohol's harm to Others

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The University of Dublin

Presentation Outline

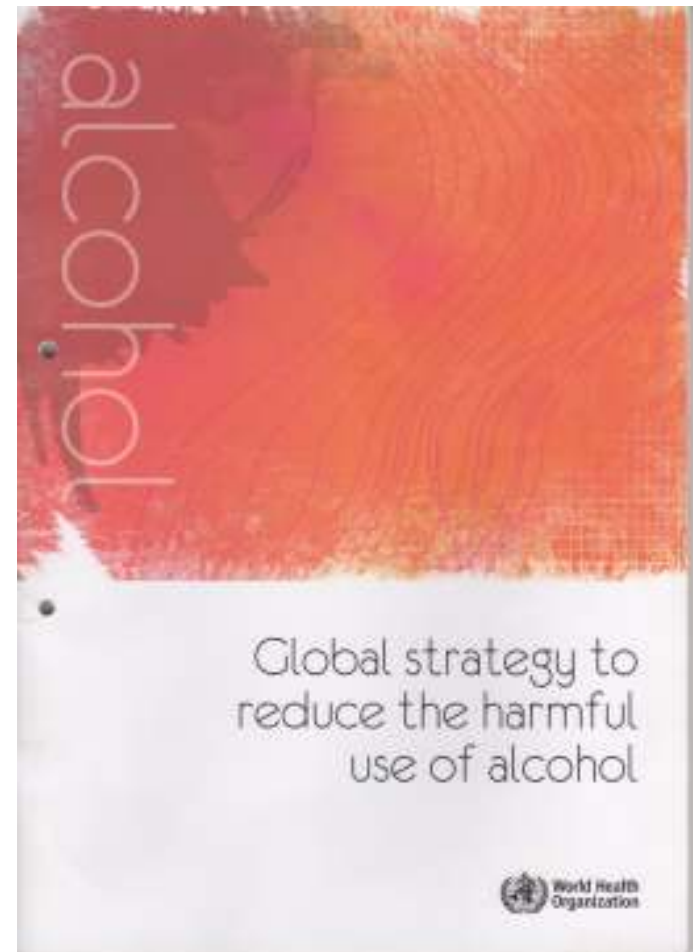
- Why alcohol's harm to others ?
- Conceptual framework for studying AH20
- Methods used for studying AH20
- Summary studies (Ireland, Scotland)
- Shared Challenges
- Policy Implications

Why alcohol's harm to others only now?

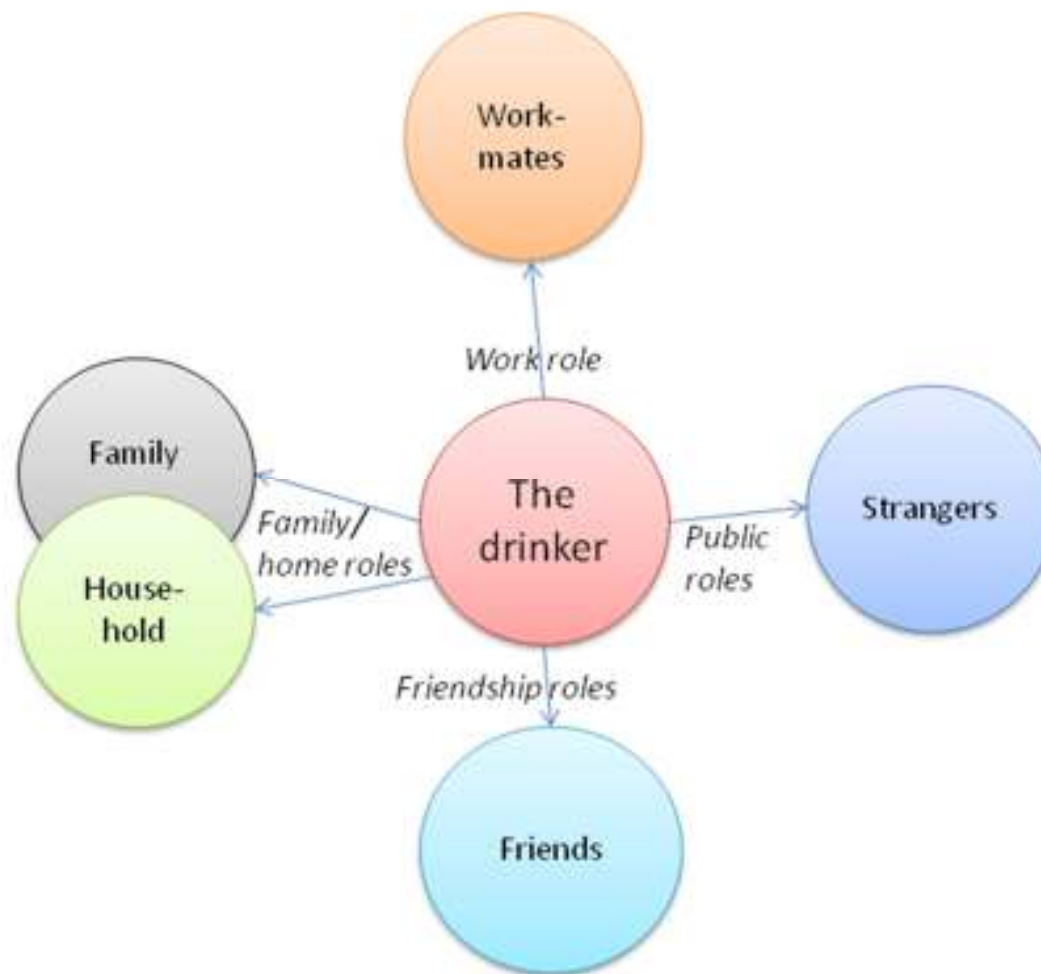
- Main focus to date - harm to drinker
- Biomedical model – health harms
- Social harms – harm to drinker
 - Based mostly on interaction with ‘others’
- Resistance to AH20 ?
 - Reaction to temperance movement
 - Social changes re private/public issues
 - Feminist movement re alcohol role in violence
 - Victim blaming – (health promotion)
- Exception – drink driving

Context - International

- WHO 2010 – Alcohol's harm to others (AH20) from drinking requires special attention
- Priority area for WHO international research
- International Group for Studies of Alcohol's Harm to Others (IGSAHO)



ALCOHOL'S HARM TO OTHERS



With kind permission to use from AM Laslett, CAPR

www.capr.com.au

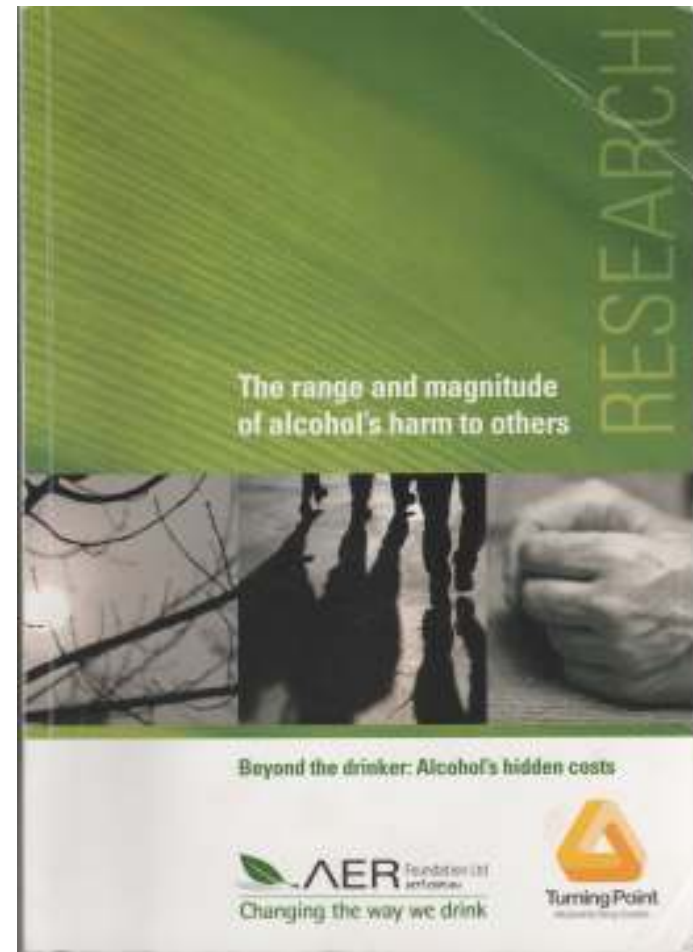
Alcohol's harm to others

- **Injuries** – assault, homicide, traffic crashes, workplace accidents
- **Neglect or abuse** – to a child, to a partner
- **Default on social role** - as a family member, friend or worker
- **Property damage** – to clothing, car or house
- **Toxic effect on other** - Foetal Alcohol Syndrome)
- **Loss of amenity or peace of mind** – kept awake, being frightened

Source: Room R (2011). The harm of alcohol to others. WHO Collaborative project

Most influential work – Australia & NZ

- Comprehensive
- Two frames approach
 - General population survey
 - Institutional/ agency records
- Harm to others from drinking (2010)
 - is widespread and broad ranging
 - Can be very severe

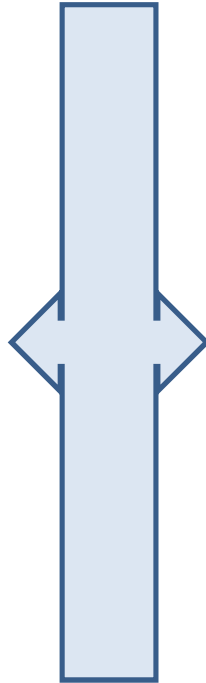


Examining Alcohol's harm to Others

Two Frames approach

General population Surveys

- **View of drinker**
- **View of 'others'**



Agency records

- **Police** - Violence & crime
- **Welfare** – Family & children
- **Local authority** -Community

Economic studies

- **Estimate health & social costs**
 - Direct, Indirect,
 - Intangible costs

Examples of Summary studies

Ireland (2) & Scotland (1)

Aim of study (2011)

- ❑ To profile children's exposure to risks from parental/ adults drinking in Ireland
 - *Gather new information*
 - *Examine existing data with a 'new eye'*
 - *Discuss with frontline staff who work with children and families*

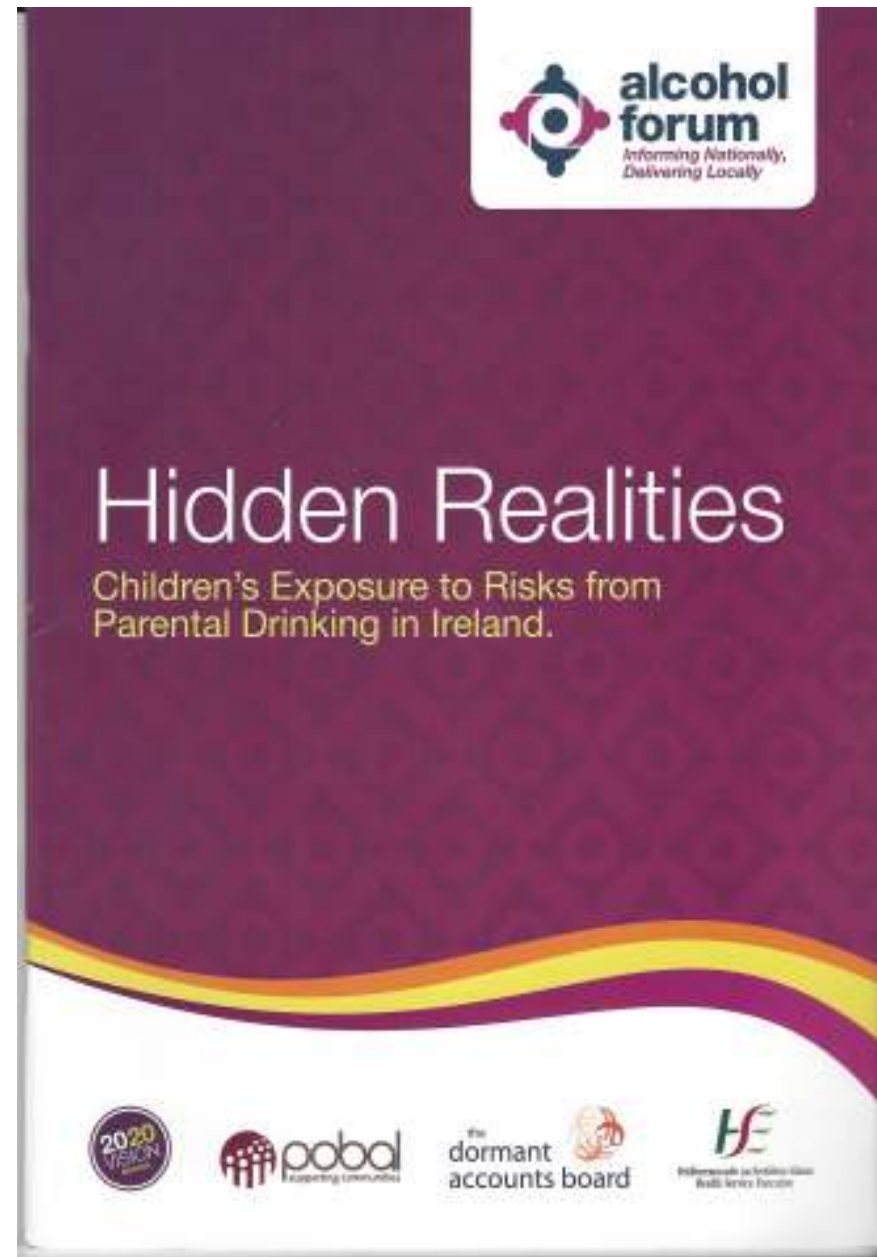


Figure: 1

The conceptual base of this study

Children's Exposure to Risk from Other People's Alcohol (CEROPA)

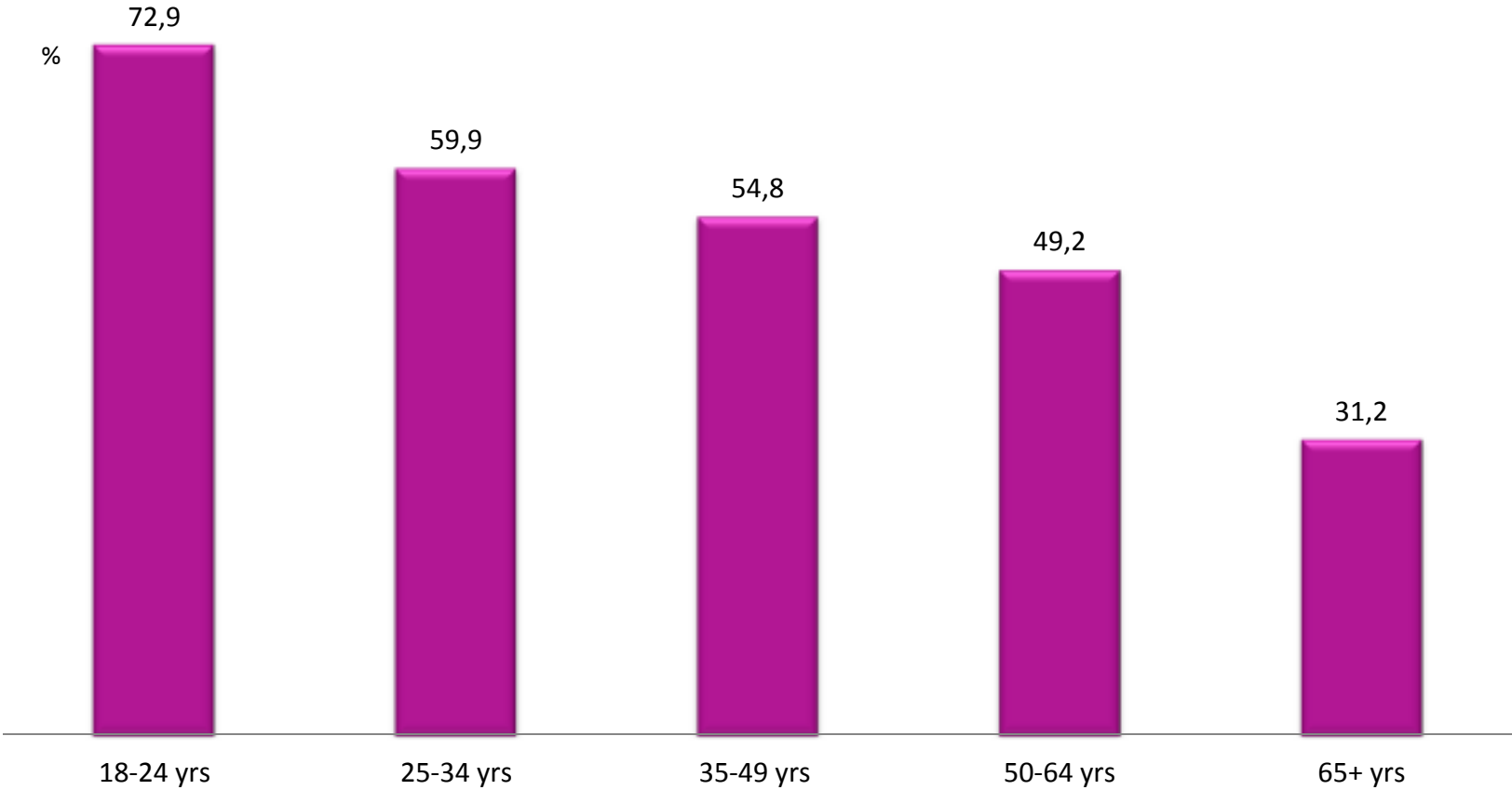


Hidden Realities

Report – November 2011

Key Finding 1

Regular Hazardous Drinking among adults by age group



Source: Hope (2011) National Drinking Survey, 2006 and 2010 combined

Key Finding 2

Children living with hazardous drinkers

- **56% of adults, who have children living in their home, reported regular hazardous drinking**

Estimation using Census 2006 figures based on no. of family units and the average no. of children (1.4) per family unit, this translates to

- **271,000 children** (children u15 yrs)
- **Or up to 587,000 children** (all ages)

Are exposed to risk from parental hazardous drinking

Key Finding 3



□ Local survey information

- *Local communities aware of exposure to risk for children, in particular children being verbally abused and children left in unsafe situations*

□ Child protection system

- One in seven child welfare concerns involved family members who were abusing alcohol/drugs (national)
- Alcohol abuse mentioned in one of every three child abuse cases (one county)
- Parental alcohol abuse interacted with several other issues
 - Child out of control due to behavioral problems
 - Domestic violence,
 - Mental health problems,
 - Parent unable to cope



Frontline Staff experiences

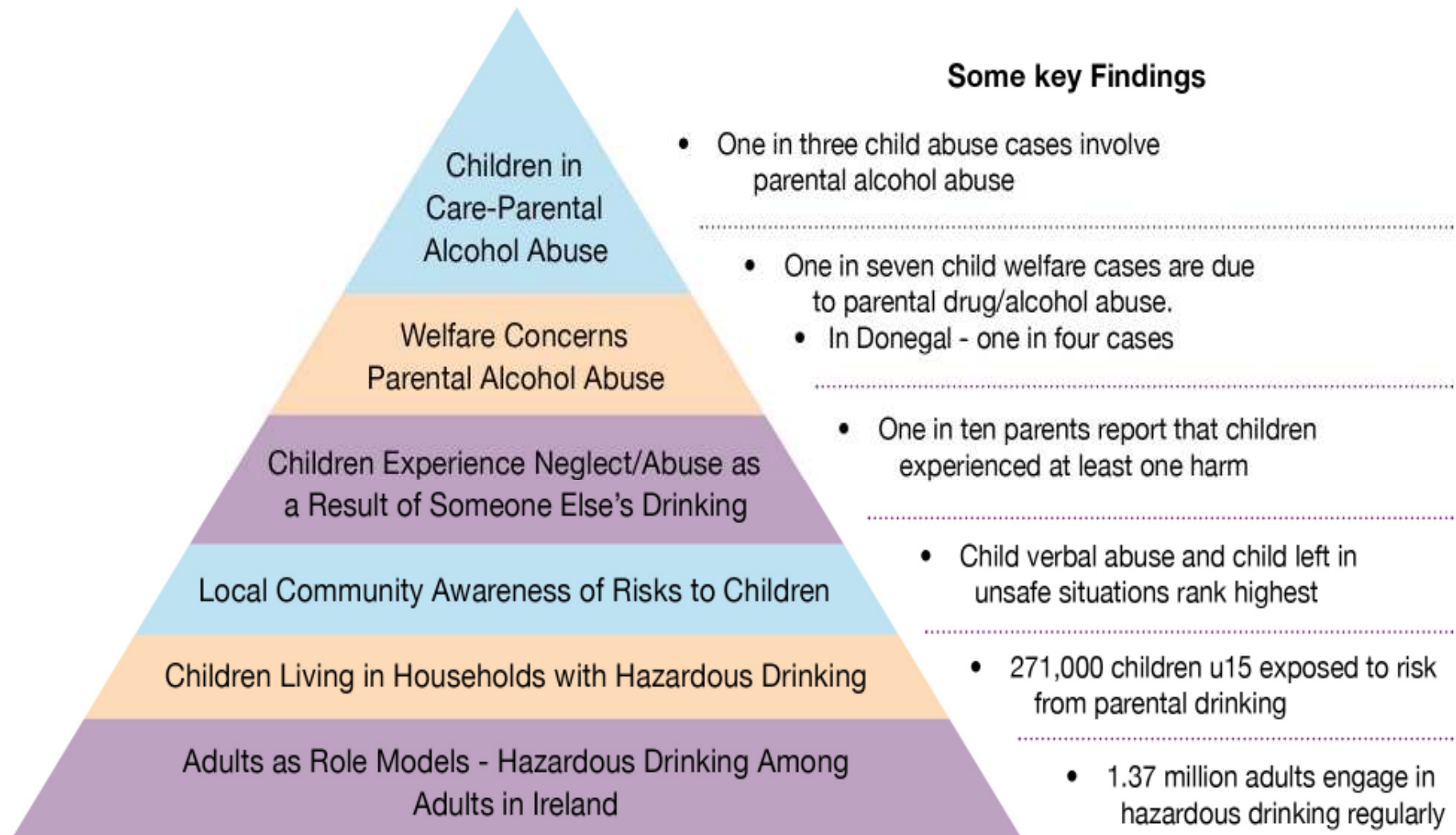
Role of alcohol in family support services NW

- ❑ A sense of 'swimming against the tide'
- ❑ Damaging drinking culture – acceptance of getting drunk
- ❑ Burden children bear due to parental alcohol abuse
 - Hidden secrets
 - Care role reversal
 - Impact on social life – making friends, schooling, bullying, isolation
 - Survival instinct
- ❑ Staff intervention on alcohol occurs at the extreme end of alcohol abuse/ crisis point
- ❑ Many family support services in NW, but few are evaluated on outcomes

Figure: 9

Children exposure to risk from parental drinking

Children's Exposure to Risk from Other People's Alcohol (CEROPA)



Aim of study (2014)

To examine AH20 in three Irish settings

- General population
- Workplace
- Children in families

based on national drinking surveys (2006, 2010),

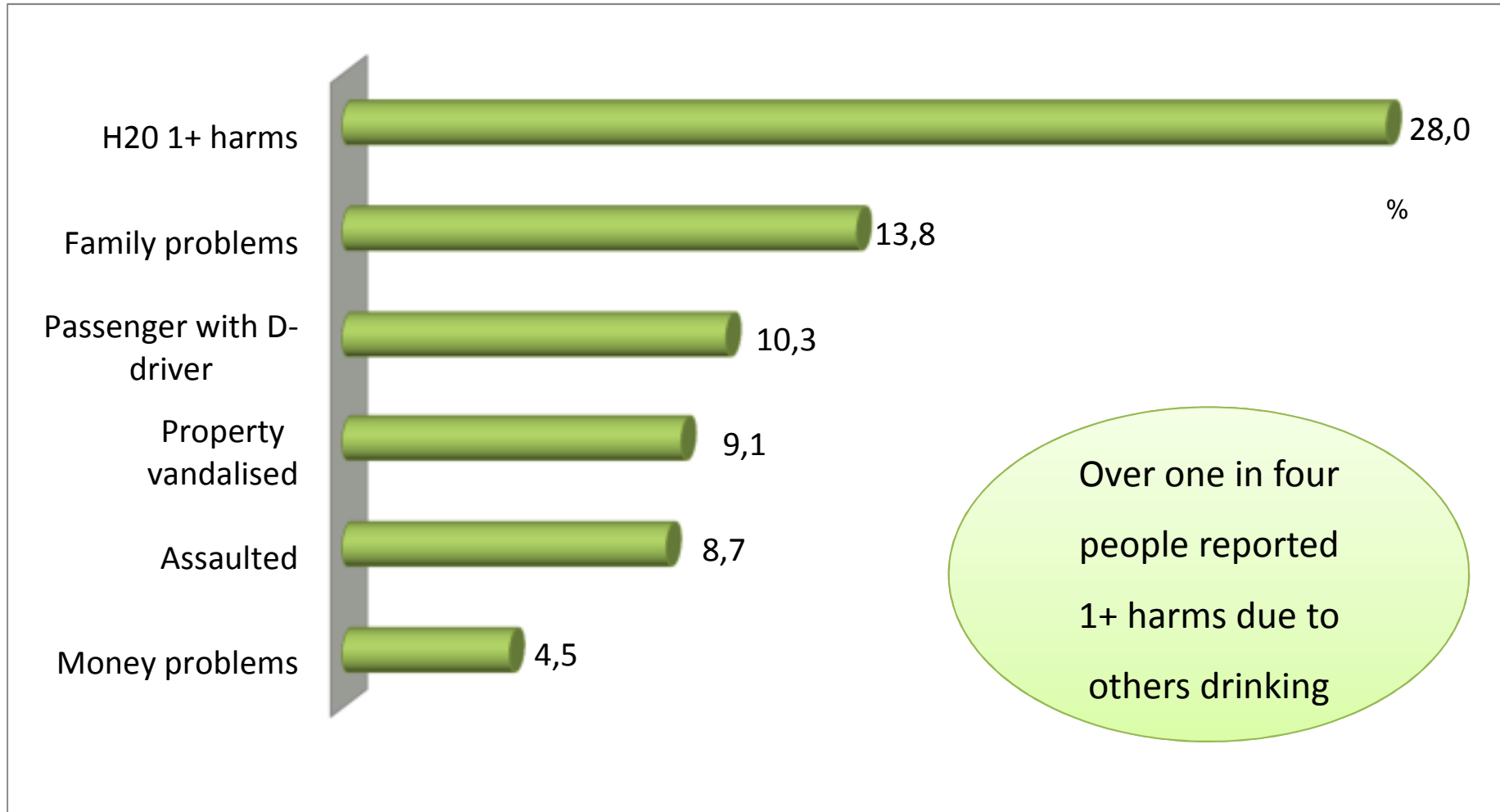
Sample N=2,011



Key Finding 1



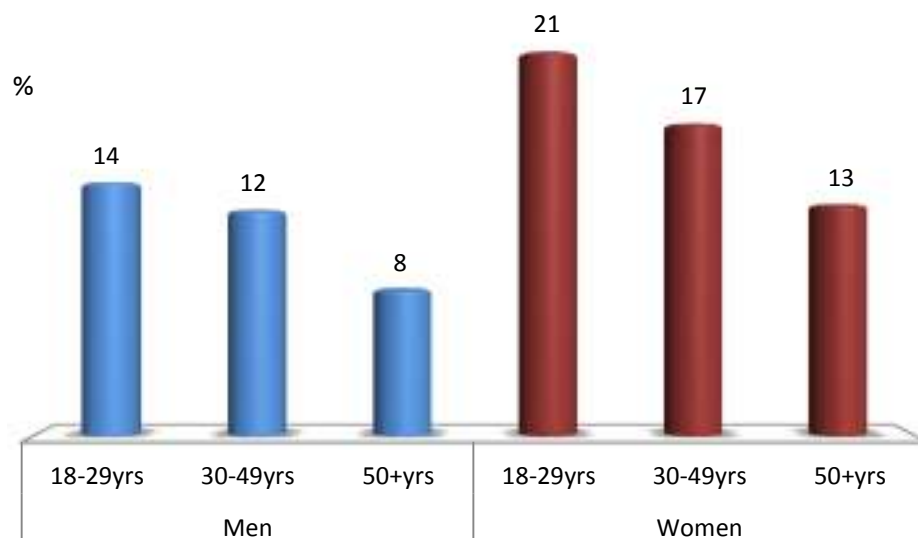
Prevalence of AH20 in general population



Hope A (2014). Alcohol's harm to others in Ireland. Dublin: Health Service Executive.

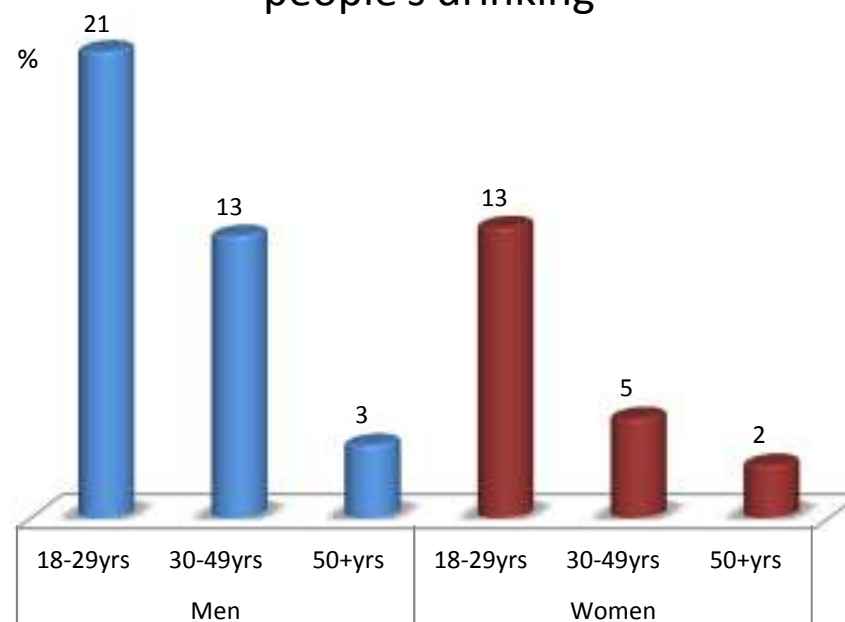


Family problems due to other people's drinking



AH20 by gender and age

Physical assault due to other people's drinking



- More women report family problems
- Young women as vulnerable to assault as men (30-49 yrs)



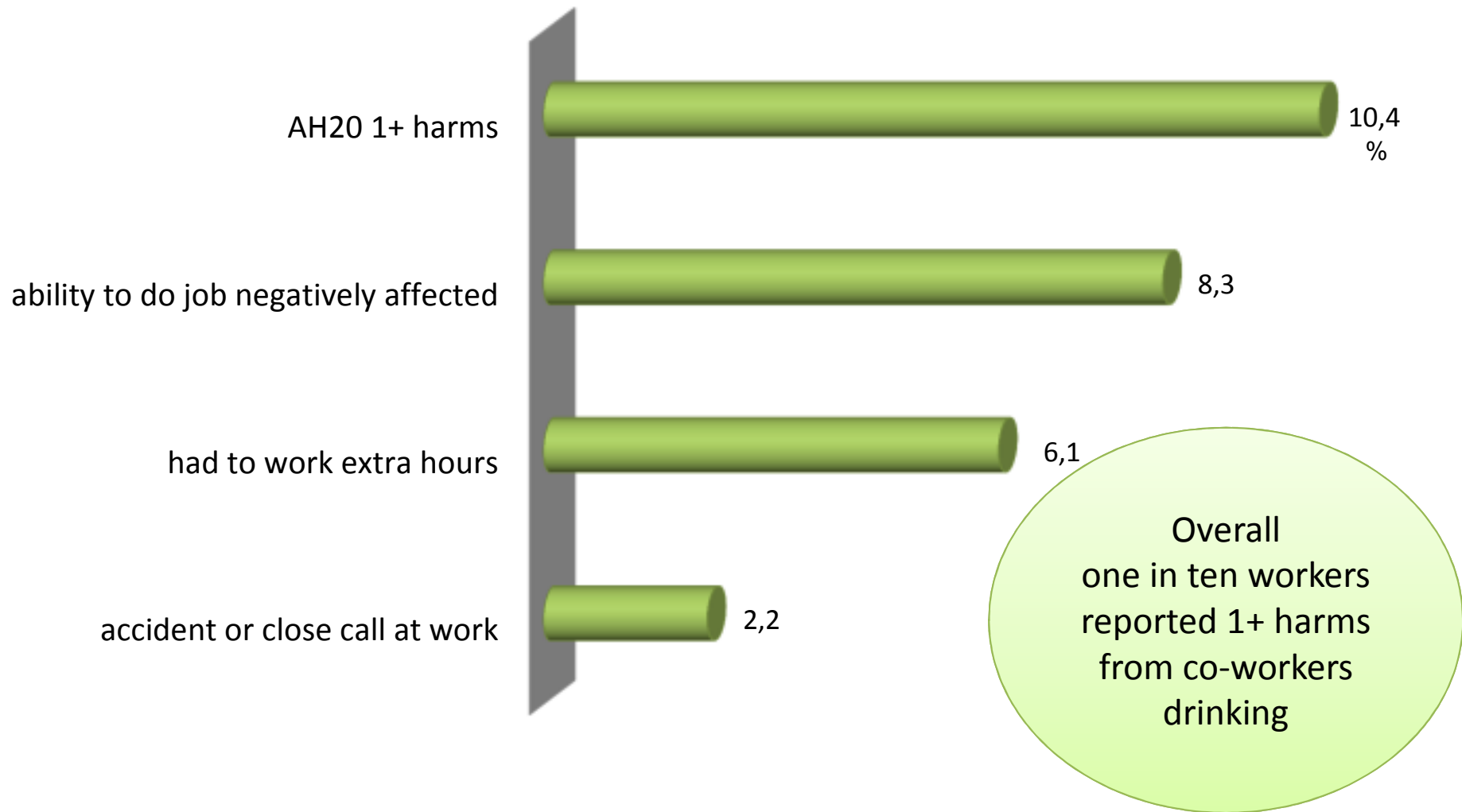
Passenger with a drunk driver by 'victim' drinking pattern



Key Finding 2



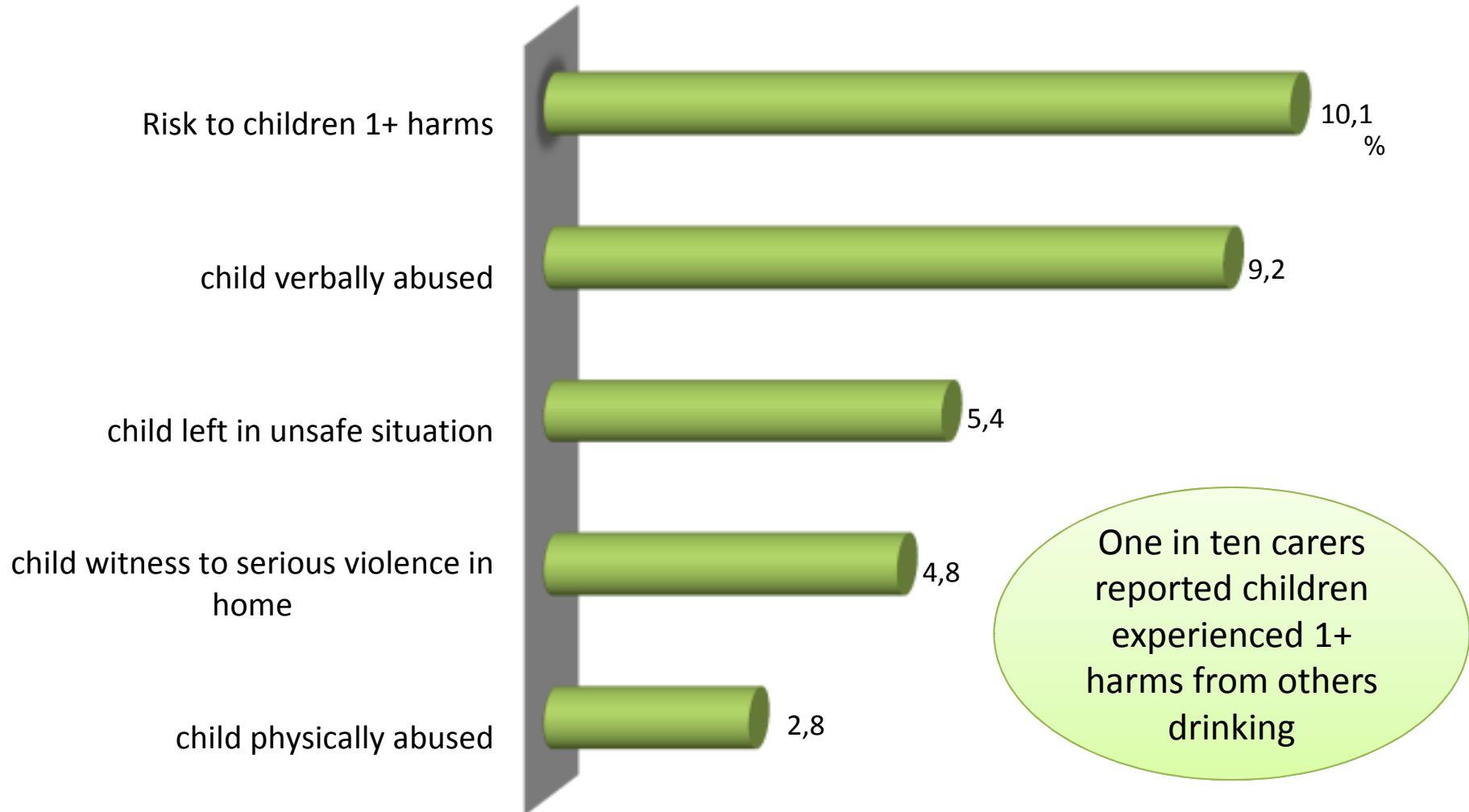
AH20 in the workplace due to co-workers drinking



Key Finding 3



Alcohol's harm to children due to others drinking



Hope A (2014). Alcohol's harm to others in Ireland. Dublin: Health Service Executive.

Case Study

Anatomy of a Car Crash

Anatomy of a Car Crash

50 individuals very closely connected to the event and its aftermath



Source: Murtagh P (Dec 8, 2014) Anatomy of a car crash. The Irish Times

Conclusions for Ireland

- Alcohol harm extends beyond the drinker and affects many other people
- Those most at risk of AH20 are younger adults and children
- In health and social services, recognition of alcohol as a risk comes too late with only the severe cases getting attention
- We need to establish the scope, size and cost of H20 to Irish society
- Ireland needs effective policies on price, availability and marketing to reduce AH20.



Scotland (2013)

Commissioned by
Alcohol Focus Scotland

Research Team

- Ann Hope
- Jennifer Curran
- Gillian Bell
- Alison Platts



Research aim and methods



Aim

- To provide a snapshot of the reach and impact of *harm to others* from drinking in Scotland

Methods

- National omnibus survey (general population)
- Local case study – Edinburgh agencies (interviews & focus groups)
- Mapping *H2O* from existing data/sources

Survey Methodology



- **Sampling**

- National quota sample (n=1,007), 16+yrs, face to face interviews in the home, autumn 2012

- **Measures surveyed**

- Range of social & personal situations where harm occurs due to others drinking
- Time-frame, past 12 months
- Known heavy drinkers, negative effect and severity
- Socio-demographics: gender, age, marital status, social class, location, drinking status, life satisfaction

Harms to others from drinking



PUBLIC ENVIRONMENT

1. Harassed in the street
2. Afraid on the street
3. Called names or insulted
4. Harmed physically
5. Involved in traffic accident
6. Felt unsafe in a public place
7. Problems with co-workers or a boss
8. Passenger in a car with a driver who had too much to drink

PRIVATE SETTINGS

1. Kept awake at night by drunken noise
2. House, car or property damaged
3. Child negatively affected
4. Family problems/ marriage difficulties
5. Problems with friend to neighbour
6. Financial troubles
7. Harassed at a party or other private setting
8. Threatened or afraid at home or in other private setting

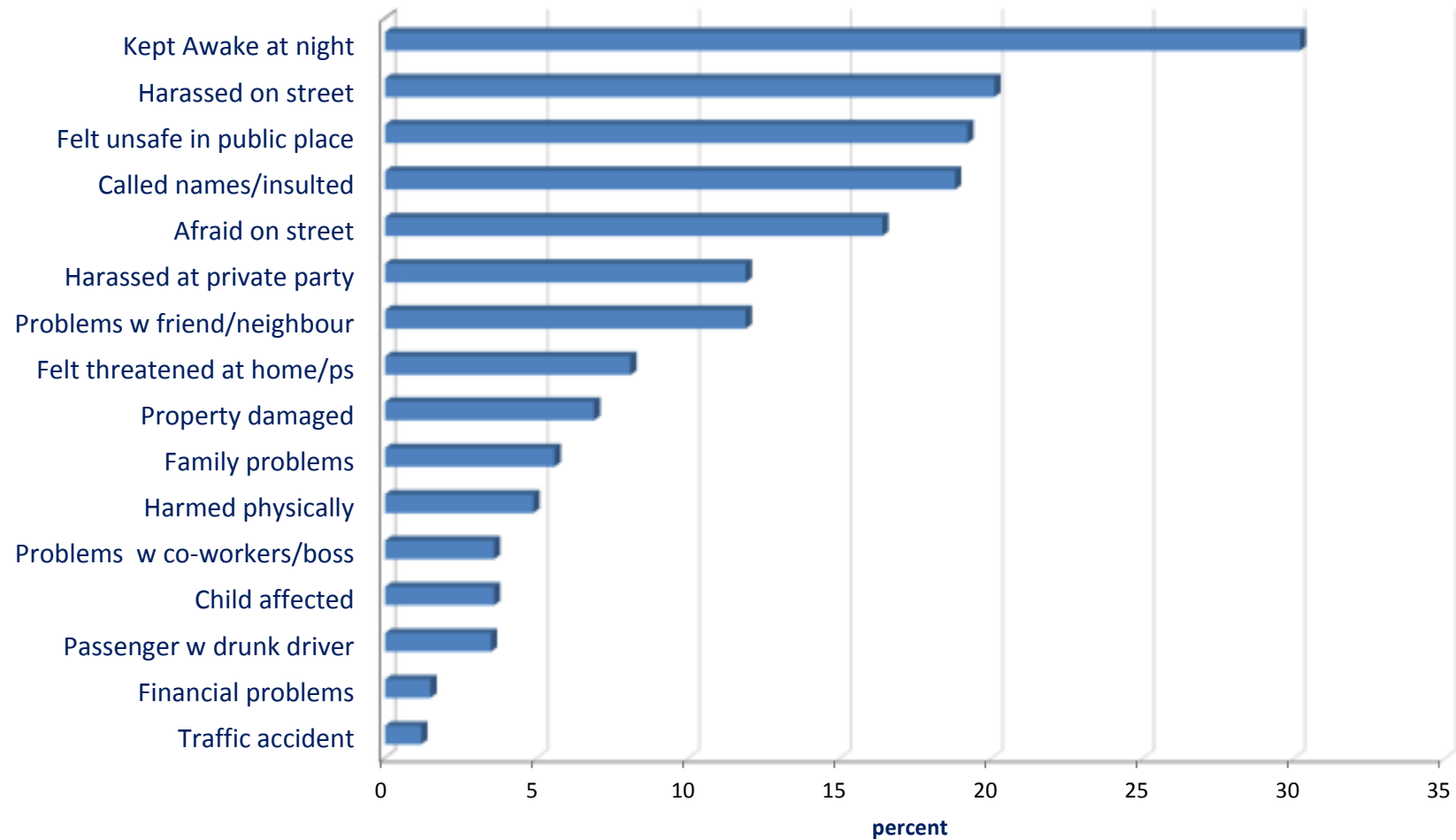


Key Finding 1

Overall ***1 in 2 people*** (51%)
report one or more harms
as a result of someone
else's drinking



Individual harms experienced as a result of someone else's drinking





Key finding 2

More than ***1 in 3 people*** (37%)
report heavy drinkers in their lives

*and one-third (34%) of those are
negatively affected*

Relationship with known heavy drinker who has greatest negative effect

- **Rank order**
 - A family member not in household
 - A friend
 - A neighbour/ local village member
 - Co-worker
 - ***Household member***
 - Ex-partner/ wife/ boyfriend

Serious impact extends beyond the household



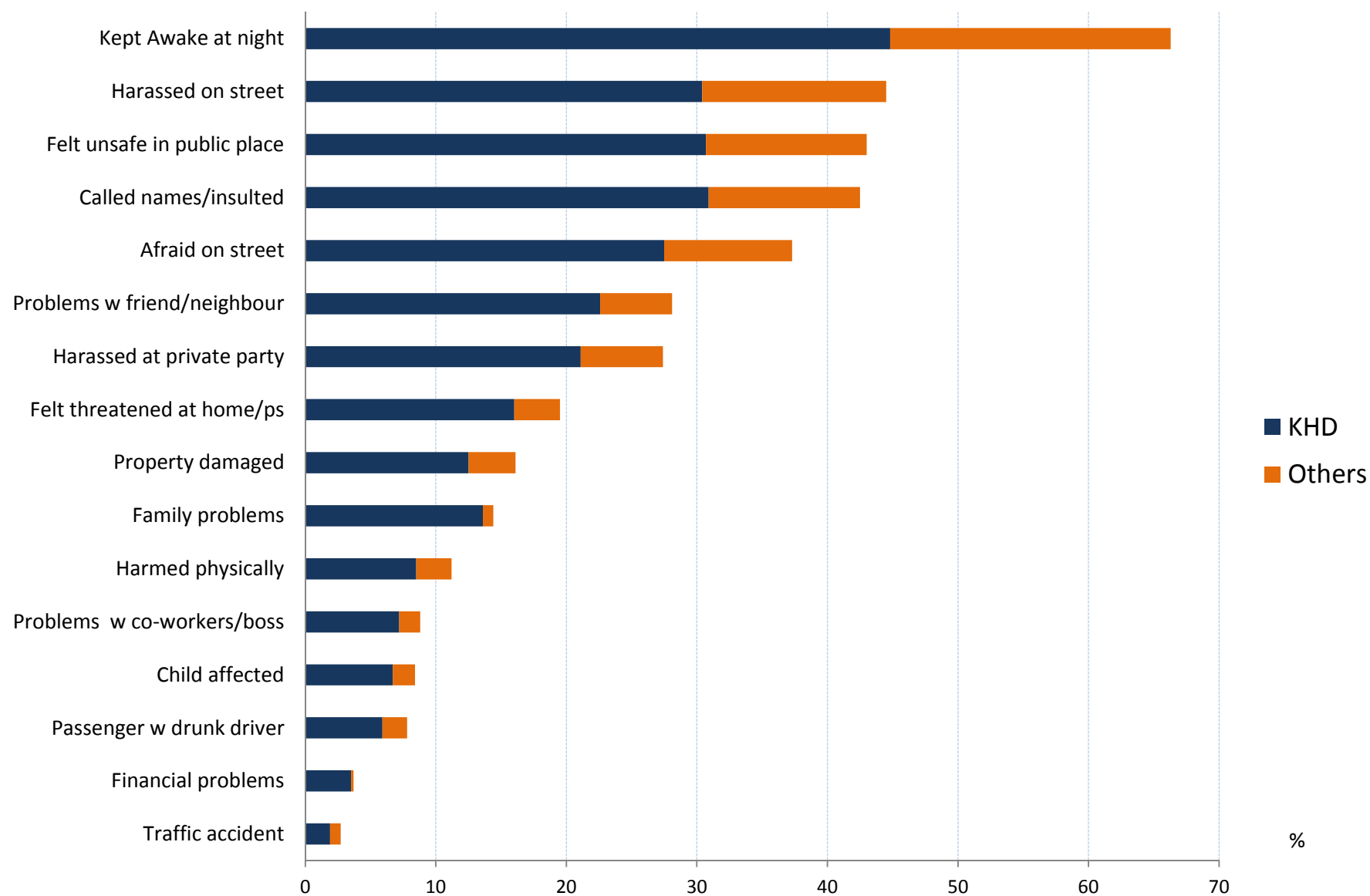


Key finding 3

*Those most at risk of harm from others drinking are those with **heavy drinkers** in their lives and **younger adults (under 55)***



Individual AH20s by known heavy drinkers



%



Case Study, Edinburgh

Findings from agency interviews from the perspective of those who experience harm from others drinking, as described by frontline staff

Experiences as a result of others drinking

- **Family disharmony** -relationship problems, tension, arguments, unpredictability and chaotic lifestyles
- **Impact on children** – worry, fear and uncertainty –can lead to neglect and poor school attendance
- **Communities-** experience noise, verbal abuse and disturbances
- **Public service providers**



Living with a problem drinker affects the whole family, like ripples in a pond

People don't realise that their binge drinking can have a negative effect on others. The perspective is that harm is caused by dependent drinkers

The problem is that alcohol doesn't come as an issue on its own . . . Drugs and mental health issues can often also be present



Data Collection



- **Lack of readily accessible, good quality, comparable information**
- **Challenges – information in different formats, difficulty disaggregating alcohol & drugs, quality of information**
- **Agencies gather information on drinker, but seldom on alcohol's harm to others**

Conclusions for Scotland

- **AH20 reach impacts on family, friends and the wider community**
- **Scale of AH20 needs to be assessed more comprehensively**
- **‘Known heavy drinkers’ item – potential as a screening tool in health and welfare settings, single item in lifestyle surveys**
- **Important policy Issue – but not well recognised**

Shared Challenges

- **Comprehensive assessment of scale of AH20**
- **Awareness of alcohol's harm to others**
- **Availability of quality information**
- **Measurement issues**
- **Buy-in from multiple policy sectors**
- **Proactive approach required across services for those affected by others drinking**

Policy implications

- Alcohol related harm is a much bigger problem when AH20 is added
- Burden is high, in terms of economic costs, service provision and quality of life
- Third party harm from others drinkers, similar to harm from passive smoking
- Need for a comprehensive public health policy response

THANK YOU