

Research Project

Name of Project

Patterns & Trends: Vietnamese Alcohol Survey

Research Team

Odyssey House Victoria, Quang Minh Temple and the Centre for Psychiatric Nursing Research and Practice

Funding Body

The Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation Foundation

Project Summary

The Patterns & Trends research project will investigate patterns of alcohol consumption and any associated problems such as debt, gambling, drink-driving, and violence within the Vietnamese community of Melbourne. The project comprises four major stages: Stage one of the project will involve consultations (focus groups) with approximately 50 members of the Vietnamese community who will be invited to discuss the impact of alcohol on contemporary Vietnamese society, as well as participant's related attitudes and behaviours; Stage two of the project will draw on the information collected during the focus groups and a previous pilot survey in order to develop a questionnaire that addresses the project's main aims. This questionnaire will include items allowing data to be compared to other National alcohol research. It will be translated into Vietnamese and will be focus tested prior to its use in stage three; Stage three of the project involves recruiting approximately 20 Vietnamese assistants (men and women of various ages) who will administer the questionnaire with a minimum of 1000 people (over 14 years of age) within the Vietnamese community. These assistants will be compensated for each completed questionnaire they return; and Stage four of the project involves analysing and interpreting the data, developing a range of recommendations, and widely disseminating the project's findings.

Progress

Project completed

Summary of Findings

Stage One results revealed themes concerning perceptions of alcohol use in the Vietnamese community, cultural issues and help seeking behaviours. The interviews revealed that drinking alcohol is a common social activity, which is generally encouraged by Australian friends. Certain cultural issues were raised, such as Vietnamese males drink more than females, older women do not drink, domestic violence or verbal abuse due to drinking was mentioned several times, especially if a wife tries to limit her husband's alcohol intake, and flushing seems to be more associated with the older generation. Help-seeking behaviour is not usual in the Vietnamese cultural because consuming alcohol is seen as 'normal'. Participants also raised the issue of the lack of

language specific services. Cultural values were also raised such as the importance of maintaining a good reputation, and being in control of one's behaviour.

Stage Two results appear consistent with previous research which shows that fewer Vietnamese Australians drink alcohol, and those that do drink, do so at somewhat lower levels than the wider Australian population. Despite this however, those that do drink appear to experience more serious problems as a consequence. Middle age men and young adult women were most likely to drink, smoke tobacco regularly, and experience problems with alcohol. Vietnamese in Melbourne prefer to keep their problems within their families and are unlikely to report alcohol related violence to the Police.

Publications

Under review