Southern African
Alcohol Policy Alliance
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Alcohol availability and GBV

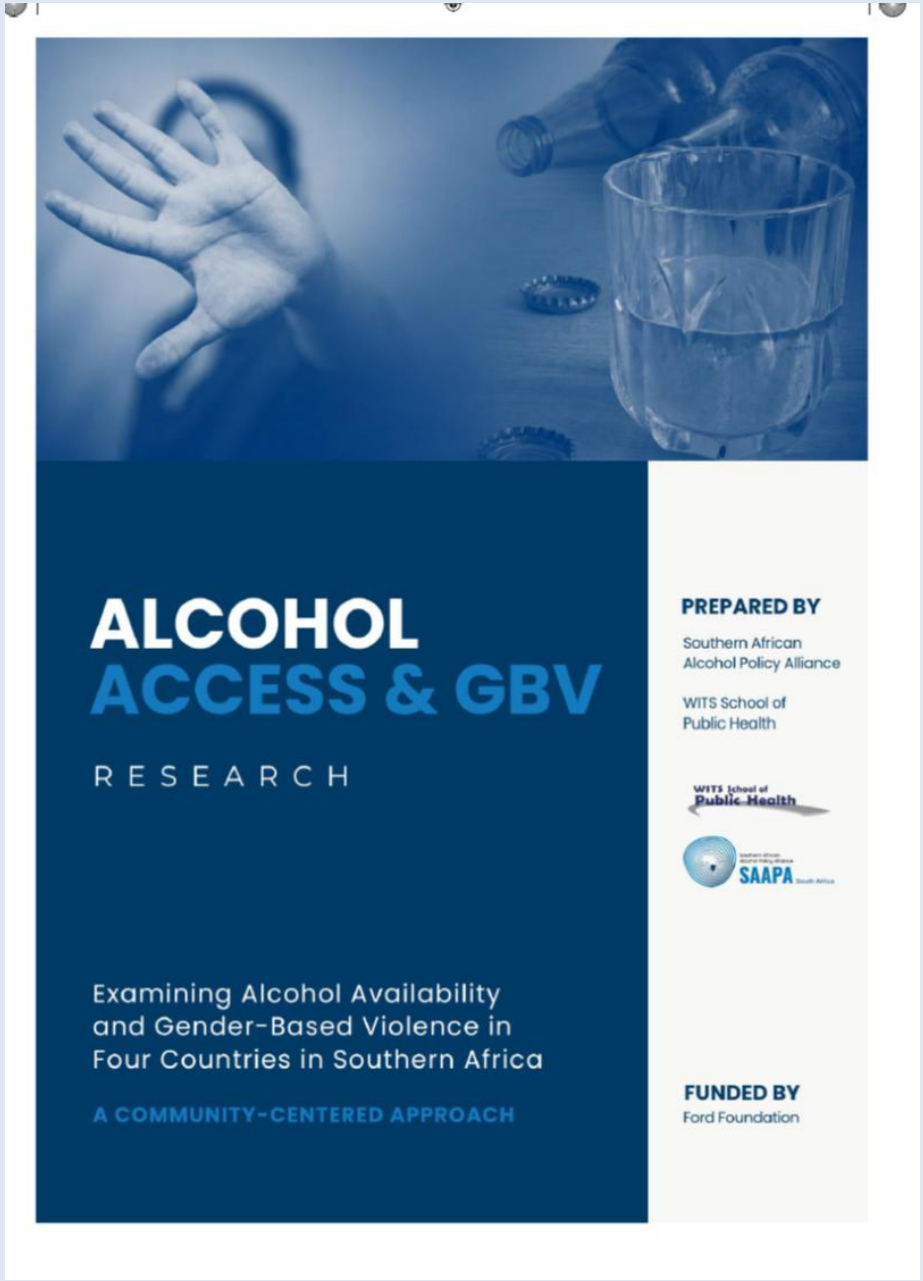
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2 November 2026

Aadielah Maker-Diedericks

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Feasibility of a community-centred approach to mapping alcohol outlet density and outlet trading times in two South African communities

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Alcohol and GBV: 2 parallel crisis

- Alcohol no excuse for GBV

- **Alcohol is an obstacle for development**

- **Alcohol harm paradox**

People in lower socio-economic groups experience disproportionately higher levels of alcohol -related harm irrespective of consumption pattern.

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ALCOHOL & GBV STUDY

- Aim - **to determine the association between alcohol outlet density, outlet trading times and incidents of GBV** using a **participatory mapping approach**
- **Feasibility study** conducted by SAAPA & SAMRC in Ga-Rankuwa, Tshwane, Gauteng Province and Thembalethu, Garden Route District, Western Cape, South Africa which confirmed the validity and utility of a participatory approach
- **4 country study in partnership with WITS School of Public Health - Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, and South Africa**.
- **Objectives**:
  - **map** alcohol availability (through alcohol outlet density, and outlet trading times) of both licensed and unlicensed, on and off premise alcohol outlets
  - **investigate** the association between alcohol availability (alcohol outlet density, and outlet trading times), and gender-based violence (IPV and NPSV) in these communities using secondary data from police statistics on GBV
  - **determine** if the participatory tool is acceptable among key local level decision-makers as a routine data source in decision-making on the regulation of alcohol availability (density and outlet trading times) in local communities
  - ***explore*** *the perspectives among community stakeholders of alcohol availability & GBV*

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WHAT DATA DID WE COLLECT?

Observation data on alcohol outlets:	• GPS location – longitude and latitude collected on mobile phones (REDCAP) • Two step verification process = in field/spot verification
Perspectives from community stakeholders:	• 2 focus group discussions about alcohol in their communities
Experiences from community mappers	• collecting data on alcohol outlets
Perspectives from key informants	• acceptability of locally derived data on AOD using community approach

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WHERE & WHO DID WE COLLECT DATA FROM?

Physical environment, e.g. GPS location

Public domain, e.g. crime statistics, licensed alcohol outlets

Community stakeholders, e.g. local authority, police

Key informants, e.g. local authority, police

Community mappers/fieldworkers

GBV case report data*

ETHICS



Study protocol was approved in all countries



Adhered to Singapore Declaration for Research Ethics



(Overall) PIs completed Introduction to Research Ethics module (certificated)

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4 country STUDY SITES

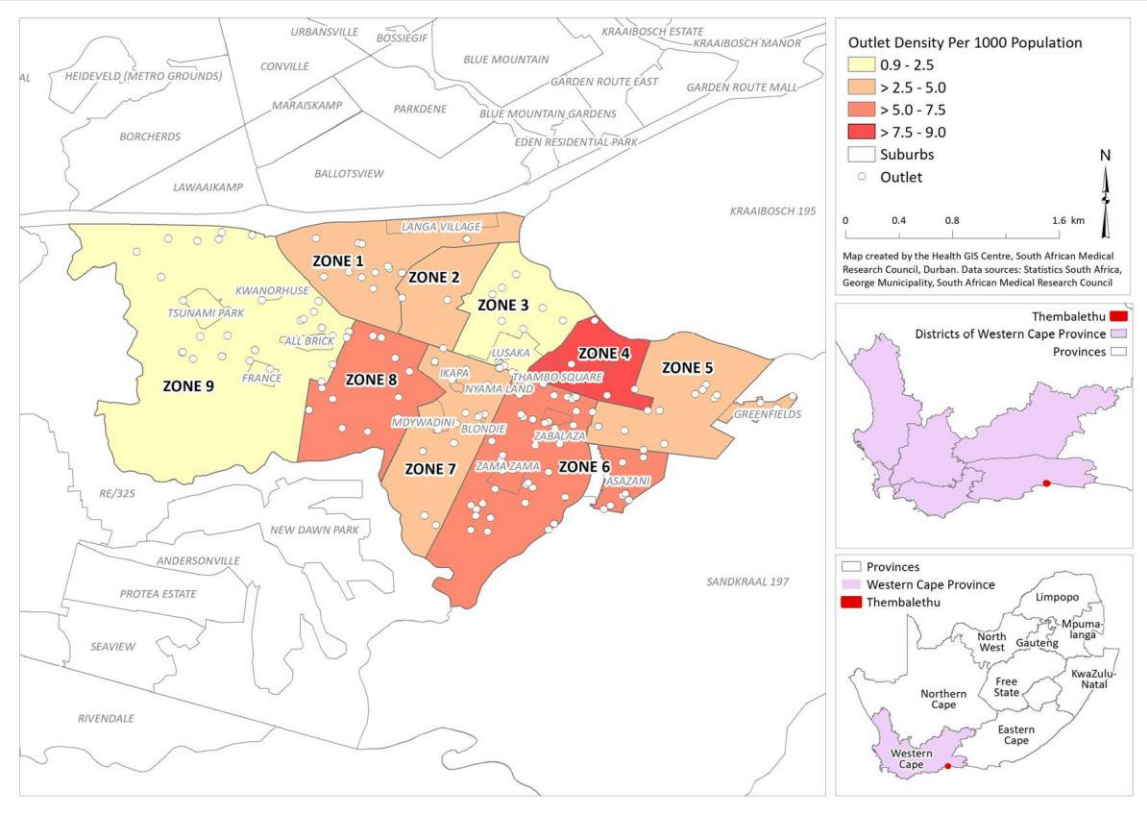
Botswana	• Lobatse • Molepolole
Lesotho	• Lithoteng • Teyateyaneng
Namibia	• Otjomuise • Rehoboth
South Africa	• Eastridge • Thohoyandou Muledane Block J

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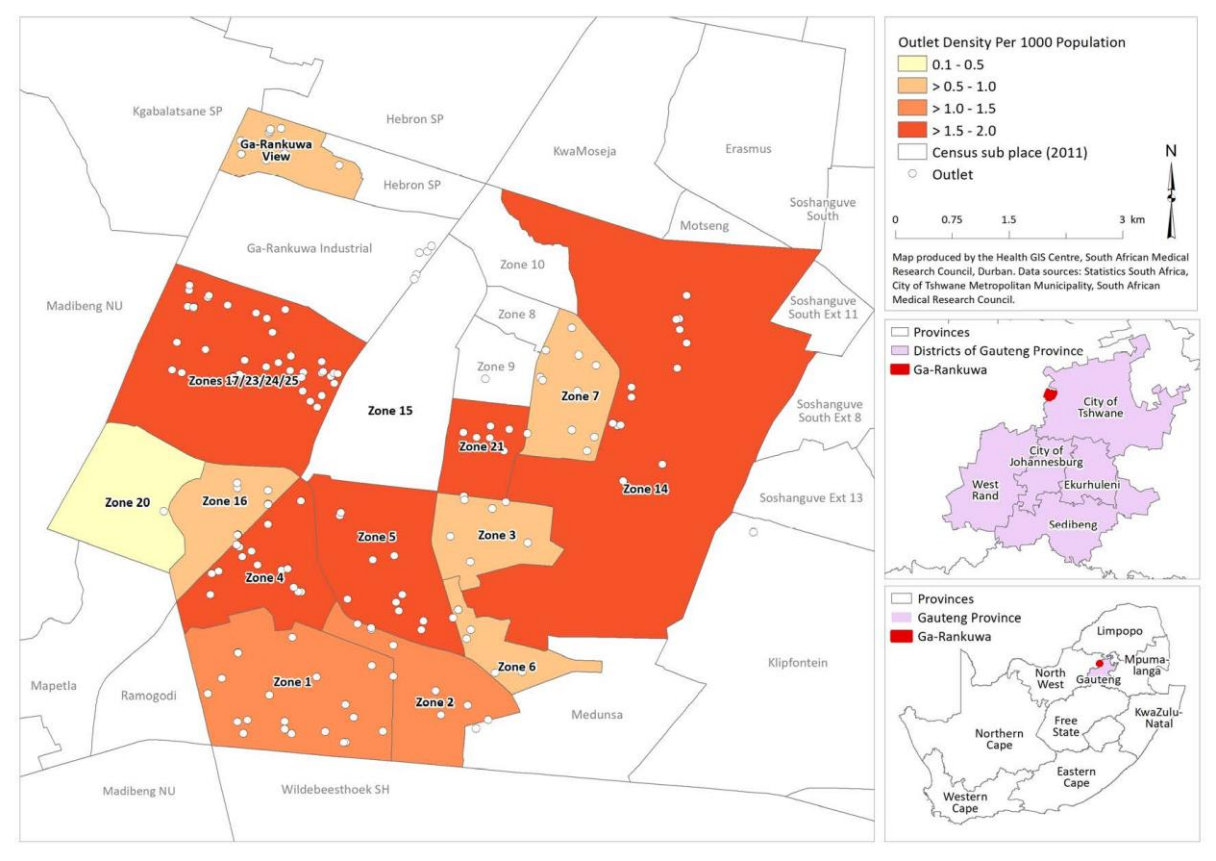
QUANTITATIVE FINDINGS

Map of showing alcohol density per 1000 population, Thembalethu, George Municipality



- 205 outlets mapped
- 19% licensed
- 76% unlicensed
- 5% unknown
- 3.87 per 1000 population
- >5 per 1000 population in zones 6, 8 and 4 have alcohol outlet
- zone 1 at 4.86 per/1000 persons.

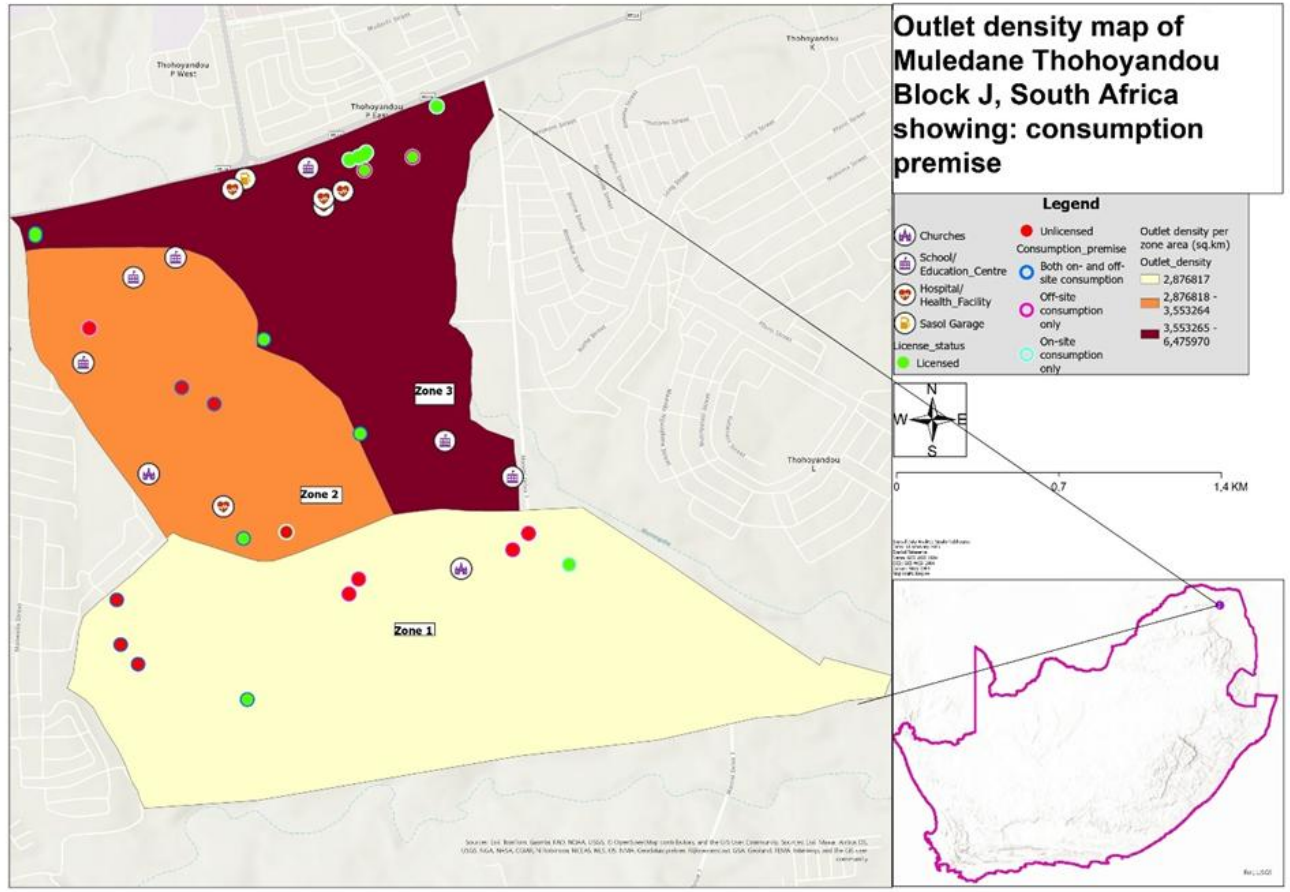
Map of Alcohol density per 1000 population, Ga-Rankuwa, City of Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality



- 178 outlets mapped
- 20% licensed
- 55% unlicensed
- 25% unknown
- 1.3 per 1000 population
- 1.9 in zones 4, 5, 14, 21, 17/23/24/25

Table 4: Alcohol Outlet Densities by zone and GBV crime cases reported, Ga-Rankuwa

Zone	Outlets	Area (km2)	Alcohol Outlet Density Per Area (km2)	Population (2011)	Projected Population (2023)	Alcohol Outlet Density Per 1000 Population (2023)	GBV cases reported
Ga-Rankuwa Zone 1	20	3.76	5.32	11927	19819	1.01	17
Ga-Rankuwa Zone 2	10	1.95	5.13	5933	9859	1.01	16
Ga-Rankuwa Zone 3	6	1.38	4.35	4286	7122	0.84	7
Ga-Rankuwa Zone 4	20	2.05	9.76	7007	11643	1.72	13
Ga-Rankuwa Zone 5	8	2.8	2.86	2931	4870	1.64	5
Ga-Rankuwa Zone 6	7	0.9	7.78	4537	7539	0.93	9
Ga-Rankuwa Zone 7	10	1.59	6.29	7145	11873	0.84	16
Ga-Rankuwa Zone 14	18	12.81	1.41	6080	10103	1.78	35
Ga-Rankuwa Unit 15	6	3.8	1.58	28	47	-	7
Ga-Rankuwa Zone 16	8	1.36	5.88	6121	10171	0.79	12
Ga-Rankuwa Zone 20	1	2.15	0.47	4646	7720	0.13	8
Ga-Rankuwa Zone 21	10	1.11	9.01	3399	5648	1.77	14
Ga-Rankuwa Zones 17/23/24/25	42	5.31	7.91	13288	22080	1.90	26
Ga-Rankuwa View	12	1.09	11.01	7832	13014	0.92	13
Mean across all surveyed zones	13	3.35	5.62	6631	11018	1.13	16
			(95% CI: 4-7.9)			**(95% CI: 0.9- 1.5)**	
Note: Population based means exclude Zone 15 due to very low population							



Trading hours

- 88% (20) of alcohol outlets operate Monday to Sunday.

Of these, 45% close later than 22:00 while 55% (13) operate 24 hours

- One third of the outlets operating seven days a week are licensed

- Thohoyandou Muledane Block J divided into Zones 1 – 3:

54% (12) licensed

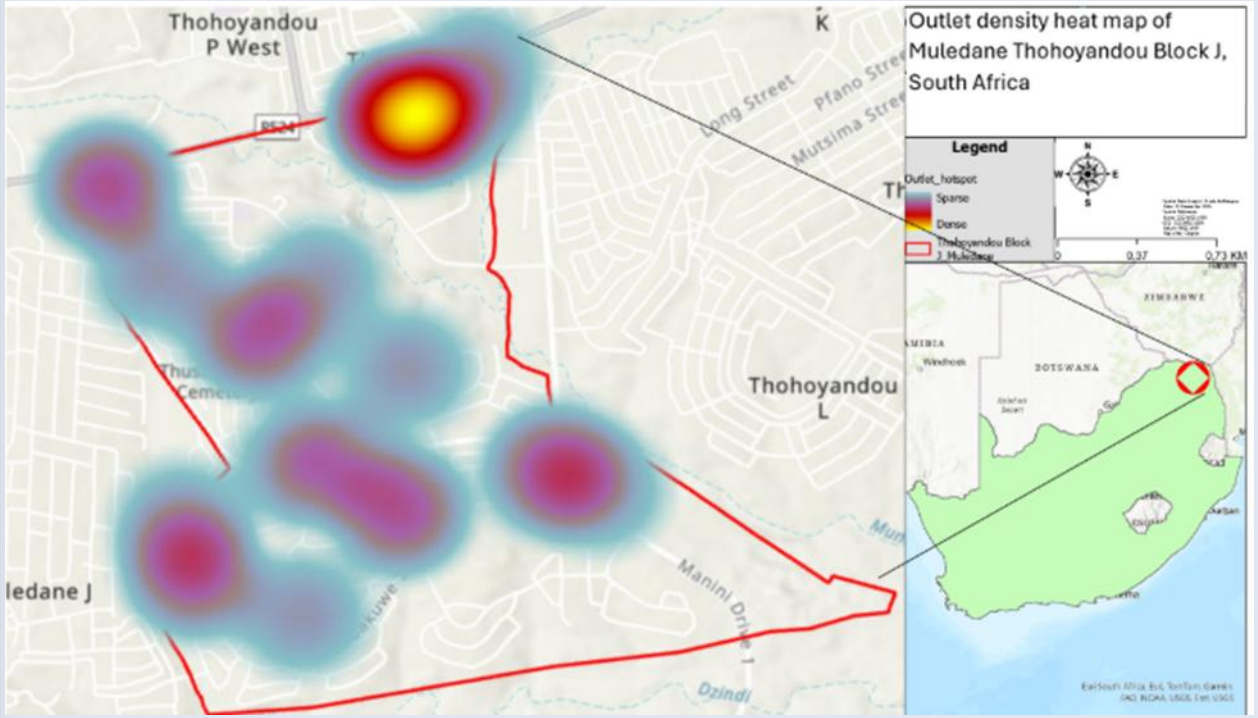
46% (11) unlicensed

Alcohol outlet density

- Zone 3 = highest outlet density with multiple outlets situated in close proximity

Consumption premises

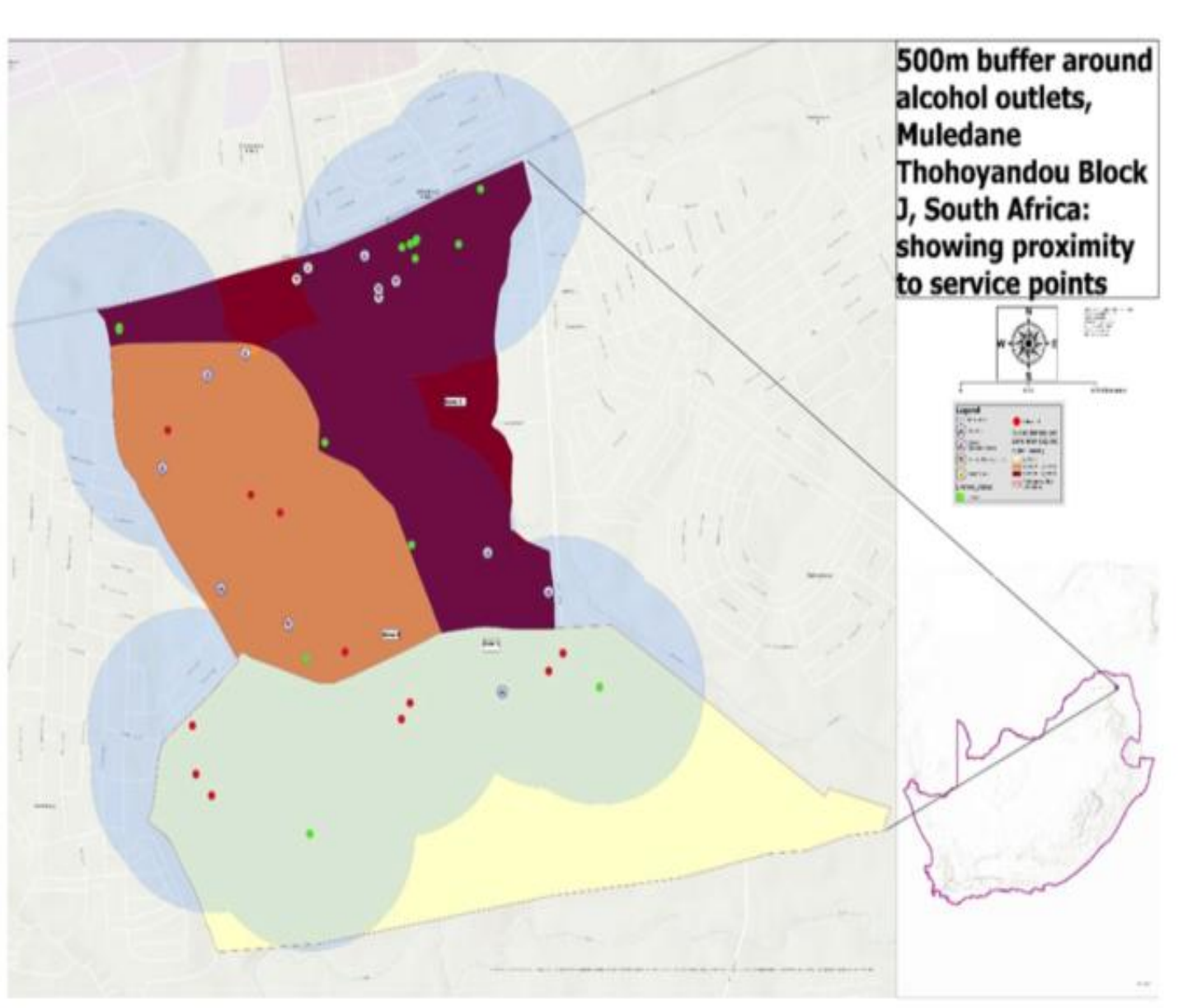
- 25% (6) of outlets = on-site consumption only
- 29% (7) allowed off-site consumption only
- 46% (10) allowed both on- and off-consumption



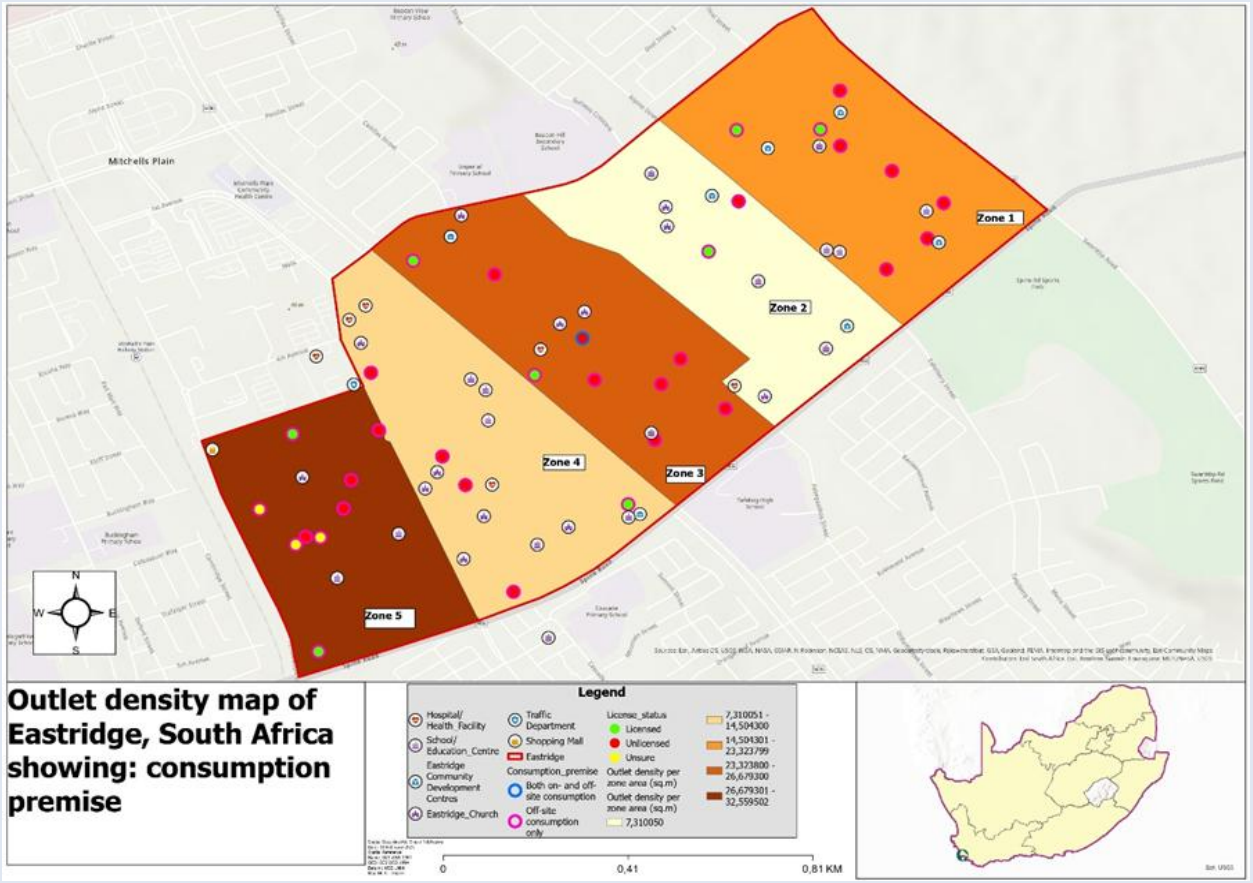
The heatmap showing a concentration of outlets across the site, with a notable cluster on the top right corner (indicated by bright yellow centre surrounded by with red shading), where there is a cluster of outlets in one shopping mall, one particularly operating from 10:00am-02:00am.

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- A total of 23 outlets and 22 service points were mapped.
- 9% (2) are churches,
- 23% (5) are health facilities, 27% (6) are schools,
- 27% (6) are shops and shopping malls,
- 5% (1) are petrol stations
- 9% (2) are sports facilities
- **All the service points mapped are within a 500 m buffer of at least one alcohol outlet.**



Outlet density map of Eastridge, South Africa showing: consumption premise

Trading hours

- 82% (27) of alcohol outlets operate Monday to Sunday. Of these, 70% were unlicensed, 19% licensed, and 11% had an uncertain licensing status.
- 37% (12)of these outlets traded on a 24-hour basis,
- 45% (15) remained open beyond 22:00. Notably, one of the outlets operating past 22:00 was licensed.

Eastridge divided into Zones 1 - 5

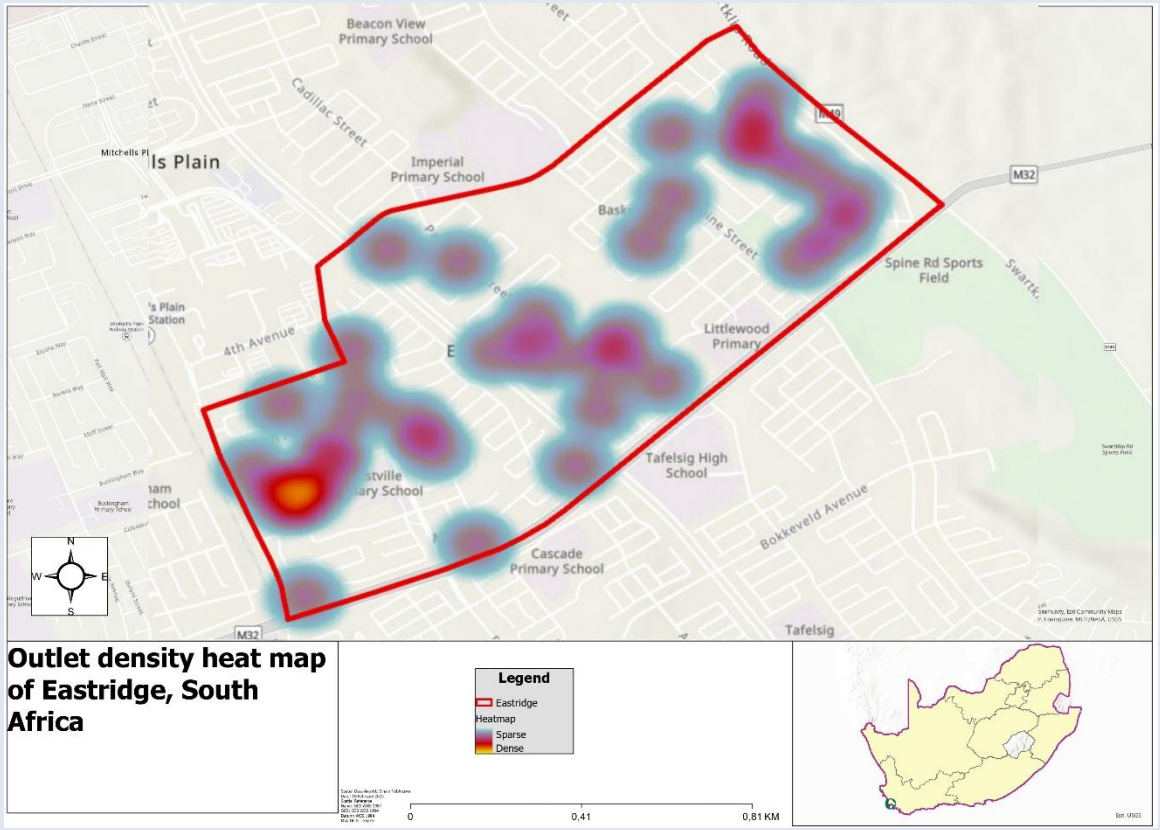
Alcohol outlet density

- Zone 5 = highest outlet density with 27% of all outlets.
- 67% (22) were unlicensed
- 9% (3) had unsure status
- 24% (8) were licensed

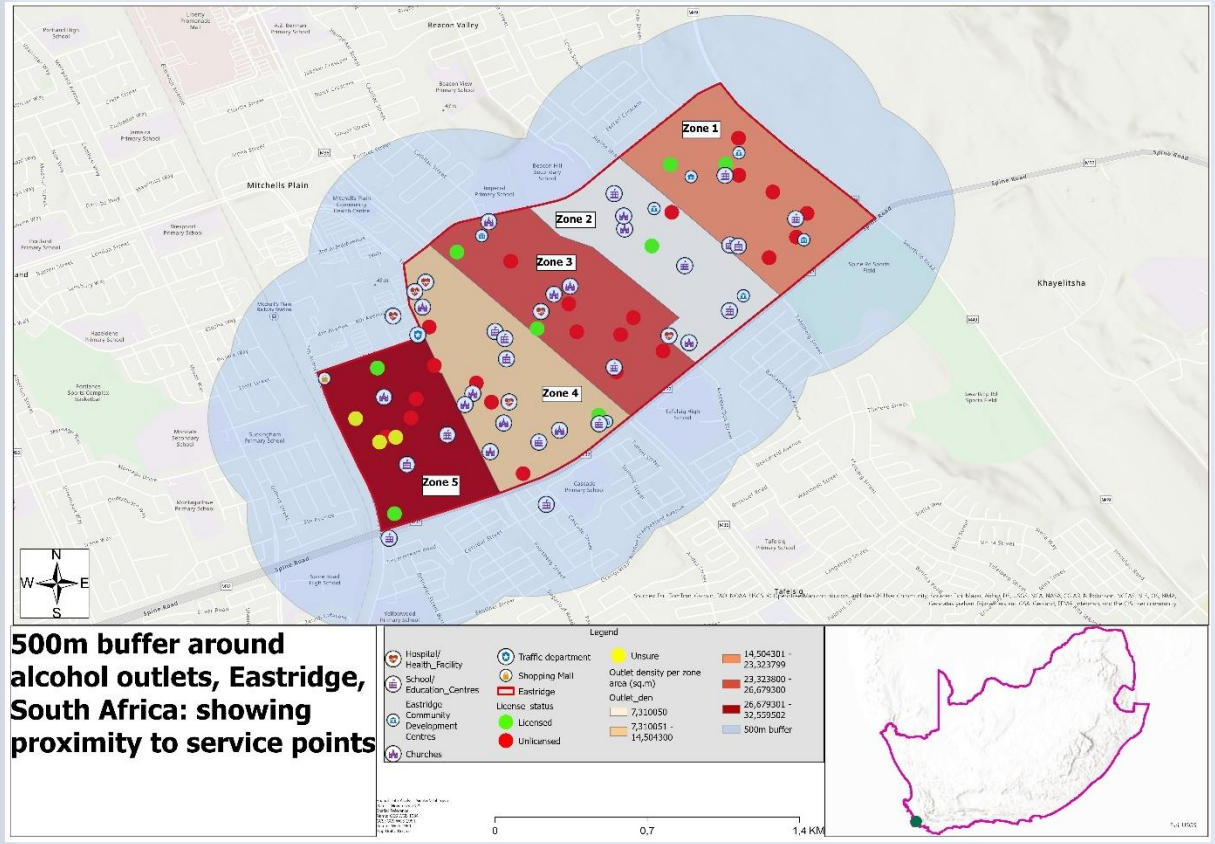
Consumption premises

97% of outlets = off-site consumption only

3% allowed both on-site and off-site consumption



- The heat map above shows a pattern of how the outlets are distributed, with a high occurrence on the left, coinciding with the highest density per km2 recorded in the area.



- The blue rings in the map above represent a 500m radius buffer from each alcohol outlet mapped
- A total 33 outlets were mapped, and a total of 45 service points were mapped.

2% (1) are traffic stations

29% (13) are churches

13% (6) are health facilities

38% (17) are schools

2% (1) shopping malls

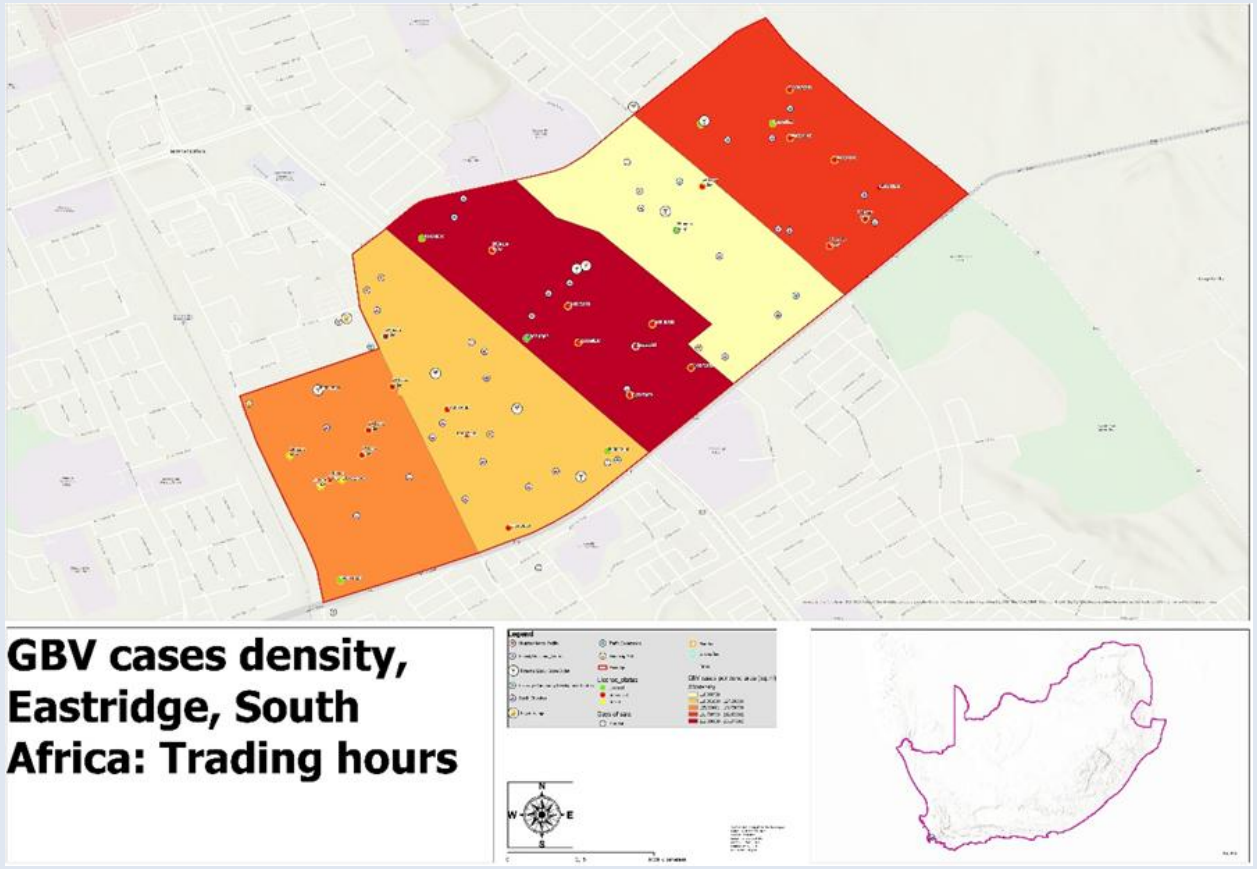
16% (7) are community development centres.

All the service points mapped are within a 500 m buffer of at least one alcohol outlet.

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ALCOHOL OUTLET DENSITY & GBV CASES IN EASTRIDGE

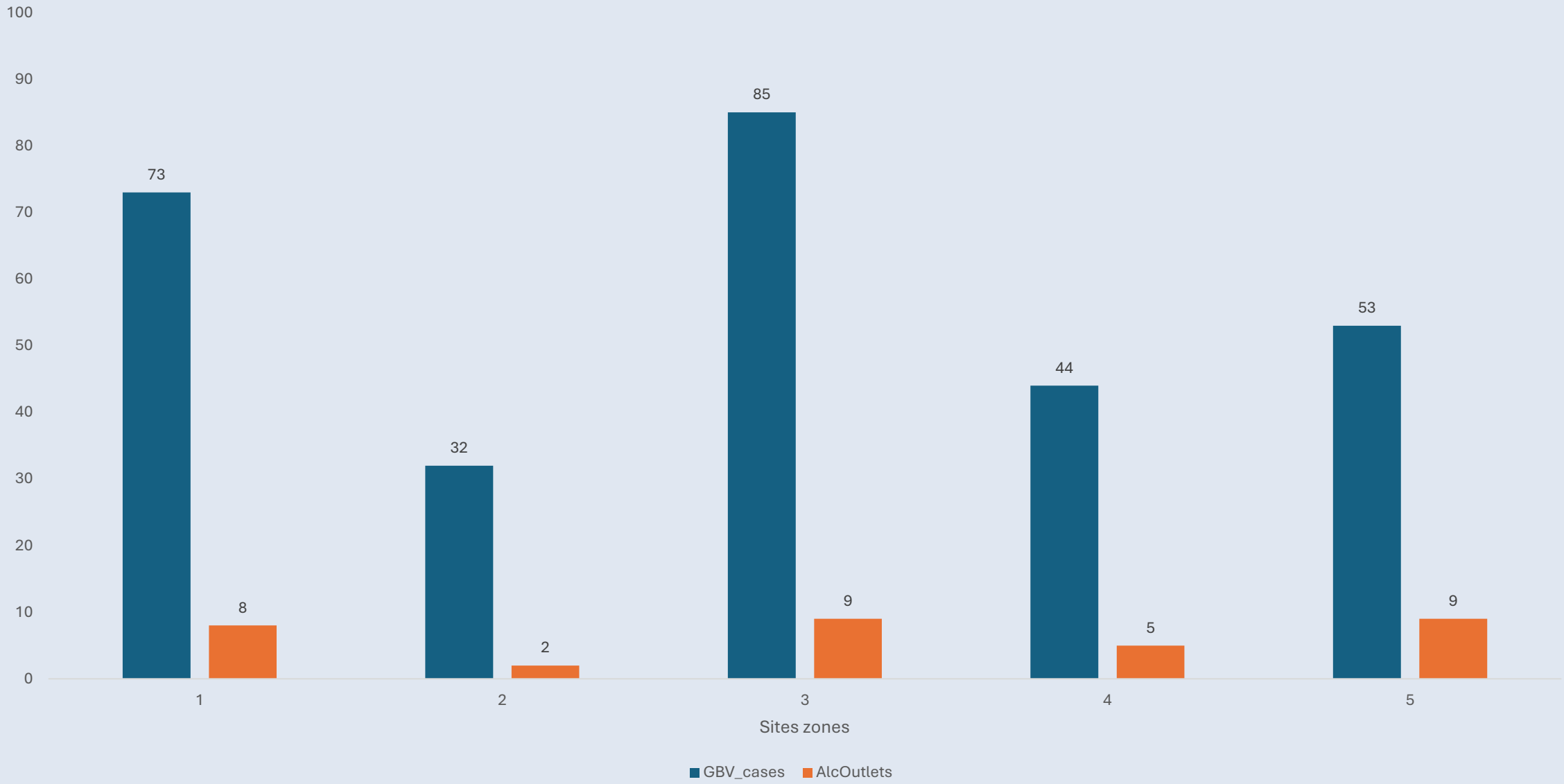


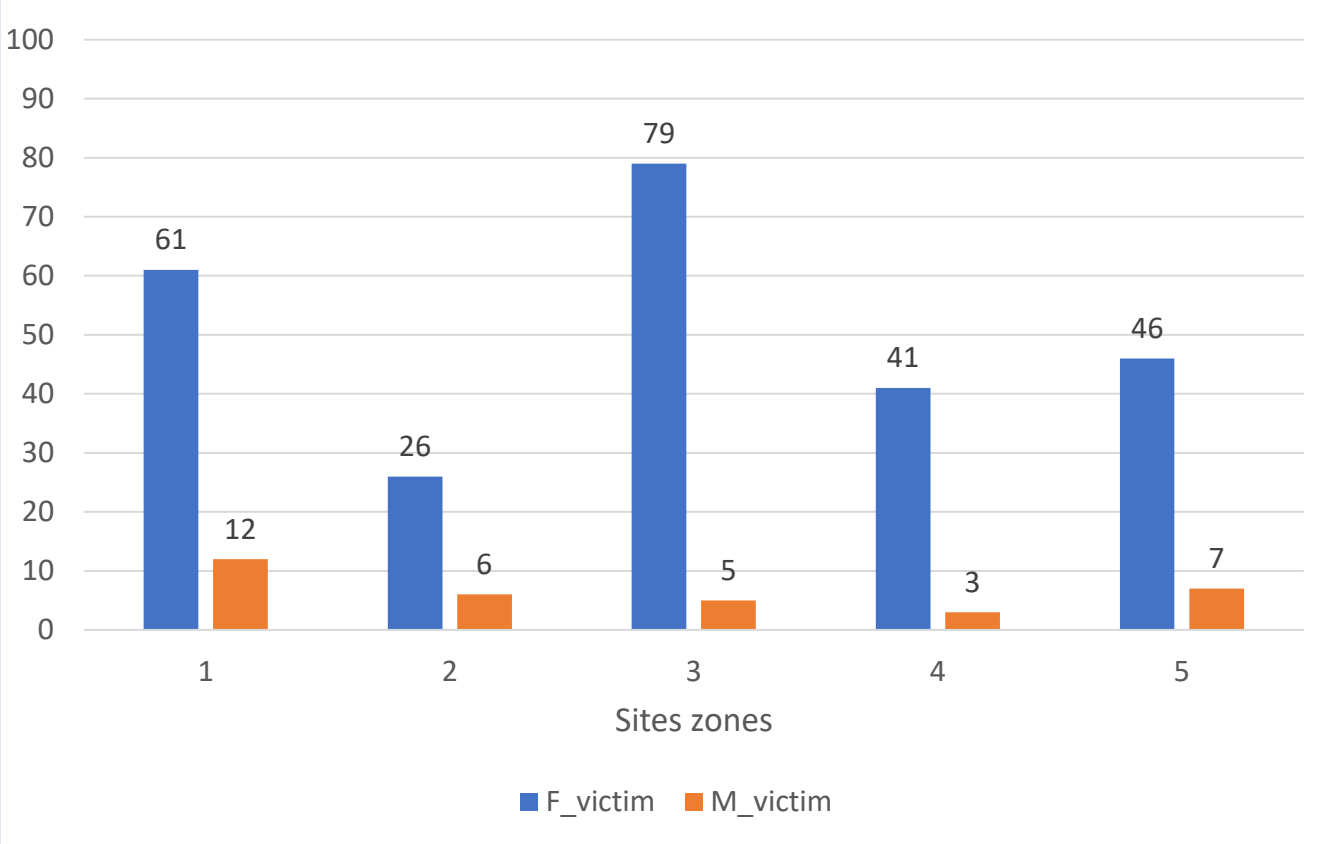
- In this map, we see the zone previously shown to have the 2nd highest outlet density per km2 having the highest GBV cases density per km2.
- This is a zone also known to have the highest number of unlicensed outlets, 71% of which operate until midnight and 14% operating 24 hours a day.
- It is also notable that 50% of the licensed outlets in this zone operate 24 hours a day as well.

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The graph illustrates the relationship between alcohol outlets and reported GBV cases across the five zones. Zones with a higher number of alcohol outlets, such as Zones 1, 3 and 5, also show higher numbers of reported GBV cases. Although the relationship is not strictly one-to-one, the pattern suggests that areas with more outlets tend to report a greater number of GBV cases.





All zones: women (female victims) most reported cases compared to men (male victims).

Zone 3:

- recorded the highest number of female victims
- followed by Zones 1, 5 and 4

Zone 2:

- the lowest GBV cases

Male victims were reported in smaller numbers across all zones

- highest concentration in Zone 1
- relatively few in Zones 3, 4 and 5

Qualitative findings

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Alcohol availability and GBV

- ***"...because people are not closing taverns on time, people are over drinking because they are drinking the whole night and the morning, and when he comes home, and then you talk to your wife, maybe she has something to say, or your partner, she has something to say, and then that's where problem starts"*** (FGD_1, participant 3, Muledane Thohoyandou Block J, South Africa)

- ***"so it's similar during the social grant days when people can have access to alcohol, then there's a rise of gender-based violence."*** (FGD1, participant 8, Eastridge, South Africa)

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Unlicensed sector

- ***"you get illegal Smokies that's also owned by legal Smokies. So, I have a couple of outlets. Selling is my job, but I don't publicly associate with it, but that's my stock."*** (FGD1, participant 3, Eastridge, South Africa)
- ***"...there is a lot of unlicensed liquor outlets, which makes the accessibility of alcohol easy"*** (FGD_2, participant 1, Muledane Thohoyandou Block J, South Africa)
- ***"you going to see at the end of the day by selling two cases this week. Yes, you made a profit. Now you're done for the week. Next week and Friday come again, you're going to have three cases"*** (FGD1, participant 4, Eastridge, South Africa)
- ***"...there is no difference [between legal and illegal outlets, sit-down places and take-aways]; the only difference is that, there are so many [more] illegal outlets than legal licensed outlets."*** (FGD_2, participant 4, Muledane Thohoyandou Block J, South Africa)

Unemployment and “culture of tolerance and silence”

- *“[there are] families working in these businesses and due to poverty and unemployment we cannot speak negative or even report illegal operations and trading times as we fear our loved ones will lose their jobs.”*
  (KI_03, Social services representative, South Africa)

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Quality of life and impact on family

- *"Altercations and fights happen in the middle of the night to early in the morning, you would hear in the streets people screaming and fights because people went home late and taverns close late."*
(FGD_2, participant 2, Muledane Thohoyandou Block J, South Africa)

- *"are families that don't abuse alcohol; they are fine and well-off."* (KI19, South Africa)

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Lack of community consultation

- *"…let us be honest …its basically a desktop exercise. There is an administrative process. The applicant makes an application. Then they will go and check afterwards if the building is compliant. That is all administrative and regulatory issues but there is no one that goes to that community when there is a liquor license application and says how do you feel. There is no public meeting. All the meetings and all the information is that you can fill it in. You go onto you phone or your laptop, you send your information but no public meeting is being held in order to address that license. So, there needs to be major policy shift and administrative processes. How they deal with applications of licences"* (FGD2, participant 7, Eastridge, South Africa)

- *"No one knows because the … liquor board stays in offices, they do not come to community meetings or make campaigns. Some taverns are next to schools where as communities we were supposed to have a say before these licenses were acquired, we are supposed to have a say or decline but liquor board stays far."* (FGD1, participant x, Muledane, South Africa)

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Lack of knowledge vs distrust of the system

- ***"…we do not know about the licensing conditions, and we would like to form part of decision making especially since the taverns affect us all. We do not know, we just speculate that it opens at 10 and close at 10 and there is no one coming to monitor. Unless one of us here can produce papers to say, yes, I have a license and I know licensing conditions, then we do not know."*** (FGD_1, Participant 2, Muledane Thohoyandou Block J, South Africa)

- ***"…communities have lost faith in the process. If there is an appeal and these outlets win the appeal process. Then people think, what's the use of me participating in this kind of process if it's still in any case going to be approved. There is a problem here with communities that don't trust government processes."*** (FGD2, participant 8, Eastridge, South Africa)

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Enforcement challenges

- *"Law officials for example even though they can raid some spots, it's unlikely they observe what is really going on as they only patrol for limited time"* (KI_29, Faith based representative, South Africa)
- *"the problem is, as soon as you visit one premise, immediately they send WhatsApp. They have groups, so then they know we in the area."* (KI21, official, South Africa)
- *"If someone comes and applies for a liquor license, I can't tell him no it's a gang infested area. It's that person's right. If I chase that person I'm going to be in trouble. They come with lawyers, they are going to slaughter me because that person has got a right which is economic freedom. He has got a right to own his business whether it's liquor or whatever he does. If you come to me and you say you want to apply, I can't say no. I must take the application. I don't have a choice. It's that person's democratic right."* (FGD2, participant 3, Eastridge, South Africa)

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Complicity and corruption

- ***"some of these liquor licensed guys, when they close on normal times, some of this liquor is being shipped off to illegal ones because they get it from the legal ones, and that is where the problem starts, and our community unfortunately because they want that liquor, they are not going to pimp and that is a big problem."*** (FGD2, participant 7, Mitchell's Plain, South Africa)

- ***"Police officials work with the liquor outlet owners"*** (KI_25, NGO representative, South Africa)

Supply chain

- ***"Most of the liquor sold by illegals comes from legal liquor places. And we must not be selective when we point that out. If you go to Makro and all these big places. Go on a Saturday or Sunday and then you will see how many…So, if you can just go and see how many bakkies and kombis and trollies are buying at these big places, you will ask yourself where is the liquor going."***
  (FGD2, participant 5, Mitchell's Plain, South Africa)

Key issues

- Community consultation – lack, limited understanding of the system and their rights
- Enforcement and distrust
- Need for **inclusion of a density criteria** in the determination liquor licenses
- Need for **inclusion of alcohol harm statistics** in the determination of liquor licenses
- Acknowledgement from officials that communities are better able to collect data on their 'reality'

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Thank you

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