

Survey of City Centre Retailers – Impact of people drinking openly in public

Retailers Surveyed: 35

Do you live in Exeter? Postcode		Do you work in Exeter? Postcode	
EX4 IDG	1	EX4 IDG	2
EX4 3BL	2	EX4 3AN	4
EX4 3DS	1	EX4 3JW	3
EX4 4BJ	1	EX3 3JB	1
EX 2PQ	1	EX4 3JQ	1
EX1 2SW	1	EX4 1AA	3
EX4 3SA	1	EX4 3P2	1
EX4 4JF	1	EX1 1GG	1
EX4 3JQ	1	EX1 1GE	2
EX4 2BB	1	EX1 1HB	2
EX4 9DX	1	EX4 3EB	4
EX8 4PB	1	EX4 3DU	1
EX15 1NB	1	EX4 1EU	1
EX4 1AA	1	EX1 1HB	1
EX4 3AN	1	EX4 3DJ	2
EX2 5NT	1	EX4 1GJ	1
EX4 6DF	1		
EX4 6QZ	1		
EX1 3NX	1		

2. Do you think drinking alcohol in public places (excluding licensed premises) is a problem in Exeter?

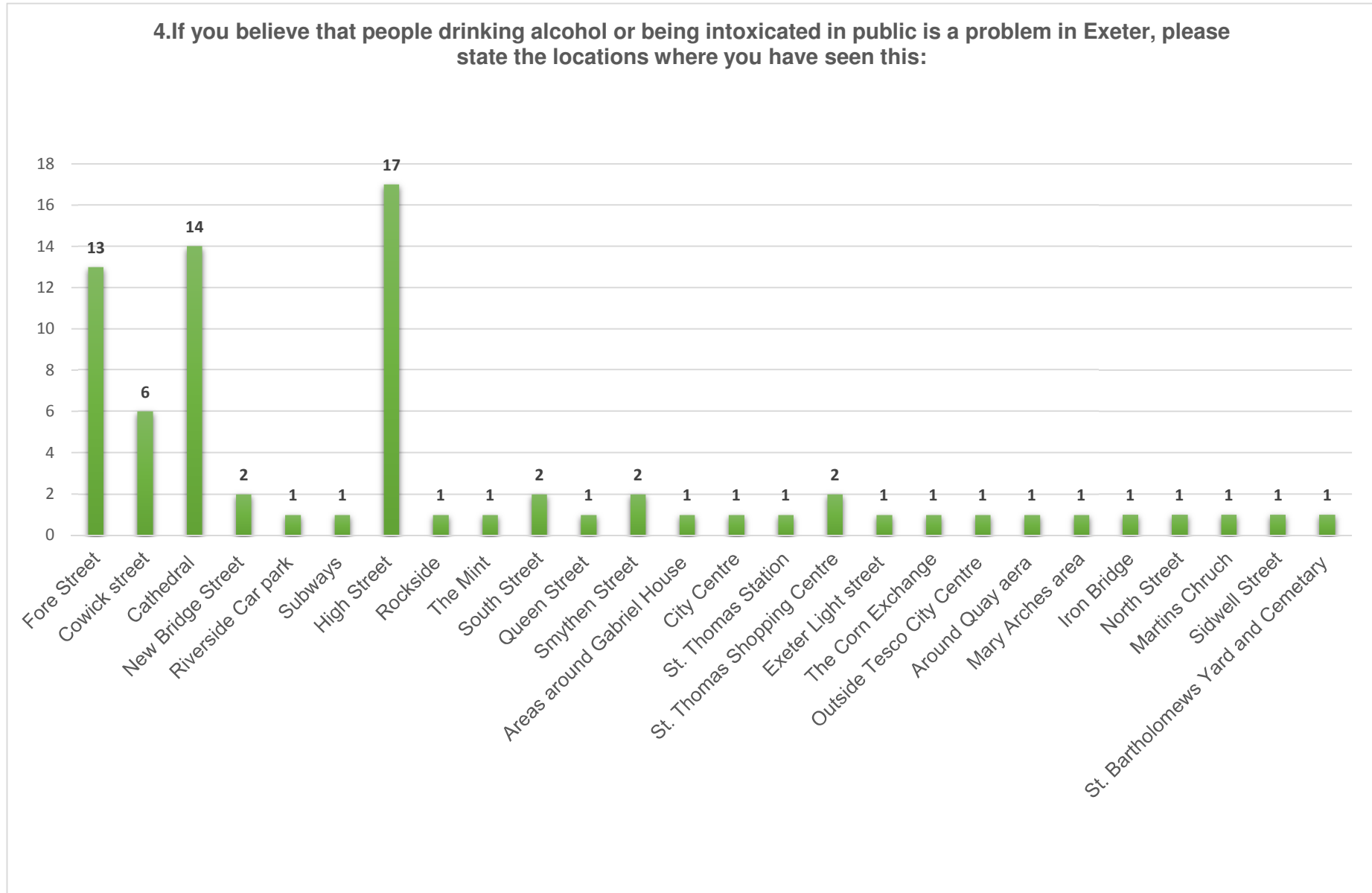
Yes	32	No	2
-----	----	----	---

3. Do you think being intoxicated openly in a public place is a problem in Exeter?

Yes	35	No	0
-----	----	----	---

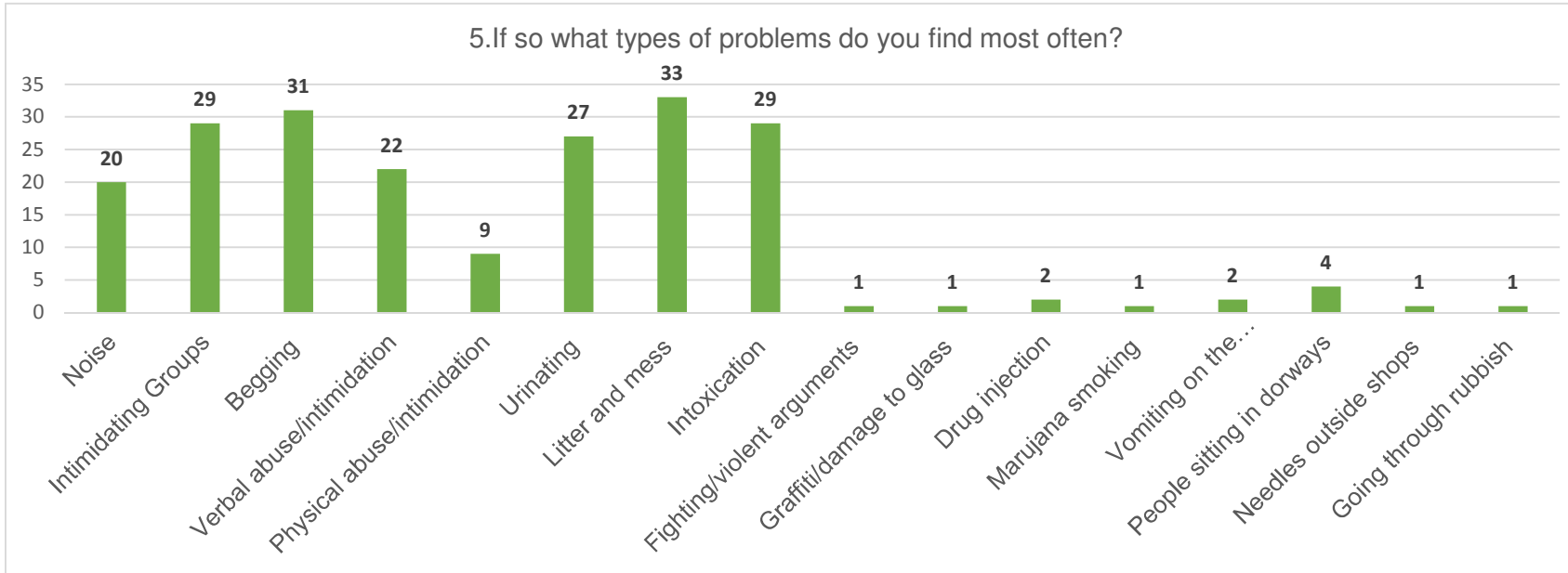
APPENDIX 3D

4. If you believe that people drinking alcohol or being intoxicated in public is a problem in Exeter, please state the locations where you have seen this:

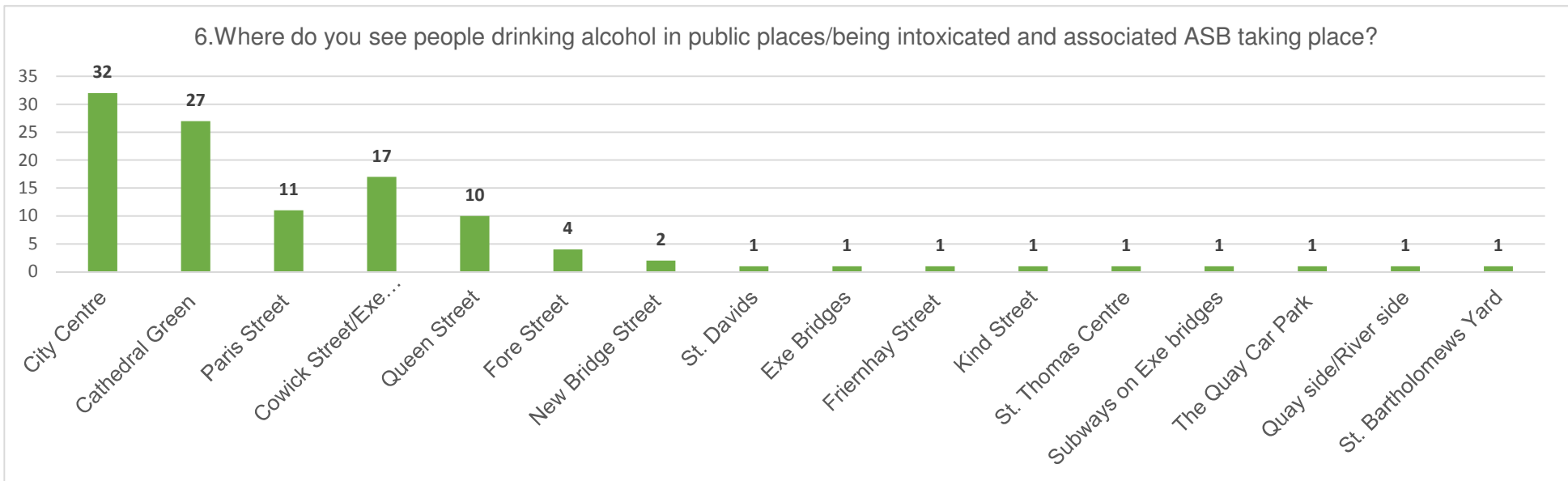


APPENDIX 3D

5. .If so what types of problems do you find most often?



6. Where do you see people drinking alcohol in public places/being intoxicated and associated ASB taking place?

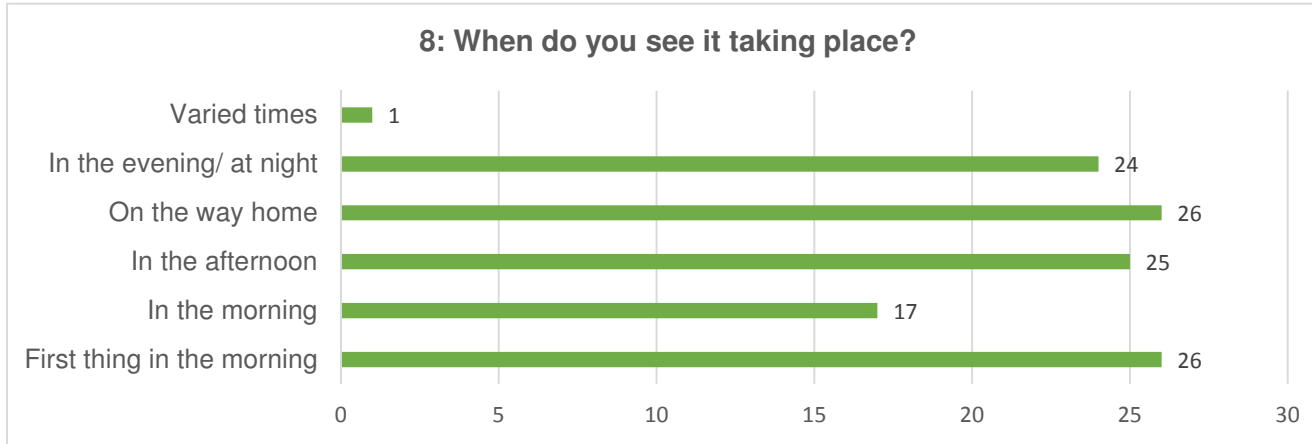


APPENDIX 3D

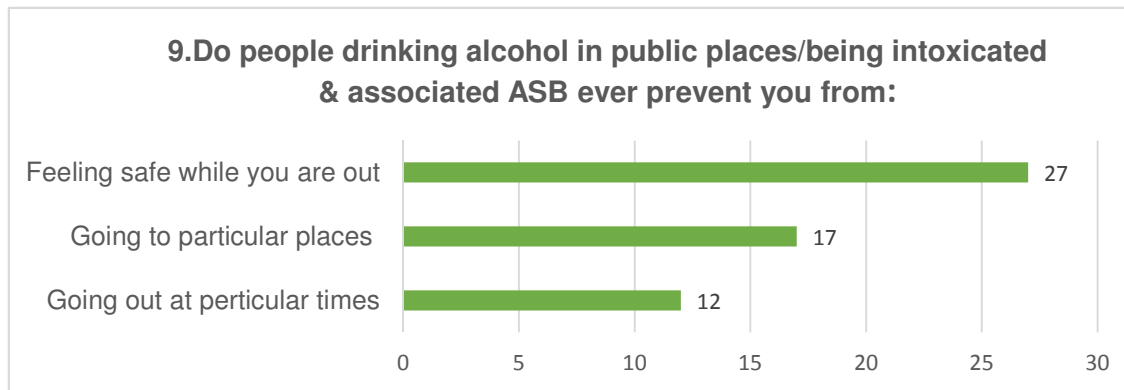
7. How often do you see it

Every day	22	Few days	8	Mostly on the weekends	3	From time to time	4
-----------	----	----------	---	------------------------	---	-------------------	---

8. When do you see it taking place?



9. Do people drinking alcohol in public places/being intoxicated & associated ASB ever prevent you from:

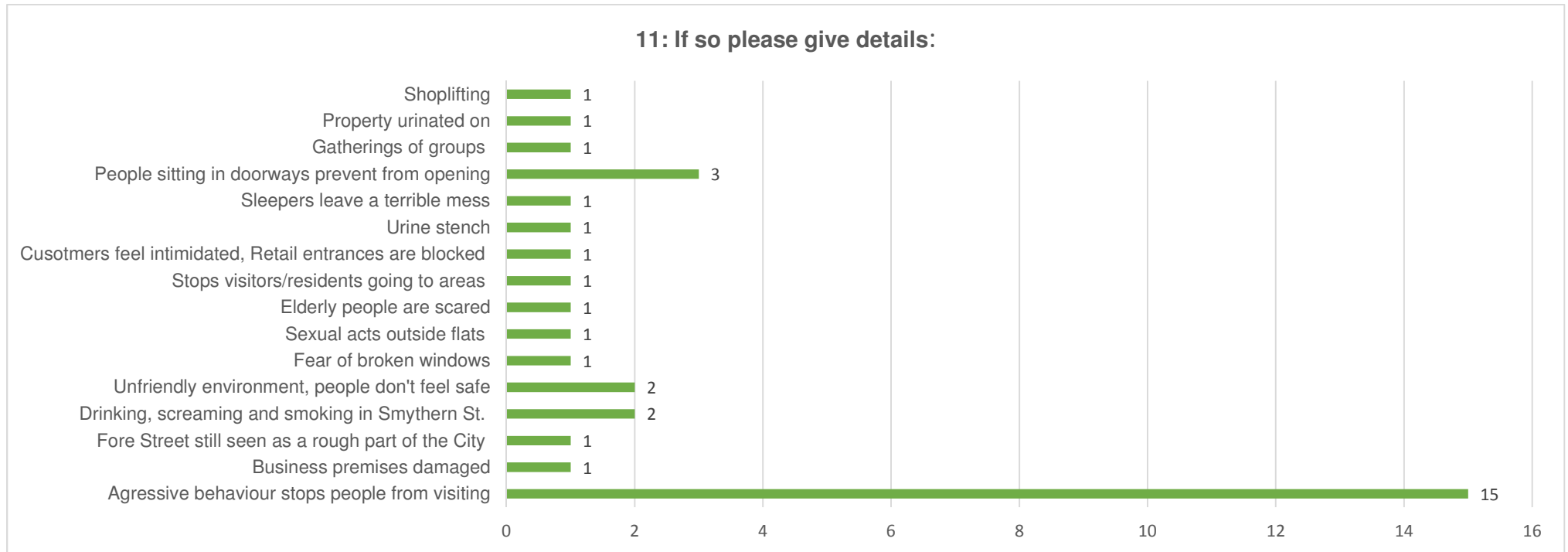


APPENDIX 3D

10. Do you feel people drinking in public places/being intoxicated & associated ASB has a bad influence on local businesses and public places?

Yes	32	No	1
------------	----	-----------	---

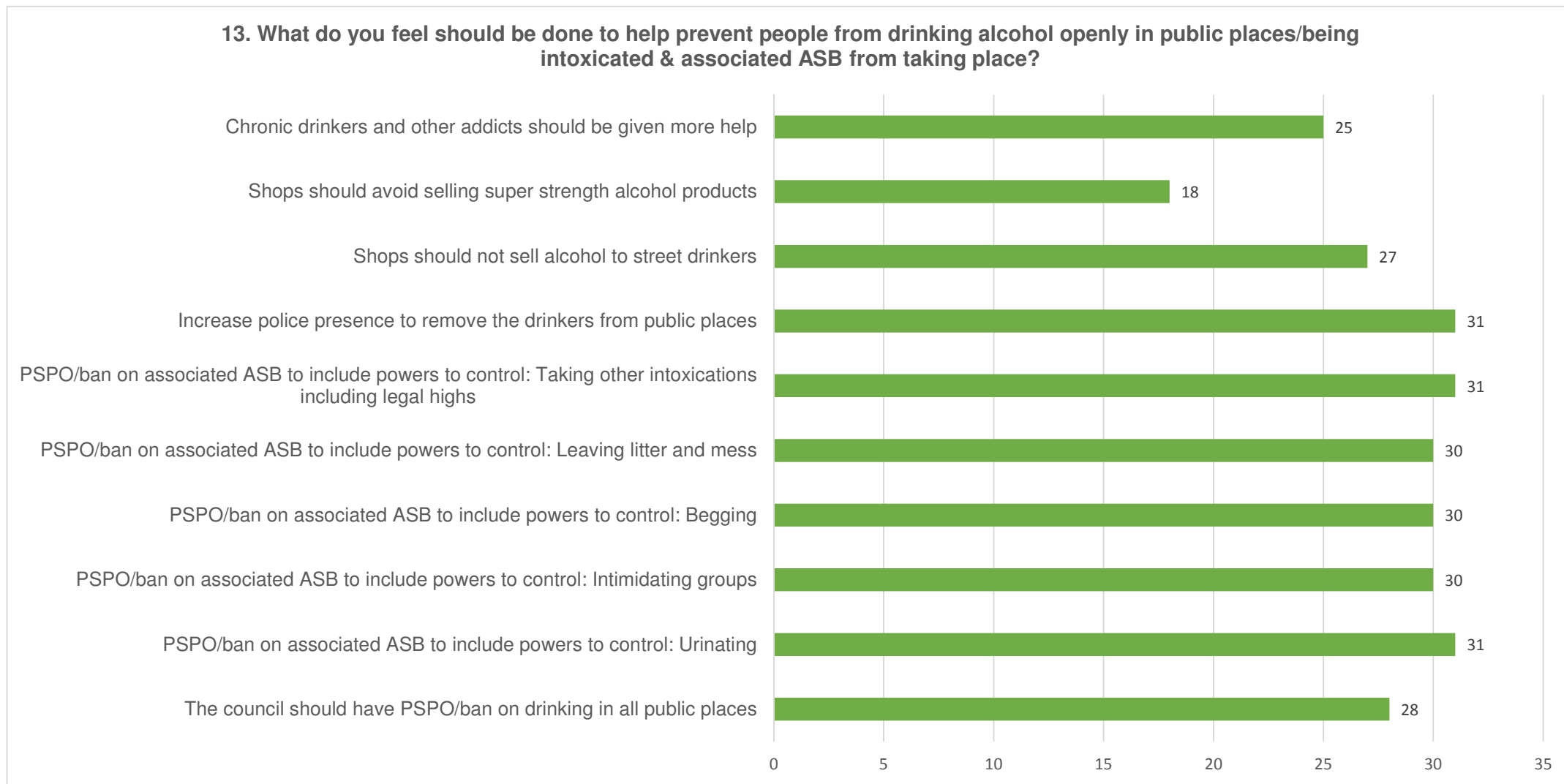
11. If so please give details:



12. Do you ever report this to authorities?

Yes	22	No	7
------------	----	-----------	---

13. What do you feel should be done to help prevent people from drinking alcohol openly in public places/being intoxicated & associated ASB from taking place?



14. Any Comments:

- Get to the root why people behave this way and give them an alternative!
- Exeter seems to be attracting more and more homeless people & drug addicts. Gabriel House being right in the city centre has a huge detrimental effect on the feel and look of the City Centre, encouraging large groups of addicts to gather and deal. I witness this on a daily basis from my business premises on Fore St. I feel strongly about this issue, please **contact me if I can help any further, *******
- Over the last month the increase in homeless/begging and drunken individuals throughout the city centre has increased and to create a family friendly environment we need to reduce the impact that this has on families.
- The GWRSA has regularly reported drinking and begging under the railway bridge. This only seems to be a short term solution where after a couple of days the same people are back doing the same thing.
- I think Exeter is a great city however street drinking, begging and drug abuse really let it down. You constantly feel pestered and intimidated. Street drinkers should be banned from sitting next to ATM machines and asking for money. Legal highs should be banned! More power should be given to police/council to remove these people from public places.
- Please look at the corner of Market St. and the top of Fore St. The fire exit of the charity shop under the Corn exchange seems to be a meeting point for well-known drinkers and drug users. Large groups gather blocking the retailer's fire exit. It is intimidating to the passing public and of putting the retailer's customers.
- It's worrying how many people drink in the day in front of children out with their families
- We have had a lot more problems during the last twelve months. The Problem seems to be getting worse and we have to carry gloves because we have found needles and rubbish that needs to be moved before we can enter our shop. We have also been threatened and had to call the police out on many occasions. Many of the homeless problems we have experienced have been drug related not just drink related.
- I have seen drunken homeless in the morning rummaging in bin bags left outside restaurants on Fore St. I have had to deal with cleaning my shop doorway of drunk and high homeless who are aggressive - with very little police support. The stench of urine in areas of the city is disgusting. As a female, intoxicated people who frequently become violent or aggressive is extremely intimidating and upsetting.
- The homeless issue is appalling. The smell that is left in our shop is disgusting. We are then left to clean up the rubbish, urine, excrement and anything else they leave behind. Having to open the shop early mornings it is also a growing concern as a young lone female having to move on 5+ males and their dogs by myself. I feel completely vulnerable and something needs to be done
- The overall attitude of these people it that they wish to assert their "Rights" to do what they want all the time, predominantly not work, drink, take drugs, leave rubbish and mess for others to clean up. But if I were to assert my "Rights" to go to work, open my store for business, lead a normal, crime free life and feel safe I'm not able to do so due to their behaviour doesn't add up somehow. They want everything handed to them on a plate but don't want to give anything in return.
- Customers have started voicing comments regarding this. This has certainly got worse the last few months. An increase in PCSO/ Police presence would help. On Thursday mornings there seems to be a bigger problem. Large groups gather from 6am. They are very antisocial and have tried to enter our store

APPENDIX 3D

while we unloaded delivery. It is very unintimidating an all-female team to unlock/lock the shop. Something needs to be done in order to preserve a good image of Exeter and promote trade in a friendly way to our visitors from overseas.

- Homeless people are the worst problem at the moment. Police are having to move them on every morning that I come to work. Sometimes I am unable to get into work for over an hour I'm also left to deal with cleaning up their mess. Many shops are saying the same as us. The smell in my shop when I open is appalling. They smoke all night in the doorway making my luxury underwear smell. I am being left to clean up urine bottles, animal and human excrement. This itself is unacceptable. We've had to change refuse companies so that they collect in afternoons as city council collect service and road sweepers are unhelpful and we daily scrub/clean the entrance to our store. This is a huge issue that needs to be dealt with.
- For us (*****) the homeless issue is a major concern. They are in my doorway every night. If the police haven't moved them on, I am left to do it by myself. As a lone female it makes me feel very vulnerable.
- It does appear to be the same individuals on a consistent basis. There is a clear link with drink/drugs and antisocial behaviour. The level of antisocial behaviour is daily business in Exeter. Many visitors will not return.
- It can be intimidating. It puts people off shopping or visiting the city.
- There is always a cause and this is everyone's problem so we cannot just brush it under the carpet or make it some one else's problem further out of the centre.
- Why do the Exeter City Council keep opening the places for people with their type of problem and let them reside in the city centre? You know it's going to end if drinking and drug taking in public, public nuisance situations, damage to property encourage these types into the city centre. You are the problem. Think of all the decent people as you clearly are **NOT!**
- This behaviour is a symptom of a bigger problem. Social policy under the Tories has disintegrated and is now a public disgrace. How many of these men are ex-forces? More care should be taken of people leaving the service. There is also a lifestyle that is acceptable in the southwest - crusty/anarchists need to be removed from public spaces
- Drinking in the area such as Cathedral Green with visitors to the city unsavoury image for a cathedral city.
- The council appears to have largely ignored this rapidly developing problem, to the extent where last year we felt it necessary to use local and national press coverage to get them to take notice ... There is a lack of CCTV and police pressure on the streets of Exeter, and a distinct reticence in recognising these problems and the reports of people affected. I can only assume this is due to a lack of funds. If you continue to ignore the problem and the lack of associated services we'll very soon end up with a ghetto or a "no go" area that people are afraid to pass through, due to ASB by drink and drug users.