

**Evidence.
Policy.
Partnership.**



Dear Members of the North South Alcohol Policy Advisory Group

This newsletter provides some updates on alcohol research and policy relevant to Ireland and Northern Ireland. This edition features research on the broad impact of minimum unit pricing of alcohol in Wales as well as updated evidence on potential impacts on vulnerable drinkers. The edition also features two small studies on responding to mental health and substance use issues in traumatised and displaced Ukrainian people.

I hope you find the newsletter informative and we look forward to meeting again on 24 May.

Data and Research

Evaluation of the Substance Misuse Court Pilot



March 2020

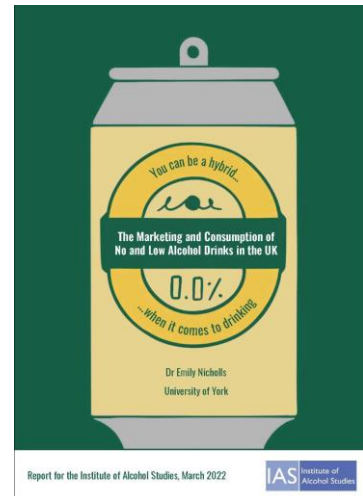
The Substance Misuse Court (SMC) programme was one of the pilot projects established under the Problem-Solving Justice (PSJ) initiative aimed at tackling the root causes of offending and reducing harmful behaviour within families and the community. The aim of this programme was to target individuals, whose offending behaviour is driven by drug and/or alcohol misuse, and to provide them with support to help turn their lives around.

[Access the documents here](#)

The Marketing and Consumption of No and Low Alcohol Drinks in the UK

This report examines how No and Low Alcohol (NoLo) beverages are marketed and promoted in the UK and explores how and why consumers drink them. Whilst a more nuanced understanding of the expanding NoLo market and changes in drinking practices is important for policy and public health debates, this topic remains under-researched.

[Access the report here](#)



THE TIME IS NOW: The National Perspective on Ramping up FASD Prevention, Diagnosis and Support Services



From December 2021 – March 2022, the National FASD Experts Committee convened a series of roundtable discussions on “The National Perspective on Ramping up FASD Prevention, Diagnosis and Support Services.” This report of a series of roundtables hosted by the National FASD Experts Committee engaging practitioners, policy makers, commissioners, public health experts and people with lived experience.

[Access the report here](#)

Calls to extend programme which supports people with alcohol problems in Glasgow's Deep End Practices

A new study has shown specialist addictions nurses in general practices in the most disadvantaged areas of Glasgow have been effective in treating alcohol problems. The research, conducted by researchers at the University of Dundee and University of Stirling, explored healthcare professionals' and patients' experiences and perceptions of the management of alcohol problems in Deep End general practices in Scotland.

UNIVERSITY of
STIRLING



University
of Dundee

[Read more here](#)

Assessing Impact of COVID-19 and the Early Impact of Minimum Pricing for Alcohol on the Wider Population of Drinkers

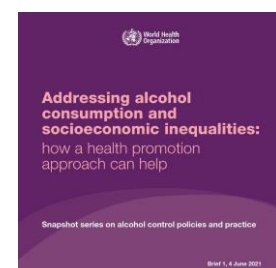


The aim of this study was to assess the impact of the minimum price for alcohol legislation on the wider population of moderate, hazardous and harmful drinkers over a five-year period. The study is longitudinal in design and has four key reporting points: baseline/pre-implementation, nine months postimplementation, two years post-implementation and 42 months post-implementation.

[Access the report here](#)

Addressing alcohol consumption and socioeconomic inequalities: how a health promotion approach can help

This WHO report is part of a series of reports tackling critical issues related to the determinants driving the acceptability, availability and affordability of alcohol consumption and how it affects people and their communities.



[Download the report here](#)

Alcohol use among conflict-affected persons in Ukraine: risk factors, coping and access to mental health services



The aim of this study was to estimate the prevalence of and risk factors for alcohol use disorder (AUD) among Ukrainian internally displaced persons and investigate the relationship between AUD, mental health service utilization and coping behaviours.

[Access the journal article here](#)

Converging Impact of the Ongoing Conflict and COVID-19 Pandemic on Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders in Ukraine

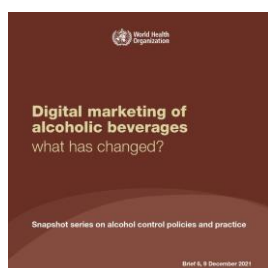
This article examines the combined impact of the ongoing Russo–Ukrainian conflict and COVID-19 pandemic on substance use in Ukraine. It gives an overview of the institutions in place to monitor and improve mental health in the country. The article highlights the urgent need for further funding and research on substance and alcohol addiction, with vulnerable populations affected by the conflict during the COVID-19 pandemic. Frontline healthcare workers in this region should anticipate an increased burden of patients suffering from substance use disorders who are in need of emergency management intervention and proper behavioural health referrals.

HARVARD
LIBRARY



[Access the article here](#)

Digital marketing of alcoholic beverages: what has changed?



This snapshot report aims to establish the challenges posed by new digital marketing approaches, examine approaches to reduce the effects of digital marketing in selected countries and present possible next steps to move the conversation beyond this report.

[Download the report here](#)

Clinical Guidance

NICE Guidance on Fetal alcohol spectrum disorder



The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence has published guidance on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder. This quality standard covers assessing and diagnosing fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD) in children and young people. It also covers support during pregnancy to prevent FASD. It describes high-quality care in priority areas for improvement.

[Read the NICE Guidance on Fetal alcohol spectrum disorder](#)

Policy Developments

Low risk drinking guidelines to be reviewed

The Health Service Executive is due to review low risk drinking guidelines for adults in Ireland. The guidelines were last reviewed in 2009 and currently allow for a weekly maximum of 17 standard drinks for men (170g of pure alcohol) and 11 for women (110g of pure alcohol). This must also include two alcohol-free days.

Irish Independent 

[Access the article here](#)

Sharing the Vision: A Mental Health Policy for Everyone Implementation Plan 2022 - 2024



Minister for Mental Health and Older People Mary Butler, in conjunction with the HSE, has launched Sharing the Vision: Implementation Plan 2022 - 2024. Sharing the Vision - A Mental Health Policy for Everyone, Ireland's national mental health policy, was published in June 2020. The

Implementation Plan includes new provisions for alcohol treatment and dual diagnosis services in Ireland.

[Access the press release here](#)

Legislation

General Scheme of the Regulation of Gambling Bill

In Ireland, the General Scheme of the Regulation of Gambling Bill is at pre-legislative scrutiny stage in House of the Oireachtas. IPH recently presented **evidence** to the Joint Committee on Justice. It is important to note the interface between the Regulation of Gambling Bill and alcohol policy, in particular, the association between gambling and alcohol use (including alcohol use disorder) and the granting of licences for gambling and the sale of alcohol in same venue.



An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt
Department of Justice

[Access the General Scheme of the Regulation of Gambling Bill here](#)

Consultations

Consultation on Minimum Unit Pricing for Alcohol in Northern Ireland



Department of
Health

An Roinn Sláinte
Mánnystrie O Poustie

The Department of Health is seeking views on:

- the overall policy aim of reducing the harm alcohol causes
 - if, of the pricing options considered, MUP for alcohol is the most effective way of achieving the policy aim
-

- what information or evidence should be considered when setting a MUP for alcohol and the level MUP should be set at initially
- if the level of the MUP should be varied over time and, if so, how
- the mechanisms for setting the MUP, including the formula and how it will be monitored
- any other information that you feel should be taken on board in respect of the policy or the various impact assessments.

[Read the Consultation on Minimum Unit Pricing for Alcohol in Northern Ireland here](#)

Events

MUP and homeless drinkers, street drinkers & service providers

Watch the video of the SHAAP/SARN 'Alcohol Occasionals' webinar, held over Zoom on 31 March 2022: "Minimum Unit Pricing (**#MUP**): Qualitative study of the experiences of homeless drinkers, street drinkers & service providers", by Dr Elena Dimova (Glasgow Caledonian University).



[Read the research briefing](#)

[Watch the recording](#)

Dublin Office:

Ground Floor
700 South Circular Road
Dublin 8,
D08 NH90
Ireland

T: +353 1 478 6300

info@publichealth.ie

publichealth.ie

[@publichealthie](https://twitter.com/publichealthie)

Belfast Office:

6th Floor, City Exchange
11-13 Gloucester Street
Belfast
BT1 4LS
Northern Ireland

T: +44 28 9064 8494

Institute of
Public Health



Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).