

**Evidence.
Policy.
Partnership.**



Dear Members of the North South Alcohol Policy Advisory Group,

This newsletter provides updates on recent alcohol research and policy relevant to Ireland and Northern Ireland.

In the December edition you will find a number of data and research publications, including findings from the recently published Health Survey Northern Ireland and Statistics from the Northern Ireland Substance Misuse Database. This edition also includes reports on MUP in Scotland and Wales as well as the latest WHO report in their 2022 series of advocacy briefs about blind spots related to reducing alcohol consumption.

Data and Research

Statistics from the Northern Ireland Substance Misuse Database: 1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022 Experimental Statistics

This bulletin summarises information on people presenting to services with problem drug and/ or alcohol misuse and relates to the 12-month period ending 31 March 2022. The statistics in this report are Experimental Statistics; these are statistics that are published in order to involve users and stakeholders in their development and as a means to improve quality.



[Access the bulletin here](#)

Health Survey Northern Ireland: First results 2021/22 | Department of Health



Due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, data collection for the 2020/21 and 2021/22 Health Survey Northern Ireland moved from face-to-face interviewing to telephone mode. There are a number of factors which users should take into consideration when interpreting the 2021/22 results and care should be taken when comparing these to previously published findings. In 2021/22, four-fifths (79%) of adults aged 18 and over reported that they drank alcohol. This was lower than in 2020/21 (81%), but similar to 2019/20 (77%).

[Access the results here](#)

Evaluating the impact of alcohol minimum unit pricing (MUP) on deaths and hospital admissions in Scotland

This study looks at the impact of Minimum Unit Pricing (MUP) for alcohol that came into effect in Scotland in 2018. This document describes the statistical analysis approach to evaluating the impact of MUP on deaths and hospital admissions caused wholly or partially by alcohol consumption in Scotland.



[Access the study here](#)

Minimum unit pricing has led to drop in alcohol sales in Scotland



Public Health Scotland and the University of Glasgow found that Scotland has seen a reduction in alcohol sales in the three years following MUP's introduction. MUP was associated with a 3% net reduction in total per adult alcohol sales in Scotland, when adjusting for sales in England and Wales and other factors such as the pandemic.

[Access the journal article here](#)

Drinking Habits in Wales: how much has changed since minimum pricing for alcohol?

This article by Senedd Wales looks at whether the introduction of minimum pricing has reduced alcohol consumption and related harm; the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on drinking habits; and evidence from Scotland, which implemented similar legislation two years before Wales.



[Access the article here](#)

Report

A public health perspective on alcohol establishments: Licensing, density and locations. Brief 8, November 2022



**World Health
Organization**

This brief provides a public health perspective on alcohol establishments. It examines alcohol establishments' contribution to inequalities, the policy options to regulate alcohol establishments and the considerations for designing, implementing and enforcing policy options to govern alcohol retail licensing, alcohol outlet density and alcohol establishment locations.

[Access the report here](#)

Blog

With evidence on alcohol policies being stronger than ever, now is the time for governments to act

The Institute of Alcohol Studies new chair, Dr Peter Rice, looks at the progress in alcohol policy and research this year, and the effect Minimum Unit Pricing of Alcohol has had in reducing alcohol sales in Scotland. Dr Rice says "the evidence of what works continues to accumulate and will keep knocking at the door of governments".



[Read the Blog here](#)

Season's greetings and wishing you every success for the coming year.



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