

**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. The July edition features a report from the World Health Organization on the implementation of MUP. There is also a focus on alcohol labelling, with a report from the UK Alcohol Health Alliance and the application by the Government of Ireland to the European Commission to enact regulations that would require health warnings on all alcohol products.

Research

No place for cheap alcohol: The potential value of minimum pricing for protecting lives

The WHO European Region has some of the highest levels of alcohol consumption and corresponding rates of alcohol-related harm in the world. Pricing policies and taxation are among the most effective measures that policy-makers can use to address these harms, but they remain underutilized across the Region. This WHO report reviews the status of implementation of minimum unit pricing of alcohol globally, provides an overview of the most recent evidence behind the policy, addresses its main strengths and limitations and offers practical considerations for countries.



**World Health
Organization**

[Access the report here](#)

Impact of public health team engagement in alcohol licensing on health and crime outcomes in England and Scotland

THE LANCET

Public health teams (PHTs) in England and Scotland engage to varying degrees in local alcohol licensing systems to try to reduce alcohol-related harms. This study looked at the effects of this engagement on health and crime outcomes. Outcomes measured included ambulance callouts, alcohol-related hospital admissions, alcohol-related and alcohol-specific mortality and violent, sexual and public order offences. There was no clear evidence of any associations between the primary exposure metric and the public health or crime outcomes examined. The authors concluded that “Such engagement likely has benefits in shaping the licensing system to take account of health issues longer term, but as current systems cannot reduce alcohol availability or contain online sales, their potential benefits are somewhat constrained”.

[Access the article here](#)

Contents unknown: How alcohol labelling still fails consumers

This report looks at whether essential information, such as the low-risk drinking guidelines, ingredients, calories and other health information, is provided on alcohol labels. The AHA examined 369 alcohol products at locations across the UK to find out what information is available to consumers on the labels. The AHA concluded that better alcohol labelling is urgently needed to provide consumers with the information they both want and need to make informed choices about their health, as well as to increase awareness of the harm alcohol causes.



[Access the report here](#)

Minister Feighan welcomes publication of National Alcohol Treatment data



Minister for Public Health, Wellbeing, and the National Drugs Strategy, Frank Feighan, welcomes the publication of the National Drug Treatment Reporting System data on Alcohol Treatment for 2021. The report demonstrates the ongoing need for a public health response in order to address harmful alcohol use as well as the social factors associated with the harmful use of alcohol.

[Access more information here](#)

Regulation

Government applies to European Commission for new alcohol consumption warnings

The Irish Government has made an application to the European Commission to enact regulations that would require health warnings on all alcohol products. These would include warnings regarding liver disease, fatal cancers, and consuming alcohol while pregnant. The regulations also provide for those selling alcohol in licensed premises to be required to display a notice containing the same health warnings, a link to the public health website, and an indication that the alcohol and calorie content of products is available on request. The measures are contained in the Public Health Alcohol Bill.



[Access more information here](#)

Realising our rights - How to protect people from alcohol marketing



Alcohol Focus Scotland and a group of international experts are calling on the Scottish Government to introduce statutory restrictions on how alcohol is marketed in a bid to improve the health of people in Scotland. In a **new report**, the experts highlight that the high visibility of alcohol marketing means we are constantly bombarded with positive messages about how drinking can enhance our lives. Introducing a ban on marketing in all areas where there are powers to do so - including outdoor advertising, and sport and event sponsorship - would significantly reduce people's exposure to alcohol marketing.

[Access more information here](#)

Parliamentary Question



UK Parliament

DUP contribute to Westminster debate on sentencing of repeat offenders

DUP MLA Jim Shannon recently contributed to a Westminster debate to highlight the extent of reoffending in Northern Ireland - 38.6% of adults released from prison had a proven reoffending rate. Mr Shannon commented that difficulties at home, financial issues, deprivation, or problems with alcohol, drugs or mental health can result in a continuous negative pattern of behaviour, which repeatedly brings people back into the system. He also noted that although justice is a devolved matter, there must be more collaboration between the Departments to tackle repeat offending.

[Access more information here](#)

Upcoming events



Institute of Alcohol Studies: The COVID Hangover: Addressing long-term health impacts of changes in alcohol consumption during the pandemic - 26 July 2022

The Institute of Alcohol Studies invite you to a webinar to launch their new modelling report, which looks at how changes in drinking patterns during the pandemic could lead to thousands of additional disease cases and death.

The event will take place 11:00 – 12:00 BST on Tue, 26 July 2022. For more information visit the [Eventbrite page](#).

[Register Now](#)

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