

**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 June edition features an evaluation of MUP in Scotland, the annual report from the UK Alcohol Health Alliance and the WHO Draft Action Plan on Alcohol. You can access reports and recordings of past events as well as information on upcoming webinars.

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## Reports

### **Evaluating the impact of Minimum Unit Pricing in Scotland on people who are drinking at harmful levels**

This final report and briefing paper look at the impact of Minimum Unit Pricing (MUP) in Scotland on those drinking at harmful levels. It was commissioned by Public Health Scotland as one component of their programme evaluating MUP in Scotland.



[Access the report here](#)

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## Alcohol Health Alliance – Year in Review 2021-2022



Foreword by Prof Sir Ian Gilmore “By working together as an alliance, we have helped shape a new alcohol duty system expected in 2023 which ensures the strongest drinks always cost the most. We continue to put pressure on the UK Government to improve alcohol labelling so that consumers are given the information they need about what is in their drinks. Our work with the Alcohol Harms Commission helped to shape the new draft statutory guidance published under the Domestic Abuse Act, which includes ensuring there is specialist alcohol support available for victims of domestic abuse.”

[Access the report here](#)

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## Alcohol and other drug use among children and young people in Ireland: prevalence, risk and protective factors, consequences, responses, and policies

This HRB report reveals that adolescents are starting to drink alcohol at a later age – but one-in-three young drinkers has an alcohol use disorder. There has been an increase in substance-related hospitalisations among young people and treatment for cocaine use among young people increased by 171% between 2011 and 2019. The report shows a clear link between mental ill health and substance use, evident across data on anxiety, self-harm and suicide.



[Access the report here](#)

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## WHO: Draft Action Plan (2022–2030) To effectively implement the global strategy to reduce the harmful use of alcohol as a public health priority



The World Health Assembly has agreed to the **2022-2030 draft action plan**. The draft action plan aims to strengthen the implementation of the global strategy by accelerating actions at all levels and by supporting and complementing national responses to the public health problems caused by the harmful use of alcohol in the 10 target areas recommended by the global strategy.

[Access the report here](#)

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## Event reports and recordings

### Youth drinking in decline: Implications for policy and practice

Event report for the webinar hosted on Wednesday 20 April 2022 - Dr Inge Kersbergen and Dr Laura Fenton, University of Sheffield.



[Access the report and recording here](#)

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### Accessing Alcohol Treatment: Removing barriers to healthcare - Alcohol Action Ireland event



A **recording** of the webinar is now available. Speakers included Prof Jo-Hanna Ivers (Trinity College Dublin), Anita Harris (Coolmine Therapeutic Community), Amy Roche and Andy Robertson (Finglas Addiction Support Team).

[Access the recording here](#)

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## Up Close: Last Orders

A recent UTV broadcast revealed the devastating impact alcohol has on society and individuals. It is estimated that around £1bn is spent on healthcare related to alcohol every year. Police estimate around 30% of all victim-based crime is related to drinking - with many incidents involving violent crimes such as assaults and robberies. In 2021, over 350 deaths in Northern Ireland were caused by alcohol. However, experts believe deaths indirectly related to drinking - such as cancers and road deaths for example - are much higher.



[Access the broadcast here](#)

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## Upcoming Events



**21 June from 14.30-16.00 (BST):**  
***Alcohol Occasionals 2022 - 'I'm just getting the impression I have to sort myself out': How people with co-occurring heavy alcohol use and depression describe the care they receive in a fragmented health system - a qualitative study***

Join SHAAP/SARN online on **Tuesday 21 June from 12.30-14.00 BST** for its fourth and final *Alcohol Occasionals* event of 2022.

[Register now](#)

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**23 June from 12.30-14.00 (BST):**  
***WHO Less Alcohol Unit: Zero and low-alcohol beverages: real improvement or apparent solution?***

Join the WHO for the upcoming webinar 'Zero and low-alcohol beverages: real improvement or apparent solution?' on 23 June 2022 at 13:30 to 15:00 CET (Central European Time).

This webinar aims to raise awareness about no-alcohol and low-alcohol beverages (NoLos) by untapping their potential and hidden pitfalls, scoping

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existing policy and regulatory gaps and identifying potential harm and public health measures to address a future increase in NoLos consumption.

[Register now](#)

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**Tuesday 29 June from 14.00 BST (UK time):**  
**Alcohol Health Alliance: *Alcohol Harm and Ethnicity***

The speakers Dr Laura Goodwin, Jo-Anne Puddephatt and Jaz Rai OBE will be discussing alcohol harm and ethnicity, and the event will be chaired by Dr Andrea Mohan.

[Register now](#)

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