

**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 November edition you will find details of the recent publication of the General Scheme of the Sale of Alcohol Bill, published by the Department of Justice (Ireland) as well as recently published data by NISRA on alcohol-specific deaths in Northern Ireland. This edition also includes a study on the views of UK public health teams on a public health licensing objective as well as a blog on the evaluation of the Late Night Levy in a London local authority.

Legislation

General Scheme of the Sale of Alcohol Bill

The Minister for Justice received Cabinet approval for the draft **General Scheme of the Sale of Alcohol Bill**. The proposed measures include streamlining the licensing and renewal process, creation of new annual permits for late bars and nightclubs, strengthening conditions around the online sale of alcohol and the standardisation of off-licence opening hours across the week. It is the Minister's intention to consult further following the publication of the Bill, including pre-legislative scrutiny at the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Justice and bring a final Bill before the Oireachtas and enact the legislation in 2023.



[Access the bill here](#)

Data and Research

Annual Alcohol-Specific Deaths Statistics



NISRA has published annual statistics on alcohol-specific deaths registered in 2021 in Northern Ireland. Alcohol specific deaths are deaths resulting from health conditions that are a direct consequence of alcohol misuse. Main findings include:

- There were 351 alcohol-specific deaths in Northern Ireland in 2021, the joint highest number since the start of the series
- The number of alcohol-specific deaths is almost 54% higher than the number recorded 10 years ago
- 64% of alcohol-specific deaths were among men
- 63% of alcohol-specific deaths were in the 45-64 age group
- 70% of alcohol-specific deaths were due to liver disease
- As deprivation increases, so too does the rate of alcohol-specific deaths.

[Access more information here](#)

‘Give us the real tools to do our jobs’: Views of UK stakeholders on the role of a public health objective for alcohol licensing

A new study by the University of Stirling interviewed UK public health teams about their views on the actual and possible impact of a public health licensing objective in their day-to-day work. Legislation introduced in 2003 and 2005 means that alcohol licences should be approved unless they contravene licensing objectives, such as prevention of crime and disorder, and the protection of children from harm. In Scotland there is a specific licensing objective of ‘protecting and improving public



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health', whereas in England and Wales there is not. The Stirling study highlighted some key similarities and differences observed and experienced by public health teams across England and Scotland.

[Read the research paper here](#)

Blogs

How does the Late Night Levy spur change in the night-time economy?

LONDON
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HYGIENE
& TROPICAL
MEDICINE



Dr Elizabeth McGill and colleagues from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine conducted the first known evaluation of the Late Night Levy in a London local authority. The Late Night Levy is an intervention that aims to minimise the harmful social effects of late night drinking.

[Read the Blog here](#)

[Access the research paper here](#)

Webinar Reports

World Health Organization 'Less Alcohol' Webinar Series: Addressing blind spots to accelerate the implementation of effective policy interventions

Throughout 2022 the WHO Less Alcohol Unit hosted a number of webinars to discuss available evidence and tackle blind spots for implementing alcohol control policies. A summary document has been developed for each topic.



[Read the 'Snapshot Series' reports here](#)

Evaluation

Primary Care Alcohol Nurse Outreach Service (PCANOS) Full Evaluation



PCANOS seeks to address the needs of people with problem alcohol use who are in contact with their general practices but who have not previously engaged well with Alcohol and Drug Recovery Services. A mixed methods evaluation found that PCANOS is targeting the appropriate population of service users. The outcome data shows positive outcomes across all domains based upon the aims and criteria of the service; increased engagement with alcohol treatment and reduced use of general practice, emergency departments and reduced hospital admissions.

[Read the report here](#)

Position Statement

EUPHA endorses the Oslo Declaration

EUPHA joins 80 international, European, and national civil society organisations and the World Health Organization in supporting the **Oslo Declaration**, which calls for urgent policy action to address alcohol-related harm. Evidence continues to show the large contribution of alcohol consumption to the burden of non-communicable diseases, while at the same time there are effective policy options that are not being implemented. Representatives of public health professionals across the European region fully support the ambitions of the Oslo Declaration.



[Read more here](#)

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