



Reducing harm caused by alcohol

eFocus July 2013

Research

[Combination of smoking and heavy drinking 'speeds up cognitive decline'](#)

[Evaluation of the delivery of a text message alcohol brief intervention](#)

PhD Research Appeal

PhD research into the impact of partners' alcohol problems on women's future wellbeing. Please share the [survey](#) with female service users. For more information email [Sarah Breslin](#)

Events

Exploring challenges to the alcohol and drugs agenda in Glasgow: workshop

4 September, Glasgow
[More info](#)

National Licensing Conference

9 September, Glasgow
Places still available - [book now](#)

The Recovery Summit

Scotland's Road to Recover from Drug and Alcohol Addiction
18 October 2013, Glasgow
[More info](#)

Alcohol Focus Scotland AGM

10.30am, 18 September, Glasgow
Please contact [Vickie Longmuir](#) if you would like to attend.

Resources

YPAAD app

New smartphone app for 11-16 year olds affected by someone

Alcohol Policy



Scotland pressing ahead with minimum pricing
Health Secretary Alex Neil has [stated](#) again that the Scottish Government is fully committed to implementing minimum pricing. He said they are confident that it complies with EU law and it is completely justified on public health and social grounds, adding: "We believe minimum pricing is the best way to address the availability of high strength low-cost alcohol." The UK Government announced earlier this month that it would not be proceeding with minimum pricing at the moment, and instead plans to introduce a ban on below cost selling, a measure that will have negligible effect.

Dismay at decision to shelve minimum pricing in England and Wales

In a [letter](#) to the Guardian, the Alcohol Health Alliance UK said the decision concluded a disastrous few days for public health. The Alliance said the government had turned its back on the key measure that would help us get a grip on our unhealthy relationship with alcohol, and shown that the commercial interests of the alcohol industry come first.

More women in their 30s and 40s dying because of alcohol

[Research](#) from the Glasgow Centre for Population Health's three cities programme looks at trends in alcohol-related deaths from the 1980s to 2011 in Glasgow relative to Liverpool and Manchester. Deaths were significantly higher in Glasgow across the whole period. A particularly worrying trend was identified among young women born in the 1970s. Alcohol-related mortality in this group has been increasing at a much faster rate than for men.

Channel 4 rapped for airing alcohol ads when kids likely to be watching

The Advertising Standards Authority has criticised broadcasters for running alcohol adverts during programmes likely to appeal to children, such as The Big Bang Theory and How I Met Your Mother. Other broadcasters including Discovery and Comedy Central have also fallen foul of rules on alcohol advertising to children. According to Ofcom's rules alcohol ads are not allowed to be shown in programmes which attract an audience of 10 to 15 year olds that is 20% or more above the norm. [Read more](#)

Alcohol syndrome babies slip through safety net

A [report](#) in the Scotsman suggests that more than 100 children a year could be born with foetal alcohol syndrome, the most severe form of disability caused by alcohol use among pregnant women. However, a monitoring programme has received just 37 confirmed reports of the disorder in three and a half years. Experts said lack of awareness and low rates of diagnosis meant children were missing out on special care to deal with their disabilities.

Young people buying alcohol from online retailers

A new report by Alcohol Concern Wales warns that significant numbers of young people in Wales are turning to online supermarket grocery services to buy alcohol. The report, [On your doorstep](#), highlights the findings from a Wales-wide survey of teenagers aged between 14 and 17. 15% of the respondents who had previously bought or attempted to buy alcohol for themselves or someone else, had successfully purchased alcohol via the internet. The majority of young people said it was easy to do and an effective way to bypass age verification checks.

Label calories on alcohol, says MEP

Glenis Willmott MEP has called for European rules on food labelling to be extended to alcoholic drinks. Under a new EU law coming into force next year, all food and non-alcoholic drinks must label ingredients and basic nutritional information. Ms Willmott supported the inclusion of alcohol in the labelling requirements of the 2011 [Food Information Regulation](#) but the alcohol industry successfully lobbied for their products to be excluded from the rules.



Binge drinking health reporter's year off booze

Booze had dominated journalist Jill Stark's social life ever since she had her first sip of beer, at 13. She thought nothing would curb her love of big nights. And then came the hangover that changed everything. In the shadow of her 35th year, Jill made a decision: she would give up alcohol. But what would it mean to stop drinking in a world awash with booze? [High Sobriety](#) charts Jill's year on the wagon.

else's drinking

**Institute of
Alcohol Studies**
IAS has a new
[website](#) and can be
followed on Twitter
[@InstAlcStud](#)

**New website for
[North Ayrshire ADP](#)**

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