



Reducing harm caused by alcohol

November/December 2014

Research

[Assessing the availability of and need for specialist alcohol treatment services in Scotland](#)

[Underage access to online alcohol marketing content: a YouTube case study](#)

[Interpretation and use of official drinking guidelines by adults in England and Scotland](#)

GAPC 2015

Global Alcohol Policy Conference
7-9 October 2015,
Edinburgh

Call for abstracts to be submitted online at gapc2015.com

#gapc2015

AFS Training

Working with children using our resources workshop
10 February

PLH Refresher course
11 February

Personal Licence Holder course
17 February

[More info](#)

News & Policy

Doctors and alcohol campaigners support lower drink drive limit

Alcohol Focus Scotland, the BMA and SHAAP are urging drivers to avoid alcohol completely, as the new lower limit comes into force. We are also warning drivers to think carefully about getting in the car the morning after a night's drinking as they may still be over the limit. The reduction brings Scotland into line with most European countries and is expected to prevent deaths and reduce the number of lives ruined by drinking drivers.

Lower drink drive limit [FAQs](#)

Read [Mary's story](#) about being hit by a drink driver.

FROM 5TH DECEMBER THERE IS A NEW LOWER LIMIT. BEING OVER IT WILL GET YOU A MINIMUM 20 YEAR CRIMINAL RECORD. DON'T RISK IT. DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE.

Alcohol consumption and harm down but more to be done

NHS Health Scotland has published the latest [update report](#) on Scotland's alcohol strategy which shows a continued downward trend in consumption, alcohol-related deaths and hospitalisations. The new Health Secretary Shona Robison said: "It is encouraging to see a downward trend in alcohol-related harm, however the fact remains that almost 700 people per week are admitted to hospital in Scotland due to alcohol, which is why we are absolutely committed to introducing minimum unit pricing."

Scottish Schools Adolescent Lifestyle and Substance Use Survey (SALSUS) 2013

Key alcohol findings:

- The proportion of 13 and 15 year olds who reported drinking alcohol in the last week was the lowest since the SALSUS began in 1990 (4% of 13 year olds and 19% of 15 year olds).
- 68% of 13 year olds and 30% of 15 year olds have never had an alcoholic drink.
- Of those who had ever had an alcoholic drink, 44% of 13 year olds and 70% of 15 year olds had been drunk at least once.

ISD provide a national overview, topic reports and local summaries for each local authority, ADP and NHS Board.

Relationship between alcohol outlet availability and harm

Alcohol Focus Scotland recently commissioned [CRESH](#) to investigate whether alcohol-related illnesses and deaths across Scotland were related to the local availability of alcohol outlets. The research showed that across Scotland, alcohol-related hospitalisations and deaths were higher in areas with higher alcohol outlet availability.

The researchers also examined the relationship between alcohol outlet availability and harm at local level. The first 3 of these local authority factsheets, for Edinburgh, Glasgow and North Ayrshire, are now available.

[Read more](#)

Alcohol and breast cancer campaign

Balance the North East Alcohol Office and Breakthrough Breast Cancer have joined forces to raise awareness of the link between alcohol and breast cancer. Alcohol is linked to thousands of breast cancer cases each year across the UK but many women don't realise that the



more they drink, the greater their risk of developing the disease.

View the campaign videos and find out more about alcohol and cancer at reducemyrisk.tv

Call for review of law on sales to drunk customers

A new report by Alcohol Research UK and the Alcohol Academy calls for a full review of the current legislation. Sales to drunk customers appear to be the norm, but annual prosecutions for the offence are rarely more than single figures. With very limited enforcement or awareness of the legislation, this report explores what needs to be done to address one of the most under-enforced laws on the statute book.

[One too many? Sales to drunk customers: Policy, enforcement and responsibility](#)

Foetal alcohol syndrome case dismissed by Court of Appeal

A child born with foetal alcohol syndrome is not legally entitled to compensation after her mother drank excessively while pregnant, the Court of Appeal has ruled. Lawyers argued her mother had poisoned her foetus but appeal judges ruled she had not committed a criminal offence. The case was brought by a Council in the North of England.

[Read more](#)

Big Lottery Fund invests in alcohol programme for over 50s

The Big Lottery Fund is investing £25 million into an alcohol-related harm prevention and awareness programme for the over fifties, in partnership with Addaction. The seven year Rethink Good Health programme will support a variety of projects, with flagship work taking place in Glasgow, Sheffield, Devon, South Wales and Northern Ireland. [Read more](#)

Daily attacks on Scottish ambulance staff

Attacks on Scottish ambulance staff have soared by nearly 50% in the past five years, reaching an average of almost one a day. Workers were subjected to 321 assaults in 2013, with many of the attacks being fuelled by alcohol. [Read more](#)



Alcohol-free beer grows in popularity

Non-alcoholic and low alcohol beer is on track to rise in global value by 26% from 2013 to 2018, the largest growth of any sector in the beer industry, according to Euromonitor. In Spain, 60% of beer drinkers are choosing alcohol-free versions, while Euromonitor notes that in Germany and Austria, "the appreciation of a beer's taste is taking precedence over the intoxicating effects of the tittle." [Read more](#)

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