

Alcohol's Harm to Others



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Summary findings presented by Katherine Brown, IAS Director,
to LGA Safer & Stronger Communities Board, 7 December 2015

IAS: Who we are, what we do

“The core aim of the Institute is to serve the public interest on public policy issues linked to alcohol, by advocating for the use of scientific evidence in policy-making to reduce alcohol-related harm.”

- Independent charity
- Supported by board of scientific advisors
- Strong links to NGO networks and policy makers in UK, Europe and globally



Alcohol's harm to others in the UK

Alcohol's impact on people other than the drinker:

- Physical violence
- Drink driving accidents
- Relationship problems/domestic abuse
- Financial difficulties
- Feeling intimidated in public places
- FASD/negative impact on children
- Burden on employers/colleagues

Alcohol's harm to others in the UK

Research questions:

1. Who experiences harm from others' drinking?
1. How do different types of harm from others' drinking cluster?
2. What evidence is there to support effective policies that reduce harm from others' drinking?

Alcohol's harm to others in the UK

Methods:

- Literature review (peer reviewed/grey lit/national statistics)
- Survey data:
 - 1,020 adults (18+) North West England
 - 1,007 (16+) Scotland
- Special thanks to Drinkwise North West and Alcohol Focus Scotland for data provision

Key findings

1. Prevalence of harm to others



Key findings

In North West England:

- 78.7% respondents had experienced one of 20 harms identified, 67.7% had experienced two or more harms
- Older people (65+) significantly less likely to report harm from another's drinking
- Women more likely than men to experience unwanted sexual attention
- High income groups more likely to be annoyed by vomiting/urinating in street
- Younger people (16-34) more likely to experience 11 types of harm

In Scotland:

- 51.4% had experienced one of 16 harms, 35.6% had experienced two or more harms
- Older people (65+) significantly less likely to report harm from another's drinking
- Men more likely to have been a passenger in a car of a drunk driver
- Low income groups more likely to be harmed physically, have family problems or marriage difficulties and report problems with neighbours/friends
- Younger people (16-34) more likely to experience 8 types of harm

Survey results

Scotland		North West England	
Harm	n (%)	Harm	n (%)
Has someone who has been drinking harassed or bothered you on the street or another public place?	203 (20.1%)	I have been harassed, insulted or humiliated in the street, a pub or nightclub, or in another public place.	232 (22.7%)
Has someone who has been drinking made you afraid when you encountered them on the street?	165 (16.4%)	I have felt threatened, afraid or unsafe in the street, a pub or nightclub, or in some other public place.	365 (35.8%)
Have you felt unsafe in a public place because of someone else's drinking?	193 (19.2%)		
Have you felt threatened or afraid because of someone's drinking at home or another private setting?	82 (8.1%)	I have felt threatened, afraid or unsafe in my home or the home of friends or family.	98 (9.6%)
Have you been harassed or bothered at a party or some other private setting due to someone else's drinking?	119 (11.9%)	I have been harassed, insulted or humiliated at a private party or in some other private setting.	115 (11.3%)
Has someone who has been drinking harmed you physically?	49 (4.9%)	I have been harmed physically.	79 (7.7%)
Has someone who has been drinking been responsible for a traffic accident you were involved in?	12 (1.2%)	I have been involved in a traffic accident.	52 (5.1%)
Have you been kept awake at night by drunken noise?	304 (30.2%)	I have been kept awake at night by drunken noise.	504 (49.4%)
Was your house, car or property damaged because of someone else's drinking?	70 (6.9%)	I have had my house, vehicle or other property damaged or broken.	124 (12.2%)
Have you had family problems or marriage difficulties due to someone else's drinking?	56 (5.6%)	I have experienced marital problems or had a relationship breakdown.	110 (10.8%)
Have you had financial troubles because of someone else's drinking?	15 (1.5%)	I have had not enough money for household expenses or experienced other financial problems.	103 (10.1%)
Was a child you are responsible for negatively affected by someone else's drinking?	36 (3.6%)	A child I am responsible for has been negatively affected by someone's drinking.	46 (4.5%)
Have you been a passenger in a car with a driver who had too much to drink?	35 (3.5%)	I have been a passenger in a car with a driver who had too much to drink.	104 (10.2%)
Have you had problems with someone you worked with or a boss due to their drinking?	36 (3.6%)	I have had to take on extra jobs or responsibilities or had other work problems due to a co-worker or boss's alcohol consumption.	48 (4.7%)
Have you had problems with a friend or neighbour due to their drinking?	119 (11.9%)		
Has someone who has been drinking called you names or otherwise insulted you?	190 (18.8%)		
		I have had to take on extra household or caring responsibilities to cover for a drinking family member.	56 (5.5%)
		I have felt emotionally hurt or neglected by a friend or family member.	227 (22.3%)
		I have been annoyed by people vomiting or urinating when they have been drinking.	439 (43.0%)
		I have been annoyed by people littering the street when they have been drinking.	554 (54.3%)
		I have been annoyed by people rough sleeping when they have been drinking.	224 (22.0%)
		I have had a serious argument or quarrel.	242 (23.7%)
		I have had unwanted sexual attention or someone behaved in a sexually inappropriate way.	155 (15.2%)

Clustering of harms

How do harms from others' drinking cluster?

Cluster 1 – North West England

I have been harassed, insulted or humiliated in the street, a pub or nightclub, or in some other public place.

I have felt threatened, afraid or unsafe in the street, a pub or nightclub, or in some other public place.

Cluster 1 - Scotland

Has someone who has been drinking harassed or bothered on the street or in some other public place?

Has someone who has been drinking made you afraid when you encountered them on the street?

Have you felt unsafe in a public place because of someone else's drinking?

Cluster 2 – North West England

I have experienced marital problems or had a relationship breakdown.

I have had not enough money for household expenses or experienced other financial problems.

Cluster 2 - Scotland

Have you been kept awake at night by drunken noise?

Have you had financial troubles because of someone else's drinking?

Cost of harm to others



£1.7bn NHS

£7.3bn crime & disorder

£6.4bn workplace

- *excludes costs to families & social networks*

(2004)

International comparisons

Harm item	Scotland	North West England	Australia*	New Zealand*	Ireland*
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Someone who has been drinking harmed you physically.	5	8	5	3	8
Someone who has been drinking was responsible for a traffic accident you were involved in.	1	5	1	1	3
Your house, car or property was damaged because of someone else's drinking.	7	12	10	10	10
Have been a passenger with a driver who had too much to drink.	4	10	2	3	10
Have felt threatened, afraid or unsafe in a public place because of someone's drinking.	-	36	35	25	-
Have felt threatened or afraid because of someone's drinking at home or another private setting.	8	10	8	5	-
Have had a serious argument or quarrel because of someone's drinking.	-	24	22	17	-
Someone who has been drinking called you names or otherwise insulted you.	19	-	19	19	-
Have taken on extra household or caring responsibilities to cover for a drinking family member.	-	6	6	5	-
Have been emotionally hurt or neglected by a friend or family member.	-	22	16	9	-
Have been kept awake at night by drunken noise.	30	49	37	34	-
Have been annoyed by people vomiting or urinating when they have been drinking.	-	43	28	44	-

*Percentages use post weights for Ireland, Australia and New Zealand. - No equivalent item asked.

Wording of questions differs slightly between surveys, but are approximately equivalent (sometimes combining two items). Note that some percentages for New Zealand and Ireland vary from published reports because of combining items, weighting, and percentaging on the whole sample rather than subsamples.

Evidence for policy response



<https://vimeo.com/132729869>

Thank you for your time

Any questions?

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