

## **SCOTTISH ALCOHOL RESEARCH FRAMEWORK**

### Introduction

The Scottish Government is committed to developing interventions which are informed by a strong evidence base. There is a considerable and growing body of UK and international research on the extent and nature of alcohol problems and the effectiveness of harm reduction interventions. Traditionally new alcohol-related research in Scotland might have been commissioned by a wide range of bodies, including the Scottish Government, Information Services Division (ISD), Health Scotland and Alcohol Focus Scotland. This had the potential for overlap or omission.

The Alcohol Evidence Group (AEG) was established in 2006 to oversee the development of a co-ordinated alcohol evidence base in which existing research (from Scotland, the rest of the UK and internationally) was consolidated and gaps identified. The group's remit includes helping to ensure that the development and implementation of government policy on alcohol-related health, criminal justice and wider social issues is supported by research by agreed parties. Membership of the Group is given below.

The Scottish Alcohol Research Framework, first published in August 2007, was compiled by NHS Health Scotland and the Scottish Government with advice from the Alcohol Evidence Group. The framework sets out existing (or recently completed) and planned work, together with priority areas for new research should budgets allow. It identifies research to directly support policy development. The Scottish Government recognises that individuals and organisations will have other priorities and will wish to undertake research in other areas.

The framework was informed by a scoping of the research literature carried out by NHS Health Scotland in 2006-7. This review, which built upon a 2002-3 analysis of the gaps in research knowledge, identified current research and research gaps in the alcohol evidence base. A draft framework was circulated to stakeholders (including ADATs, health professionals, Community Health Partnerships, the alcohol industry, and academic researchers) for consultation in March 2007. The literature review and a summary of current research, which were published in March 2007 as part of the stakeholder consultation process, are available online at <http://www.alcoholinformation.isdscotland.org>

The framework will be regularly updated to reflect progress on existing projects and to highlight new areas of planned research.

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Alcohol Evidence Group membership (as of June 2008):

Alison Douglas	Head of Alcohol Misuse, Scottish Government (Chair)
Sally Haw	Principal Public Health Advisor, NHS Health Scotland
Laurence Gruer	Director of Public Health Science, NHS Health Scotland
Lorna Jackson	Substance Misuse Programme Manager, ISD, NHS National Services Scotland
Lesley Graham	Associate Specialist (Public Health), ISD, NHS National Services Scotland
Jack Law	Chief Executive, Alcohol Focus Scotland
Maggie Watts	Chair, Scottish Association of Alcohol and Drug Action Teams (SAADAT)
Peter Rice	Consultant Psychiatrist, Tayside Alcohol Problems Service
Karen MacNee	Senior Principal Researcher, Health Finance Directorate, Scottish Government
Iain MacAllister	Principal Researcher, Alcohol Misuse, Scottish Government
Donna MacKinnon	Principal Researcher, Justice and Communities Directorate, Scottish Government
Diane Strachan	Alcohol Misuse, Scottish Government
Denise Coia	Principal Medical Officer, Chief Medical Officer Directorate, Scottish Government
Peter Craig	Research Manager, Chief Medical Officer Directorate, Scottish Government
Beatrice Cant	Research Manager, Chief Medical Officer Directorate, Scottish Government
Ian Grant	Principal Researcher, ISD Scottish Public Health Observatory Programme
Sonnda Catto	Survey Manager, Scottish Public Health Observatory

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Research in shaded boxes are existing projects, or recently completed studies. The remainder are identified gaps. Priority gaps are shown in bold. For projects yet to commence, the start date and commissioning/funding body are indicative only.

### 1. Analysing current patterns and trends in alcohol consumption in Scotland

	Focus	Purpose	Method	Who by	Start date / status	Funding
1.1	Limitations of survey data	To improve understanding of limitations of survey data on alcohol consumption.	Review of surveys and expert working group	Health Scotland	Published May 2008	Health Scotland
1.2	Recording of drug and alcohol use in pregnancy	To audit current practice in recording of drug and alcohol misuse in pregnancy via SMR02.	Analysis of SMR02 data. Interviews with staff from main maternity units	Scottish Centre for Social Research	Fieldwork completed; consultation event held June 2008  Final report autumn 2008	Health Scotland & Scottish Government
1.3	Pregnant women	To determine patterns of alcohol consumption in pregnancy amongst women in Scotland. To explore the understanding of the risks from consuming alcohol amongst women. To identify effective interventions to reduce alcohol consumption before pregnancy, during pregnancy and post	Systematic literature review. Analysis of epidemiological and survey data. Interviews with target groups	PhD Studentship	2007  Student appointed, Liverpool University	Scottish Government / Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)

	Focus	Purpose	Method	Who by	Start date / status	Funding
		pregnancy.				
1.4	Homeless people	To explore existing routine data on homelessness and drug and alcohol use.	Pilot analyses of routine data sets on homelessness and drug and alcohol use	Dr C Dibben, Mr IM Atherton, Professor J Docherty, Dr A Baldacchino	Published 2007	Scottish Government
1.5	Infants and young children	Growing Up in Scotland (GUS) study - a longitudinal study of two age cohorts: 5000 babies aged 10 months; and 3000 toddlers aged 34 months). To generate a better understanding of the impact of maternal alcohol consumption on infants and young children.	Secondary analysis of data	Scottish Centre for Social Research & Centre for Research on Families and Relationships, University of Edinburgh.	2005 Second sweep of findings published February 2008 Survey on-going	Scottish Government
1.6	Alcohol consumption and drinking patterns	Scottish Health Survey (SHeS) 2008-2011 is a large-scale household survey which provides robust data on health and health-related behaviours of people living in Scotland. To monitor and better understand alcohol	National household survey	Scottish Centre for Social Research	Fieldwork commenced January 2008 First annual report due summer 2009	Scottish Government

	Focus	Purpose	Method	Who by	Start date / status	Funding
		consumption and drinking patterns in Scotland (including amongst population sub-groups). To provide consumption estimates at Health Board level every 4 years.				
1.7	Alcohol consumption among young people	Scottish Schools Adolescent Lifestyle and Substance Use Survey (SALSUS) - biennial survey of young people in Scotland. To monitor national trends in alcohol consumption and drinking patterns among 13 and 15 year olds.	National survey of young people	Managed by ISD; under commission	SALSUS 2006 national and local reports published 2007  SALSUS 2008 and 2010 under commission	Scottish Government
1.8	Improving estimates of alcohol consumption / sales	To identify and collate data on alcohol consumption from industry & trade sources at a Scotland level. To compare sales data with survey findings.	Consultation with alcohol industry and retail trade; purchase of industry sales data	Scottish Government Alcohol Industry Partnership	Alcohol sales data published June 2008; data to be supplied bi-annually	Scottish Government
1.9	Improving estimates of alcohol consumption	To identify what data on alcohol consumption can be derived from Customs & Excise data at a Scotland level.	Consultation with Customs and Excise	ISD (Substance Misuse Programme)	Discussions with Customs and Excise indicate that data is not	ISD

	Focus	Purpose	Method	Who by	Start date / status	Funding
					available at Scottish level. No further action	
1.10	Alcohol purchasing patterns and location of consumption	To determine the proportion of alcohol consumed at home and on licensed premises. To determine patterns and location of consumption in different population sub-groups.	Alcohol industry and retail trade data  Qualitative and quantitative research	Scottish Government	2008  Alcohol industry sales provide estimates of the amount and type of alcohol sold in on and off sales	Scottish Government
1.11	Longitudinal data needs	To identify longitudinal data on alcohol available across the UK and to identify gaps in Scottish data.	Scoping of longitudinal data sources in the UK	Scottish Government	3 month PhD placement to commence in Sept. 2008	Scottish Government
1.12	Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) and recent immigrant groups	To understand patterns of alcohol consumption in BME groups and recent immigrant groups.	Scoping of available Scottish data and data analysis	ISD (Substance Misuse Programme)	2007  Draft report circulated to AEG for comment (May 2008)	ISD

	Focus	Purpose	Method	Who by	Start date / status	Funding
1.13	Other specific groups: Young adults (16-25); women; adults in middle years; older adults; disability groups	To assess feasibility of conducting sub-group analyses of Scottish survey data on alcohol consumption. To conduct appropriate sub-group analyses.	Scoping of available Scottish data and data analysis	ISD (Substance Misuse Programme)	2009	ISD

## 2. Analysing current patterns and trends in alcohol-related harm

	Focus	Purpose	Method	Who by	Start date / status	Funding
2.1	Alcohol attributable fractions	To develop alcohol attributable fractions to provide estimates of alcohol attributable mortality and hospital discharges. To estimate the burden of alcohol-related disease. To determine the links between serious alcohol-attributable disease and deprivation.???	Literature Review and modelling of SHeS data	ISD (Substance Misuse Programme) / ScotPHO	Final report due September 2008	ISD
2.2	Drug injectors with HCV	To determine hospital utilisation, morbidity and mortality related to diagnosed HCV infection. To determine the association between alcohol and diagnosed HCV infection among injectors in Scotland.	Record linkage study	Sharon Hutchinson, Health Protection Scotland	2006  Due for completion February 2009	Scottish Government
2.3	Epidemiology of liver disease in Scotland	To investigate patterns and rising trends of liver disease in Scotland in the last 20 years	Secondary analysis of mortality and hospital discharge data	ISD (ScotPHO)	Work started in 2007, completion date March 2009	ISD

	Focus	Purpose	Method	Who by	Start date / status	Funding
2.4	Children of problem drinkers	To develop a methodology and estimate the prevalence of children living with problem drinking. To determine the needs of children of problem drinkers (including children & young people's own drinking).	Review of data sources and statistical modelling. Needs assessment.	To be commissioned	2008/9  New estimates of the number of children of problem drinkers included in alcohol consultation paper.	To be confirmed
<b>2.5</b>	<b>Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS)</b>	<b>To establish a Scottish survey / study of the incidence of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS).</b>	<b>Survey / study</b>	<b>To be Commissioned</b>	<b>2008/9</b>	<b>To be confirmed</b>
<b>2.6</b>	<b>Alcohol and crime</b>	<b>To identify available data on alcohol and crime. To explore the relationship between alcohol, crime, public disorder and deprivation.</b>	<b>Review of available data sources and data analysis</b>	<b>ISD (Substance Misuse Programme) / Scottish Government</b>	<b>Work in progress</b>	<b>ISD</b>
2.7	Alcohol related brain damage	To estimate the incidence and prevalence of ARBD in	To be determined	To be commissioned	To be confirmed	To be confirmed

	Focus	Purpose	Method	Who by	Start date / status	Funding
	(ARBD)	Scotland.				
2.8	Brain damage in substance misusers	The role of multiple risk factors in organic brain disease in substance misusers (trauma, cerebro-vascular disease, Alzheimer's disease).	To be determined	To be commissioned	To be confirmed	To be confirmed
2.9	Alcohol and sexual risk	To determine the links between alcohol consumption and sexual risk taking in schoolchildren and adults and any interactions with socioeconomic and geographical factors. To develop indicators for measuring prevalence of sexual risk in the general population.	Quantitative and qualitative research	Scottish Government / To be commissioned	To be confirmed	To be confirmed
2.10	Alcohol-attributable hospital costs	To model alcohol-attributable hospital costs using aetiological fractions and results from treasury study of hospital costs disease groups.	Statistical modelling	ISD	To start on completion of Alcohol Attributable Fraction Project (see 2.1)	ISD

### 3. Culture, media and marketing

	<b>Focus</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Method</b>	<b>Who by</b>	<b>Start date / status</b>	<b>Funding</b>
3.1	Drinking cultures	To describe drinking cultures in Scotland. To inform the development of mass media communication and other alcohol interventions.	A rapid review of drinking cultures in Scotland, UK and 6 other countries. Qualitative study of drinking cultures in selected Scottish communities.	Susan MacAskill, Institute for Social Marketing, University of Stirling	Three reports published June 2008	Health Scotland
3.2	Attitudes to drinking alcohol	To monitor attitudes towards alcohol consumption in the general population.	Module of questions in the Scottish Social Attitudes Survey	Scottish Centre for Social Research	Report due to be published Summer 2008	Scottish Government

#### 4. Prevention and education

	<b>Focus</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Method</b>	<b>Who by</b>	<b>Start date / status</b>	<b>Funding</b>
4.1	School-based programmes	To determine the nature and effectiveness of drugs education practice in Scottish schools.	National survey	Martine Stead, Institute for Social Marketing, University of Stirling	2004 Report published February 2007	Scottish Government
4.2	Community-based programmes – Focus on Alcohol Angus	To assist Angus Community Planning Partnership develop an integrated outcome focused plan for alcohol. To evaluate the model of approach developed by Focus on Alcohol Angus (FoAA). To assess whether the model is transferable to other local areas in Scotland.	Consultancy support and process evaluation	Craigforth Consulting	Commissioned 2007, report due September 2008.	Health Scotland and Scottish Government
4.3	Working people	To audit workplace policies in Scotland against best practice. To develop comprehensive and flexible workplace policy	Review of workplace policies; development of new guidance	Scottish Government Alcohol Industry Partnership	Workplace policy developed; workshop available to employers	Scottish Government Alcohol Industry Partnership
<b>4.4</b>	<b>Community based</b>	<b>To design, develop and</b>	<b>A range of</b>	<b>Scottish</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>Various</b>

	<b>Focus</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Method</b>	<b>Who by</b>	<b>Start date / status</b>	<b>Funding</b>
	<b>programme - Fife geographical pilot</b>	<b>implement a series of interventions within a geographically focused pilot area. To evaluate the success of the pilot in tackling alcohol misuse.</b>	<b>interventions to be developed, in addition and complementary to existing local initiatives</b>	<b>Government Alcohol Industry Partnership; local area</b>		

## 5. Provision of treatment and support services

	Focus	Purpose	Method	Who by	Start date / status	Funding
5.1	Homeless people	To investigate the effectiveness of substance misuse services in reducing the level of homelessness.	Evidence review and mapping exercise	University of York	2007 Report due August 2008	Scottish Government
5.2	Alcohol treatment capacity	To determine the prevalence of problematic drinking and map the proportion entering and/or requiring treatment against the configuration of existing services.	Statistical modelling / qualitative and quantitative research	Figure 8 Consulting (managed by SAADAT)	2007 Report due October 2008	Scottish Government
5.3	Primary care settings	To review awareness and implementation of the SIGN 74 guideline, identify examples of good practice, and support required to further the implementation of the guidance.	Qualitative and quantitative research	Figure 8 Consulting	2007 Published May 2008	Health Scotland
5.4	Brief Interventions – evidence of effectiveness	To consider the models and effectiveness of alcohol brief interventions being delivered in primary and secondary care.	Mapping study	Scottish Government	2007 Review of effectiveness of BIs carried out	Scottish Government

	Focus	Purpose	Method	Who by	Start date / status	Funding
					prior to establishment of HEAT target	
<b>5.6</b>	<b>Brief interventions-criminal justice</b>	<b>Two site pilot to determine the effectiveness of delivery of brief interventions in (i) short term prisoners (ii) those serving community sentences</b>	<b>Two site random control studies</b>	<b>To be commissioned (jointly by Health Scotland and SPS)</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>Scottish Government</b>
<b>5.7</b>	<b>Brief interventions – other settings</b>	<b>To consider the effectiveness of brief interventions in other settings (e.g. dental, workplace, etc.). To support / evaluate the delivery of brief interventions in other settings.</b>	<b>Review of evidence; evaluation</b>	<b>To be confirmed</b>	<b>2008/9</b>	<b>To be confirmed</b>
<b>5.5</b>	<b>Designated Places of Safety</b>	<b>To review existing literature on Designated Places of Safety schemes, map existing DP schemes, establish the number of people that could potentially benefit from DPS, establish the key elements of successful approaches.</b>	<b>Literature review, analysis of data, mapping exercise</b>	<b>Under commission</b>	<b>June 2008</b>	<b>Scottish Government</b>

	Focus	Purpose	Method	Who by	Start date / status	Funding
<b>5.8</b>	<b>Pregnant women</b>	<b>To identify effective interventions for reducing alcohol consumption in pregnancy.</b>	<b>To be confirmed</b>	<b>To be commissioned</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>To be confirmed</b>
5.9	Patients at risk of developing Wernicke-Korsakoff's syndrome	To determine the potential role of long-term thiamine supplementation in improving the outcomes for patients who are at risk of developing Wernicke-Korsakoff's syndrome.	To be confirmed	To be confirmed	To be confirmed	To be confirmed

## 6. Protection and Controls

	Focus	Purpose	Method	Who by	Start date / status	Funding
6.1	Underage sales	To evaluate test purchasing pilot for illegal sales of alcohol to children under the age of 18.	Qualitative research	Scottish Centre for Social Research	2006 Published March 2007	Scottish Government
6.2	Off sales and problem drinking	To determine the relationship between off-sales and problem drinking in Scotland.	Interviews and observations Literature review	Human Factors Analysts	2006 Published June 2007	Scottish Government
<b>6.3</b>	<b>Alcohol misuse strategy -monitoring and evaluation</b>	<b>To establish a monitoring and evaluation framework to effectively measure the impact of the Scottish Government's long-term approach to tackling alcohol misuse. To consider data requirements and collate baseline data as required. To identify gaps in the available evidence and commission new research / data collections as necessary.</b>	<b>Establishment of a monitoring and evaluation framework, including a review of existing data and data gaps.</b>	<b>Health Scotland and Scottish Government, with advice from AEG</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>Health Scotland and Scottish Government</b>