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Working to enhance evidence on alcohol-related


-  IPH supported the Department of Health in Northern Ireland in commissioning an update to modelling on minimum unit pricing (MUP). *“Model-based appraisal of Minimum Unit Pricing and Promotion Restrictions for alcohol in Northern Ireland: An adaptation of the Sheffield Alcohol Policy Model version 4.1”*.
-  Policy team continued to host Ciara Gilmartin through an employment-based PhD programme with TU Dublin and resourced by the Irish Research Council. Ciara’s PhD - “A Critical Discourse Analysis of Ireland’s Public Health (Alcohol) Bill Debate, 2017-2018” - aims to elucidate public health and alcohol industry lobbying discourses, surrounding Ireland’s first public health alcohol regulation, from a critical discourse analytical lens. Critical discourse analysis provides extra layers of insight into the power of language to persuade and shape in political contexts.




2

Supporting public health focussed regulation of alcohol

-  In January, Dr Helen McAvoy, IPH Director of Policy, and Dr Ciara Reynolds, IPH Public Health Development Officer, *presented evidence* on the Sale of Alcohol Bill 2022 to the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Justice. *Watch proceedings.*
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-  IPH chaired two meetings of the North South Alcohol Policy Advisory Group (NSAPAG) in 2023. This group provides a forum for discussion on policy developments and collaboration to reduce alcohol-related harm on the island of Ireland. Dr Anne Doyle, Health Research Board and Bill Stewart, NI Department of Health presented data updates on alcohol consumption in Ireland and Northern Ireland. In November, Helen Kearns, Medical Bureau of Road Safety, University College Dublin, provided an overview of drink driving and alcohol testing in Ireland.
 -  During the year policy team curated and issued seven *NSAPAG newsletters* on recently published data and research, policy and legislative developments, innovations in alcohol interventions, parliamentary debates, consultations and forthcoming events.

 IPH contributed to the Department of Health in Ireland's Public Health Alcohol Research Group (PHARG), which monitors and evaluates the effects of the Public Health (Alcohol) Act 2018. A report from this group was submitted to the Department of Health in June 2023.

 We contributed to meetings of the Substance Use Strategy Oversight Group in Northern Ireland.


3

Information sharing

 In June, IPH Director of Policy, Dr Helen McAvoy, attended and provided input at a Country Exchange Visit on "Reducing alcohol consumption: policy and practice" in Paris hosted by Santé publique France – see report on [EuroHealthNet](#).





Dr Helen McAvoy attended a Country Exchange Visit in Paris hosted by Santé publique France


 In June, Ciara Gilmartin gave a presentation - "The Language of Lobbying: A Critical Discourse Analysis of Ireland's Public Health (Alcohol) Bill Debate" - at the 48th Annual Alcohol Epidemiology Symposium of the Kettl Bruun Society in Johannesburg, South Africa.



Ciara Gilmartin presenting on her PhD at the 48th Annual Alcohol Epidemiology Symposium of the Kettl Bruun Society in South Africa


 Also in June, Ciara Gilmartin presented this work at the Alcohol Policy Network in Europe Symposium: Vilnius, Lithuania.

 In September, IPH Director of Policy, Dr Helen McAvoy, gave a presentation - "Existing and proposed legislation governing alcohol use" - to the Advancing Alcohol Research in Ireland conference hosted by the Health Research Board in Dublin.

 In October, Ciara Gilmartin presented "An Examination of Alcohol Industry Voices in Parliamentary Debates on the Public Health (Alcohol) Bill" at the Global Alcohol Policy Conference (GAPC), in Cape Town, South Africa.



GAPC plenary session with Prof. Jurgen Rhem speaking on "Is it possible to change governmental attitudes to taxation? Experiences from various countries"

 In November, IPH policy team hosted a seminar on Alcohol-Related Liver Disease on the Island of Ireland on behalf of the NSAPAG. The event raised awareness on the impact of alcohol on liver health and provided an opportunity for discussion on primary and secondary prevention as well as health service responses. Following the seminar, Dr Joanna Purdy published a blog - [Alcohol-related liver disease on the island of Ireland – conversations on a silent epidemic](#).



IPH Director of Policy Dr Helen McAvoy chaired a panel discussion, the panel included consultant hepatologists Prof John Ryan, Beaumont Hospital, and Dr Roger McCorry, Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast; Alex Bunting, Inspire Wellbeing; Dr Anne Doyle, Health Research Board; and Dr Sheila Gilheany, Alcohol Action Ireland.