



# Can drinking environments be safer?

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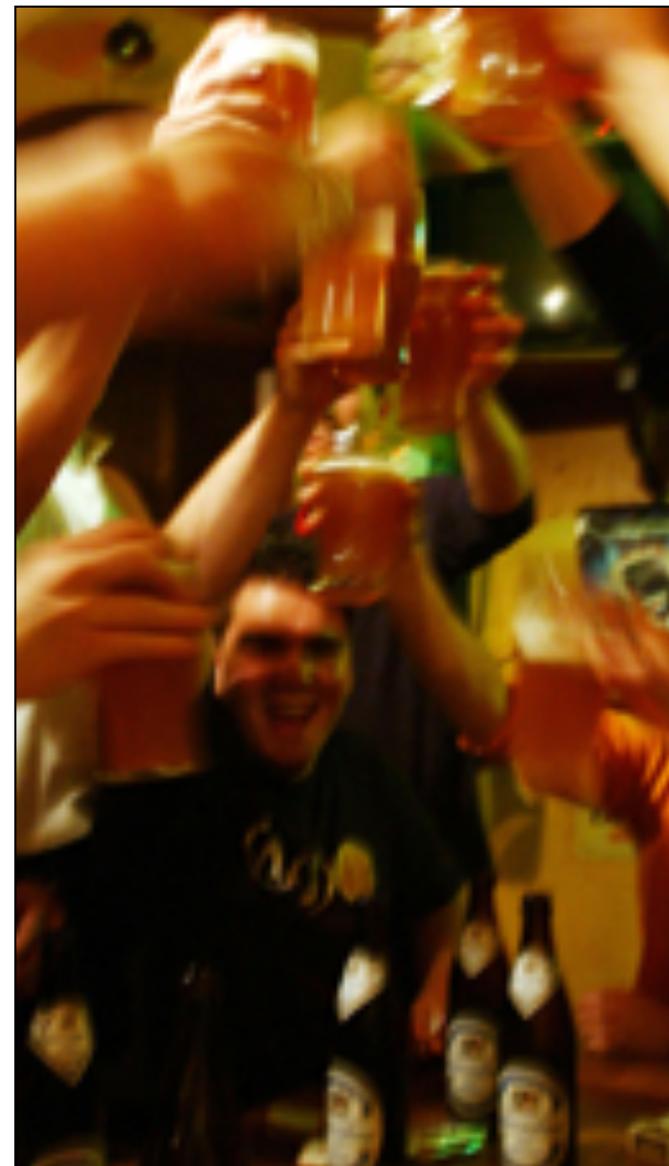




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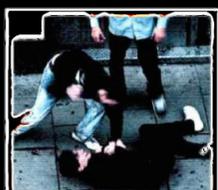
# Introduction

- Increasing alcohol use in young people
- Much alcohol use occurs in pubs, bars and nightclubs
- High levels of alcohol-related harm in and around drinking environments
  - To drinkers
  - To workers
  - To communities





# Alcohol in Drinking Environments



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- European nightlife users\*:
  - 7 in 10 have been drunk in the last four weeks
- Violence
  - 1 in 5 involved in violence in the last 12 months
- Drink driving
  - 1 in 5 driven drunk in last 4 weeks
  - 1 in 3 taken a lift from a drunk or drugged driver in the last 4 weeks

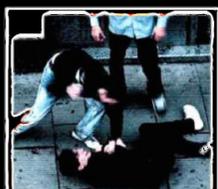


*Bellis et al, 2008*

*Calafat et al, 2009*

*Schnitzer et al, in press*

\*1,341 nightlife users from: Austria, Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, Italy, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, UK



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# FASE project

- Impact of interventions to reduce harm in drinking environments
- Systematic Literature Review:
  - Interventions in drinking environments that measured impacts on alcohol-related harm, e.g.
    - Alcohol use
    - Sales of alcohol to underage or drunk people
    - Violence
    - Road traffic injuries
  - Excluded physical availability studies
    - Alcohol price, service hours, density of licensed premises



# Findings

- Over 5,000 papers retrieved
- 54 included, covering 31 interventions



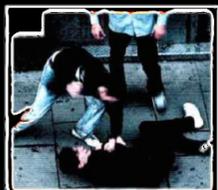


# Interventions

- Staff Training programmes
- Enforcement activity
- Drink driving interventions
- Environmental measures
- Community, multi-component interventions

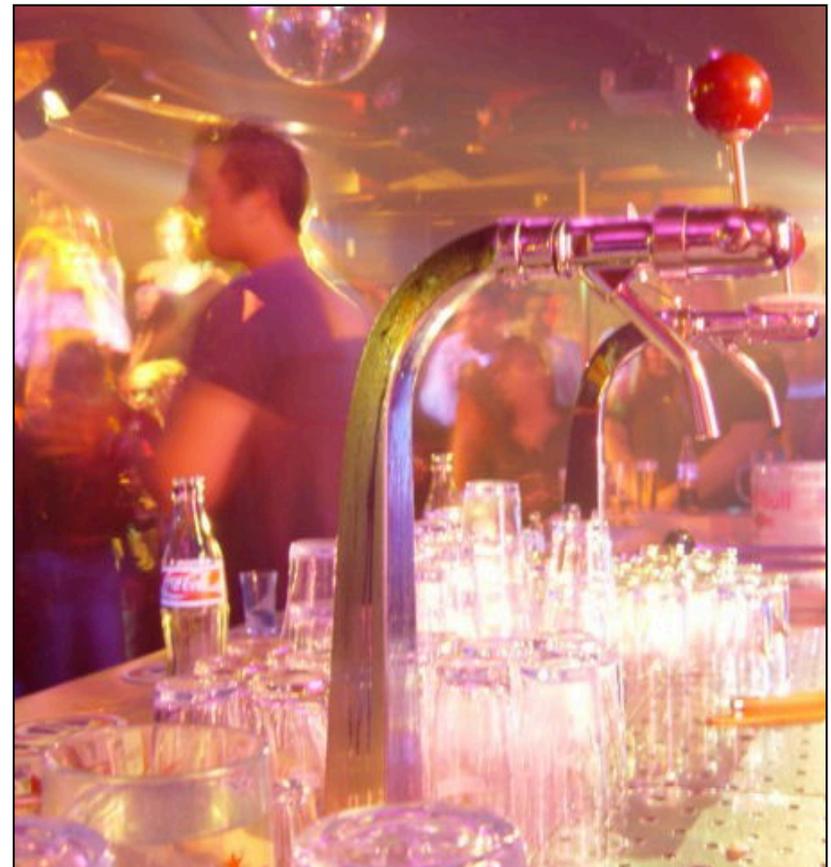


# Staff training programmes



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- Responsible beverage service
  - Alone, no clear evidence of effectiveness for reductions in alcohol consumption levels or responsible serving practice
- Sweden, STAD project
  - Alcohol effects, legislation, service refusal skills.....
  - Service refusal to drunk customers ↑ from 5% in 1996 to 70% in 2001
- US, mandated training
  - ↓ road traffic crashes



*Holder and Wagenaar, 1994; Wallin et al, 2005*



# Staff training programmes

*Graham et al, 2004*

- Conflict resolution / management
- Safer Bars programme, Canada
  - 3 hour training programme for all staff
  - Risk assessment tool for owners
  - Brochure on legal responsibilities
- Reduced aggression in bars
  - Moderated by high staff turnover
  - Need for sustained training
- UK door supervisor training mandatory





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# Enforcement Activity

## Underage sales

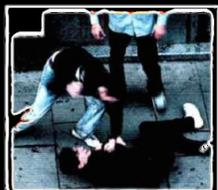
- Test purchasing
  - Underage purchase attempts
- Can reduce underage sales
- Effects rapidly disappear
  - Need for ongoing enforcement



## Violence prevention

- Little evidence for high profile policing in streets
- Targeted policing in high risk venues
  - Audit, monitoring, advice for improvement, threats of closure
  - Can reduce violence
  - Routine policing in Australia – ‘last drink’ location of offenders

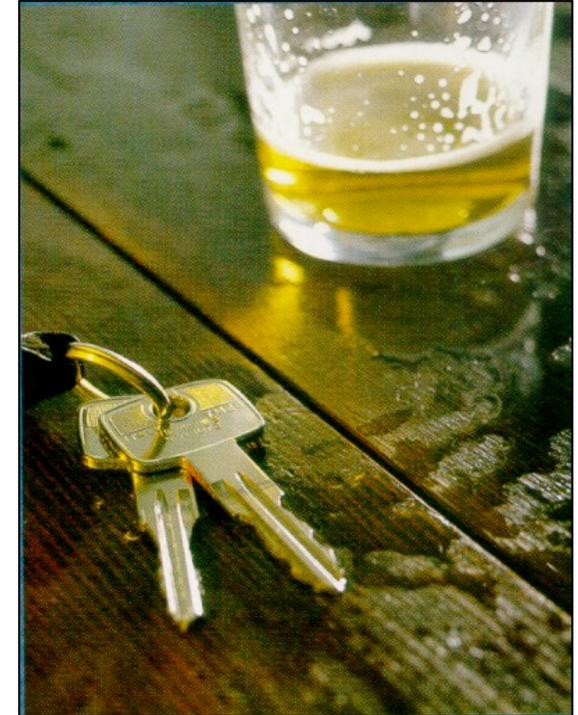
*Wagenaar et al, 2005; Wiggers et al, 2004*



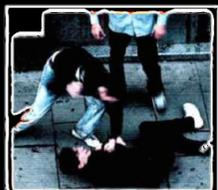
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# Drink Driving

- Designated driver programmes
  - No evidence of effectiveness
  - Can reduce BAC levels
  - Still above the legal limit
- Driver breath testing
  - Reduces drink driving
  - Reduces traffic crashes
- Random testing most effective
- Selective testing targeted at nightlife users
  - US/Mexico border, reduced alcohol-related crashes in 16-20 year olds



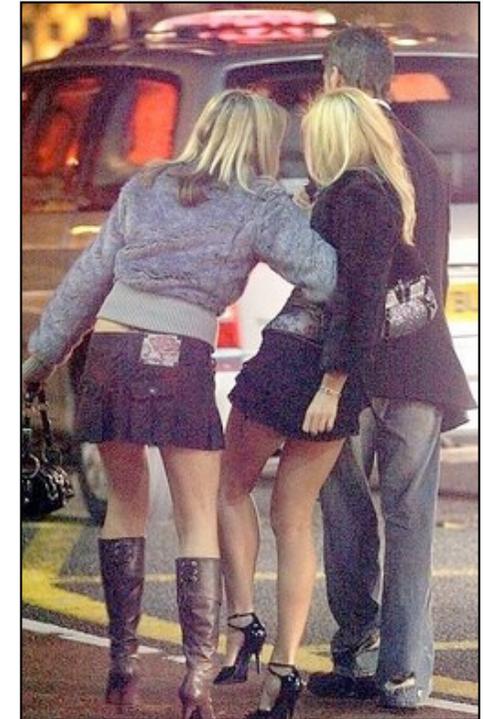
*Timmerman et al, 2003; Voas et al, 2002*

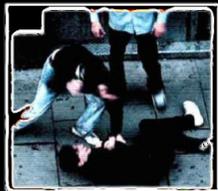


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# Environmental Measures

- Safe late night transport
  - Help prevent risky driving behaviour
  - Late night transport provision linked to reduced violence
- Taxi rank marshalls
  - 50% ↓ in crime at taxi ranks
- Improving management of venues
  - Alcohol-related violence linked to:
  - Permissive atmosphere, crowding, low comfort, poor cleanliness,
  - Risk assessment, codes of practice, behavioural standards





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# Community Approaches

- Multi-agency partnerships, multi-component
- Typically comprise:
  - Server training
  - Enforcement
  - Media campaigns
- Can be effective in reducing:
  - Assaults, traffic crashes, underage sales
- STAD, Sweden:
  - Reduced violence, service to drunk people, and cost effective
- Common goal, shared intelligence and resources, sustainable



*Wallin et al, 2003; Månsdotter et al, 2007*



# Physical Availability of Alcohol



## Density of bars and clubs

- Increased density
- increased violence, road traffic crashes, sexually transmitted infections....
- Very difficult to reduce density once established

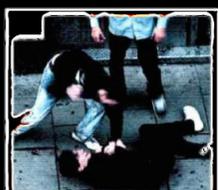
## Hours of sales

- ↓ hours ↓ alcohol-related harm
- Increased in several countries
- Response to ↑ density and burdens on criminal justice, transport, health..
- Either increased alcohol-related harm or moved to later in the night





# Price of Alcohol



- Linked to consumption
  - ↑ prices, ↓ harm
- Cheap promotions
- ↑ prices in bars:
  - Voluntary agreements
- Hampered through com
- UK: Focus on bars and c



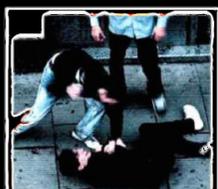
Bar £3.00

Supermarket 60p

*Hughes et al, 2008*



- Preloading
  - 58% nightlife users
- Mean 7 units
- Linked to higher alcohol and violence



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# Summary

- Drinking environments key locations for interventions to reduce harm
- Staff training, enforcement activity, breath testing, environmental measures ... can reduce harm
- Best through co-ordinated, multi-agency approach
- Sustainability a key issue – built into routine practice
- Existing European evidence very limited
- What is a 'safe' drinking environment?
  - Healthy environment
  - Safe environment for getting drunk?
- Regulation for public health
- Broader strategic approach



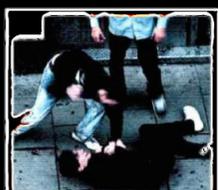
# Thank You

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