



# The Association of Directors of Public Health

## Statement on Public Health England Alcohol Harm Evidence Review

**ADPH welcomes the findings of the Public Health England evidence review of the public health impact of alcohol.**

The Association of Directors of Public Health has welcomed the findings of an evidence review by Public Health England into the health impacts of alcohol and the effectiveness of policies for reducing alcohol related harm. In particular, ADPH welcomes the findings indicating the potential effectiveness of Minimum Unit Pricing (MUP) combined with tax increases for reducing alcohol harm.

The evidence review has shown that over 10 million people are drinking at levels that increases the risk to their health, and that alcohol is now the leading risk for ill-health, early mortality and disability among 15-49 year olds in England. The economic burden of alcohol is between £25bn and £50bn per year in the UK.

The review has assessed the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of policy approaches to reduce the harm associated with alcohol consumption. It has found that combining tax increases with a targeted pricing policy, such as MUP, leads to reduction in harm and increases in government revenue.

The review has also found that marketing bans are both effective and cost effective, and that there is a relationship between the exposure of children to alcohol marketing and alcohol consumption.

ADPH President Dr Andrew Furber said:

"This review reaches similar conclusions to other appraisals of the evidence on alcohol harm. We are pleased that a thorough approach has been taken to bring together the evidence in such a systematic way to highlight the devastating impact that alcohol is having on society.

We are very pleased that such thorough analysis has taken place concerning policy interventions to reduce the harm associated with alcohol, and hope the Government will consider these findings carefully, and take action as appropriate".

Chief Executive of ADPH, Nicola Close, said

"The introduction of a minimum unit price of 50p for all alcohol sold in England was the number one priority for Directors of Public Health in our [most recent policy survey](#). 70% of DsPH said this was in their top five priorities. This was also true in last year's survey, when 100% of respondents put it in their top ten.

We would urge the government to look again at MUP and highlight [recent research carried out by the University of Sheffield](#), which shows that MUP, paired with strength-based taxation, is effective for tackling health inequalities associated with alcohol".

**ENDS**



## Further information

The Association of Directors of Public Health (ADPH) is the representative body for Directors of Public Health (DPH) in the UK.

It seeks to improve and protect the health of the population through collating and presenting the views of DsPH; advising on public health policy and legislation at a local, regional, national and international level; facilitating a support network for DsPH; and providing opportunities for DsPH to develop professional practice.

The Association has a rich heritage, its origins dating back more than 160 years. It is a collaborative organisation working in partnership with others to maximise the voice for public health.

[www.adph.org.uk](http://www.adph.org.uk)

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