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One-in-four is harmed by another person’s drinking

By Luke Byrne

One in four in Ireland has been harmed as a result of another person’s problem drinking, a new study has found.

And 10pc of mothers, fathers or guardians report that youngsters were exposed to verbal and physical abuse, witnessed acts of violence in the home or were put in unsafe situations at least once in the previous 12 months.

The study of alcohol surveys from 2000 to 2010, undertaken by the HSE, found that 28pc of people have experienced at least one negative consequence as a result of alcohol. These included family problems, being a passenger with a drunk driver, assaults, vandalism and money problems. Women were more likely to experience alcohol-related family problems (one-in-five), while men were more likely to report assaults, with one-in-five attacked.

Young men had the highest reported rate of assaults at one-in-five, while young women had the highest rate of family problems, also one-in-five, due to other people’s drinking.

One-in-ten workers reported witnessing problems related to heavy drinking of co-workers.

These included inability to get the job done, covering for their habit, or accidents or close calls because of drink.

“The evidence in this report aligns with that of many other local and international studies,” Dr Stephanie O’Keeffe, National Director for Health and Well-being, HSE, said.

HARMFUL

“These show that in Ireland, we have a problematic and harmful relationship with alcohol, and that our drinking patterns are of concern in many age groups across the population,” she added.

Medical reports have also warned that three people die every day in Ireland from an alcohol-related illness.

Doctors have been becoming more concerned about the increasing level of drink-related diseases such as liver cirrho-
Alcohol hurts others as well

ONE in 10 parents say children have been harmed by someone else's drinking, a study on alcohol abuse reveals.

The review on the impact of problem drinking found one tenth of parents or guardians report that youngsters were exposed to verbal and physical abuse, witnessed serious violence in the home or were put in unsafe situations at least once in the previous 12 months.

The HSE study revealed that 28 per cent of people have experienced at least one negative consequences as a result of alcohol, including being a passenger with a drunk driver, assault, vandalism and money problems.

Assaults

Women are more likely to experience alcohol-related family problems (one in six) while men are more likely to report assaults (one in nine).

In the workplace Ireland has twice the rate of drink-related problems as Australia, with one in 10 people seeing problems with heavy drinking co-workers.

These include inability to get the job done, covering for their habit, or accidents because of alcohol.
Irish drinking habits taking heavy toll on others

Drinks have greater harmful effects on others here than in Australia, Canada or US

PETER MURTAGH

Irish people suffer the ill-effects of the consumption of alcohol by others more than their counterparts in Australia, Canada and the United States, according to a study by the Health Service Executive and Trinity College Dublin.

More than one in four Irish people, or 28 per cent of the population, has experienced in the past 12 months at least one negative consequence due to someone else’s drinking. This can be rows with friends or family members, verbal abuse from a drunk person, or finding themselves in a vehicle being driven by someone who is drunk.

Ten per cent of children have felt embarrassed or ashamed of their parents’ behaviour under the influence of alcohol. A third of all child abuse cases involved a parent or perpetrator being under the influence of alcohol.

The findings, by Dr Ann Hope of TCD, who offered them in a report for the HSE, entitled Alcohol’s Harm to Others in Ireland, are based on an analysis of Irish national drinking surveys for 2005 and 2010, and comparing those findings with similar surveys in Canada, the US and Australia.

It says women were more likely to experience family problems (13.5 per cent) as a result of the abuse of alcohol by someone else, while men were more likely to report assaults (one in five) due to someone else’s drinking.

One in five young men reported assaults as a result of someone else’s drinking, and one in six were passengers in a vehicle driven by a drunk – the highest rate in both categories. Young women had the highest reported rate (one in five) of family problems caused by someone else’s drinking.

Workplace

The conclusions were replicated in the workplace, with the report rating a harm experience in the Irish workforce due to someone else’s drinking being double that of the Australian workplace.

In every category of effect – family problems, being a passenger with a drunk driver, assault, vandalism of property, financial problem, adverse effect at work, having to work extra hours to cover for a colleague, or being involved in an accident or close call at work – people in Ireland were significantly worse off than people in each of the other countries.

Family problems caused by drink affected more than double the percentage of people in Ireland than in Canada and the US combined – 13.5 per cent against 5.4 and 12 per cent respectively. A person’s ability to do their job was almost twice as adversely affected in Ireland (8.3 per cent) as Australia (4.2 per cent).

In terms of the adverse effect on children – being verbally abused, left in an unsafe situation, witnessing violence against another, or experiencing violence themselves – children in Ireland were worse off in all categories compared to children in Australia.

Launching the report yesterday, speakers drew comparisons with the experience of the smoking ban and the need to change national attitudes towards drinking radically. Dr Hope said education alone would not work.

Price and availability

“Education to change drinking behaviour doesn’t work,” she said. “There are hundreds and hundreds of studies to show that, of itself, it doesn’t actually bring about behavioural change. We know that price, availability and marketing are the key drivers of our drinking environment and how we drink. An example of that is the reduction in 2006, below-cost selling came in and within a short period of time we have had extremely cheap alcohol.

“So that actually had shaped, it had changed, our drinking. We see more home drinking because people are now buying in an off licence and drinking it at home.”

Noting that “harm was more extensive in Ireland in comparison to the other countries”, she said further research was needed to gain an even better understanding of how Ireland’s alcohol problem adversely affects people who are not drinking.

Alcohol abuse was known to cost some €3.5 billion a year but if the adverse effect on others was factored in, it was possible that that cost could double.

“I’m not suggesting that is the case but I think it is worth thinking that this is a bigger problem than we first recognised,” she said.

Launching the report, Minister of State for Health Alex White said the Government was committed to addressing alcohol abuse as a public health issue. The government’s aim was to get average consumption of pure alcohol per person down from 12 litres a year to the OECD average of 8.2 litres within five years.

The report may be downloaded from the HSE’s alcohol resources.
Alcohol harm to others in Ireland

28%
The number of people affected by someone else's drinking

13.8%
The number who have experienced family problems

2.8%
Children who were physically abused due to alcohol

10.4%
The number of workers affected by a co-worker's drinking

Headline: Irish drinking habits taking heavy toll on others
Alcohol abuse causing harm to one in four of us

Eilish O'Regan
Health Correspondent

The misery inflicted on others due to someone else's drinking is leaving one in four people coping with the trauma of family rows, drunk driving, assault, vandalism or money difficulties.

The heartbreak of family conflict is mostly felt by women, while men are more likely to be the victim of assault due to another's alcohol abuse.

The unhappiness and distress is outlined in an HSE-commissioned report 'Alcohol's Harm to Others in Ireland', which analysed existing research here and in countries like Australia.

Women in the 18- to 29-year age group have a similar rate of assaults to men in their 30s, the analysis showed.

It was likened to the ill-effects imposed on non-smokers who had to breathe somebody else's second-hand smoke before lighting up in public places was banned.

It found that harm caused to children by an adult's alcohol abuse in Ireland is higher than reported in Australia, which also has a reputation for its hard-drinking culture.

One in 10 parents say children have suffered at least one trauma due to drinking— including verbal abuse, being left in an unsafe situation, witnessing violence in the home or physical abuse in the previous year.

"While the severe child-abuse cases tend to come to the attention of the health and social services, there is a large pool of families with less noticeable risky drinking behaviour and problems."

"In Ireland, given that an estimated 271,000 children under 15 years of age are living with parents who are regular risky drinkers, there is an urgent need to implement effective alcohol policy measures to regulate the affordability, availability and marketing of alcohol to break the negative cycle of drinking," the report said.

The report was prepared by Dr Ann Hope of the Department of Public Health in Trinity College.

Responding to the call, Junior Health Minister Alex White, who launched the report, said proposed legislation aimed at reducing the availability of cheap and strong alcohol should be published by the summer.

The report also highlighted the overall rate of reported pain caused by hard workplaces due to a hard-drinking colleague is twice as high as that reported in Australia.

The negative knock-on effects of a employee's heavy drinking can result in colleagues having an accident, working extra hours or having a 'close call'.

The report said: "This suggests that the negative impact on productivity and the economic cost is most likely to be significantly higher in Ireland."

Dr Hope said the problem of alcohol abuse should not just be seen in context of harm to the drinker and action is needed to protect the wellbeing of others who are directly affected by another person's addiction.
Drink culture leading to a rise in harm to children

by ED CARTY

ONE in ten parents think children have been harmed by someone else’s drinking, a damning study on alcohol abuse has revealed.

The review on the impact of problem drinking found one tenth of mothers, fathers or guardians report that youngsters were exposed to verbal and physical abuse, witnessed serious violence in the home or were put in unsafe situations at least once in the previous 12 months.

The Health Service Executive (HSE) study revealed that a quarter of Ireland’s population – about 1.1 million people – have experienced some harm due to another person’s drinking.

Some 28 per cent have experienced at least one negative consequence as a result of alcohol, including family problems, being a passenger with a drunk driver, assault, vandalism and money problems.

Women are more likely to experience alcohol-related family problems – one in six – while men are more likely to report assaults – one in nine.

In the workplace, Ireland has twice the rate of drink-related problems as Australia, with one in ten seeing problems with heavy-drinking co-workers.

Dr Stephanie O’Keefe, national director for health and well-being, HSE, said the review of alcohol surveys from 2006-10 is evidence of Ireland’s bad relationship with drink.

She said: “The evidence shows we have a problematic and harmful relationship with alcohol, and our drinking patterns are of concern in many age groups across the population.”

Medical reports have also warned that three people die every day in Ireland from an alcohol-related illness.

Alcohol Action Ireland, the national charity for alcohol-related issues, said the report was further evidence alcohol pricing, marketing and availability need to be regulated.
28% harmed by other’s drinking, HSE report finds

by Evelyn Ring

More than one in four people in Ireland have been harmed because of someone else’s drinking.

A report by the HSE found that 26% of people have experienced at least one or more of the negative consequences of someone else’s drinking.

Such consequences include family and financial problems, assault, having property vandalised and being a passenger with a drunk driver.

One in six women experienced family problems, while one in nine men reported assaults because of other people’s drinking.

Young men had the highest rate of assaults at one in five and the highest number of incidents of being a passenger with a drunk driver at one in six.

Young women had the highest rate of reported family problems, at one in five, due to others’ drinking.

Children were badly affected, with one in 10 parents and guardians saying that their children were hurt, either mentally or physically, in the past 12 months because of someone else’s drinking.

Children suffered verbal and physical abuse, were left in unsafe situations and witnessed serious violence in the home.

Parents who were regular risky drinkers were more likely (one in eight) to report that their children were exposed to harm.

It also found that the proportion of Irish workers reporting harm from a colleague’s drinking was twice as high as that of their Australian counterparts.

Those from lower income groups were more vulnerable to family problems, at almost one in five, because of someone else’s drinking, a situation that is also contributing to the health inequality gap.

However, the report — Alcohol’s Harm to Others in Ireland — found that little progress has been made in the last two decades in implementing effective policies to reduce alcohol-related harm, despite many reports.

The report, based on responses to previous national drinking surveys between 2006 and 2011, says alcohol policy from now on needs to be focused on the protection of young adults, women and children.

The HSE’s national director for health and wellbeing, Stephanie O’Reeke, said that the report was commissioned in response to the growing recognition of alcohol-related harm and how it extends from the person who is drinking and those around them.

Minister of State for primary care Alex White said the report confirmed what many people already suspected, that the harm caused by alcohol use extended far beyond the drinker.

He said the findings of the report strongly supported the Government’s Public Health (Alcohol) Bill cur-

...
Main findings

- More than one in four of the population have experienced at least one or more negative consequences because of someone else's drinking — family problems, being a passenger with a drunk driver, physical assaults, vandalised property, and money problems.
- Women (one in six) are more likely to experience family problems, and men (one in nine) are more likely to report assaults.
- More young men (one in six) said they were a passenger in a vehicle with a drunk driver than any other group.
- Almost one in five of those from lower income groups were more vulnerable to family problems due to another person’s drinking.

CHILDREN

- One in 10 parents said their children had suffered over the past 12 months because of someone else's drinking. Children were verbally abused, left in unsafe situations, and witnessed serious violence and physical abuse in the home.
- Heavy-drinking parents were more likely to admit that children experienced one or more of the alcohol-related harms.
- If a heavy-drinking parent is in the house with another drinker, the harm experienced by the children could be substantial.

WORKPLACE

- One in 10 Irish workers experienced at least one or more negative consequences due to a colleagues' heavy drinking.
- Men (one in seven) and workers in the youngest age group (one in six) are most likely to experience negative consequences.
- One in six young men said their ability to do their job was affected and one in nine said they had to work extra hours because their co-workers were heavy drinkers.
- Reported physical injury and mental damage in the Irish workforce were double that found in Australia.
Minimum alcohol pricing will not cut intake, say consumers

by Evelyn Ring

Most consumers do not believe minimum alcohol pricing will reduce consumption.

A survey for Checkout magazine found that just 22% of consumers believe minimum pricing will work.

The Government plans to introduce minimum pricing as part of the National Substance Misuse Strategy.

A fixed, minimum unit pricing based on the strength of each product is among a number of measures aimed at getting people to cut the amount of alcohol they drink.

However, the survey found that 60% of people either disagree or strongly disagree that the planned legislation will lower consumption.

Those in the 45-plus age group were more optimistic — more than one in four agreed that the plan would succeed. Still, 57% disagreed.

Almost three out of four (72%) of young people aged 18 to 24 thought the initiative would fail, as did 62% of those aged 25 to 34 and 59% of those aged 35 to 44.

Alex White, the minister of state for primary care, has said he hoped to have legislation introduced in the summer.

However, Checkout editor Stephen Wynn-Jones said the Empathy Research study showed minimum pricing might not be the most effective way to curb alcohol abuse.

Mr Wynn-Jones said Government initiatives to curb consumption were welcome, but research showed that most people did not believe the goal would be achieved with minimum pricing.

In addition, almost three quarters of consumers felt that minimum pricing would affect independent off-licenses more than supermarkets.

Health Minister James Reilly pointed out that the average Irish person over 15 years of age was drinking the equivalent of a bottle of vodka per week — there was evidence that around 1.5m adults were engaging in harmful drinking.

Dr Reilly said alcohol misuse in Ireland was a serious problem, with 2,000 hospital beds occupied each night by people with alcohol-related illness or injury.
Minimum alcohol pricing will not cut intake, say consumers

By Evelyn Ring

Irish Examiner Reporter

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Alcohol abuse causing harm to one in four of us

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The unhappiness and distress is outlined in a HSE-commissioned report 'Alcohol's Harm to Others in Ireland', which analysed existing research here and in countries like Australia.

Women in the 18 to 29-year age group have a similar rate of assaults to men in their 30s, the analysis showed.

It was likened to the ill-effects imposed on non-smokers who had to breathe somebody else's second-hand smoke before lighting up in public places was banned.

It found that harm caused to children by an adult's alcohol abuse in Ireland is higher than reported in Australia, which also has a reputation for its hard-drinking culture.

One in 10 parents say children have suffered at least one trauma due to drinking including verbal abuse, being left in an unsafe situation, witnessing violence in the home or physical abuse in the previous year.

"While the severe child-abuse cases tend to come to the attention of the health and social services, there is a large pool of families with less noticeable risky drinking behaviour and problems.

"In Ireland, given that an estimated 271,000 children under 15 years of age are living with parents who are regular risky drinkers, there is an urgent need to implement effective alcohol policy measures to regulate the affordability, availability and marketing of alcohol to break the negative cycle of drinking," the report said.

The report was prepared by Dr Ann Hope of the Department of Public Health in Trinity College.

Responding to the call, Junior Health Minister Alex White, who launched the report, said proposed legislation aimed at reducing the availability of cheap booze should be published by the summer.

The report also highlighted the overall rate of reported pain caused in Irish workplaces due to a hard-drinking colleague is twice as high as that reported in Australia.

The negative knock-on effects of a employee's heavy drinking can result in colleagues having an accident, working extra hours or having a "close call".

The report said: "This suggests that the negative impact on productivity and the economic cost is most likely to be significantly higher in Ireland."
Dr Hope said the problem of alcohol abuse should not just be seen in context of harm to the drinker and action is need to protect the wellbeing of others who are directly affected by another person's addiction.
Minimum pricing for drink to save lives

Professor Tim Stockwell told the Joint Committee on Justice, Defence and Equality this Tuesday that minimum pricing has led to a reduction in crime and deaths due to alcohol in Canada and would have similarly positive results if introduced in Ireland.

Alcohol Action Ireland, the national charity for alcohol-related issues, and Professor Stockwell, Director at the Centre for Addictions Research of British Columbia, addressed the Committee on alcohol-related crime and the potential of minimum pricing to reduce it.

The Committee heard that alcohol plays a key role in crime in Ireland and the type and severity of alcohol-related offences are wide-ranging, from public order offences to violent assault and manslaughter, while alcohol-fuelled crime also puts a huge strain on Garda resources and costs the State an estimated euro1.2 billion annually.

Professor Stockwell presented his latest research findings on the impact of minimum pricing on crime in 89 local health areas in British Columbia over nine years. "A 10% increase in the average minimum price of alcohol was associated with decreases of 19.5% in alcohol-related traffic offences, 18.5% in property crimes and of 10.4% in violent crimes," said Professor Stockwell.

Suzanne Costello, CEO of Alcohol Action Ireland, said "Alcohol has become such a common thread linking crimes of every nature, from manslaughter to child neglect, that it seems many of us don’t even recognise it as such any more. Just as we have accepted binge drinking and drunkenness as the norm in Irish society, so too it seems we have accepted the huge burden of alcohol-fuelled crime that comes with it.

"Minimum pricing is one of the key proposals in the Public Health (Alcohol) Bill currently being drafted by the Department of Health and it’s clear from Professor Stockwell’s research on its effectiveness in Canada that it will also have positive impact here in Ireland, particularly in relation to criminal offences."
Many harmed by other people's drinking

According to the report, the negative effects from other people's drinking can range from 'the nuisance factor' to being attacked by a drunk person. And alcohol's harm to others within a family can have serious consequences for all concerned, particularly children.

The report set out to examine the impact of harm in three Irish settings - the general population, the workplace and among children in families.

When it came to the general population, the researchers found that 28% of the general population have experienced at least one, if not more, negative consequences as a result of someone else's drinking.

Harm was divided into five groups - family problems, passenger with a drink driver, assault, property vandalized and financial problems.

The report noted that women were more likely to report family problems, while men were more likely to report assaults as a result of someone else's drinking.

Those from lower social classes were found to be more vulnerable to family problems. Meanwhile those who took the risk of travelling with a drunk driver tended to consume alcohol at risky levels themselves.

"Given that drinkers tend to socialise together, these findings suggest that drunk driving continues to be a threat to others. Despite the successful implementation of random breath testing and reduction in road deaths in Ireland, the number of detected drink driving offences continues to be substantial."

"The negative consequences of drunk driving not only impacts on the passengers but extends to other innocent road users," the report said.

When it came to the workplace, one in 10 workers reported harm due to a co-worker's heavy drinking. This included having to work extra hours or having an accident or close call at work due to a co-worker's drinking.

"The impact of co-workers drinking can affect a worker's job satisfaction, create tension and the need to cover-up for problems of co-workers who are heavy drinkers, in particularly among young adults," the report said.

It also noted that the risk of workers experiencing harm rose if they themselves were also risky drinkers.

"This may indicate that the workplace facilitates a social network around alcohol use. It may be that workers are drawn to co-workers who have similar harmful drinking patterns. Young adults may also participate in work-based drinking networks as a way of fitting in," it pointed out.

The report said that some workplaces are guilty of creating a 'culture around drinking'
by hosting work-related events where workers socialise and drink alcohol together.

"Social events such as the 'retirement and Christmas parties' or the 'innovation-reward parties' with free alcohol as a reward for innovation and hard work can give mixed signals. The research evidence shows that heavy episodic drinking (binge drinking) increases the risk of arriving late at work, leaving early and low productivity while at work,” the report stated.

When it came to children, the report found that one in 10 Irish parents reported that children experience harm in the last 12 months as a result of someone else’s drinking. This included being left in unsafe situations, verbal abuse, physical abuse and witnessing serious violence in the home.

"Parents who themselves were regular risky drinkers were more likely to report that children experienced at least one or more of the harms due to others drinking. Therefore, the exposure of children to risk and harm from adults drinking may come from two sources - the 'other drinker' and the heavy drinking parent.

"If both are in the same household then the harm experienced by the child could be substantial," the report said.

It estimated that around 271,000 children under the age of 15 are currently living with regular risky drinkers.

The report concluded that alcohol-related harm 'affects many other people besides the drinker'.

"In fact, the harm experienced by the drinker due to their own drinking is only part of the story of alcohol-related problems in Ireland. The findings of this report indicate that alcohol's harm to others as a result of someone else's drinking is far reaching and can be serious,” it added.

The report, Alcohol's Harm to Others in Ireland, was prepared for the HSE by Dr Ann Hope of Trinity College Dublin.

Are you a Health Professional? Log on to IrishHealthPro for more.
How alcohol affects Ireland in 4 stark graphs

THE HSE YESTERDAY released a major report into the harm caused by alcohol in Ireland.

The study made for stark reading: people cited family problems, physical assaults, money problems, vandalism, and drunk driving, all caused by people in their lives drinking too much.

Ireland’s attitude to alcohol has been much documented. While the number of people who abstain from drinking completely is high – 13 per cent of the population, according to a 2011 study – the way in which many people drink is problematic, with Irish adults binge drinking more than adults in any other European country.

These five graphs from yesterday’s report show the effect of misuse of alcohol and the harm that it has caused to people in Ireland.

1. The prevalence of alcohol-related harm

(For a larger version of this graph click here)

This graph breaks down alcohol-related harm by gender and by age. It shows that the biggest problem by far was physical assault. More than 1 in 5 men aged between 18 and 29 have experienced a physical assault involving alcohol. The next most common form of harm was family problems, with 20.8 per cent of women in the same age bracket reporting them.

The graph breaks down five specific issues – family problems, being a passenger with a drunk driver, property vandalised, physical assault and money problems. The results found that people aged 18 to 29 were most likely to have experienced harm as a result of alcohol, while people aged over 50 were least likely to report problems.

Almost all of the figures decrease over time, except for two: women who had had property vandalised increased, and money problems also increased over time.

2. Alcohol harm in the workplace

(For a larger version of this graph click here)

Alcohol-related harm in the workplace also registered highly, again particularly among younger people, who reported on the negative consequences caused by their co-workers’ heavy drinking. The biggest issue was with people reporting that their ability to do their job was affected by their co-workers’ drinking, with 15 per cent of men and 8 per cent of women aged 18-34 reporting that this was the case.

A lot of people have also been forced to work extra hours due to their colleagues’ drinking. Once again, young men were the most affected by this (11 per cent), closely followed by young women (8.9 per cent).

3. Alcohol harm caused to children
The figure for how children were affected by their parent(s) drinking made for particularly grim reading. Unsurprisingly, children whose parents engaged in regular risky drinking – which was defined as people who drank more than 75 grams of alcohol per month – were most likely to have been harmed, with 11.2 per cent of children verbally abused.

Almost 7 per cent of these children had been left in an unsafe situation, while 3.4 per cent had been physical abused, and another 5.5 per cent had witnessed violence. More than 10 per cent of the children had experienced one or more harms as a result of someone else’s drinking when their parents were regular risky drinkers.

4. How does Ireland compare?

Given all these figures, it’s worth asking how Ireland compares to other countries. The HSE study looked at two other major studies which were conducted in the US and in Canada, and compared the Irish results to them. In each case, the Irish figures were higher – in some cases up to three or four times higher – than the figures in the US and Canadian studies.

13.8 per cent of Irish respondents reported family problems as a result of alcohol consumption, for example, compared to just 5.4 per cent in Canada and 3.4 per cent in the US. The most gaping difference came in property vandalisation, with 9.1 per cent of Irish respondents reporting it, compared to just 2.6 per cent in Canada and 1.8 per cent in the US. The figures were replicated in the workplace and when the effects on children were examined, with Ireland again reported figures higher than international comparisons.
Discussion about harm caused by other’s drinking, HSE report finds

Discussion with Dr Joe Barry, member of health and well being directorate of the HSE, about more than one in four people in Ireland have been harmed because of somebody else is drinking. This is one of the findings in a report from the HSE which finds that 28% of us experienced at-least one or more negative consequence due to somebody else has alcohol consumption.

Ireland

James Reilly, Minister for Health

Cabinet
Life story

Ryan was joined on the line by James to share his story of alcohol and drug addiction, rehabilitation and recovery. James had his first bottle of beer at 11-years-old and took his first drug when he was 15. And from that point the small snowball progressively got larger and larger. He saw alcohol and drugs as a part of adulthood. Things got really bad, he was using a lot of drugs and had no way to pay for them so I started dealing to feed his habit. His journey with Aislinn have brought hope and peace back into his life. He is grateful to have a second chance and live a new life.

Carly Rae Jepsen

James, guest

Fiona, grandmother

Aislinn Centre

Alex White, Minister of State at the Department of Health with responsibility for Primary Care

Department of Health

Aislinn.ie
A report shows that one in ten people had problems with co-workers who are heavy drinkers. The study published by HSE highlights the harm caused by the alcohol abuse.

Dr Stephanie O'Keeffe, HSE
Discussion about HSE publishes 'Alcohol's Harm to Others in Ireland' report

Discussion with Dr Joe Barry, from the HSE Health and Wellbeing Directorate and Professor of Population Health at Trinity College Dublin, about HSE publishes 'Alcohol's Harm to Others in Ireland' report. One quarter of the Irish population has experienced harm because of someone else's drinking, according to a new report from the HSE. It examines the extent of damage caused by alcohol across society.

Alcoholism
Alcohol Abuse
Government
Availability
Alex White, Minister for Health
25% harmed by other's drinking, HSE report finds

Research suggest that 25% of Irish people have been harmed by others who drunk too much alcohol. The finding is included in a report by the Health Service Executive entitled 'Alcohol's harm to others in Ireland'.

Niamh Nolan, RTE Reporter

Verbal Abuse
28% experience harm due to someone else's drinking

A new report from the Health Service Executive says that over one in four Irish people have experienced harm due to someone else's drinking.

The Alcohol's Harm to Others in Ireland report examined alcohol harm to people other than the drinker.

The report found that 28% of the population reported having negative experiences because of other people's drinking.

These included family problems, being a passenger with a drunk driver, assault, having property vandalised and money problems.

Children are also badly affected. One in ten parents or guardians reported children experiencing verbal abuse, being left in unsafe situations, witnessing violence in the home and suffering physical abuse over the last year.

Parents themselves who drank were most likely to report these harms.

One in ten workers suffered problems due to co-workers being heavy drinkers.

It affected their ability to do their work, caused them to work extra hours and led to accidents at work.
How much does alcohol abuse affect others in Ireland? A lot says a new report.

MORE THAN A quarter of Irish people are harmed by others using alcohol in multiple areas of their lives according to a new report.

The HSE has found that, in five separate indicators they researched, 28 per cent of people were negatively affected by alcohol in more than one of these indicators.

"Alcohol's harm to others in Ireland"

10.3 per cent have been a passenger with a drunk driver.

4.5 per cent reported money problems.

Gender differences show that more men have been assaulted by others under the influence of alcohol while more women reported family and money problems.

"The harm experienced by people due to their own drinking is only part of the story of alcohol-related problems in Ireland," according to Suzanne Costello, CEO of Alcohol Action Ireland.

The report argues that although not often publically visible, alcohol's harm to others within the family can have very serious consequences for the safety and well-being of family members, with children being the most vulnerable.

"For a child, harmful parental drinking can shape their every moment from the time they wake up to the time they go to bed," said Costello.

"Issues can include a lack of adequate meals and clean clothes to - at the more serious end of the spectrum - children being physically hurt, emotionally abused or exposed to domestic abuse."

The report goes beyond the home and finds that workplace safety, work strain and employee morale can be affected by alcohol.

This can include "availability of alcohol at work, social networks' use of alcohol and perceived social network approval of using alcohol around work".

The report argues that "problem alcohol use can no longer be framed exclusively in the realm of personal responsibility." Rather, Government policy must take precedent.

Dublin off licences urged not to sell booze before 4pm on Paddy's Day >

Cross-party TDs at least agree on one thing, the need to tackle alcohol abuse > is a full participating member of the Press Council of Ireland and supports the Office of the Press Ombudsman. This scheme in addition to defending the freedom of the press, offers readers a quick, fair and free method of dealing with complaints that they
Damning study on harmful drinking

The review on the impact of problem drinking found one tenth of mothers, fathers or guardians report that youngsters were exposed to verbal and physical abuse, witnessed serious violence in the home or were put in unsafe situations at least once in the previous 12 months.

The Health Service Executive (HSE) study revealed that a quarter of Ireland's population - about 1.1 million people - have experienced some harm due to another person's drinking.

Some 28% people have experienced at least one negative consequences as a result of alcohol including family problems, being a passenger with a drunk driver, assault, vandalism and money problems.

Women are more likely to experience alcohol-related family problems - one in six while men are more likely to report assaults - one in nine, the HSE said.

In the workplace Ireland has twice the rate of drink-related problems as Australia with one in 10 people seeing problems with heavy drinking co-workers such as their inability to get the job done, covering for their habit or a ccidents or close-calls because of drink.

Dr Stephanie O'Keeffe, national director for health and well-being, HSE, said the review of alcohol surveys from 2006-10 is evidence of Ireland's bad relationship with drink.

She said: "The evidence in this report aligns with that of many other local and international studies. These show that in Ireland, we have a problematic and harmful relationship with alcohol, and that our drinking patterns are of concern in many age groups across the population."

Medical reports have also warned that three people die every day in Ireland from an alcohol-related illness while doctors are becoming more concerned about the increasing level of drink-related diseases such as liver cirrhosis, especially among young people.

Other findings include:

- Young men had the highest reported rate of assaults - one in five - and of being a passenger with a drunk driver - one in six - while young women had the highest rate of reported family problems - one in five - due to other people's drinking.

- Overall, one in seven men and one in six workers in the youngest age group were most likely to see bad effects from heavy drinking co-workers.

The HSE study, Alcohol's Harm To Others In Ireland, also found that parents who were classed as regular risky drinkers were more likely to report that children experienced at least one or more of the harms due to others drinking.

Alcohol Action Ireland, the national charity for alcohol-related issues, said the
report was further evidence three areas need to be regulated - alcohol pricing, marketing and availability.

Suzanne Costello, chief executive of Alcohol Action Ireland, said the majority of people who drink cause harm.

She said: "Although not often publicly visible, alcohol’s harm to others within the family can have very serious consequences, with children the most vulnerable.”

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Ms Costello called for an end to self-regulation by the alcohol industry, which she said is wholly ineffective.

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Copyright (c) Press Association Ltd. 2014, All Rights Reserved.
A quarter of Ireland's population have experienced some harm due to another person's drinking, a study has revealed 24 March 2014 One in 10 parents has warned that children have been harmed by someone else's drinking, a damning study on alcohol abuse has revealed. The review on the impact of problem drinking found one tenth of mothers, fathers or guardians report that youngsters were exposed to verbal and physical abuse, witnessed serious violence in the home or were put in unsafe situations at least once in the previous 12 months. The Health Service Executive (HSE) study revealed that a quarter of Ireland's population - about 1.1 million people - have experienced some harm due to another person's drinking. Some 28% people have experienced at least one negative consequences as a result of alcohol including family problems, being a passenger with a drunk driver, assault, vandalism and money problems.

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Press Association
One-in-four Irish people have been harmed by someone else's drinking. The 'Alcohol's Harm to Others in Ireland' report published by the Health Service Executive (HSE) today found that women (one in six) are more likely to experience family problems, while men (one in nine) are more likely to report assaults.

While 1-in-10 parents reported that children came into harms way at least once in the past 12 months as a result of someone else's drinking.

More young men experienced harms as a result of others drinking, with assaults the highest reported harm by that group.

The range of negative consequences reported included avoidance of drunk people, felt unsafe in public places or using public transport, trouble at a licensed venue, been kept awake at night, verbal abuse, arguments and being threatened.

The survey found that much of this anti-social behaviour and crime experienced due to others drinking was not reported to the gardai.

The report says harm from others was experienced more frequently among men and younger people. At a most serious level, 1-in-11 said they or a family member has been assaulted by someone under the influence of alcohol, with the highest rate among young people.

Respondents say just half of all alcohol-related assaults were reported to the gardai.

In both the general and college populations, the factors most associated with alcohol-related violence were regular risky drinking, being a male and younger in age.

In the general population, younger women were more likely to be victims of assaults in comparison to their female student counterparts - while the rate of assaults among young men and male students were similar.

While the role of alcohol in sexual assault cases showed that alcohol consumption, in particular drinking to intoxication, was a feature in a high proportion of rapes committed in Ireland - both among perpetrators and victims.

Strong links have also been reported between domestic violence and alcohol consumption. A national study on domestic violence reported that one-quarter of domestic abuse cases in Ireland always involved alcohol.

Dr. Anne Hope authored the report, and says many are also impacted by the heavy drinking of colleagues.
The 5 at 5: Monday

The Malaysian government has said the missing flight MH370 and that there were no survivors. Relatives of passengers were informed of the news by text message.

More than one quarter of Irish people have been harmed by someone who had been drinking alcohol, according to a major new report by the HSE

3. #NOTHING TO SEE: Taoiseach Enda Kenny has again declined to answer any questions about the controversy surrounding Garda Commissioner Martin Callinan, saying the matter will be discussed at Cabinet tomorrow

A student who suffered a major head injury while playing a rugby match for his school has been awarded €2.75 million in damages in a settlement approved by the High Court, RTE reports

A group of thugs in Russia beat up members of a St Patrick's Day-themed flashmob after mistaking them for gay activists is a full participating member of the Press Council of Ireland and supports the Office of the Press Ombudsman. This scheme in addition to defending the freedom of the press, offers readers a quick, fair and free method of dealing with complaints that they may have in relation to articles that appear on our pages. To contact the Office of the Press Ombudsman Lo-Call 1890 208 080 or go to www.pressombudsman.ie www.presscouncil.ie

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One in four affected by other people’s problem drinking

One in four Irish people have experienced problems because of someone else’s drinking, according to a new report on the extent of harm caused in society by alcohol.

Alcohol’s Harm to Others in Ireland was published by the HSE today. It examined alcohol harm to people other than the drinker in three Irish settings – the general population, the workplace and children and families.

The report confirmed there is very significant harm associated with alcohol, extending far beyond that experienced by the person drinking, in each of these settings.

Women are more likely to experience family problems while men are more likely to report assaults due to other people’s drinking habits.

At work, one in ten people reported having to work extra hours or had experienced accidents or close calls due to a co-worker’s problematic drinking.

Men and workers in the youngest age group were the most likely to experience the negative consequences due to co-workers who were heavy drinkers.

The overall rate of reported harms in the Irish workforce was double that in comparison to the Australian findings for each of the measures used.

One in ten parents or guardians reported that children experienced at least one negative consequence as a result of someone else’s drinking in the past year. These included verbal abuse, being left in unsafe situations, witnessing serious violence in the home and physical abuse.

Parents who themselves were regular risky drinkers were more likely to report that children experienced at least one of these harms due to others drinking, after controlling for demographics.

Dr. Stephanie O’Keeffe, National Director for Health and Wellbeing with the HSE said the report had been commissioned in response to a growing recognition of alcohol related harm.

“Significant public health and safety concerns are raised by the harm caused to other individuals and to wider society – where we see that a quarter of the population has experienced harm due to another’s drinking,” she said.

The full report can be found here.
Discussion on introduction of smoking ban in Ireland

Discussion with John Mallon, Forest Eireann and Michael Martin, Fianna Fail Leader about introduction of smoking ban in Ireland. The workplace smoking ban was brought into force 10 years ago today. The Royal College of Physicians of Ireland wants a complete smoking ban across all publicly funded institutions. Michael Martin was the Minister who introduced the ban. Delegates gathering to celebrate the ban.

Irish Obey the law
Irish pub
Tobacco industry
Funding
UK
Alcohol
Food
Exercise
RTE News
Celtic Tiger
Pricing
Cigarettes
Non-smokers
Heroine
Chemicals
Toxicology
Poison
Quit smoking
Environmental health office
Legislation
Lobbying
Alliance
Job losses
Germany
Austria
Public health alliance
Irish times
Civil centre
Tom Power
Nicotine
One in four affected by other people's problem drinking

One in four Irish people have been harmed by someone else's drinking. That's according to a new report published by the HSE.

Health Service Executive (HSE)

Conor Cullen, Communications Officer, Alcohol Action Ireland

Alcohol Action Ireland
HSE releases alcohol harm report

One in four Irish people have suffered harm because of someone else's drinking, that's one of the findings in a new report by the HSE.

HSE
HSE releases alcohol harm report

Research suggests that 35% of Irish people have been harmed by others who have drunk too much alcohol.

HSE

Ireland

Morning Ireland

Professor Joe Barry, HSE report author
25% of people impacted by other's drinking

One in four Irish people have been harmed by someone else’s drinking. 'The Alcohol's Harm to Others in Ireland' report published by the Health Service Executive today found that women are more likely to experience family problems, while 1 in nine men are likely to report assaults.

'The Alcohol's Harm to Others in Ireland', report
Health Service Executive (HSE)
Conor Cullen, of Alcohol Action Ireland
One in four affected by other people's problem drinking

A new HSE report is highlighting the harm caused by other people's drinking.

Health Service Executive (HSE)

Dr. Ann Hope

Alcohol
Discussion about 1-in-4 Irish people harmed by someone else's drinking, says study

Discussion with Dr. Anne Hope about impact of alcohol on Irish society. Alcohol's harmed others in Ireland as a report just published by the HSE. They talk about one in ten Irish workers experience in the work place one or more negative consequences due to coworkers who were heavy drinkers.

Ireland

Binge drinking
One in four affected by other people's problem drinking

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'Alcohol's Harm to Others in Ireland', report

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Alcohol's Harm to Others in Ireland report published

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Alcohol's Harm to Others in Ireland report

HSE

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Health Service Executive (HSE)

Conor Colin, from Alcohol Action Ireland

Alcohol Action Ireland
Alcohol's Harm To Others In Ireland report

Conor Cullen, communications manager with Action Against Alcohol joined on the line to talk about the findings of the Alcohol's Harm To Others In Ireland report. The report finds the one in four people or 28% of the general Irish population reported experiencing at least one or more negative consequences as a result of someone else's drinking such as family problems, passenger with a drunk driver, physical assaults, property vandalised and money problems.

Conor Cullen, communications manager with Action Against Alcohol

Alcohol's Harm To Others In Ireland report

Dr Ann Hope

HSE

Ireland

Public Health Bill

Drinkaware

Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (ISPCC)

Department of Health
New study reveals over 1 million people in Ireland have been harmed by another's drinking

The HSE has revealed how much harm alcohol abuse causes to others.

Health Service Executive (HSE)

Dr. Stephanie O'Keeffe, HSE official

Alcohol