

Relationship between reduction in alcohol availability and measures of community alcohol health related harm and/or consumption

Introduction

The NIHR Public Health Research (PHR) programme evaluates public health interventions, providing new knowledge on the benefits, costs, acceptability and wider impacts of non-NHS interventions intended to improve the health of the public and reduce inequalities in health. Topics for research are identified and prioritised, and studies are commissioned to help answer questions of public health importance. The studies include both primary research and evidence synthesis.

Question

What is the impact of a reduction in the availability of alcohol on community alcohol health related harm and/or consumption in the local community?

- **Population:** Researchers to specify and justify.
- **Intervention** (non-NHS): Reduction in availability of alcohol e.g. outlet density, control of hours of sale. Researchers to specify and justify exact intervention(s) to be assessed.
- **Comparator:** No change in availability of alcohol.
- **Outcomes:** Reduction in community alcohol health related harm and/or consumption. Researchers to specify and justify.
- **Time:** Researchers to specify and justify
- **Design:** Researchers to specify and justify study design.
- **Setting:** Community.
- **Impact on inequalities:** Researchers to specify and justify.

Background to commissioning brief:

Comparison of per capita consumption among adults aged 15 and over shows the UK to be among the heaviest alcohol consuming countries in Europe. Recent years have seen increasing interest in the levels of alcohol misuse in the UK.

The many people who drink regularly to excess, cause damage far beyond their own bodies. Directly and indirectly they affect the well-being and way of life of millions of others. Community alcohol health related harms include (but are not limited to) alcohol-associated injury, teenage pregnancy, sexually transmitted infection and fear of crime.

Excessive alcohol consumption is associated with increased morbidity and mortality from a wide range of physical and mental diseases and disorders; in addition its impact on society, through violence, criminal behaviour and unplanned pregnancies, is significant.

Primary research is required to investigate the relationship between reduction in alcohol availability (considering all access points), and community alcohol health related harms and/or consumption. Research should include consideration of the impact on health inequalities.

Notes to Applicants

The NIHR Public Health Research programme is funded by the NIHR, with contributions from the CSO in Scotland, WORD in Wales, and HSC R&D, Public Health Agency, Northern Ireland. Researchers in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are eligible to apply for funding under this programme

Applicants are asked to:

1. Read the 'Commissioned proposal guidance notes' <http://www.phr.nihr.ac.uk/fundingopportunities/commissioned.asp> in full before starting the online application form.
2. Refer to the Medical Research Council's Complex interventions guidance: <http://www.mrc.ac.uk/Utilities/Documentrecord/index.htm?d=MRC004871> when planning how studies, particularly RCTs, will be supervised. Further advice specific to each topic will be given by the PHR programme at full proposal and contract stages.

If you wish to submit an outline proposal on this question, please complete the online application form at <http://www.phr.nihr.ac.uk/fundingopportunities/commissioned.asp>

Applications submitted by the cut-off date of 13:00 on 14 April 2010 and deemed within the PHR programme's remit will be considered by the PHR Research Funding Board at its meeting in 23/24 June 2010. Following this meeting shortlisted outline proposals will be invited to submit a full proposal to be considered by the PHR Research Funding Board in October 2010. Shortlisted applicants will be given a minimum of eight weeks to submit a full proposal.