

Editorial: Papers from the 50th Annual Symposium of the Kettil Bruun Society, 2025

Welcome to Volume 14, Issue 2 of the International Journal of Alcohol and Drug Research (IJADR).

This issue is dedicated to papers that were presented at the 2025 50th Annual Symposium of the Kettil Bruun Society for Social and Epidemiological Research (KBS). The 50th KBS symposium was a remarkable milestone for the Society, bringing together 238 delegates from 38 countries. The issue also represents an important milestone for IJADR, as the first issue entirely composed of papers from a KBS symposium. It is a testament to the Society's continued and growing commitment to collaborative international research. The current issue includes: a methods paper that examined different indirect methods of estimating alcohol tax revenue across 17 European countries; a comprehensive review of the relationship between alcohol consumption and pancreatic cancer, demonstrating a dose relationship between alcohol consumption and cancer risk; a mixed methods approach to examine outlet density and trading hours in South Africa, demonstrating how conventional data sources can differ from real world practices; an exploration of the factors that contribute to successful and unsuccessful attempts to reduce drinking among risky drinkers from the United Kingdom; and . the use of focus groups to examine public awareness of alcohol policy in Ireland. The final paper examined police records of domestic violence in Lithuania, highlighting the substantial role alcohol-intoxication plays in almost half of all cases.

Excise taxes on alcohol remain one of the strongest and most important policies for reducing the consumption of alcohol and associated harms. Governments are often hesitant to change their taxation policies for fear of reductions to revenue. Furthermore, many countries do not routinely report their alcohol excise revenue, making comparison between countries difficult. Correia et al. (2026) sought to address these issues by examining two indirect measures of estimating alcohol excise tax revenue, in countries where revenue data are available. The first of these methods is the excise share-based method; this uses the tax portion of the final retail price of alcohol products to predict per capita excise revenue based on a previously established relationship between these two variables. The second is a new method devised for this paper, which utilises tax rates and national alcohol consumption data to predict per capita excise revenue. Both methods were strong predictors of reported revenue, with the new tax-and-consumption method providing more precise estimates. This paper is an important step forward in improving global monitoring of alcohol consumption and fiscal modelling of alcohol taxation policies. *Guest Editor: Nic Taylor, Ph.D.*

The systematic review and meta-analysis by Zhao and colleagues (2026) investigated associations between alcohol consumption and pancreatic cancer. Building on previous mixed and inconsistent findings this study addressed several identifiable methodological weaknesses in previously published pooled analyses and meta-analyses on pancreatic cancer and alcohol consumption. The study found a dose-response relationship: consumption of >24 grams/day was significantly associated with increased risk of pancreatic cancer. The authors suggested that former drinker bias is likely responsible for the appearance of reduced pancreatic risk among lower volume drinkers and also results in suppressed risk estimates at all levels of consumption. The article makes an important methodological contribution by demonstrating the clear need to reduce lifetime selection biases to avoid under-estimation of alcohol's contribution to disease incidence and premature mortality at all levels of alcohol consumption. *Guest Editor: Megan Cook, Ph.D.*

The density of alcohol outlets in communities has consistently been associated with alcohol consumption and harm. The paper by Ramsoomar and colleagues (2026) provides further evidence and novel approaches to this evidence base. They tested the feasibility of a community-centred, participatory approach to mapping alcohol outlet density and trading times in two South African townships, Ga-Rankuwa and Thembaletu. Combining desktop research, geo-location by trained local fieldworkers, and qualitative interviews with community members and key informants, the study identified 383 alcohol outlets across the two sites. A particularly novel contribution of this work is the extent to which participatory mapping uncovered an informal alcohol market that would otherwise remain invisible to official records: over half of surveyed outlets were unlicensed, and local fieldworkers' knowledge of their communities allowed detection of home-based and back-room sales that administrative registers alone could not capture. The study also found marked variation in outlet density between and within sites, and most outlets operating well beyond permitted trading hours. Qualitative accounts reinforced these spatial findings, describing weak enforcement, police complicity, and a lack of community voice in licensing decisions. The authors argue that participatory mapping offers a feasible and valuable complement to conventional data sources, and call for strengthened regulation, enforcement, and institutionalised community involvement in alcohol licensing decisions. *Guest editor: Ingrid M. Wilson, Ph.D.*

The study by Morfett and colleagues (2026) aimed to better understand the motives, goals, and strategies of attempts to

reduce alcohol among people who drink at risky levels in the United Kingdom (UK). Morfett and colleagues found that, as expected, there is a wide range of barriers and facilitators to making an alcohol reduction attempt. These factors were identified here as individual's knowledge, motives to both drink alcohol and to drink less alcohol, as well as their physical, social and cultural environment that impacted whether or not they would make an alcohol reduction attempt. This study was focused on an individual's attempt to reduce their alcohol consumption, and not the policy leavers, but interestingly found several barriers and facilitators at the policy-level such as the role of accessibility and effects of licensing laws, and the cost of alcoholic drinks compared with NoLo drinks as mentioned by participants. Environmental factors facilitating drinking alcohol were mentioned more regularly and by more participants than environmental factors facilitating a reduction in drinking alcohol. This is yet more evidence of the alcogenic environment that exists in the UK, and contributes to the normalisation of alcohol. This study also found participants reported value-driven motives to drink less (e.g., being a role model, supporting someone else making an attempt), which were not identified in previous research. The findings from this study underscore the need for policy-level interventions. The study also underscores the need for tailored approaches, as relevant and effective strategies are likely to depend on an individual's drinking characteristics. *Guest Editor: Jack G. Martin, M.Sc.*

The article by Calnan and colleagues (2026) investigated public awareness and support for the multi-component Public Health (Alcohol) Act in Ireland. The study found that while some participants were aware of some of the policy measures, many did not associate them with an overarching Act. As the authors state, the limited policy awareness found among participants in this study underlines the reality that policy enactment does not necessarily guarantee public awareness. Participants showed strongest support for measures that they perceived as targeting children/young people and people with alcohol dependence due to their greater perceived vulnerability to alcohol-related harms. However, price-based measures generated the lowest support and were perceived by many as unfair and ineffective. These findings suggested industry narratives influenced participants' views, and that greater awareness-raising of industry tactics is called for. *Guest editor: Megan Cook, Ph.D.*

While alcohol's role in domestic violence is well established, children are often the hidden victims and the extent of their exposure is rarely well-quantified. The paper by Tamutienė and Stumbrys (2026) provides important new evidence drawing on an unusually large administrative dataset: 20,010 police records of domestic violence interventions in Lithuania, collected in the eight months following the 2023 introduction of police-initiated protection orders. Descriptive analyses revealed the significant extent of alcohol's involvement, with alcohol intoxication recorded in nearly half of all cases. Within households with children, intoxicated individuals posing a risk were overwhelmingly male (85.2%), heavily intoxicated (mean BAC 0.23%), and disproportionately based in rural areas. The authors' further

analyses revealed that police consider multiple individual risk factors when deciding whether to issue a protection order – alcohol intoxication, male gender, a recent history of domestic violence, and, above all, a child's presence at the incident. Importantly, protection orders were also issued more often in households with children than without, suggesting officers weigh child vulnerability directly into their risk assessments. The study helps to shine light on children's exposure to alcohol-related violence in the home and suggests future research to assess the effectiveness of such interventions. *Guest editor: Ingrid M. Wilson, Ph.D.*

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National Drug Research Institute, Curtin University, Australia

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