

ALCOHOL

Public Health (Minimum Price for Alcohol) (Wales) Bill



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

www.gov.wales

A consultation for children and young people

HELLO

The Welsh Government wants people to have long, healthy, happy lives.

Drinking too much alcohol can cause illness and stop you from living a healthy life.

Many people enjoy drinking safe levels of alcohol within recommended limits. Alcohol can often be part of celebrations such as, birthdays, weddings, or other social events, or simply part of meeting up with friends or eating meals both at home and elsewhere.



Alcohol can cause serious illnesses or even death.

In 2013 there were **467** alcohol-related deaths in Wales.



Alcohol misuse costs the health service around **£109 million** each year in hospital admissions alone.

 In 2009/10



17%
of boys
aged 11-16

&

14%
of girls
aged 11-16



in Wales were reported to be drinking alcohol at least once a week.

The Welsh Government say children under 15 should not drink alcohol. Children who drink at an early age generally drink more than those who delay drinking. If parents use alcohol sensibly, their children are more likely to do so too.

www.wales.nhs.uk/news/16415

Alcohol misuse in children can cause particular dangers to brain development.

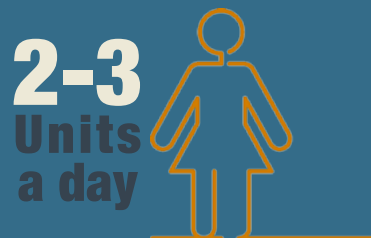


This booklet tells you about the changes we want to make to the law so we can have a minimum unit price (MUP) for alcohol in Wales.

What are safe levels of alcohol?



Adults are advised not to drink more than



and have at least 2 alcohol free days per week.

Government advice

The Welsh Government is taking lots of action to help people both understand and deal with the problems of alcohol misuse but we want to do more.

One thing we could do is control the price of alcohol so that it's more expensive to buy.

In 2014 as part of a general public health consultation we asked people across Wales about introducing a new law on this and most people thought it was a good idea.



Binge drinking – drinking more than double the daily units is really bad for people's health but lots of people do it, including young people!



It's against the law for anyone under 18 to buy alcohol.

Wales has the highest number of 15 year olds drinking alcohol in the UK.



MUP

Setting a MUP (Minimum Unit Price) would mean a unit of alcohol couldn't be sold below a certain price.

The more units a drink has the more it would cost.

UNITS

Alcohol comes in all different flavours, shapes, colours and sizes so we use units to tell us how strong drinks are.



10ml of pure alcohol = 1 unit

The stronger (%) the drink = the higher amount of units in it.

2.6
UNITS

You can find the units of alcohol in any drink or the strength of the alcohol as a percentage volume written on the bottle or can.

So when it comes to units:

Strength (%) matters

A pint of lager/cider/beer at 3.6 % = 2 units

A pint of lager/cider/beer at 5.2 % = 3 units



Size matters

Small vodka 37%
(single shot)

= 1 unit

Large vodka 37%
(double shot)

= 2 units



Will setting a minimum price per unit for alcohol make a difference?

Lots of expert evidence suggests that minimum unit price (MUP) works in reducing alcohol harms and helps save lives. Last year (2014) Sheffield University published a study for the Welsh Government.

It said if Wales had a MUP there could be **53** less deaths per year. It could stop some people drinking at unsafe levels.

We haven't decided what the minimum unit price should be but if it was set at **50p per unit** then:

- A can of cider at **2 units** couldn't be sold for less than **£1.00**
- A 1 litre bottle of Vodka at 40% couldn't be sold for less than **£20.00**

There is a lot of evidence in other countries that MUP works in helping to reduce the harm alcohol does to people and in saving lives.



Some countries, like Canada, have set a MUP and deaths from alcohol have already come down.

NEW LAW

The new law would mean that:

- Welsh Ministers would have the power to set a minimum unit price for alcohol
- Anyone selling alcohol below the MUP in Wales would be breaking the law
- Local authority officers will have powers to make sure no one is selling alcohol below the MUP
- Local authority officers will be able to give fines to shop keepers who break the law, or take them to court.



If a shop breaks the law they would face a fine of £200 but there would be a £50 discount if it's paid within 15 days.

THANKS

Thanks for reading this

Please send your answers to:

e-mail: MUPBill@wales.gsi.gov.uk

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by 11 December 2015



Do you think we should change the law to have a MUP in Wales?

Yes

No

Comment



What do you think?



Do you think young people would drink less if it costs more?

Will MUP help more adults drink within safe levels?

Could MUP help stop young people drinking too much?

Will MUP be good for the health service?

Will MUP be good for employers?

Will MUP be bad for pubs, restaurants and shops?

Is there anything we haven't thought of?

Comment