

GINA monthly e-news August 09

FASD Awareness Day 9 September 2009

Every year on September 9th, International FASD Awareness Day is observed. This day is to raise awareness about Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders and the date was chosen as the ninth day of the ninth month of the year to remind people of the nine months of pregnancy a woman should abstain from alcohol. To coincide with FASD Awareness Day events and conferences have been arranged all over the world. Some events include . . .

Consumption in Pregnancy: Time to Talk

This conference will be held at St Anne's College, Oxford. The conference will look at the role of genetics and harmful effects of alcohol on the foetus, trends in drinking patterns in women, screening for prenatal drinking and treatment effectiveness, and other characteristics of foetal alcohol syndrome. For more information please visit www.brookes.ac.uk/

An **Alcohol and Pregnancy** conference will also mark FASD Awareness Day in Brussels, at the European Parliament. This conference is jointly organised by Eurocare and the Swedish Presidency of the European Union and will offer public authorities and experts a chance to learn more about the condition, share experiences and good practice, and discuss the different policy options to curb its incidence. Visit www.eurocare.org for more information.

NOFAS-UK, the national organisation on foetal alcohol syndrome, will also be marking the day with the **NOFAS-UK Pregnant Pause Big Freeze**. At 9:09 on the 9th September 2009 hundreds of people will freeze at Victoria station, London. Everyone

in the crowd - men as well as women - will pose as pregnant to tell the world that women will have healthier babies if they avoid alcohol during pregnancy. Last year surprised commuters stopped and pulled out their mobile phones to photograph dozens of frozen pregnant people in the middle of the main concourse of Victoria Station. The **Pregnant Pause** gave people a chance to 'freeze of fun' whilst bringing to attention the risks of drinking during pregnancy. To join the **Pregnant Pause Big Freeze** event please email nofas-uk@midlantic.co.uk or visit www.nofas-uk.org for further details.

If your organisation is marking the day with an event and you would like GINA to promote it, or if you would like any information about FASD please get in touch. Visit www.ginascotland.org.uk or email gina@alcohol-focus-scotland.org.uk



In the news . . .

Scots women twice as likely to have alcohol problems as women down south
Scots women are twice as likely to become "alcoholics" as those in England. The rate of alcohol dependency among women north of the Border is 3.3 per cent - compared with 1.7 per cent in England. That means **71,804**

Scots women, in addition to these figures 143,228 men are dependant on alcohol.

The figures, contained in a report by the Scottish Association of Alcohol and Drug Action Teams (SAADAT) show that 27.9 per cent of adult Scots - 1.172million people - are risking their health through excessive drinking and that one in 20 are addicted to alcohol. The report also shows that only one in 12 people with an alcohol problem gets specialist help. Age also plays a role in women's drinking habits, with 4.8 per cent of 16 to 44-year-olds hooked compared with 2.7 per cent of those aged 45 to 64 and 1.4 per cent of the over-65s.

Source: [Daily Record](#), 07/08/09

MacAskill: Justice in Scotland is sexist

Male chauvinism within Scotland's political and judicial systems is partly responsible for the high number of women in prison, Justice Secretary Kenny MacAskill has claimed. He suggested that women were treated more harshly than men when it came to offending because society "did not expect women" to commit such crimes and that there were huge difficulties with short-term sentences unable to tackle the chaotic lives of many female offenders. Mr MacAskill made his remarks during a visit to HMP Cornton Vale near Stirling - Scotland's only women-only prison. **The number of female inmates has surged by 90% in 10 years.** At Cornton Vale criticisms have also been made of the volume of short custodial sentences given to the majority of women, with 70% of those convicted over the past 10 years sent to the prison for six months or less. The short time the women spend at Cornton Vale means that they can not successfully complete rehabilitation programmes or conquer **drug and alcohol addictions, which affect 95% of prisoners.**

Source: [HeraldScotland.com](#) 13/08/09

Larger wine glasses and ladette culture blamed for rise in women drink drivers

Figures show that the number of women convicted every year for drink driving has sharply risen over the past decade, with larger pub measures and the growing "ladette culture" blamed for the increase. Ministry of Justice figures show that more than **12,000 women were convicted for drink driving in 2007**, compared to approximately 8400 a decade earlier. The

figures, obtained under the Freedom of Information Act, showed the number of men found guilty of the offence fell by almost a third over the same period, from 91,777, to 77,529. **Women now account for one in every eight drink-drivers caught on the road** compared to one in every 12 a decade ago, although men still commit the majority of the offences. Road safety experts blamed larger wine measures in bigger glasses sold in licensed premises, the increasing strength of the drink and the rise in the so-called "ladette culture".

Source: [Telegraph.co.uk](#), 03/08/09

New beer's Eve at Carlsberg



Carlsberg has announced the UK launch of Eve, its new beer designed exclusively for women. The brewer is embarking on a £500,000 12-week trial campaign in Manchester after industry research suggested a gap in the beer market existed as far as women were concerned. Ian Hannaford, marketing director, said the decision to launch Eve came "following extensive research that shows there is a significant demand from women for a sophisticated, light alternative to their current drinks repertoire". Carlsberg says Eve is both low in calories (123 calories per 250ml bottle) and in alcohol (3.1%). It is brewed with added fruit flavouring such as Lychee and Passion fruit. Carlsberg is just the latest in a long line of major brewers attempting to tap in to the female market. In 2008 the US brewer SABMiller announced a new marketing initiative to educate and encourage women to drink beer with women-only tasting sessions.

Source: [The Drinks business](#), 17/08/09

Gender differences in the choreography of alcohol-related violence: An observational study of aggression within licensed premises



This article, published in the latest Journal of Substance Use, examines patterns of gender involvement in violent incidents observed within licensed premises. Field observations were conducted in a sample of eight city centre nightclubs in Scotland allowing alcohol-related aggressive incidents to be witnessed in their naturalistic setting. The results show that although most of those involved in aggressive incidents were males (108/171), many of the conflicts witnessed involved female combatants (36.8%).

Additionally, female-to-female incidents were found to be as potentially injurious as those between males. Nevertheless, female-to-female and male-to-male conflicts did differ, in terms of the nature of the violence observed. The research challenges belief that female conflicts within licensed premises are less problematic than those involving males. The article can be found in the latest Journal of Substance Use. For more information please visit www.informaworld.com

SNAPY regional forums

Would you like to help shape the work SNAPY does and network with those working with children and young people affected by alcohol misuse in your local area? SNAPY is looking for practitioners

who are interested in being part of eight regional forums across Scotland.

The day will begin with alcohol awareness training, for those who work with children and young people, facilitated by Alcohol Focus Scotland's Training Team which will be followed by lunch. In the afternoon session, you will be given the chance to discuss and feedback on key issues for children and young people in your region and how your service could benefit from the SNAPY network. The remaining forums take place in:

- Inverness, 7th September
- Dundee, 16th September
- Dumfries, 9th October
- Perth, 28th October
- Hamilton, 3rd November
- Greenock, 17th November

If you are from Greater Glasgow or Edinburgh and Lothians, please visit the virtual forums: www.snapy.org.uk/forums

The regional forums are an ideal opportunity to gain free alcohol awareness training covering issues like units, alcohol's effect on the body, interventions and parental misuse. It is also an opportunity to express your views through the SNAPY network.

Events

9 September, Consumption in Pregnancy: Time to Talk, Oxford
For more information please visit www.brookes.ac.uk

9 September, Alcohol and Pregnancy Conference, Brussels
For more information please visit www.eurocare.org

18 September 2009, Violence, Trauma and Addictions: Positive Interventions, Parish Halls, Glasgow
This seminar offers an opportunity to develop understanding of the links between

violence, trauma and addictions, and to find out about 'what works' in supporting people who have challenging behaviour as a result of complex needs. This seminar is free and is open to all. If you are interested in attending please email

amywsproject@btconnect.com for a booking form as soon as possible.

21 October 2009, Women finding solutions to binge drinking, London

This is a one-day conference organised by the YWCA bringing together those who feel strongly about alcohol and binge drinking and want to find solutions. Speakers include representatives from Thames Valley Police, Drinkaware, Alcohol Concern, Tesco, Bronzefield Prison and the National Union of Students. There will also be young women from YWCA centres, some of who admit to binge drinking. Delegates will be invited to share good practice and contribute to a final conference resolution. For more information and to book a place please visit

www.ywca.org

Training

8 September 2009, Substance Use – Theory and Practice Level 2, GLDVP offices, London,

Costs: £90 (voluntary), £130 (statutory). This course aims to build on topics introduced in the basic drug and alcohol awareness course by giving participants more in depth information and skills to work with problematic drug and alcohol users in a domestic violence agency. The course will look at conducting drug/alcohol detailed assessments and explore some of the risks and concerns to incorporate into safety planning with survivors.

15 September 2009, DrinkWise Women and Alcohol – The Female Unit, Alcohol Focus Scotland

This workshop aims to explore issues relating to women and alcohol and the impact of their own and other's drinking; to consider the social, cultural and personal context of alcohol for women and to consider effective ways of working with women affected by alcohol problems. This training would benefit anyone involved with

helping women with alcohol problems or those working in the wider gender field.

Cost for the day which includes lunch is £95. For further information and to book a place Contact 0141 572 6703 or email training@alcohol-focus-scotland.org.uk

Do you have any information you would like to share with the GINA network?

We would love to hear from you if you have examples of best practice, studies of interest, information on services or upcoming events etc. If so please get in touch.

The next GINA newsletter will be distributed in September 2009.

Contact:

GINA

Alcohol Focus Scotland

166 Buchanan Street

Glasgow

G1 2LW

T: 0141 572 6597

E: gina@alcohol-focus-scotland.org.uk

W: www.ginascotland.org.uk