

# THE YEAR IN REVIEW

## JANUARY

An Alcohol Health Alliance commissioned survey finds that only 16% people are aware of the weekly alcohol guidelines and **only one in ten people know of the established links between alcohol and cancer**. In other news, a joint report between health experts and the Portman Group sparks a row over labelling of alcoholic beverages.

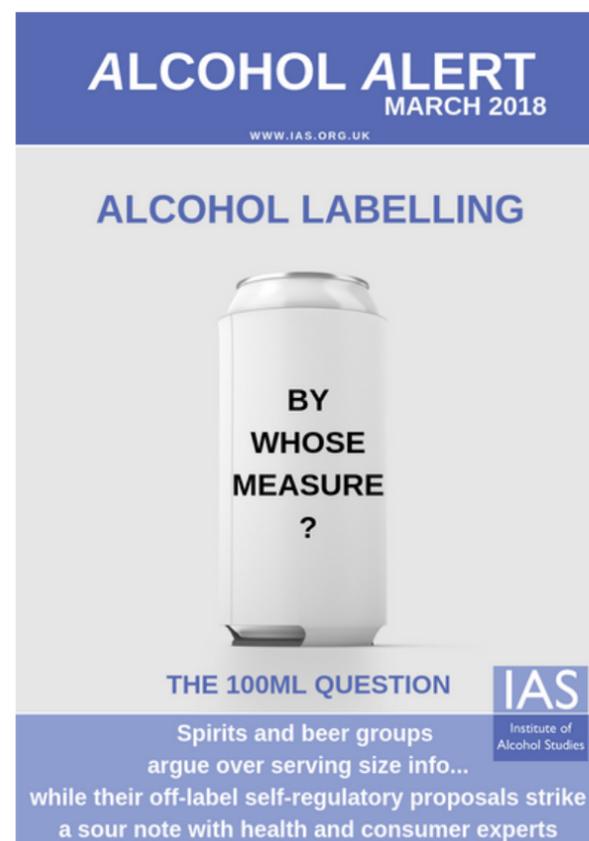


## FEBRUARY

Campaigners join forces at the All Party Parliamentary Group on the Children of Alcoholics to **demand an end to Parental Alcohol Misuse**. New official figures show an increase in the number of alcohol-related admissions to hospitals in England, with middle-aged drinkers most likely to be admitted.

## MARCH

Industry proposals to shift information and health warnings off alcoholic beverage labels incur the wrath of health and consumer campaigners. Elsewhere, **Labour Party member Nona Buckley-Irvine** reveals how the presence of alcohol alienates women and those from ethnic minority backgrounds from participating in politics at grassroots level.



## APRIL

A report from the Fraser of Allander Institute finds that **raising alcohol taxes by 10% could boost GDP by £850 million** and create an additional 17,000 jobs in the UK, while an IAS survey held in conjunction with the Centre for Mental Health reveals the lack of 'joined-up action' between alcohol and mental health treatment services

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## MAY

The long awaited implementation of minimum unit pricing of alcohol begins in Scotland, after a lengthy legal battle.

Meanwhile in Westminster, Public Health England announces a **£4.5m Innovation Fund** aimed at improving the support services for children of dependent drinkers and alcohol dependent parents.



## JUNE

The Welsh Government follows Scotland's lead by passing legislation to introduce minimum unit pricing.

The Republic of Ireland's *Public Health (Alcohol) Bill* also moves one step closer to becoming law after passing committee stage.



## JULY

Caroline Flint MP urges the UK Government to '**put Families First**' as part of a strategy to protect families from alcohol-related harm.

Elsewhere, an investigation into the practices of global brewer Heineken in Africa finds cases of verbal and physical harassment towards its promotional staff.



## AUGUST

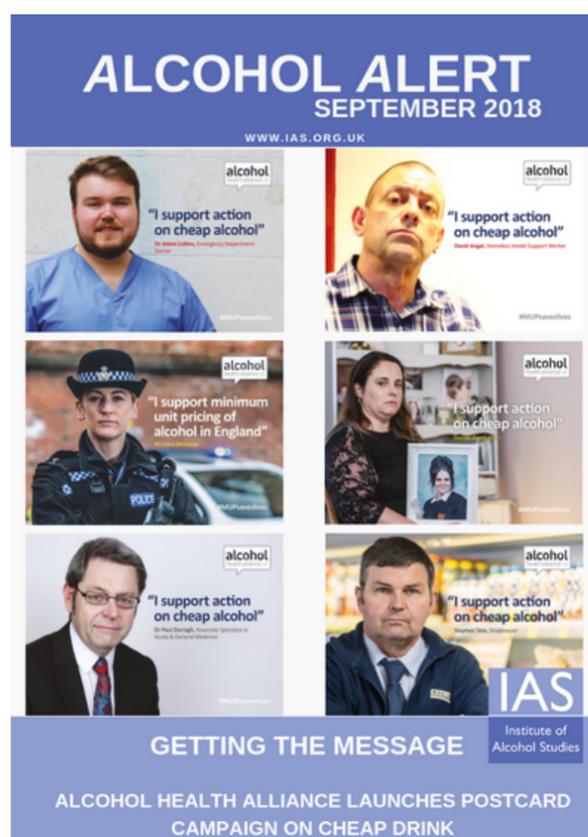
Three out of five British adults who travel by air (60%) have encountered drunk passengers whilst on a flight, according to a new joint report between IAS and the European Alcohol Policy Alliance, while another IAS paper published in *Addiction* finds that the alcohol industry relies on harmful drinkers for almost a quarter of its revenue.

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## SEPTEMBER

The UK Alcohol Health Alliance launches a **postcard campaign** to warn about dangers of cheap alcohol.

Elsewhere, a row erupts over Public Health England's decision to partner with industry-funded charity Drinkaware over a 'drink-free days' initiative.



## NOVEMBER

Joe FitzPatrick MSP launches a **new framework for tackling alcohol-related harm in Scotland at the eighth European Alcohol Policy Conference**, as new figures found that seven times as many people (per 100,000 population) were admitted to general acute hospitals from the most deprived areas compared to the least deprived areas in the last the financial year.

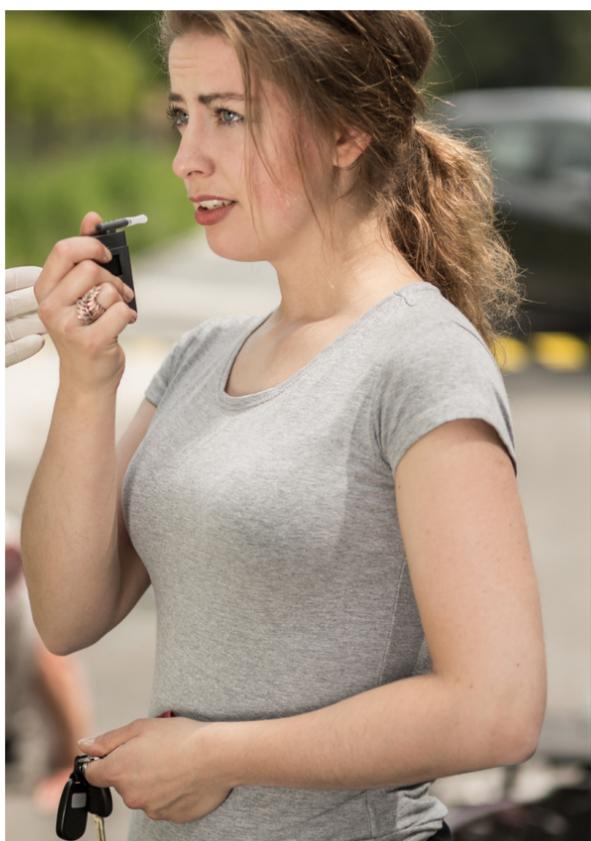


Image source:  
KatarzynaBialasiewicz, iStock

## OCTOBER

Chancellor Philip Hammond leaves public health experts with a bitter taste, after **freezing spirits, beer and cider duties in his Autumn Budget**.

Elsewhere, the Irish Government passes its historic *Public Health (Alcohol) Bill*.



## DECEMBER

There are signs that **anti-drink-driving enforcement activity is still falling** as transport data shows the number of breath tests requested in England fell below 100,000, while WhoCanFixMyCar.com found that more than 900 of 1,000 drivers surveyed in their database are **in favour of having breathalysers in cars**.