How is NHS Health Scotland assessing the impact of minimum unit pricing (MUP) of alcohol?

We are asking the following two questions...

- Has MUP contributed to reducing the health and social harms related to alcohol?
- Are some people and businesses more affected (positively or negatively) than others?

These two questions will be explored through four outcome areas...

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External factors

The evaluation will also explore what other factors besides MUP may have affected alcohol consumption or harm (e.g. changes in disposable income, changes in alcohol price due to other reasons).
MESAS MUP evaluation study portfolio

1. **Compliance**: Uses national licensing statistics and evidence from Licensing Standard Officers to explore compliance with MUP and related issues. (Expected to report: mid 2019.)


3. **Small convenience stores**: Uses a store audit with retailers, price data and the trade press to explore how alcohol price, product range and promotions change in small retailers, and how small retailers experience MUP. (Expected to report: early 2020.)

4. **Alcohol price distribution**: Uses retail sales data to evaluate the impact of MUP on the volume of off-trade alcohol sold at different prices in Scotland. (Expected to report: late 2020.)

5. **Alcohol products and prices**: Uses retailer and wholesaler data to assess the impact of MUP on the price, product range and strength of alcohol products sold in Scotland. (Expected to report: late 2021.)

6. **Sales-based consumption**: Uses retail sales data to evaluate the impact of MUP on the amount of alcohol sold in Scotland (overall, by trade sector, by drink type). (Expected to report: mid 2022. Descriptive analysis of 12 months post MUP: late 2019.)

7. **Drinking at harmful levels**: Uses survey and in-depth interviews to evaluate the impact of MUP on those drinking at harmful levels, looking at changes in drinking behaviour and substitution to other sources and/or substances, their experience of crime and the impact on their families. Also uses market research data to assess impact of MUP on drinking behaviour in the general population. (Expected to report: mid 2021. Short-term impacts report: mid 2020.)

8. **Children and young people: Own drinking and related behaviour**: Uses qualitative methods and national survey data to explore the impact of MUP on the drinking and related behaviour of those under 18 years. (Expected to report: late 2019.)

9. **Hospital admissions and deaths**: Uses administrative data to evaluate the impact of MUP on hospitalisations and deaths caused by alcohol in Scotland. (Expected to report: early 2023.)

10. **Crime, public safety and public nuisance**: Explores the impact of MUP on crime, safety and public nuisance using police recorded crime and other data sources. (Expected publication date to be confirmed.)

11. **Children and young people: Harm from others**: Uses qualitative data from practitioners working with children and young people affected by harmful parental/carer alcohol consumption, alongside other routinely available data to explore the impact of MUP on protecting children and young people from harms associated with others drinking. (Expected to report: late 2019.)

12. **Public attitudes to MUP**: Uses national survey data to explore whether public attitudes towards MUP change following implementation. (Expected to report: mid 2020.)

There are also a number of separately funded studies contributing to the evaluation – see website for details.