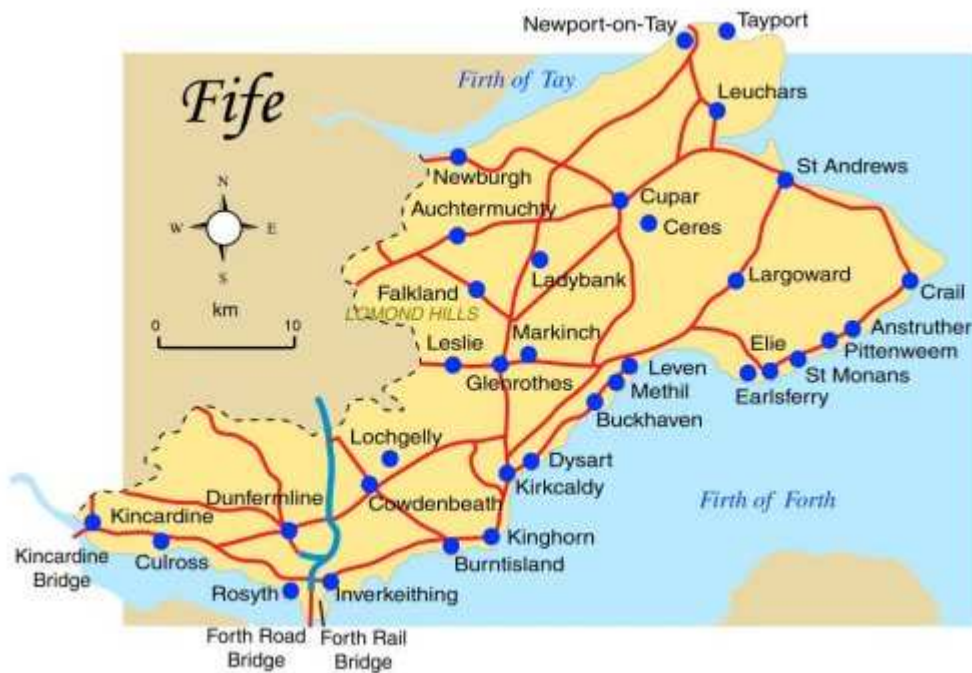


Fife Licensing Forum



Alcohol : the Facts in Fife 2011

FIFE LICENSING FORUM

Under the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005, every Council is required to establish a Local Licensing forum for their area. The role of the Forum is to keep under review the operation of the Licensing system in their area and to give advice and recommendations to the Licensing Board. This does not include reviewing or offering advice or recommendations in relation to any particular application or case before the Board. The Board has a duty to have regard to the Forums' views and must offer reasons on occasions where it takes decisions against the advice of the Forum. There is a mandatory requirement of a minimum of one formal meeting between the Forum and Board annually.

INTRODUCTION

The Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 is founded upon five Licensing Objectives.

- Preventing Public Nuisance
- Securing Public Safety
- Preventing Crime and Disorder
- Protecting and Improving Public Health, and
- Protecting Children From Harm

Everyone involved in alcohol licensing and beyond, must be mindful of these objectives at all times. No one objective carries more weight than the other. The purpose behind the Fife Licensing Forum's production of this report is to provide a Fife perspective on alcohol related issues in relation to these five objectives

When considering the information provided it should be acknowledged that certain aspects, i.e. 'children and young people obtaining alcohol' could legitimately fall within more than one objective. In this example the 'prevention of crime and disorder', 'protecting and improving health' and 'protecting children from harm' objectives. The information is not exclusive to one objective.

The categories of information have been selected because there is evidence that alcohol plays a significant part within these areas, although there is not always quantitative or qualitative data available to demonstrate these linkages.

The intention of the Forum is that this is seen as a starting point to obtain an understanding of the alcohol related issues across Fife that the Forum and Licensing Board may be able to influence through policy and decision-making. The report is seen as dynamic and will change as information sources become more refined.

CONTENTS

Page 2	Fife Licensing Forum and Introduction
Page 3	List of contents
Page 4-5	Public Nuisance Objective
Page 6-7	Public Safety Objective
Page 8-9	Crime and Disorder Objective
Page 10-22	Protecting and Improving Public Health Objective
Page 23	Key Points

PUBLIC NUISANCE OBJECTIVE

Alcohol abuse is closely linked with crime and disorder and public nuisance. The information provided within this section relates to instances of street drinking, associated disorder, including vandalism and the availability of alcohol to those under 18 years of age. It also considers public opinion around alcohol related anti-social behaviour and alcohol drug use. Information is also included relating to the nuisance caused by amplified music.

Fife Constabulary is working to help reduce alcohol-related crime by enforcing age and other restrictions, concentrating on hotspots, visiting licensed premises and supporting intervention schemes.

- **Alcohol Related Disorder in Fife**

Table 1.1 – Street Drinking and Agent Purchasing

Charge Description	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
Consume Alcohol in a Designated Public Place	697	770	626
Drunk and Incapable	256	369	383
Urinate/Defecate	441	587	577
Act as an Agent to Persons Under 18	25	41	44

Compared to 2009/2010, during 2010/2011

- The number of reported vandalisms and malicious mischief offences fell by 23% (1,104 fewer).
- The charges in relation to consumption of alcohol in a designated public place fell by 44% (119 fewer)
- The charges in relation to possession of an open container (of alcohol) in a designated public place fell by 44% (159 fewer).

- **Alcohol Fixed Penalty Tickets/Litres of Alcohol Seized**

In 2010 – 2011 there were 3,000 fewer incidents of anti-social behaviour recorded than during the previous year. This is attributed to Operation LASER (Local Action Supporting Enforcement and Reassurance), which saw increased numbers of police officers on the streets. These 7,021 additional hours of patrol delivered a 23% reduction in anti-social behaviour.

Officers conducted 706 searches and seized 699 litres of alcohol, from young people who were either consuming, or had possession of this in a public place.

The Fife Alcohol Diversion Scheme piloted in Kirkcaldy and recipient of a Scottish Policing Award in 2010 was rolled out across Fife during September 2010. The scheme aims to help reduce the chance of binge drinkers becoming victims or offenders. As part of the scheme an officer issues an Anti-social Behaviour Fixed Penalty Ticket (FPT). By attending a session with Fife Alcohol Support Services (FASS) offenders can have the £40 FPT fine cancelled. Of the 1,392 FPTs issued between 1st April 2010 and 31st March 2011, 794 were alcohol related, with 204 electing to attend the FASS scheme; a 26% attendance rate.

- **The Public Perception for Alcohol in Fife**

The Making Fife Safer Survey conducted in 2009 found the following points relevant to alcohol use in Fife:

ASB Disorder

- 39% of people were worried about underage drinking in their neighbourhood.
- 42% of people have had personal experience of underage drinking over the past year, however 9% of these respondents (or someone close to them) were victimised.

ASB – Drinking and Drug Use

- 41% feel that drinking or drug use is very or fairly common in their area. This is a 22% decrease from 2006 and a 19% decrease from the average noted between 2000 – 2006.

Public nuisance from licensed premises caused by amplified music

- Complaint figures for the first 7 months of 2011 indicate that 1 in 8 of the pubs clubs and hotels in Fife cause public nuisance. Previous figures were not Fife-wide so a comparison cannot be made until next year. However figures for Central Fife show that there has been an increase over the last three years in complaints about noise from patrons outside licensed premises.
- Although the majority of these are “one off “complaints, licensees and managers continue to neglect consideration of the effect of their activities on their neighbours.
- Many complaints are caused by premises with doors and windows being left open. However there is a trend for premises with poor sound insulation to be used as venues for karaoke and live bands.
- From January to July of 2011, 60% of these complaints were due to entertainment noise, while 40% were for noise caused by patrons outside the premises.

SUMMARY

GOOD NEWS:

- Consumption in public places appears to be going down. There was a 44% reduction in the last two years.
- Vandalism has reduced significantly
- An increased police presence on the streets has resulted in a 23 % reduction in Anti social behaviour in the year 2010/2011

BAD NEWS:

- Agency sales are on the increase.
- Charges against individuals defecating and urinating in public have increased since 2006
- More premises are being used as entertainment venues than ever before and with the increase in late licences there are more complaints about noise from patrons outside premises.

- **PUBLIC SAFETY OBJECTIVE**

Public Safety has extremely wide parameters. The information contained within this section relates to the involvement of Serious Organised Crime within the licensed trade and the risk this presents to public safety. Also included is data relating to alcohol and driving. An association also exists between deliberate fires, particularly within the domestic environment, where alcohol may have been a contributory factor; therefore data on this is included. Alcohol is not seen as the 'causal factor, within incidents of domestic abuse, or where there is concern for the welfare of children and young persons, however it is known to be a contributor, therefore data on these topics has been included.

Serious Organised Crime poses a significant threat to the communities of Fife. Targeting and disrupting Organised Crime Groups by gathering information and intelligence from partners and the public is key to Fife Constabulary's Serious and Organised Crime Strategy. This strategy underpins these priorities to ensure that the Force and its partners tackle Serious Organised Crime in a coherent, comprehensive and coordinated manner, through the provision of four key objectives of Divert, Disrupt, Deter and Detect.

Significant success has been achieved in the seizure of controlled drugs with £3.6m worth of drugs seized.

Organised crime is known to exist within licensed premises in Fife. Officers within the Force have conducted over 10,000 visits to licensed premises and work will continue to ensure Serious Organised Crime Groups do not flourish within Fife.

- **Drink-Driving in Fife**

Fife Constabulary conduct targeted summer and festive drink and drug driving campaigns.

Table 1.2 – Drink Driving Figures 2006 - 2010

Breath Test	Severity of Crash			
	Fatal	Serious	Slight	Total
Not Applicable	0	10	22	32
Positive	0	38	106	144
Negative	57	558	2532	3147
Not Requested	9	128	731	868
Refused to Provide	0	2	7	9
Driver Not Contacted	0	73	648	721
Not provided (Medical)	39	119	133	291
Total	105	928	4179	5212

Data for Table 1.2 has been extracted from the Fife Road Crash Database held by Transportation, Fife Council. This covers the period 2006 – 2010.

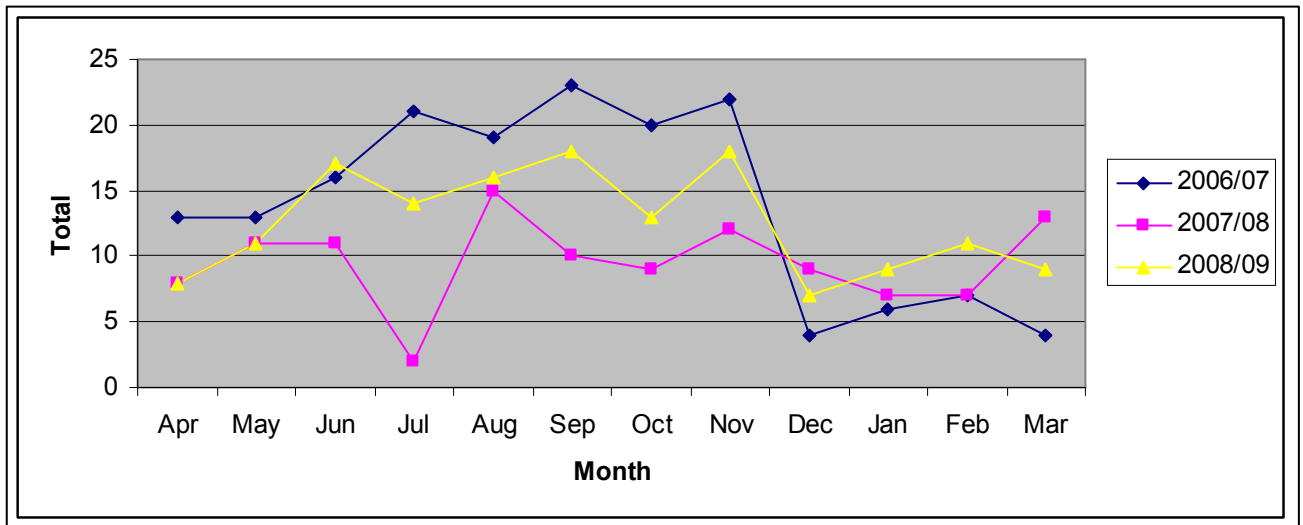
Information from Fife Constabulary provides that charges of drink driving have shown a continuous decrease between 2006/7 to 2008/9, from 726 to 631 to 581 respectively. However, from the crash data, 1 in 20 of crashes involved drunken drivers.

During 2011 the number of drink driving charges has fallen by 16% (78 fewer) compared to the previous year.

The number of persons aged under 25 years involved in such cases is down by 21% (50 fewer than 2010).

- **Deliberate Fires in Fife**

Graph 1.1 – Deliberate Fires Between 2000 and 0400 hours.



It is widely recognised that persons under the influence of alcohol, or returning home, have been inclined to prepare something to eat, or fall asleep whilst smoking a cigarette, thus increasing the incidence of fires.

Incident recording mechanisms provide no methods for recording which deliberate fires had alcohol as a catalyst. In order to provide some indicator, fires occurring between 2000 and 0400 hours are shown in Graph 1.1 above.

Totals for the Period Examined: **2006/07 - 168**
 2007/08 - 114
 2008/09 - 151

Incidents of deliberate fire are reducing overall between 2000 and 0400 hours, despite an increase of 27 incidents between 2007/08 and 2008/09. Figures for 2009/10 recorded 96 fires for the period. Each year, the total recorded between the time periods considered accounted for roughly half of total fires. Seasonal trends indicate highs between June and November, taking in the summer months and peaking over the bonfire period between September and November.

Figures for accidental fires attributed to alcohol will be available next year.

Alcohol concerns in Private Spaces:

- The number of reported domestic abuse incidents is up by 5% (177 more cases than 2010)
- The number of 'cause for concern' reports in relation to children and young persons has increased by 9% (441 more cases than 2010).

CRIME AND DISORDER OBJECTIVE

It is not always possible to identify where alcohol has played a part in relation to crimes and offences. Even if it were, it is almost impossible to identify the source of the alcohol. However, experience would indicate that alcohol is a factor within crimes of violence, including indecency.

The following crime categories usually have an element of alcohol involved.

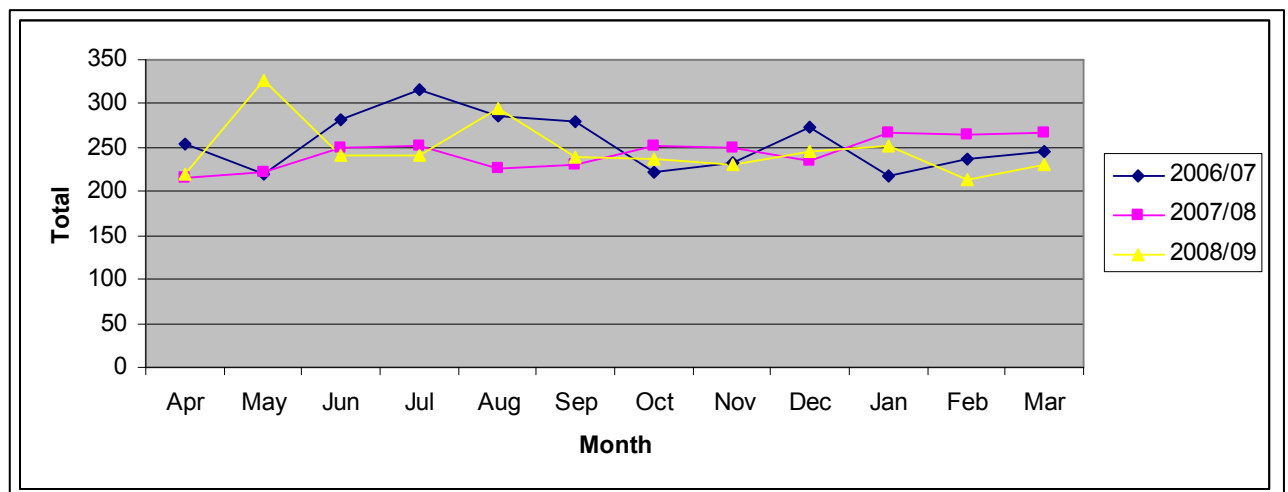
- **Crime in Fife**

Overall crime within Fife has fallen by 11% during 2010 – 2011.

- Crimes of violence have increased by 35.8% (122 more than 2010).
- Crimes of Indecency have fallen by 2.3% (14 fewer than 2010).
- Crimes associated with fire-raising, and malicious and reckless conduct have fallen by 20% (1,284 fewer than 2010).
- Number of offensive weapon offences has fallen by 15% (38 fewer than 2010).
- Number of offences of being drunk and incapable has fallen by 5% (13 fewer than 2010).
- Petty assaults have fallen by 5% (236 fewer than 2010)

- **Petty Assaults in Fife**

Graph 1.2 – Petty Assaults Between 2000 and 0400 hours



Incident recording mechanisms provide no methods for recording which petty assaults had alcohol as a catalyst. In order to provide some indicator, petty assaults occurring between 2000 and 0400 hours are shown in Graph 1.1 above.

Totals for the Period Examined: 2006/07 - 3064
2007/08 - 2928
2008/09 - 2971

It is evident from the data that petty assault charges over this period are generally reducing, with an increase of 43 incidents between 2007/08 and 2008/09. This is not felt to be statistically significant. Charges recorded between 2000 and 0400 hours also account for a little over half of total charges recorded annually. Although the monthly trend is relatively consistent, a slight increase is apparent over the summer months and festive period. From that, it can be inferred that charges are largely opportunistic in nature.

However, it is the level of violence that is important, not the trend in this case.

An apparent trend in petty assault data is the decrease in public space assaults and an increase in those occurring within the home. Residential assaults have increased from 1105 in 2006/07 to 1260 in 2008/09 (14%). This can be expected to continue as a result of the recession and changes in alcohol consumption habits.

§ **Test purchases**

In 2011 of the 106 premises tested, 10% failed a test purchase operation. This will be used as a benchmark for the future.

PROTECTING AND IMPROVING PUBLIC HEALTH OBJECTIVE

This statistical report contains data relating to alcohol consumption in Fife and trends in the adverse health-related effects of alcohol.

Alcohol Consumption

Table 1 shows current nationally recommended sensible drinking limits. A unit is 10ml of pure alcohol.

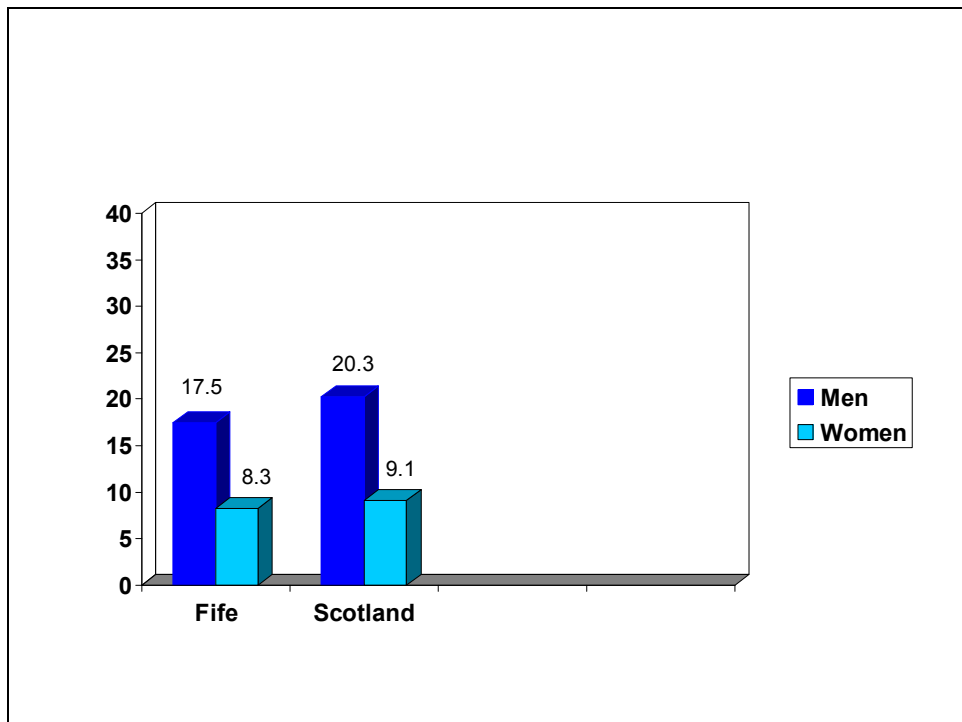
Table 1: Current Nationally Recommended Sensible Drinking Limits		
	Men	Women
Daily	3-4 units, with at least 2 alcohol-free days per week	2-3 units, with at least 2 alcohol-free days per week
Weekly	21 units	14 units

Table 2 places sensible drinking limits in context by showing the strengths of various alcoholic drinks.

Table 2: Alcohol Content of a Range of Alcoholic Drinks	
Pint of 5% beer	2.8 units
125ml (small) glass of 12% wine	1.5 units
175 ml (medium) glass of 12% wine	2.1 units
250 ml (large) glass of 12% wine	3 units
Small measure (25ml) of spirits	1 unit
2-litre bottle of strong (7.5%) cider	15 units

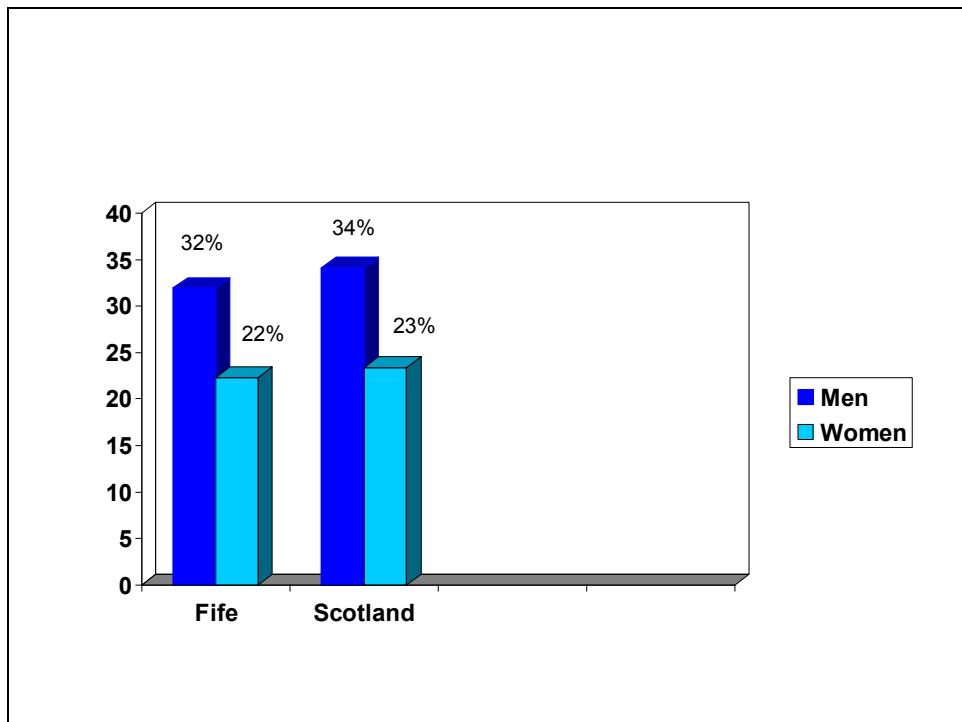
The most recent information on alcohol consumption comes from the 2003 Scottish Health Survey (SHS), corrected in 2008 for underreporting of consumption. Figure 1, derived from the SHS, shows that **average** adult drinking levels in Fife were within recommended levels. But figure 2 shows that 32% of adult men and 22% of adult women in Fife were drinking more than the recommended weekly limit.

Figure 1: Average Number of Units per Week Adults (aged 16+) in Fife and Scotland Drink, 2003



Source: Scottish Health Survey 2003, corrected in 2008 for underreporting

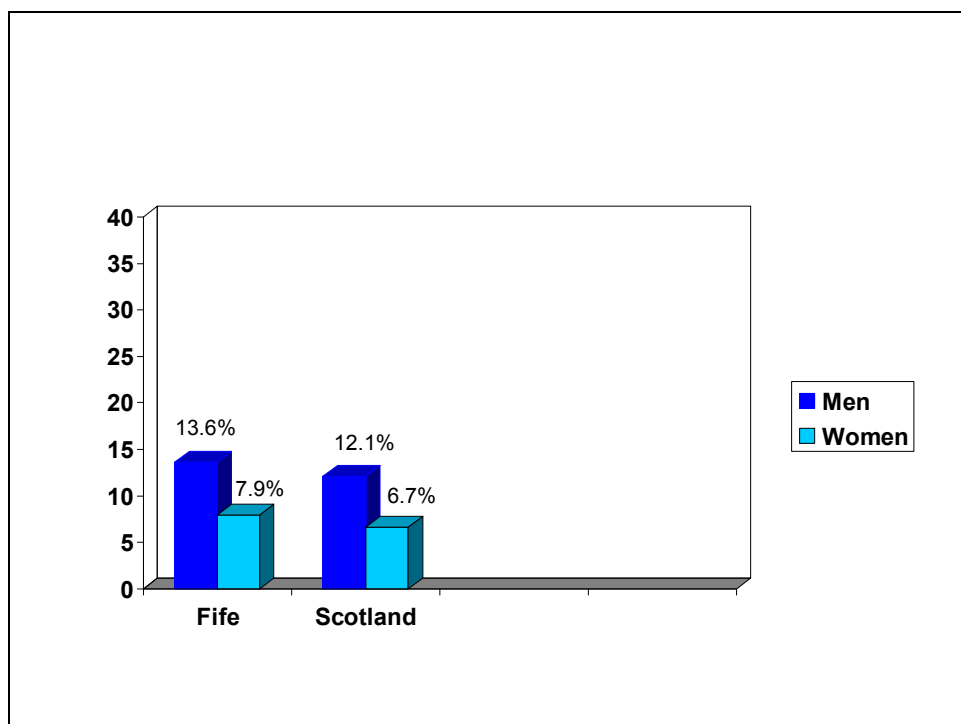
Figure 2: Percentage of Adults (aged 16+) Drinking Over the Recommended Weekly Limits, 2003, Fife and Scotland



Source: Scottish Health Survey 2003, corrected in 2008 for underreporting

Figure 3 shows that the percentage of adult drinkers in Fife classified as “problem drinkers” was higher than for Scotland. This represents over 26,000 adult “problem drinkers” in Fife in 2003.

Figure 3: Percentage of Adult Current Drinkers in Fife and Scotland Classified as Problem Drinkers¹



Source: Scottish Health Survey 2003, corrected in 2008 for underreporting

¹Problem drinkers are defined as those who when asked answer “yes” to two or more of the following questions²:

- Have you ever thought you should cut down on your drinking?
- Have you ever felt annoyed by others criticising your drinking
- Have you ever felt bad or guilty about your drinking?
- Have you ever had a drink first thing in the morning to steady your nerves or get rid of a hangover?

The Scottish Adolescent Lifestyle and Substance Use Survey (SALSUS) shows that, between 2002 and 2006 drinking levels fell significantly among 15 year olds in Fife but not among 13 year olds (table 3).

Table 3: Changes in drinking habits in 13-15 year-old People in Fife, 2002-6				
	13 year-olds		15 year-olds	
	2002	2006	2002	2006
Ever had a proper alcoholic drink	73%	66%	91% ¹	83% ¹
Had an alcoholic drink in the last week	22%	18%	48% ¹	33% ¹

¹difference between 2002 and 2006 levels statistically significant.
Source: SALSUS

Adverse Health Effects of Alcohol

Information is available on alcohol-related deaths and alcohol-related hospital discharges.

Alcohol-related Deaths

Table 4 shows trends in the number of alcohol-related deaths in Fife by age and gender based on three-year rolling totals between 2002 and 2010. Figure 4 shows trends for the total number by gender. The data include any mention of alcohol on the death certificate i.e. where it is the underlying cause or a contributory cause of death.

Table 4: Three-year Rolling Total Alcohol-related Deaths in Fife, 2002-2010 by Age and Gender

	Year of Death Registration						
	2002-2004	2003-2005	2004-2006	2005-2007	2006-2008	2007-2009	2008-2010
Males	232	232	243	267	265	278	264
Under 44	27	30	35	40	35	43	35
45 to 49	19	25	27	26	27	23	27
50 to 54	40	35	25	34	36	40	33
55 to 59	37	35	37	38	35	38	30
60 and over	109	107	119	129	132	134	139
Females	125	131	132	129	128	133	143
Under 44	16	20	15	14	21	22	25
45 to 49	13	15	14	14	14	20	21
50 to 54	19	16	15	16	15	17	16
55 to 59	19	19	21	21	16	17	18
60 and over	58	61	67	64	62	57	63

Figure 4: Three-year Rolling Total Alcohol-related Deaths in Fife 2002-2010 by Age and Gender

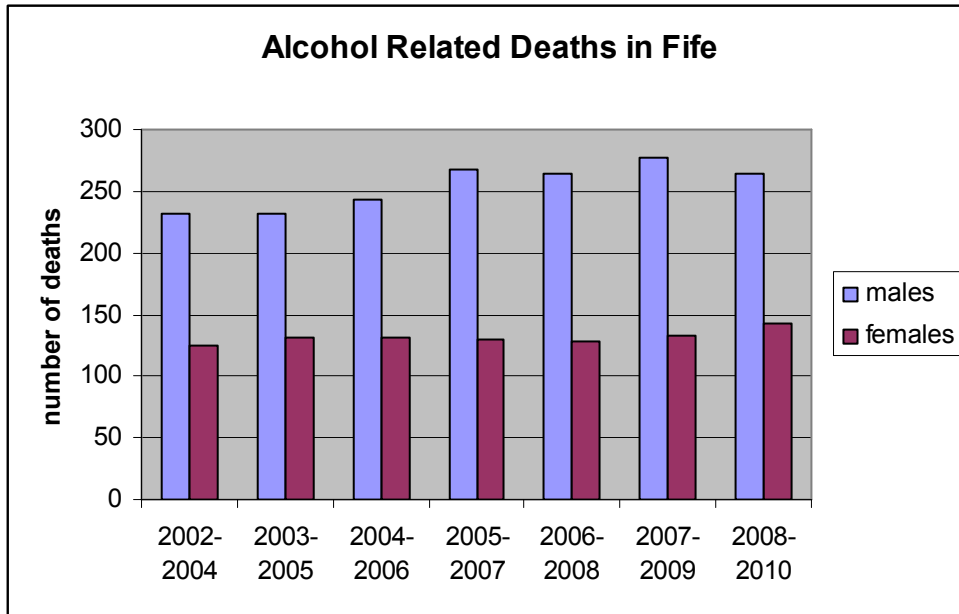


Table 5 shows further detail of alcohol-related deaths according to specific cause.

Table 5: Further Detail of Alcohol-Related Deaths in Fife According to Specific Cause

	2002-2004	2003-2005	2004-2006	2005-2007	2006-2008	2007-2010	2008-2011
Alcoholic liver disease	186	171	181	209	217	223	192
Fibrosis and cirrhosis of liver	82	72	73	76	75	74	82
Other alcohol-related causes of mortality	14	21	21	19	13	11	11

Tables 6 & 7 show the numbers and rates of alcohol-related deaths or deaths from alcoholic liver disease, broken down by deprivation quintile.

Table 6: No. of Alcohol-related¹ or Alcoholic Liver Disease Deaths Among Fife Residents aged 15-74 years 2002-2010 by Deprivation Quintile						
		2002-2006	2003-2007	2004-2008	2005-2009	2006-2010²
Alcohol	Q1 MDQ	166	182	196	211	213
	NHS Fife	526	538	552	584	587
	Q5 LDQ	35	38	40	44	47
Alcoholic Liver Disease⁴	Q1 MDQ	99	108	117	126	122
	NHS Fife	292	306	312	332	328
	Q5 LDQ	15	18	19	19	20

¹ Deaths where an alcohol-related condition is coded as either the underlying or contributory cause of death.

²2010 data provisional

Table 7: Standardised Rate per 100,000 for Alcohol-related¹ or Alcoholic Liver Disease Deaths Among Fife Residents aged 15-74 years 2002-2010 by Deprivation Quintile						
		2002-2006	2003-2007	2004-2008	2005-2009	2006-2010²
Alcohol	Q1 MDQ	61.6	68.3	73.0	78.3	79.4
	NHS Fife	36.8	37.3	37.6	39.4	39.1
	Q5 LDQ	12.3	12.9	13.6	14.5	15.3
Alcoholic Liver Disease⁴	Q1 MDQ	37.3	41.2	43.7	46.8	45.6
	NHS Fife	20.7	21.5	21.6	22.6	22.1
	Q5 LDQ	5.4	6.2	6.6	6.4	6.7

¹ Deaths where an alcohol-related condition is coded as either the underlying or contributory cause of death.

²2010 data provisional

Figures 5 & 6 show graphically the same data in tables 6 and 7.

Figure 5: Standardised Rate per 100,000 for Alcohol-related Deaths Among Fife Residents aged 15-74 years 2002-2010 by Deprivation Quintile

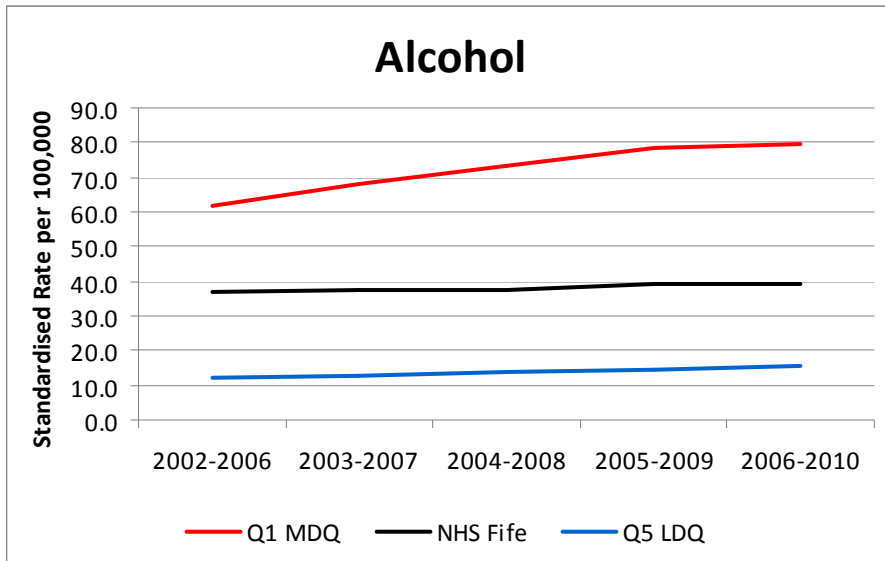
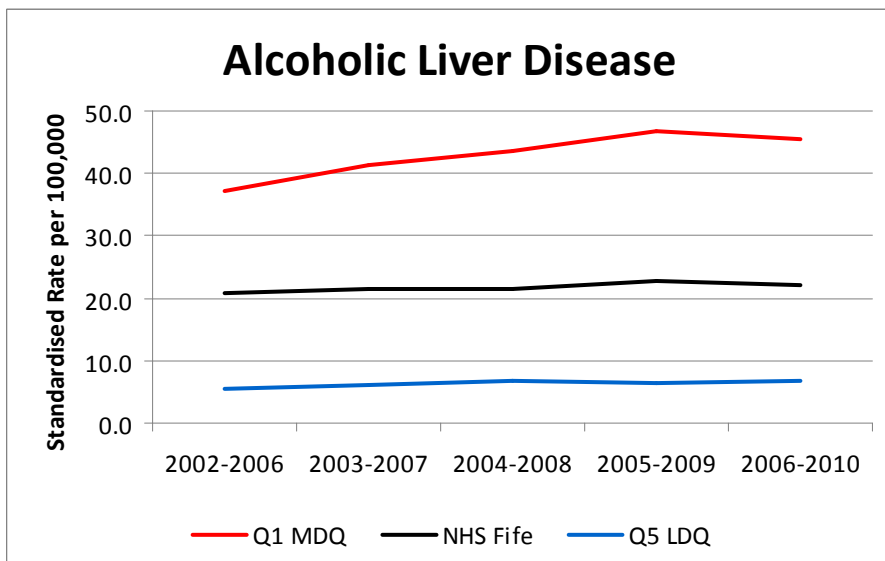


Figure 6: Standardised Rate per 100,000 for Alcoholic Liver Disease Deaths Among Fife Residents aged 15-74 years 2002-2010 by Deprivation Quintile



Alcohol-related Hospital Discharges

Table 8 shows the number and standardized rate per 100,000 of psychiatric inpatient discharges in Fife with a primary alcohol-related diagnosis or any mention of alcohol from 1998 to 2009.

Table 8: No. and Standardized Rate per 100,000 of Psychiatric Inpatient Discharges in Fife with a Primary Alcohol-Related Diagnosis or Any Mention of Alcohol, 1998-2009												
		Year of Discharge										
		1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
Primary	Discharges	149	170	173	173	188	183	142	158	171	254	186
	Standardised Rate per 100,000	42.0	47.6	48.6	48.2	52.3	49.9	39.1	43.6	48.4	69.3	52.1
Any	Discharges	191	191	194	198	216	212	174	183	199	276	205
	Standardised Rate per 100,000	54.1	53.3	54.8	55.3	60.0	58.0	48.2	50.6	56.4	75.5	57.3

Figure 7 shows graphically the same data in table 7.

Figure 7: No. and Standardized Rate per 100,000 of Psychiatric Inpatient Discharges in Fife with a Primary Alcohol-Related Diagnosis or Any Mention of Alcohol, 1998-2009

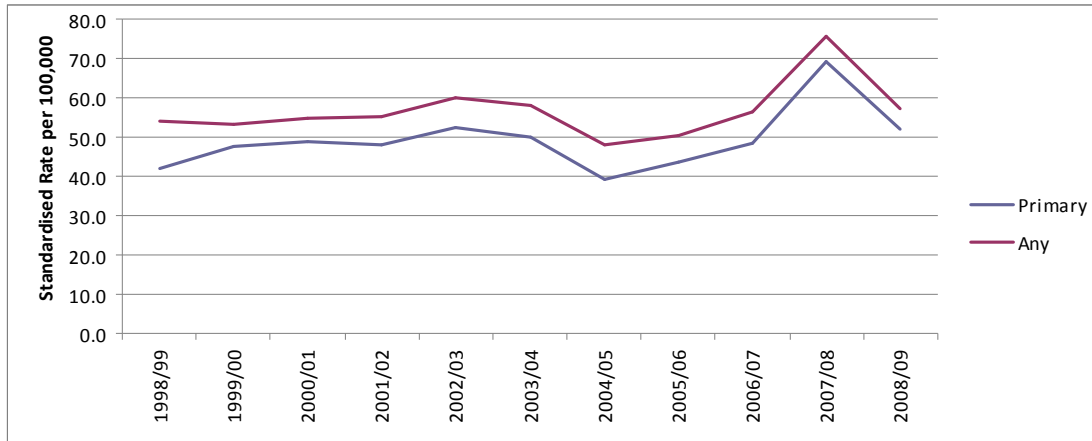


Figure 8 shows the number of general acute alcohol-related hospital discharges in Fife between 2002 and 2010 according to gender.

Figure 8: No. of General Acute Alcohol-related Hospital Discharges in Fife, 2002-2010 by Gender

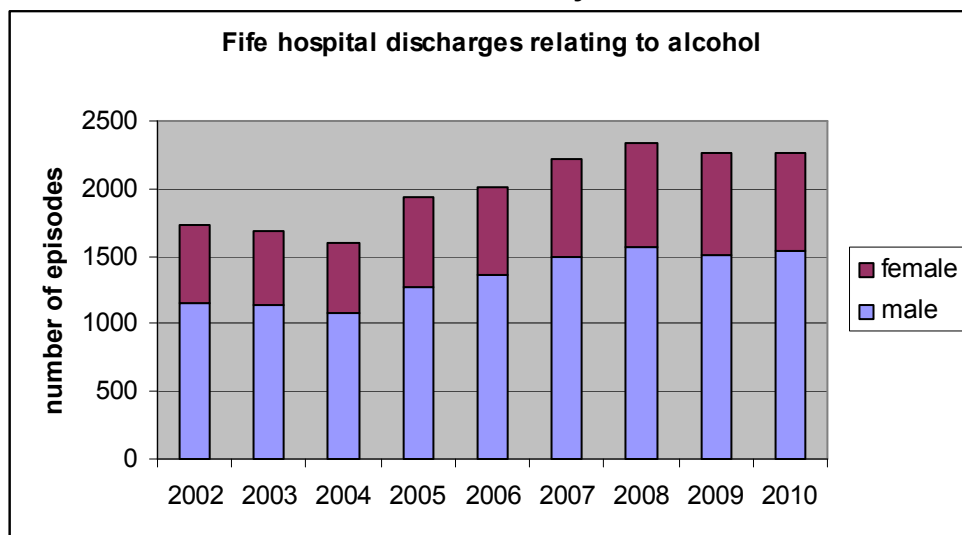


Table 9 shows further detail of general acute alcohol-related hospital discharges in Fife between 2002 and 2010 according to age and gender.

Table 9: General Acute Alcohol-related Hospital Discharges in Fife, 2002-2010 by Age and Gender									
	Year Ending 31st March								
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Males									
Under 20	71	63	43	49	78	86	103	67	57
20 to 24	52	68	61	74	88	60	81	90	82
25 to 29	73	65	33	52	38	79	87	80	71
30 to 34	93	88	80	69	43	64	56	82	100
35 to 39	101	124	87	104	118	134	131	113	85
40 to 44	129	109	102	119	131	165	190	193	189
45 to 49	107	104	130	129	151	152	172	152	119
50 to 54	129	122	118	230	208	181	182	200	220
55 to 59	100	99	106	123	157	179	129	139	170
60 and over	299	296	316	321	352	400	432	398	442
Total	1154	1138	1076	1270	1364	1500	1563	1514	1535
Females									
Under 20	71	66	55	53	59	50	76	55	55
20 to 24	32	44	18	42	41	36	58	68	66
25 to 29	31	33	22	33	28	55	60	49	45
30 to 34	52	43	42	33	18	37	54	61	50
35 to 39	63	65	44	40	54	63	70	52	50
40 to 44	88	57	73	81	110	80	107	83	94
45 to 49	47	64	75	83	106	107	105	85	111
50 to 54	67	51	40	84	53	83	77	93	74
55 to 59	55	29	50	67	53	83	56	53	65
60 and over	77	100	96	150	126	126	109	154	118
Total	583	552	515	666	648	720	772	753	728

Table 10 shows the number of general acute alcohol-related hospital discharges in Fife between 2002 and 2010 by specific category.

Table 10: No. of General Acute Alcohol-Related Hospital Discharges in Fife Between 2002 and 2010 by Specific Category

	Year Ending 31st March								
Males	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Mental & behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol	695	717	690	766	806	843	858	861	946
Alcoholic liver disease	162	185	184	291	313	323	306	243	268
Alcohol-induced chronic pancreatitis	*	*	*	21	32	25	32	47	35
Toxic effect of ethanol	144	122	116	126	182	178	176	214	184
Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to alcohol	116	124	114	67	*	*	*	*	*
Alcohol use	101	119	114	150	125	234	300	282	256
Other alcohol-related diagnoses	67	28	26	33	34	42	41	*	35
Females									
Mental & behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol	230	255	245	316	276	344	304	308	343
Alcoholic liver disease	118	84	85	127	143	168	152	147	128
Alcohol-induced chronic pancreatitis	*	*	*	29	36	14	39	20	15
Toxic effect of ethanol	181	180	155	174	205	207	245	227	205
Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to alcohol	170	182	156	95	*	*	*	*	*
Alcohol use	32	38	56	58	43	73	120	123	115
Other alcohol-related diagnoses	47	17	13	16	23	23	14	*	14

* Indicates values that have been suppressed due to the potential risk of disclosure and to help maintain patient confidentiality.

KEY POINTS

Based on 2003 Scottish Health Survey data, about a third of all adult men and a fifth of adult women in Fife are drinking more than the recommended weekly limits.

Based on the 2003 Scottish Health Survey data there are an estimated 26,000 problem drinkers in Fife.

Based on 2002 and 2006 SALSUS data there has been a significant drop in the percentage of 15 year-olds in Fife who reported ever having had an alcoholic drink but no change in the percentage of 13 year-olds reporting this.

Updated figures from the Scottish health Survey and SALSUS on levels on adult and teenage drinking patterns at NHS board level are expected later in 2011.

Total alcohol-related deaths in Fife show an increasing trend between 2002 and 2010 for males and females. Deaths from alcoholic liver disease have increased slightly over the same period. The increasing trend in total alcohol-related deaths is confined to males and females aged under 50 years or 60 years or over.

Alcohol contributes to health inequalities: premature alcohol-related death rates are five times higher among those living in the most deprived areas of Fife compared to those in the least deprived areas. Premature death rates from alcoholic liver disease are seven times higher among those living in the most deprived areas of Fife compared to those in the least deprived areas.

Alcohol-related psychiatric hospital discharges show an increase between 1998-99 and 2008-9, with a peak in 2007-8.

The number of alcohol-related general acute hospital discharges from 2002-10 for males is about twice the number for females for the same period.

Alcohol-related general acute hospital discharges show an increase between 2002 and 2010 for males and females. This increasing trend is apparent for almost all sub-categories of alcohol-related discharges for which trend data are available.

The increase in alcohol-related general acute hospital discharges among males has occurred mainly in those in their early 20s or in those aged 40 or over. For females the increasing trend is observed in women in their 20s or in those aged 40 or over.

Males and females aged under 20 show a decreasing trend in alcohol-related general acute hospital discharges.

Mike Roworth
Consultant in Public Health Medicine

4 August 2011