

Medical Officer of Health

**Submission to WCC:
Draft Local Alcohol Policy**

Thursday 8th August

Dr Stephen Palmer, Medical Officer of Health
Dr Andrea McDonald, Public Health Registrar





[Home](#)

[News](#)

[World](#)

[Business](#)

[Sport](#)

[Technology](#)

[Entertainment](#)

[Lifestyle](#)

News

Next Article: NZ at Xmas: Smashed cars and a fire

Alcohol causes over one in 20 deaths for New Zealanders

12:55 PM, Monday 20th, 2018

★ Save

4/20

17/17

10/10

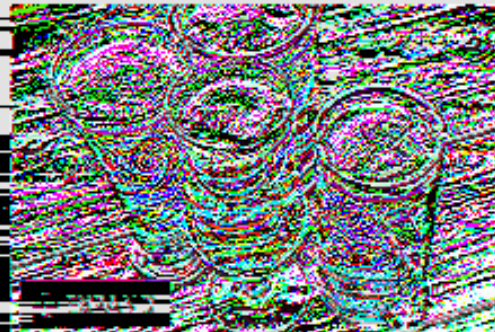
8/10

1/1

Alcohol causes over one in 20 deaths for New Zealanders, says a new study from the University of Otago research suggests.

Alcohol is one of the leading causes of death for New Zealanders, with one in 20 deaths attributed to the substance, according to a new study from the University of Otago research suggests.

A new assessment of the burden of alcohol-related deaths in New Zealand, commissioned by the Alcohol Advisory Council, is published today by the Health Promotion Agency.



The report confirms the significant impact of alcohol on the health of New Zealanders.



Alcohol is one of the leading causes of death for New Zealanders.

Alcohol causes over one in 20 deaths for New Zealanders, says a new study from the University of Otago research suggests.

Related Tags

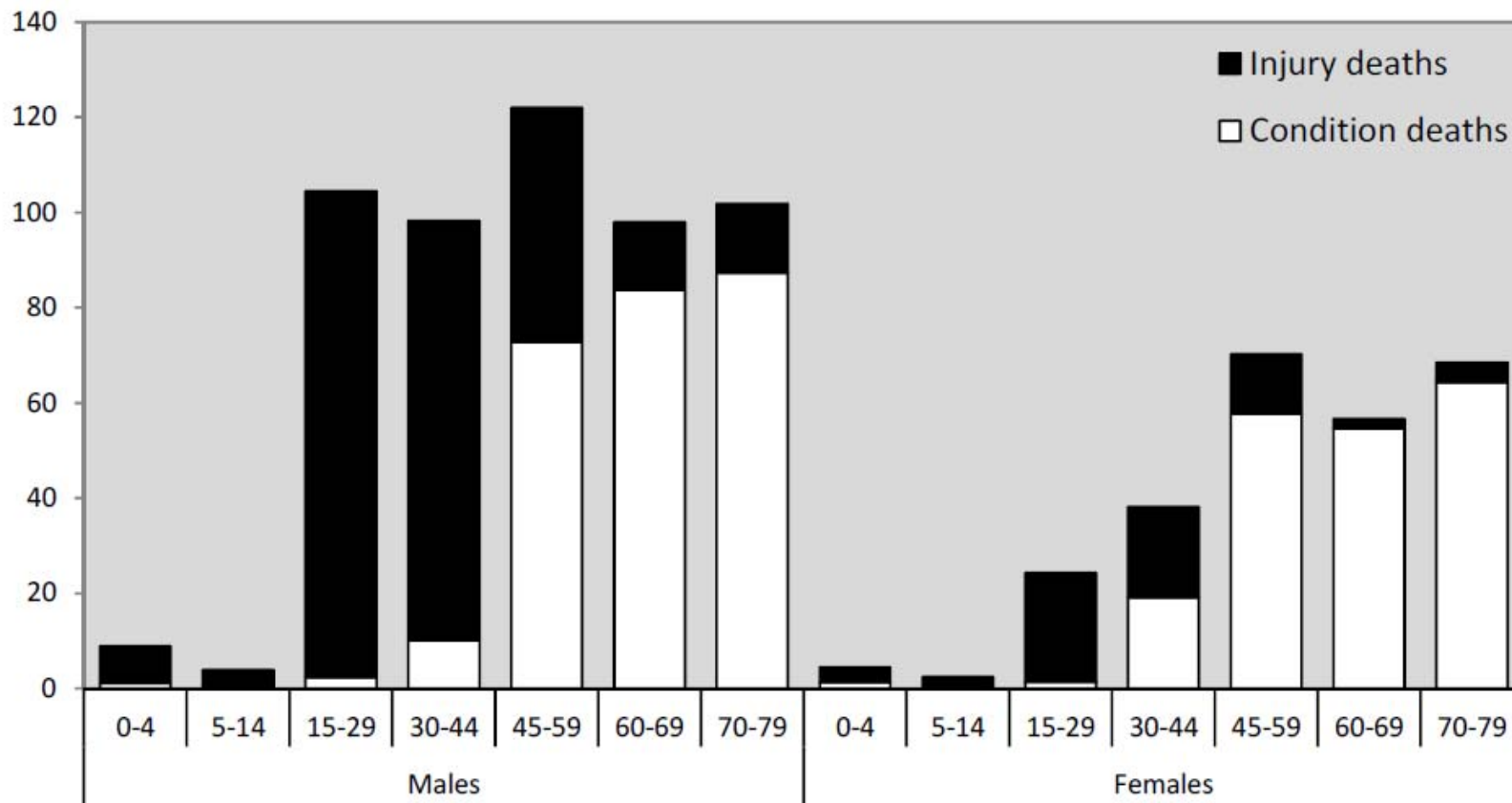
Latest research on alcohol harm

- New Zealanders <80yo
 - **1 in 19** deaths is due to alcohol
 - 802 deaths in 2007
 - **1 in 15** years of healthy life lost (from death or health condition) is due to alcohol
 - 28,000 years lost in 2004

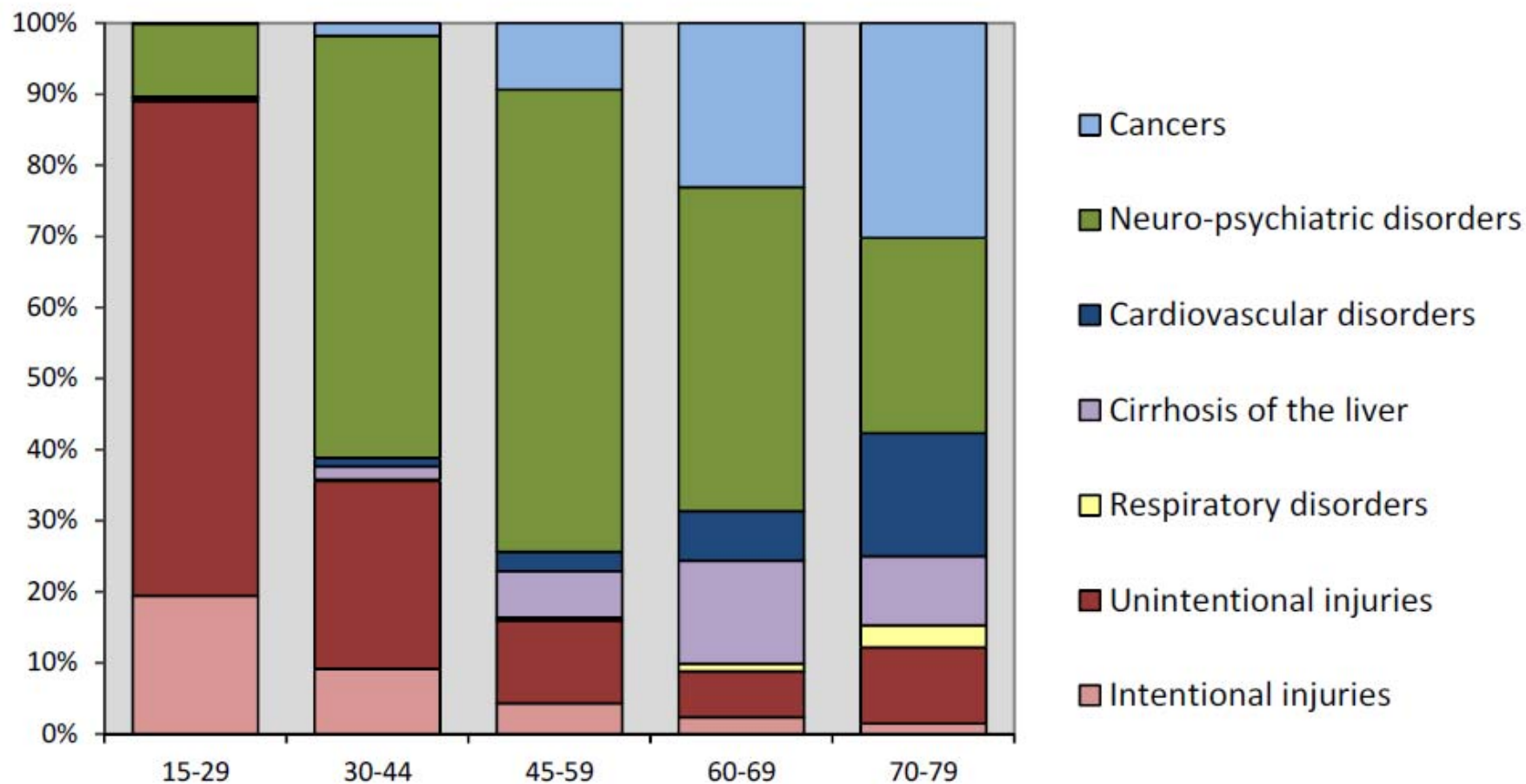
Connor, J., Kydd,R.,Rehm, J.,Shield,K. (2013). Alcohol-attributable burden of disease and injury in New Zealand: 2004 and 2007. Research report commissioned by the Health Promotion Agency. Wellington, Health Promotion Agency.



Number of deaths attributable to alcohol consumption (2007 in NZ)



Males: Causes of alcohol-attributable DALYs, by age (2004).



Connor, J., Kydd, R., Rehm, J., Shield, K. (2013). Alcohol-attributable burden of disease and injury in New Zealand: 2004 and 2007. Research report commissioned by the Health Promotion Agency. Wellington, Health Promotion Agency.

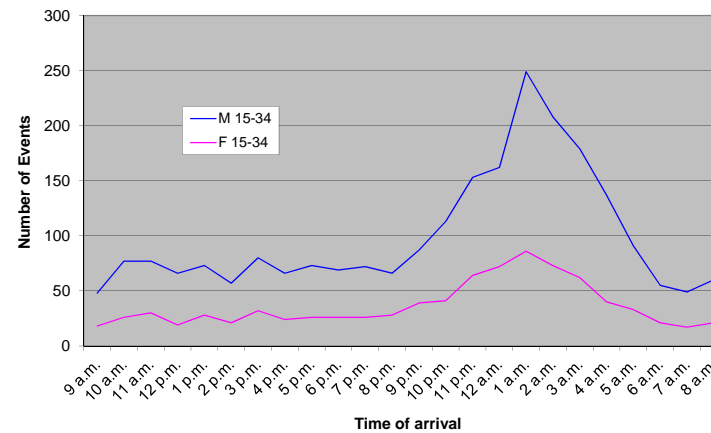
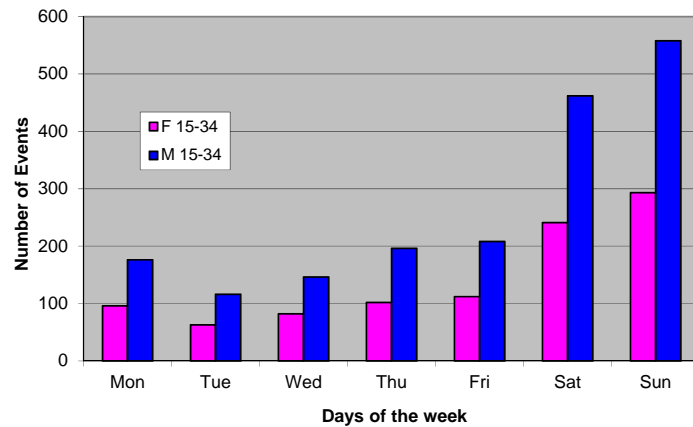
Opening hours matter

- 21 Fantame St: unique natural experiment
- Hours reduced
 - From midnight back to 8pm Fri, 9pm Sat
- Less harm
- 18% drop in crime



PHIL REID/Fairfax NZ
NO TO BOOZE: A hundred people turned out to protest a planned liquor store across the road from Porirua's Russell School.

Alcohol Related ED Attendances 15-34 years



Summary

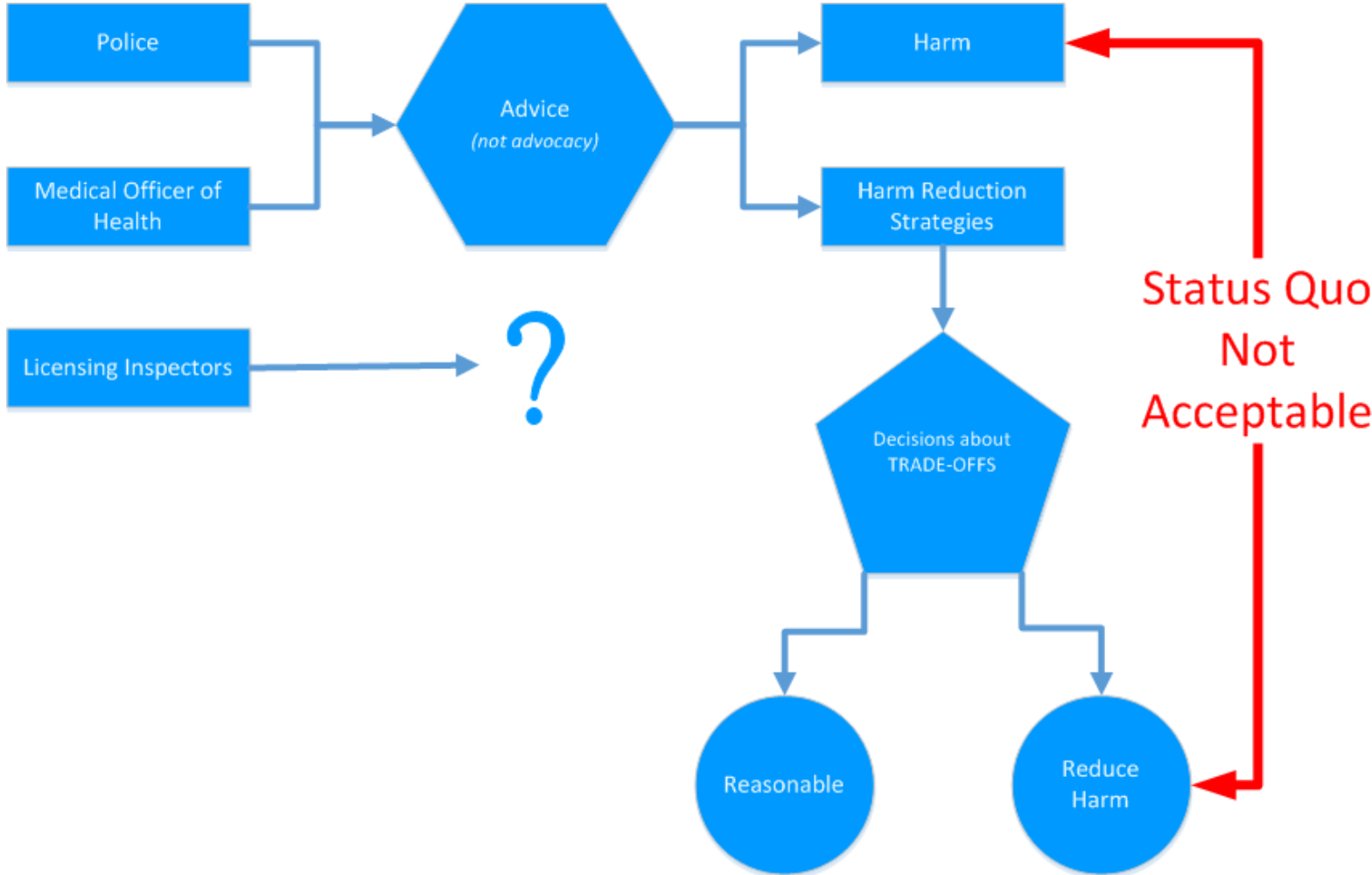
- Alcohol causes substantial harm to the health of New Zealanders
- At ages across the life-course
- Harm to health is not only from injury but includes chronic conditions (e.g. cancer)
- No safe threshold for some disease

- The cost of alcohol related harm in New Zealand is significant ranging from \$735 million to \$16.1 billion (ALAC)

- Alcohol harm is **avoidable**



Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012



To reduce harm

- Three key documents
 - Alcohol No Ordinary Commodity - WHO
 - Global Strategy to Reduce the Harmful Use of Alcohol
 - New Zealand Law Commission, Alcohol In Our Lives: Curbing the Harm
- All refer to five key strategies for effective alcohol harm reduction
 1. Reduce availability ← LAP
 2. Increase the price
 3. Increase the purchase age
 4. Reduce advertising and marketing
 5. Reduce the blood alcohol driving limit



Reduced Availability

- Likely impact of Draft LAP:

- 9pm trading hours for off-licences

- Liquor stores, Supermarkets and Grocery Stores treated the same
- May not be enough for southern & eastern zones



- 3am trading hours for off-licences



- Density



- Entertainment precinct



- Extensions for best-practice premises



- Risk-base management framework



- Low thresholds for DLC hearings for high risk zones



- Standard menu of discretionary conditions



A pendulum swung too far

