

Practitioner Forum

Drugs and Alcohol

Falkirk

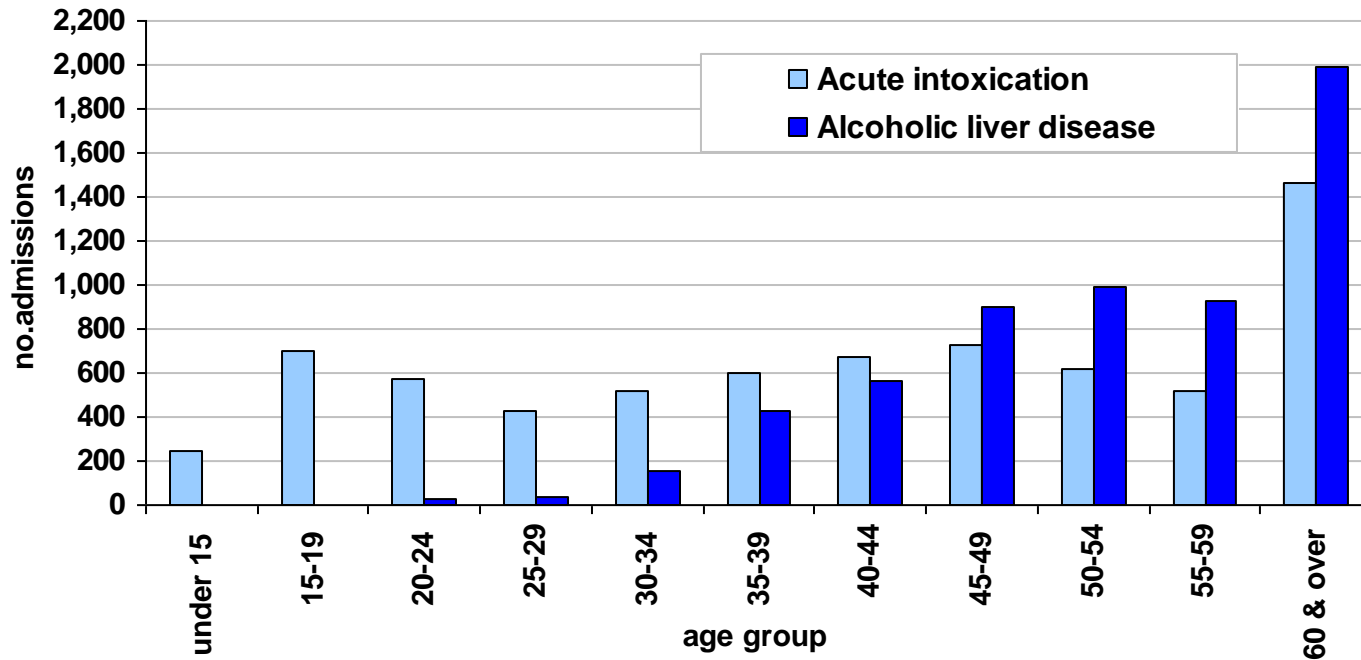
NATIONAL CONTEXT

- The Road to Recovery: A New Approach to Tackling Scotland's Drug Problem (2008)
- Changing Scotland's relationship with alcohol: a framework for action (2009)
- Getting Our Priorities Right: good practice guidance for working with children and families affected by parental substance misuse(2003) (updated 2013)

LOCAL PICTURE

- Alcohol – 50,000 people dependent on alcohol or drinking at hazardous levels
- Drugs – estimated 8,500 people in Forth Valley use illegal drugs with approximately 2,000 opiate and / or benzodiazepine users
- Falkirk – approximately 4,250 illegal drug users
- Increase in prevalence amongst 35 – 64 age range not the younger ages as commonly thought

ALCOHOL – HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS



LOCAL PICTURE - ALCOHOL

- 649 hospital discharges with alcohol diagnosis – Falkirk (Forth Valley – 1,318)
- Falkirk had 421 deaths from 2000 – 2012 identified as Alcohol Related . (Forth Valley – 802)
- Strong links with domestic violence
- 3 in 5 incidents of violent crime – attacker under influence of alcohol

LOCAL PICTURE - DRUGS

- 2011/12 - 257 new individuals presented for drug treatment (Forth Valley – 558)
- Average age – 31
- Self referral most common
- 36% of individuals from Falkirk had dependent children (2011/12)

LOCAL PICTURE

- Don't underestimate the impact of alcohol – referrals for alcohol far outweigh those for drugs
- Both men and women report that the place they drank most was at home
- Knock on effect of this
- People living in most deprived areas are 6 times more likely to die an alcohol related death
- However – affluence is not a protective factor

RECOVERY

- Recovery is most definitely possible and is most effective when individual needs and aspirations are central to a care plan
- Treatment WORKS – the challenge is keeping people long enough for them to see the impact
- We want to avoid intergenerational transference of unemployment, crime, poor parenting, poor educational attainment
- Recovery of the whole family – Family Support

- My mum drinks all the time and leaves me alone lots of times. I feel scared and lonely. I look after my mum when she drinks. I put her to bed. Mum shouts and hits me; she is worse on a Friday. I don't feel pain. I want to die. (Female 10)

- I live with my mum and her boyfriend. They both take drugs. I am worried they might die. My mum makes tea then smokes drugs. She shouts at me. I feed my baby sister. I see my dad every two months and he takes drugs. (Age Unknown)