

Alcohol Policy Research Program, 2008

Progress Report
to the
Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation Foundation
January, 2009

Aims of the Program

As noted in the Agreement establishing the Program, the project seeks to expand the evidence base of information and knowledge to underpin discussions and decisions about what to do in response to harmful consequences of alcohol in Australia. It aims to do this through undertaking specific studies on policy-relevant questions; through collating and reviewing the knowledge base for alcohol policy initiatives; through building capacity to assess, analyse, inform communities and provide leadership on alcohol policy issues; and by contributing to enhancing Australia's profile in international alcohol policy research.

The formation and staffing of the AER Centre for Alcohol Policy Research

The institutional form of the alcohol policy research program is the AER Centre for Alcohol Policy Research within the Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre. The Centre is headed by professor Robin Room, who is appointed as a Professor of Social Alcohol Research in the School of Population Health of the University of Melbourne. Money for most of Professor Room's position is provided by the Victorian Department of Human Services. Resources to support the Centre are also provided by Turning Point. Thus the Centre is operating as a partnership among four institutions, as envisaged in the Agreement between Turning Point and AERF.

The Centre began functioning when Room took up his appointment at the University of Melbourne on 27 March, 2006. Michael Livingston joined the staff during 2006, and Claire Wilkinson during 2007. Towards the end of 2007, Anne-Marie Laslett took up a 60% position as coordinator of the Alcohol's harm to others project, discussed below. Janette Mugavin has also been in a part-time position since April 2008 on the Alcohol's harm to others and Centre projects. In its work, the Centre cooperates closely with the epidemiology program staff at Turning Point, in particular Sharon Matthews and Paul Dietze (who has now moved to the Burnet Institute).

The Centre's main lines of work

Alcohol policy impact research. The last half century has seen the establishment of a substantial international tradition of alcohol impact studies – studies of the effects of particular changes in alcohol controls and other policy measures. This tradition is a primary resource for reviews of the effects of alcohol policies such as Babor et al., *Alcohol – No Ordinary Commodity* or the relevant section in Loxley et al., *The Prevention of Substance Use, Risk and Harm in Australia*. Livingston and Room have been involved during 2008 in drafting chapters

for a substantially revised second edition of *Alcohol — No Ordinary Commodity*, which will go to press by the middle of 2009.

Work has continued in 2008 on research related to studying the impact of changes in the number and positioning of alcohol outlets. During 2008, Livingston published papers analysing the relation of alcohol outlet density and assaults, the first a cross-sectional analysis of Victorian data,¹ and the second a longitudinal analysis of changes over time.²

Building on the basis of this work, and in collaboration with researchers in the U.S. and Sweden involved in parallel work, an NHMRC grant proposal was submitted in the first part of 2008 to study “Alcohol control, consumption and consequences: Time series analyses of the Australian experience”. This proposal was funded, and work on this three-year project starts in 2009. The work will include time series analyses, both in Australia as a whole and in selected states, of (1) the relationship between changes in alcohol consumption levels and changes in various adverse outcomes, notably particular causes of death; and (2) the effects of changes in alcohol policy, such as tax changes, the advent and end of 6-o’clock closing, and changes in drinking age, on levels of alcohol consumption and alcohol-related problems. We are also seeking funds to geocode the complete Victorian liquor licensing file for a 15-year period, as a first step in analyses at a more detailed geographic level of the relationship between assaults, injuries, ambulance call-outs, etc. and particular individual or groups of licensed premises.

As noted in our 2007 report, we will seek further opportunities to carry out alcohol policy impact studies, particularly focusing on studies of change, in the form either of a discrete policy change or, as in the case of the density study outlined above, of a series of small changes over time.

Work in this area, indeed, will be the central focus of the dissertation work of Livingston. In 2009, Livingston will continue to be associated with the Centre and be funded part-time by it, but his primary support will from a doctoral fellowship he was awarded competitively by the Sidney Myer Foundation.

Studies of heavy drinking and of harms from drinking in general populations. The Centre staff and collaborating scholars were involved in a wide range of work in 2008 analysing drinking patterns and problems in youth and adult populations.

1. GENACIS. Fieldwork was completed in the first part of 2008 on a specific study funded by the NHMRC (with Paul Dietze as Chief Investigator) and associated with the Centre: the Australian general-population GENACIS survey, conducted in Victoria. The GENACIS project (GENder, Alcohol and Culture: an International Study) is a complex multinational study involving general population surveys in over 30 countries, with comparable questionnaires. Room has served from the start on the

¹ Livingston, M. (2008) Alcohol outlet density and assault: A spatial analysis. *Addiction*. 103:619-628.

² Livingston, M. (2008) A longitudinal analysis of alcohol outlet density and Assault. *Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research*. 32:1074-1079.

international coordinating committee of the project, which has had support from the European Union, the U.S. National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), and the World Health Organization, as well as national funds. He continues to work on cross-national analyses of the data, now including the Australian dataset.

A first basic report of the Australian survey results was produced in 2008, was presented by Sharon Matthews at the Kettil Bruun Society meetings in June, and was revised late in 2008 for submission for publication. Analyses are actively under way on various specific aspects of the Australian data, as well as on the cross-national dataset.

2. Heavy drinking and harm among youth. Concern about binge drinking among youth and young adults continued to be strong in Australia in 2008. Livingston's report on trends in risky drinking among young people, drawing on several national and state youth survey series, and also on Victorian hospitalization data, was revised for publication and appeared in 2008.³ While the survey series for recent years did not show any significant trend either upward or downward in rates of heavy drinking, the hospitalization data did show an upward trend in hospitalizations of teenagers for acute intoxication. This divergence between what is happening more generally in the youth population and at the extreme end of the drinking continuum has been noticed in several other societies as well, and is beginning to be discussed among researchers in terms of a "polarisation" of youth drinking.

Other analyses of heavy drinking and problems among youth accepted for publication during the year included an analysis of the correlates of high-risk drinking among 16-24-year-olds in Victoria,⁴ and an analysis of variations by age and sex in "trouble per litre" of alcohol, looking across the whole age spectrum from age 13 up.⁵ The latter analysis, which showed much greater trouble ratios below age 15, along with a fall in ratios with increasing age, contributed to the rationale for advice on teenage drinking in the Australian low-risk drinking guidelines, discussed below. The analysis has also contributed to the work on Alcohol's harm to others, also discussed below.

3. Public opinion and alcohol policies. The Centre has continued its interest in public opinion on alcohol policies. The analysis of National Drug Strategy Household survey questions on alcohol policy attitudes first presented in 2007 has been revised and is now accepted for publication.⁶ A new paper has been prepared and presented on

³ Livingston, M. (2008) Recent trends in risky alcohol consumption and related harm against young people in Victoria, Australia. *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health*. 32: 266-271

⁴ Livingston, M., Laslett, A-M., & Dietze, P. (2008) Individual and community correlates of young people's high-risk drinking in Victoria, Australia. *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*, 98:241-248.

⁵ Livingston, M. & Room, R. (In press). Variations by age and sex in alcohol-related problematic behaviour per drinking volume and heavier drinking occasion. *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*

⁶ Wilkinson, C., Room, R. & Livingston, M. (In press) Mapping Australian public opinion on alcohol policies in the new millennium. *Drug and Alcohol Review*

public discourse in the media about low-risk guidelines for drinking in the period in late 2007 and early 2008 after draft guidelines were put out for review, in the context of trends in the broader public discourse on alcohol issues.⁷ Since the discussions around the guidelines are a revealing window on public attitudes towards drinking, including issues of “binge drinking”, further analysis of the public discourse and debate around the guidelines is planned after the guidelines are finally adopted.

4. Low-risk drinking guidelines: lifetime risks. Work by the NHMRC committee reviewing and revising the Australian low-risk guidelines continued during the whole of 2008, far exceeding the original government timelines for the project. The new basis proposed by Room for the guidelines, in terms of lifetime risk associated with different levels and patterns and drinking, was accepted by the Committee, but has not met wholehearted acceptance in the NHMRC review and policy processes. The delay in the process has allowed the underlying work to be published⁸ before the Committee’s report is finalised. At this writing, the approach remains the main basis for the draft Guidelines. Further work by the AER Centre’s partners at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health has continued on consolidating the approach, in terms of establishing confidence intervals for the risk estimates.

5. The range and magnitude of alcohol’s harm to others. A two-year project on harms from drinking to others than the drinker, initiated in late 2007, got under way in 2008. The study has been commissioned by AERF, and is part of the work of the AER Centre at Turning Point. Anne-Marie Laslett leads the study at Turning Point, with all other AER staff members involved. It also involves as collaborating researchers Dr. Tanya Chikritzhs at the National Drug Research Institute (Perth) and Dr. Christopher Doran at the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (Sydney).

The fact of the Australian study has already produced fruit elsewhere. New Zealand researchers, led by Dr. Sally Casswell, a consultant to the Australian study, succeeded in getting funding to carry out a survey on the subject in New Zealand. It is likely that there will be other such projects elsewhere in the future. This development offers the possibility of cross-national comparative analyses on the topic, initially of Australia and New Zealand.

The Australian study aims to build a conceptual basis for estimating the adverse effects of alcohol on third parties, and to build a knowledge base on the nature, size, phenomenology and cost of such effects. The study uses Australian data

⁷ Wilkinson, C. (2008) Public discourse on the revised Australian alcohol guidelines for low-risk drinking. Annual Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and other Drugs Conference, Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, November, 2008.

⁸ Rehm, J., Room, R. & Taylor, B. (2008) Method for moderation: Measuring lifetime risk of alcohol-attributable mortality as a basis for drinking guidelines. *International Journal of Methods in Psychiatric Research* 17(3):141-151; Taylor, B., Rehm, J., Room, R., Patra, J. & Bondy, S. (2008) Low risk guidelines: from conjecture to evidence. *American Journal of Epidemiology* 168(10):1119-25; response to commentary 1130-31.

to measure the size of various adverse effects attributable to others' drinking, to describe the demographic and other characteristics of those most affected by each type of harm, and, to the extent possible, to delineate the influence of contextual factors and circumstances on the occurrence of the harm.

The empirical work of the study proceeded in 2008 on two main tracks. One of these was to work with existing datasets which can be analysed in terms of the concerns of the study. Drs. Doran and Chikritzhs are undertaking coordinated analyses of alcohol in drink-driving and other police datasets in Western Australia and New South Wales. At the AER Centre, the HILDA dataset was analysed in terms of comparing the reported wellbeing of those with a spouse who is a heavy drinker with the reported wellbeing of other respondents. While heavy drinkers themselves reported somewhat lower wellbeing for themselves, this did not seem to be generally true for their spouses reporting for themselves.⁹ We will be checking this somewhat surprising finding in future analyses on other datasets. Another analysis, presented at a meeting in June, used data from the National Drug Strategy survey to analyse reported harm from others' drinking, comparing it with reports from the respondents on harm their own drinking had done to others.¹⁰ Further analyses on specific datasets were under way at the close of 2008.

In the meantime, work proceeded on the other main track: a general-population survey of Australian adults on different aspects of alcohol's harm to the others. For much of 2008, intensive work was carried out on preparing and piloting a questionnaire for the study. This work was done in consultation and collaboration with the New Zealand study, among others. The fieldwork for the Australian survey was carried out by the Social Research Centre in the last months of 2008. A final dataset file will be delivered by SRC early in 2009.

The survey collects information in a variety of different frames. The respondent is asked to identify whose drinking has had the greatest adverse impact on him/her in the last year, and a series of questions are asked about the problems, about the impact on the respondent, and about the respondent's response to the problems. Apart from these questions focused on family and friendship relationships, specific questions are also asked about the impact of others' drinking in the workplace, and on children in the respondent's family. Questions on the respondent's perceived quality of life and feelings of wellbeing are also asked, to allow comparisons of respondents affected by others' drinking in particular circumstances with respondents affected in other circumstances and with those not affected. A further set of questions ask about others' drinking and "public amenity" – how much the respondent has been affected in various ways by others' drinking in public space. To the extent possible, questions on costs are included, to allow cost estimation of the harms experienced. We expect our hands to be

⁹ Livingston, M. (In press) The effects of alcohol consumption in spousal relationships on health-related quality of life and satisfaction. *Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs*.

¹⁰ Wilkinson, C. (2008) Victimization and perpetration of alcohol-related harm: an Australian National survey. Plenary address, 34th Annual Alcohol Epidemiology Symposium of the Kettil Bruun Society, Victoria, Canada, June, 2008.

full in 2009 analyzing this data, as well as analysing the remaining existing datasets and preparing a synthetic report.

At an international meeting in June 2008, a general overview of the project was presented,¹¹ as well as a cross-national conceptual paper, considering the handling of alcohol in child welfare agencies and statistics in Australia compared with Canada and the United States.¹² The latter paper was the first public presentation of a line of work growing out of the Alcohol's harm to others project, a study of alcohol issues as they are presented in the case datafiles of Victoria's Child Protection Services. This study, which will extend well beyond the end of the Alcohol's harm to others project, will be the dissertation of Anne-Marie Laslett. Dr. Laslett is the second AER staff member to win a doctoral fellowship which was awarded competitively by the Sidney Myer Foundation. When she takes up the fellowship, she also will continue to be associated with the Centre and be funded part-time by it, but will draw her primary support from the fellowship.

Alcohol policy in a global perspective. A variety of work on research-based advice in the policy process was undertaken in 2008, both within an Australian context and globally. Within Australia, the demand for research-based advice remained high. Through various avenues – among them Turning Point, the Alcohol and Other Drug Council of Australia, the Victorian Alcohol Policy Coalition, the Victoria Alcohol and Drug Prevention Council, and the National Preventative Health Taskforce -- Centre staff offered research-based advice, drafted position papers, and prepared submissions and papers. Two of the Centre's staff were coauthors of the technical paper on alcohol published as one of the reports of the National Preventative Health Taskforce.¹³

On the global level, during 2008, Room's paper on the international history of efforts to control alcohol and other psychoactive substances was published.¹⁴ A

¹¹ Room, R. (2008) Thinking about measuring alcohol's harm to others. Presentation at the 34th Annual Alcohol Epidemiology Symposium of the Kettil Bruun Society, Victoria, BC, Canada 2-6 June.

¹² Laslett, A.-M. Alcohol involvement in child maltreatment: A review and consideration of the literature. Presented at the 34th Annual Alcohol Epidemiology Symposium of the Kettil Bruun Society, Victoria, Canada, June, 2008.

¹³ Vandenberg, B., Hamilton, M., Livingston, M. & Room, R. 2008. *A window of opportunity – preventing alcohol-related harm in Australia*. Technical paper prepared for the National Preventative Health Taskforce (NPHT), Canberra: NPHT. <http://www.preventativehealth.org.au/internet/preventativehealth/publishing.nsf/Content/tech-alcohol>

¹⁴ Room, R. (2008) "Justly anxious respecting the moral and material consequences": The proliferation of international control regimes for psychoactive substances. *Social History of Alcohol and Drugs* 22(2):6-21.

conceptual paper on factors which would tend to push alcohol consumption level up and down was accepted for publication. An invited editorial in the *British Medical Journal* stated the case for an international framework convention on alcohol control.¹⁵

The main international organ of public health attention to alcohol issues has been the World Health Organization. Collaborative work by four scholars including Room continued on alcohol and social determinants of health, as part of the work of the WHO work on Priority Public Health Conditions. Meanwhile, Room is the co-director of the effort concerning alcohol as a risk factor and on alcohol use disorders as conditions in the new estimations of the Global Burden of Disease, conducted with central funding from the Gates Foundation and in collaboration with the World Health Organization. A very substantial effort is under way on this, primarily at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health in Canada. The main work on alcohol as a risk factor will be completed in 2009, and a variety of publications, some involving AER Centre staff, are expected to result.

A new resolution on alcohol policy was passed at the World Health Assembly in 2008, calling for a Global Strategy on Alcohol to be prepared and adopted in 2010. The work on the Global Burden of Disease and other related work will form part of WHO's justification and basis for the Strategy. Apart from this work, Room continues to play an advisory role to the alcohol program at WHO.

The Centre's standing

The Centre's effort in 2008, its third year of existence, has been devoted to consolidating its position in Australian alcohol policy studies and epidemiology and to pushing forward the multiple lines of work in the Alcohol's harm to others project. That Laslett and Livingston won the two Sydney Myer Foundation doctoral fellowships for alcohol studies is in the first place a tribute to their strength and promise as scholars. In the second place it illustrates the growing position of the Centre and its staff in the field. In the third place it offers an opportunity, along with new NHMRC grant, for the Centre to expand beyond its core funding from AERF and its partners. In the fourth place, of course, it offers a challenge to the centre for 2009, to attract and integrate in its work a new cohort of promising scholars.

During 2008, the Centre, along with the Burnet Institute and the Melbourne office of the National Drug Research Institute, has continued to coordinate the Victorian Substance Use Research Forum (VSURF). This ongoing seminar series showcases current developments in alcohol and drug research from local, interstate and international researchers. VSURF has brought together a regular audience of alcohol and drug researchers and policy-makers from across Victoria and has

¹⁵ Room, R., Schmidt, L., Rehm, J. & Mäkelä, P. (2008) International regulation of alcohol. *British Medical Journal* 337 (Nov. 6):a2364. doi: 10.1136/bmj.a2364. (rejoinder letter:) Schmidt, L., Rehm, J., Room, R. & Mäkelä, P. Broadening the frame for debate on public health policies regarding alcohol. 17 Nov., http://www.bmj.com/cgi/eletters/nov06_2/a2364

broadened the links between this diverse group, contributing to a developing cohesion across the field in Victoria.

Links with research in other states have also strengthened. The joint work on the Alcohol's harm to others project with the two national drug and alcohol research centres, NDRI and NDARC exemplifies these links. Room's forthcoming appointment as Editor-in-Chief of *Drug and Alcohol Review* also both exemplifies and will strengthen the Centre's interstate ties. Both nationally and internationally, the Centre is receiving increasing recognition for its work in alcohol policy research and related fields.

APPENDICES

A. Listing of publications and presentations in 2007.

- B.** Laslett, A-M. (2008) Alcohol involvement in child maltreatment: A review and consideration of the literature. Revised from a paper presented at the 34th Annual Alcohol Epidemiology Symposium of the Kettil Bruun Society, Victoria, Canada, June.
- C.** Livingston, M. (2008) Alcohol outlet density and assault: A spatial analysis. *Addiction*. 103:619-628.
- D.** Livingston, M. (In press) The effects of alcohol consumption in spousal relationships on health-related quality of life and satisfaction. *Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs*
- E.** Livingston, M. (2008) A longitudinal analysis of alcohol outlet density and Assault. *Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research*. 32:1074-1079.
- F.** Livingston, M. (2008) Recent trends in risky alcohol consumption and related harm against young people in Victoria, Australia. *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health*. 32: 266-271.
- G.** Livingston, M., Laslett, A-M., & Dietze, P. (2008) Individual and community correlates of young people's high-risk drinking in Victoria, Australia. *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*, 98:241-248.
- H.** Rehm, J., Room, R. & Taylor, B. (2008) Method for moderation: Measuring lifetime risk of alcohol-attributable mortality as a basis for drinking guidelines. *International Journal of Methods in Psychiatric Research* 17(3):141-151.
- I.** Room, R. (2008) "Justly anxious respecting the moral and material consequences": The proliferation of international control regimes for psychoactive substances. *Social History of Alcohol and Drugs* 22(2):6-21.
- J.** Room, R. (2008) Thinking about measuring alcohol's harm to others. Presentation at the 34th Annual Alcohol Epidemiology Symposium of the Kettil Bruun Society, Victoria, BC, Canada 2-6 June.
- K.** Room, R., Schmidt, L., Rehm, J. & Mäkelä, P. (2008) International regulation of alcohol. *British Medical Journal* 337 (Nov. 6):a2364.
- L.** Vandenberg, B., Livingston, M. & Hamilton, M. (2008) Beyond cheap shots: Reforming alcohol taxation in Australia (commentary). *Drug and Alcohol Review*, 27:579-583.
- M.** Wilkinson, C. (2008) Victims and perpetrators of alcohol-related harm in an Australian national survey. Revised from a plenary presentation, 34th Annual Alcohol Epidemiology Symposium of the Kettil Bruun Society, Victoria, Canada, June.

Appendix A. Publications and presentations in 2008

Names of AERC Centre staff members are in bold where there are coauthors not from the Centre. A few publications are from work initiated prior to working at the Centre.

BOOK

Rødner Sznitman, S., Olsson, B. and **Room, R.**, eds. (2008) *A Cannabis Reader: Global Issues and Local Experiences – Perspectives on Cannabis Controversies, Treatment and Regulation in Europe*. 2 vols. EMCCDA Monograph No. 8. Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities.
<http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/monographs/cannabis>

REPORT

Room, R., Fischer, B., Hall, W., Lenton, S. & Reuter, P. (2008) *Cannabis Policy: Moving beyond Stalemate*. Beckley Park, Oxford: Beckley Foundation.
http://www.beckleyfoundation.org/pdf/BF_Cannabis_Commission_Report.pdf

Vandenberg, B., Hamilton, M., **Livingston, M. & Room, R.** 2008. *A window of opportunity – preventing alcohol-related harm in Australia*. Technical paper prepared for the National Preventative Health Taskforce (NPHT), Canberra: NPHT.
<http://www.preventativehealth.org.au/internet/preventativehealth/publishing.nsf/Content/tech-alcohol>

CHAPTERS IN BOOKS

Room, R., and Tigerstedt, C. (2008) Nordic alcohol policies and the welfare state. Pp. 141-152 in: Lundborg, O., Yngwe, M.Å., Stjärne, M.K., Bjöek, L. & Fritzell, J. (2008) *The Nordic Experience: Welfare States and Public Health (NEWS)*. Stockholm: Centre for Health Equity Studies (CHESS), Stockholm University & Karolinska Institute.
http://www.chess.su.se/content/1/c6/04/65/23/NEWS_Rapport_080819.pdf

Room, R. (2008) In thinking about cannabis policy, what can be learned from alcohol and tobacco? In: Rødner Sznitman, S., Olsson, B. and Room, R., eds. (2008) *A Cannabis Reader: Global Issues and Local Experiences – Perspectives on Cannabis Controversies, Treatment and Regulation in Europe*. Vol. 1, pp. 119-135. EMCCDA Monograph No. 8. Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities.
<http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/monographs/cannabis>

Room, R. (2008) The public health significance of cannabis in the spectrum of psychoactive substances. Rødner Sznitman, S., Olsson, B. and Room, R., eds. (2008) *A Cannabis Reader: Global Issues and Local Experiences – Perspectives on Cannabis Controversies, Treatment and Regulation in Europe*. Vol. 2, pp. 143-154. EMCCDA Monograph No. 8. Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities.
<http://www.emccda.europa.eu/publications/monographs/cannabis>

ARTICLES IN JOURNALS

- Hall, W.D., Chikritzhs, T.N., d'Abbs, P.H.N. & **Room, R.** (2008) Alcohol sales data are essential for good public policies towards alcohol. *Medical Journal of Australia* 189(4), 18 August:188-189.
- Hall, W. & **Room, R.** (2008) Should we recriminalize cannabis? The case against. *Canadian Journal of Psychiatry* 53(12):793-794. (rejoinder:) Hall, W. & Room, R. (2008) Obstacles to a regulated cannabis market, *Canadian Journal of Psychiatry* 53(12):798.
- Jarl, J., Johansson, P., Eriksson, A., Eriksson, M., Gerhtham, U.-G., Hemström, Ö., Hradilova Selin, K., Lenke, L., Ramstedt, M. & **Room, R.** (2008) The social cost of alcohol in Sweden 2002. *European Journal of Health Economics* 9(4):351-360.
- Laslett, A-M**, Dietze, P. & Dwyer, R. (2008) The oral health of street-recruited injecting drug users: prevalence and correlates of problems. *Addiction* 103: 1821-1825.
- Livingston, M. (2008) Alcohol outlet density and assault: A spatial analysis. *Addiction*. 103:619-628.
- Livingston, M. (In press) The effects of alcohol consumption in spousal relationships on health-related quality of life and satisfaction. *Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs* (accepted November 2008).
- Livingston, M. (2008) A longitudinal analysis of alcohol outlet density and Assault. *Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research*. 32:1074-1079.
- Livingston, M. (2008) Recent trends in risky alcohol consumption and related harm against young people in Victoria, Australia. *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health*. 32: 266-271.
- Livingston, M., Laslett, A-M., & Dietze, P.** (2008) Individual and community correlates of young people's high-risk drinking in Victoria, Australia. *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*, 98:241-248.
- Livingston, M. & Room, R. (In press). Variations by age and sex in alcohol-related problematic behaviour per drinking volume and heavier drinking occasion. *Drug and Alcohol Dependence* (accepted December 2008).

- Livingston, M.**, Stewart, A., & Allard, T. (In Press). Juvenile Offending Trajectories: Implications for Crime Prevention. *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Criminology* (accepted Sept 2008).
- Mäkelä, P., Bloomfield, K., Nina-Katri Gustafsson, N.-K., Huhtanen, P. & **Room, R.** (2008) Changes in volume of drinking after changes in alcohol taxes and travellers' allowances: results from a panel study, *Addiction* 103(2):181-191.
- Rehm, J., **Room, R.** & Taylor, B. (2008) Method for moderation: Measuring lifetime risk of alcohol-attributable mortality as a basis for drinking guidelines. *International Journal of Methods in Psychiatric Research* 17(3):141-151.
- Room, R. (2008) Dealing with publication bias: two possible steps forward. *Drug & Alcohol Review* 27(4):343-344.
- Room, R. (2008) "Justly anxious respecting the moral and material consequences": The proliferation of international control regimes for psychoactive substances. *Social History of Alcohol and Drugs* 22(2):6-21.
- Room, R. (2008) [review of:] *Benelong's Haven: Recovery from alcohol and drug abuse within an Aboriginal Australian residential treatment centre*, by Richard Chenhall. *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health* 32(1):96.
- Room, R.** and Gustafsson, N.K. (2008) The frequency of drinking in different sites in different Nordic areas, and the effects on it of changes in alcohol availability. *Nordisk Alkohol- & Narkotikatidskrift* 25(4):253-267.
- Room, R., Österberg, E. Ramstedt, M. & Rehm, J.T. (in press) Explaining change and stasis in alcohol consumption. *Addiction Research and Theory*
- Room, R.**, Schmidt, L., Rehm, J. & Mäkelä, P. (2008) International regulation of alcohol. *British Medical Journal* 337 (Nov. 6):a2364. doi: 10.1136/bmj.a2364. (rejoinder letter:) Schmidt, L., Rehm, J., Room, R. & Mäkelä, P. Broadening the frame for debate on public health policies regarding alcohol. 17 Nov., http://www.bmj.com/cgi/eletters/nov06_2/a2364
- Stewart, A., Hayes, H., **Livingston, M.**, & Palk, G. (2008). Family Youth Conferences: Micro-simulation Case Study of Indigenous Over- representation in the Queensland Juvenile Justice System. *Journal of Experimental Criminology*. 4: 357-380.
- Stewart, A., **Livingston, M.**, & Dennison, S. (2008). Transitions and turning points: Examining the links between child maltreatment and juvenile offending. *Child Abuse and Neglect*. 32:51-66.
- Storbjörk, J. & **Room, R.** (2008) The two worlds of alcohol problems: Who is in treatment and who is not? *Addiction Research and Theory* 16(1):67-84.
- Taylor, B., Rehm, J., **Room, R.**, Patra, J. & Bondy, S. (2008) Low risk guidelines: from conjecture to evidence. *American Journal of Epidemiology* 168(10):1119-25; response to commentary 1130-31.

- Vandenberg, B., **Livingston, M.** & Hamilton, M. (2008) Beyond cheap shots: Reforming alcohol taxation in Australia (commentary). *Drug and Alcohol Review*, 27:579-583.
- Wilkinson, C. & Room, R. (In press) Information and warnings on alcohol containers: experience internationally and evidence on effects. *Drug and Alcohol Review* (accepted July 2008)
- Wilkinson, C., Room, R. & Livingston, M. (In press) Mapping Australian Public Opinion on Alcohol Policies in the New Millennium. *Drug and Alcohol Review* (accepted July 2008)

PAPER PRESENTATIONS (in chronological order)

- Hall, W. & **Room, R.** (2008) Is cannabis use a contributory cause of psychosis? If so, what are the implications for a risk classification of cannabis? Presented to the Advisory Committee on the Use of Drugs, London, UK, 5 February (presented for the authors by Simon Lenton).
- Room, R. (2008) Risk and drinking: how to determine what to advise the population? Presented to the Victorian Substance Use Research Forum, Fitzroy, Vic., 14 March.
- Room, R. (2008) Culture and ethics in the relation of science and policy. Presentation at the European Alcohol Policy Conference: Building Capacity for Action, Barcelona, Spain, 3-5 April.
- Room, R. (2008) Culture and ethics in the relation of science and policy: the case of low-risk alcohol guidelines. Presentation at Sonad seminar, Östersund, Sweden, 11 April.
- Room, R. (2008) What works in reducing alcohol problems: the research evidence. Presented at the First Annual ATDC Conference: ATOD Practice, Integration & Development, Hobart, Tasmania 28-30 April.
- Room, R. (2008) Ethical considerations in alcohol policies and decisions on them. Presented at a conference, "The Alcohol Policy Arena: Positioning Science, Knowledge and Policy in Relation to the Alcohol Industry", Dublin, Ireland 15-16 May.
- Room, R.** & Graham, K. (2008) Styles of analysis of GENACIS data: the relation between alcohol consumption and alcohol problems. Presentation at a plenary meeting of the GENACIS project, Victoria, British Columbia, June 1.
- Laslett, A-M. (2008) Alcohol involvement in child maltreatment: A review and consideration of the literature. Presented at the 34th Annual Alcohol Epidemiology Symposium of the Kettil Bruun Society, Victoria, Canada, 2-6 June.
- Livingston, M. (2008) The effects of living with a heavy drinker on quality of life. Presentation at the 34th Annual Alcohol Epidemiology Symposium of the Kettil Bruun Society, Victoria, BC, Canada 2-6 June.

- Room, R. (2008) Thinking about measuring alcohol's harm to others. Presentation at the 34th Annual Alcohol Epidemiology Symposium of the Kettil Bruun Society, Victoria, BC, Canada 2-6 June.
- Wilkinson, C. (2008) Victimization and perpetration of alcohol-related harm: an Australian National survey. Plenary presentation, 34th Annual Alcohol Epidemiology Symposium of the Kettil Bruun Society, Victoria, Canada, 2-6 June.
- Room, R. (2008) Drinking in Australia: Is it a cultural issue? Presentation at a conference, Alcohol: Past, Present and Future, ACT Alcohol and Other Drugs Sector First Annual Conference, Canberra, 25 June.
- Room, R. (2008) Advising the population about drinking and risk: intersections of science and customs. Presentation at the Graduate Union of the University of Melbourne, 2 July.
- Room, R. (2008) What do the North American diary studies teach us about the role of drinking in risky sexuality? Presented at Alcohol & Infectious Diseases Technical Meeting, Vineyard Hotel, Cape Town, South Africa, 15-18 July.
- Room, R. (2008) Stigma, intoxication and addiction. Presentation at a conference, "Substance Use Across the Lifespan: Evidence and Interventions", Beechworth, Victoria, 24 July.
- Laslett, A-M. (2008) "I saw the needle and the damage done." The oral health implications of drug use. Presentation at the Australian Dental Association Victorian Branch Dental Assistant's Convention. Melbourne, Australia, August.
- Room, R. & Rehm, J. (2008) Alcohol as disease. Presentation at a seminar on the Global Burden of Disease, Gold Coast, Queensland, 25 August.**
- Room, R. & Rehm, J. (2008) Alcohol as a risk factor: methodological considerations. Presentation at a seminar on the Global Burden of Disease, Gold Coast, Queensland, 25 August.**
- Room, R. (2008) Society and addiction: what have we learnt? Presented at a seminar, "Roads to Innovation in Addiction Treatment: Humanism, Social Psychiatry and Research", University of Zürich, 5 September.
- Room, R. (2008) Alcohol use in Indigenous Australia: a view in a wider frame. Presented at an ANU Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research public lecture, "First Taste: History and Culture in Indigenous Alcohol Use", Finkel Lecture Theatre, ANU, Canberra, 18 September.
- Room, R., Fischer, B., Hall, W., Lenton, S. & Reuter, P. (2008) Cannabis policy: moving beyond stalemate. Presentation at a Seminar at the House of Lords, Westminster Palace, London, 2 October.**
- Laslett, A-M. (2008) Measuring the harm from other people's drinking in Australia: what is the impact of the drinking on family members, friends, workmates and strangers? Presented at The Turning Point Symposium, 13 October.

- Room, R. (2008) The risks of drinking: how to measure them, what guidelines to offer. Presented at a Turning Point Symposium, Treetops, Melbourne Museum, 13 October.
- Room, R. (2008) Alcohol dependence in the WHO tradition. Presentation at a research course, "Theories and images of addiction", FINNS Folk High School, Espoo, Finland, 21 October.
- Room, R. (2008) Cultural and social implications of diagnosis: the WHO Applicability studies. Presentation at a research course, "Theories and images of addiction", FINNS Folk High School, Espoo, Finland, 22 October.
- Room, R. (2008) Alcohol and health disparities. Lecture in a course, "Equalities and inequalities", Sociology Department, University of Helsinki, 28 October.
- Room, R. (2008) Thinking globally and acting locally about alcohol problems Plenary presentation at the 51st International ICAA Conference on Dependencies, Limassol, Cyprus 4 November.
- Rehm, J. & **Room, R.** (2008) The Global Burden of Alcohol Misuse: New epidemiological data. Presented at the annual meetings of the Society for the Study of Addiction, York, UK, 14 November.
- Livingston, M. (2008) Alcohol outlet density and alcohol-related harm. Paper presented at the "Community planning to reduce alcohol-related problems for children and young people" seminar, Parkville, Victoria, 17 November.
- Room, R. (2008) Drugs, legal and illegal: policy options. Presentation at a Building and Sustaining Training Capacity Symposium, Turning Point Alcohol & Drug Centre, 17 November.
- Room, R. (2008) Drinking and intoxication: The market, norms and regulation Presented in plenary at the annual meeting of the Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and Other Drugs, Sydney Convention & Exhibition Centre, 24 November.
- Wilkinson, C. (2008) Public discourse on the revised Australian alcohol guidelines for low-risk drinking. Annual Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and other Drugs Conference, Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, November, 2008.
- Room, R. (2008) Intoxication and temperance: contesting themes in Australian social history. Presented at a session, "Sociological perspectives on alcohol in Australia", at the annual meetings of the Australian Sociological Association, Carlton, Victoria, 5 December.
- Livingston, M. (2008) Alcohol availability in Victoria. After the Niewenhuysen review: what happened next? Presented at a session, "Sociological perspectives on alcohol in Australia", at the annual meetings of the Australian Sociological Association, Carlton, Victoria, 5 December.
- Room, R. (2008) Intoxication and temperance: contesting themes in Australian social history. Presented at a session, "Sociological perspectives on alcohol in



Registered No: AOO29308B
ABN: 173 020 55629



Australia”, at the annual meetings of the Australian Sociological Association, Carlton, Victoria, 5 December.