

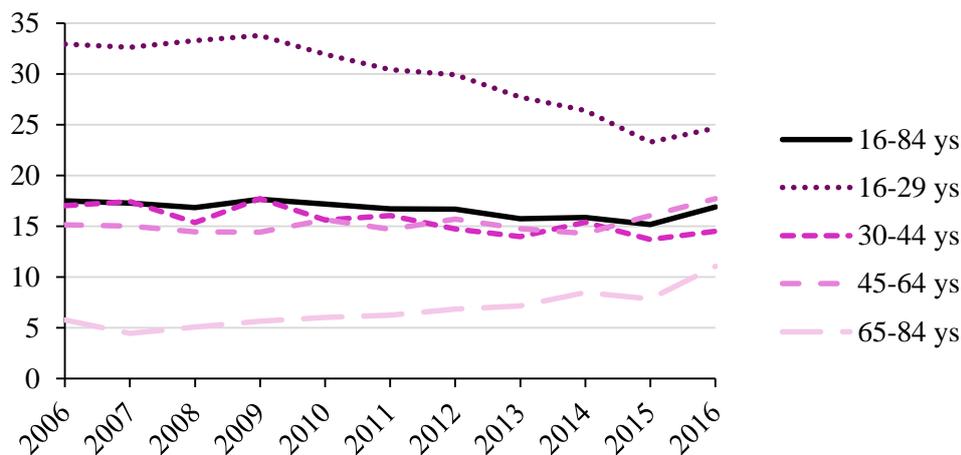


Country report – Sweden, Nov 2016 - Mar 2017 Alcohol, tobacco and narcotics (ANT), development and policy

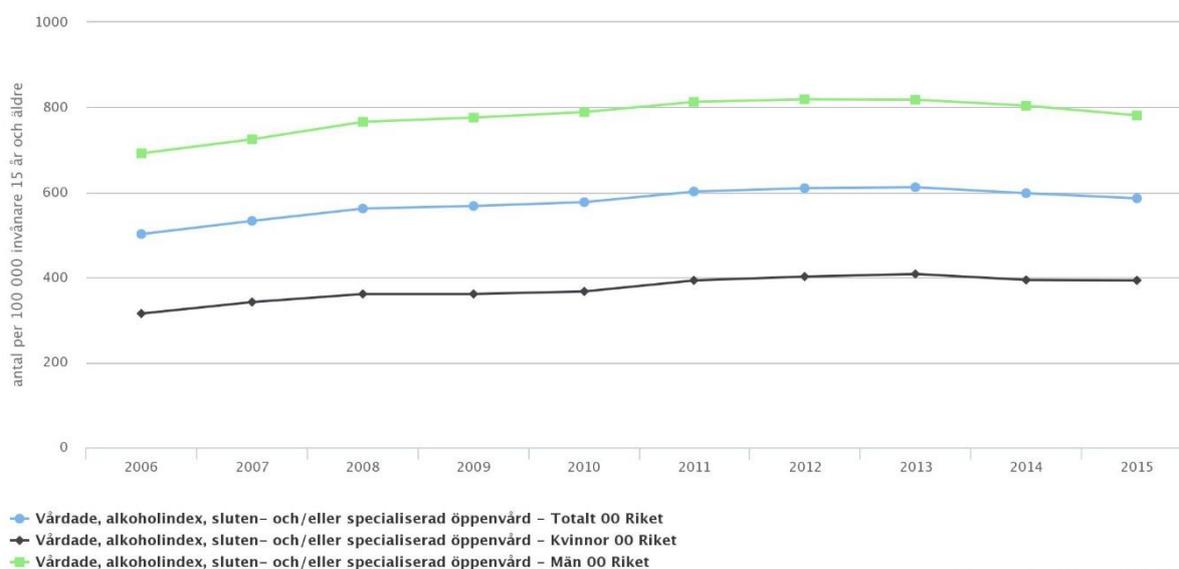
ANT trends

Hazardous and harmful drinking has increased significantly in the oldest age group, and decreased significantly in the youngest, in the last decade. The decreasing trend in young adult risky drinking is mainly driven by men.

Hazardous or harmful drinking (% of pop.)

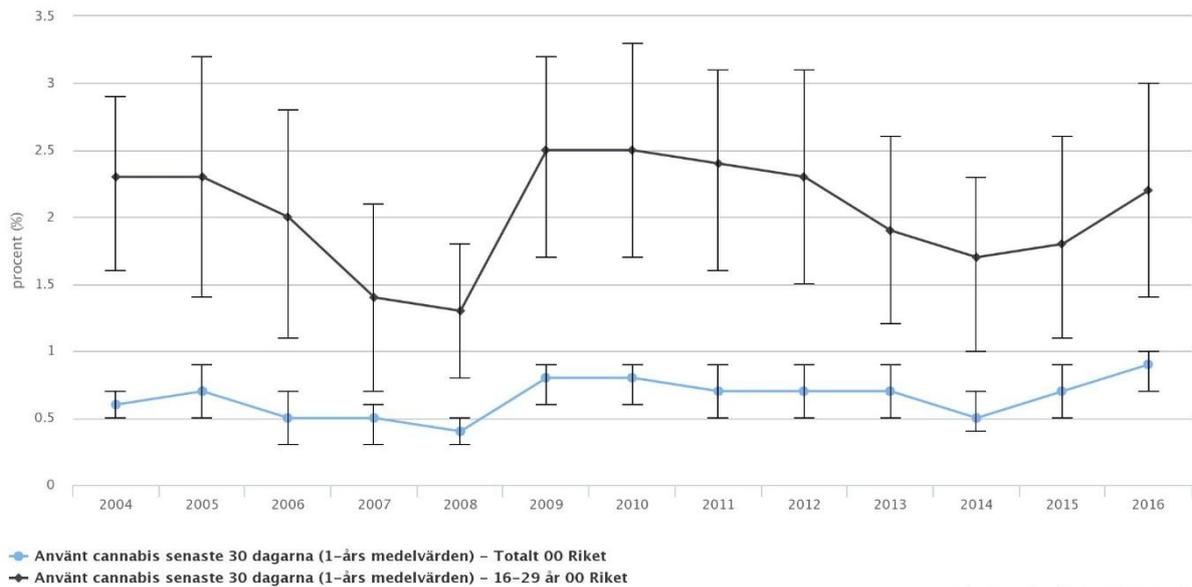


The number of treated patients for alcohol-related diagnoses in in- or specialised out-patient care has increased somewhat during the last decade. A possible trend break can now be seen among men (uppermost, green, line) consistent with the decreasing trend in hazardous and harmful use among men under 50 years. No decrease is seen among women (lowest, black line). The total number of treated persons for alcohol-related diagnosis per 100,000 inhabitants (middle, blue line) in the year 2015 is 586.

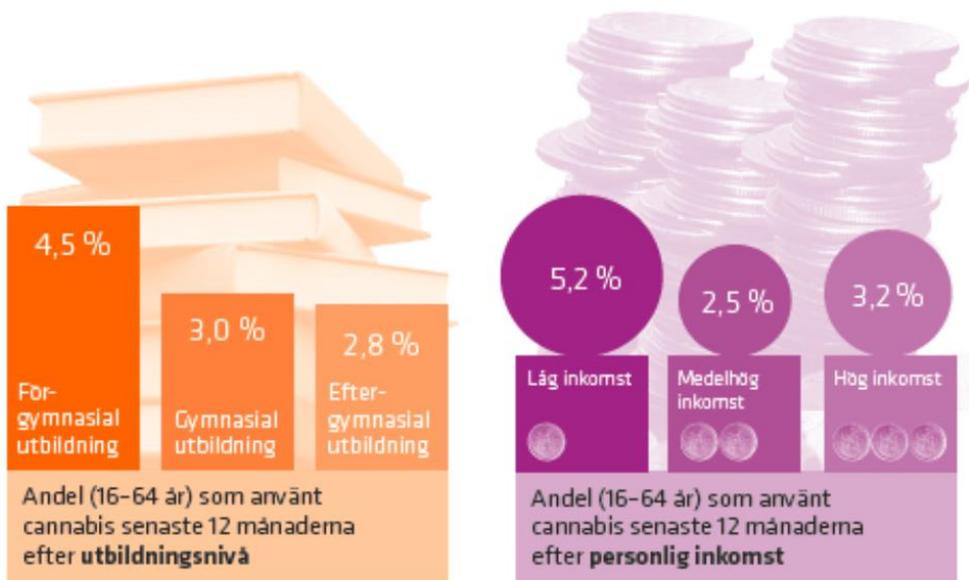


Källa www.andtuppfoljning.se (2017-03-15)

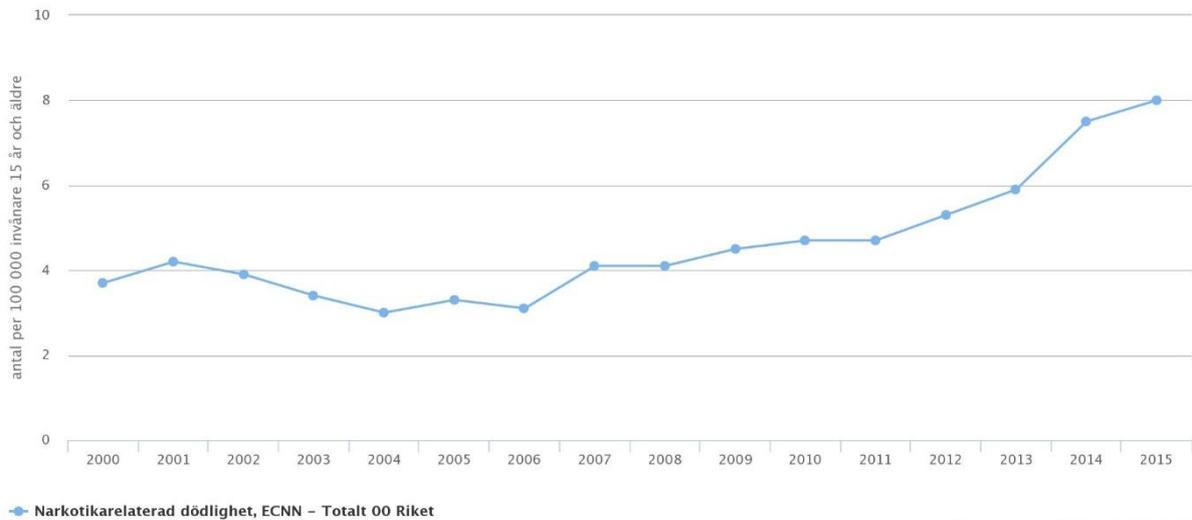
The use of cannabis, here last 30 days, is higher among 16-29-year-olds (upper, black line) than in the general population (lower, blue line), and is fairly stable over time in both groups during 2004-2016, considering that the low numbers give large confidence intervals. Percent of population.



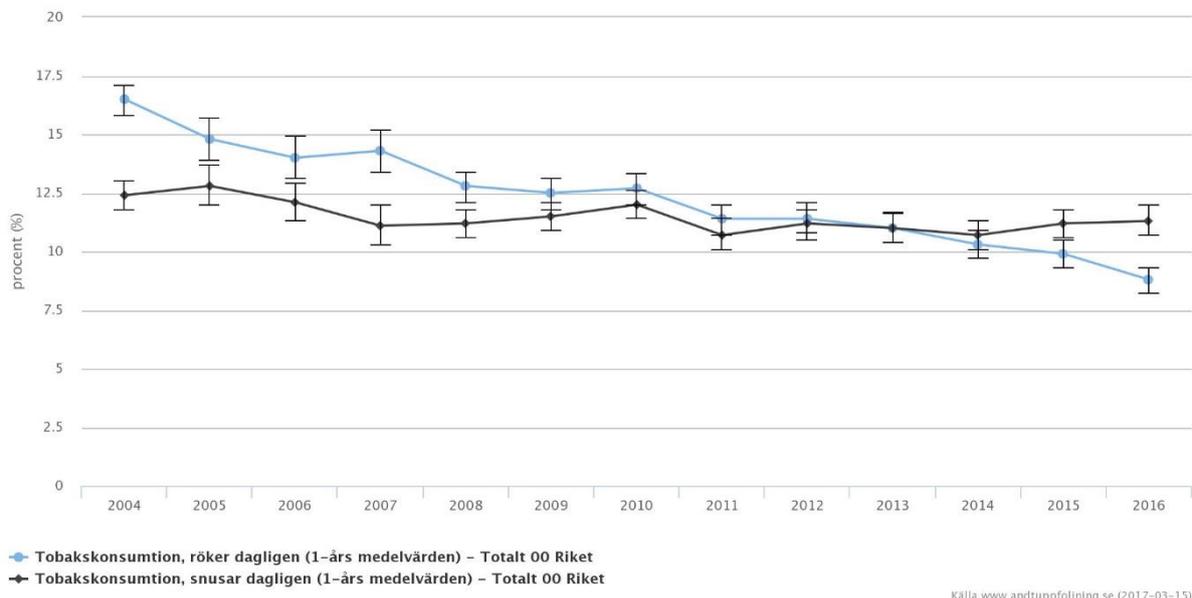
The use of cannabis display socio-economic differences. On the left, proportion (16-64 ys) who used cannabis last 12 months by level of education (low, medium, high). To the right, proportion (16-64 ys) who used cannabis last 12 months by level of personal income (low, medium, high):



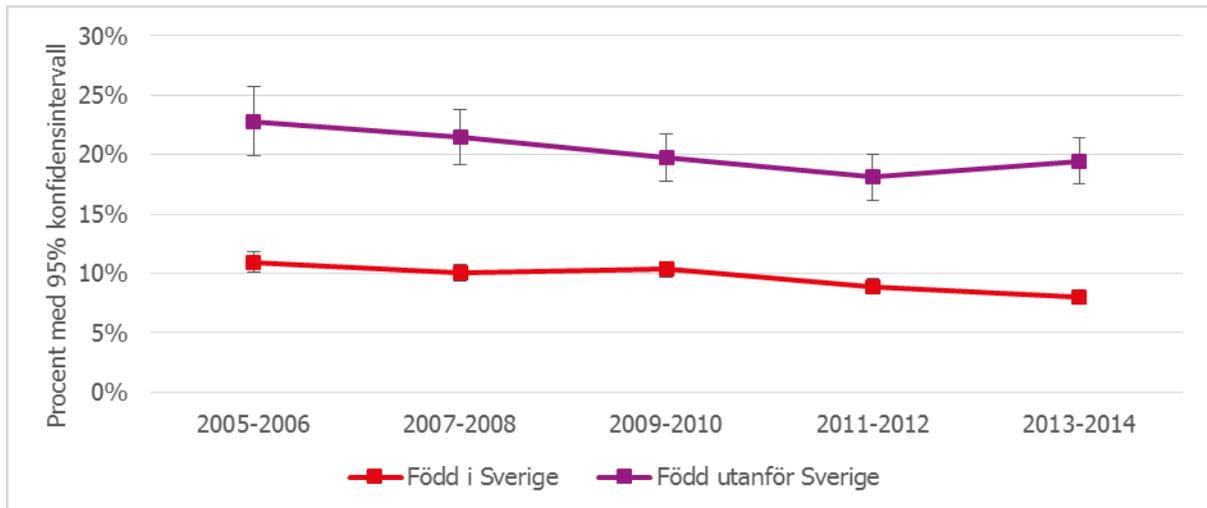
Narcotics-related deaths continue increasing in Sweden. The majority of deaths continues to be opioid-related. Total deaths per 100 000 inhabitants 15+ years, 2000-2015:



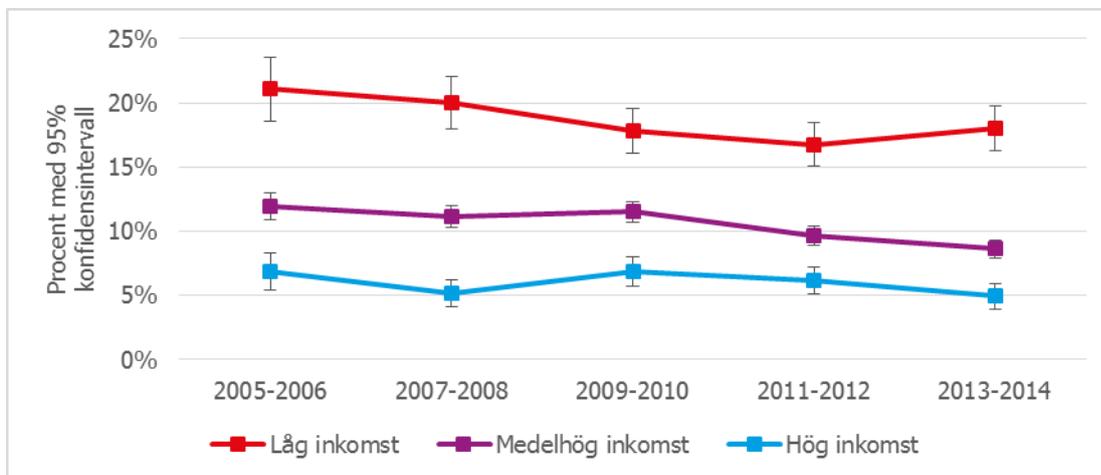
According to a population-based survey carried out in 2013 (n=15,576, representative population sample, response rate 59.3 percent), three percent of the population regarded themselves as addicted to smoking and five percent as snus-addicted. Yet, daily tobacco use is considerably higher. In 2016, daily smokers (blue line) and daily snus-users (black line) was 8.8 and 11.3 percent, respectively:



Whereas the opposite is true for alcohol, smoking is significantly higher among people born outside of Sweden (upper, purple line) than among people born in Sweden (lower, red line):



There are large socio-economic (SES) differences in smoking prevalence in Sweden, and the gap is not narrowing. The pattern lower SES = higher smoking prevalence, is the same among women as men. Here, we show the percentage of men who smoke daily, in groups with low household income (the 20% with the lowest income), high household income (the 20% with the highest income) and those with medium income (the 60% who do not belong to high or low-income groups), 2005-2014 (two-year averages):



ANT policy developments

Swedish initiative to CoR written call for a new EU alcohol strategy

The costs of the negative consequences of alcohol are to a large extent laid upon local municipalities, counties and regions. On Feb 10 2017, the EU Committee of the Regions (CoR) adopted an opinion that shows the need for a new EU alcohol strategy, where health and welfare should be given priority over economic interests. Rapporteur for the opinion, Ewa-May Karlsson (Centre Party) from Vindeln municipality, Sweden, had support in the preparation from expert Filippa Myrbäck from the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SALAR). The CoR thus supports both the EU

Parliament's and the EU Council of Ministers' earlier invitation to the Commission on the need for a new alcohol strategy. Ewa-May Karlsson will continue to work on the issue together with her colleagues in the European Parliament.

Link (in Swedish):

<https://skl.se/demokratiledningstyrning/euinternationellt/nyhetsarkiv/arkiv/regionkommittentastallnningomgemensamalkoholstrategiieu.11455.html>

Ongoing Government assignment on illicit trade of alcohol and tobacco

A half-time report was presented in October 2016 on the Government assignment to the Customs, Police, Tax authority and the Economic Crime authority, addressing illegal trade of alcohol and tobacco (both cross-border trade and illegal trade inside the country). The end report in October 2017 will include a plan on increased collaboration between the four authorities and how illegal trade can be effectively decreased, including changes in legislation if needed. In the half-time report, the authorities express a need for action concerning the indicative levels for legal private importation of alcohol inside of the EU, to be able to confiscate vehicles used for smuggling, et c.

The half-time report does not appear to be on the web, so if you are interested, please ask me (Pi) to send it to you (it's in Swedish).

Press release on a major strike towards "liquor buses", resulting in imprisonment for the involved:

<http://www.tullverket.se/nyheter/nyheter/busstoptullverketsstorstakontrolloperationmotillegalalkoholibussar.5.5c62b5b71540cfd18246d5b.html>

<https://www.ekobrottsmyndigheten.se/press/nyheter/2016/5/tillslag-gallande-misstankta-ekobrott-som-handlar-om-storskalig-smuggling-av-alkohol-fran-tyskland-till-sverige/>

The Governmental assignment:

<http://www.regeringen.se/pressmeddelanden/2015/11/regeringsuppdrag-om-illegal-hantering-av-punktskattepliktiga-varor/>

Government proposal to regulate distant sales of alcohol more restrictively

After an EU court verdict in 2008 Swedes can buy alcohol from anywhere in the EU on the Internet for private use and get the goods transported to their home. The Government sees a need to restrict this availability. After open consultation the Government proposal is currently in preparation. If the Parliament votes in favour the proposal legislation changes will apply from January 2018. Public health interests generally see the good intentions in the proposal, but criticize that it is not restrictive enough to address the entire problem with this retail channel, parallel to the monopoly. The commercial interests generally regard the proposal as too restrictive and not in line with EU legislation.

Alcohol causes 800-1000 cancer deaths yearly in Sweden

Sweden has 800-1,000 alcohol-related cancer deaths each year, new research finds. According to the study, the number has increased since 2001. Almost 30 percent of the alcohol-related cancer deaths comes from low-to-moderate drinking. The study was financed by The Swedish Society of Medicine and IOGT and is report number 4 in an awareness-raising report series called "Alcohol and the Society". Next report in the series will be on alcohol and ageing.

Report in English: <http://iogt.se/wp-content/uploads/Alkoholrapport-2016-2017-Engelska1.pdf>

Appendix: http://iogt.se/wp-content/uploads/Appendix-to-Alcohol-and-Society-2016_Methods-used-for-estimating-alcohol-related-cancers-in-Sweden.pdf

SBI in maternity service improves overall health of babies, particularly from low socioeconomic background

Maternity Service's efforts to discourage risky alcohol use during pregnancy make babies healthier. This is shown in a new report by IFAU (The Institute for Evaluation of Labour Market and Education Policy) and Uppsala University. The Swedish antenatal care introduced in 2004 a new alcohol prevention program where AUDIT screening was used to identify women with risky alcohol use and motivational interviewing (MI) to support behavioural changes. Due to a gradual implementation of

the program at antenatal clinics it was possible for the researchers to compare areas that had introduced the program with areas which had not yet done so. The authors studied 270 000 first-time mothers in 245 municipalities with information on hospitalizations and drug prescriptions for children born during 2003 and 2009. Children whose mothers participated in the program had fewer infections, needed fewer prescription drugs and had about 7.5 per cent lower risk of being hospitalized due to injuries and accidents during their first year of life. The results thus indicate that the program had had positive effects both during pregnancy and after birth. Interestingly, the strongest effects were seen in the children of young women and women with low incomes.

Report in English: <http://www.ifau.se/sv/Forskning/Publikationer/Working-papers/2016/sober-mom-healthy-baby-effects-of-brief-alcohol-interventions-in-swedish-maternity-care/>

New systematic review on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) and Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) – conditions and interventions

<http://www.sbu.se/en/publications/sbu-assesses/fetal-alcohol-syndrome-fas-and-fetal-alcohol-spectrum-disorders-fasd--conditions-and-interventions/>

Restrictive alcohol policy prevents suicide

There are some 1,100 persons yearly in Sweden who commit suicide. The Public Health Agency of Sweden has published a scoping review on methods outside of the health services that are effective in preventing suicide. It was found that a restrictive alcohol policy can reduce suicide. The relationship between alcohol policies and suicide is further communicated in a fact sheet within the series “Utblick folkhälsa” (Public health outlook).

The scoping review results: <https://www.folkhalsomyndigheten.se/publicerat-material/publikationsarkiv/e/Effekter-av-insatser-for-att-forebygga-suicid/>

The “public health outlook”: <https://www.folkhalsomyndigheten.se/publicerat-material/publikationsarkiv/a/alkoholpolitiska-atgarder-kan-minska-sjalvmord/>

Sweden’s National Guidelines for preventing disease on review

The first version of the guidelines were launched in 2011, by the National Board of Health and Welfare. The guidelines include evidence-based tools and practises that should be used by the health care personnel in the patient-centred dialogue about alcohol (including the standard drink and risk drinking levels), tobacco, diet and physical activity. Version 2 is expected in 2018.

On the revision (in Swedish):

<http://www.socialstyrelsen.se/riktlinjer/nationellariktlinjer/sjukdomsforebyggandemetoder>

About the current guidelines in English:

<http://www.socialstyrelsen.se/nationalguidelines/nationalguidelinesformethodsofpreventingdisease>

Public health effects of alcohol retail monopoly

The results from the ongoing study exploring the public health value of the Swedish alcohol retail monopoly has been delayed, now announced to be presented at a national alcohol research conference 11-12 May, 2017.

Conference program (Swedish): http://www.blomquist-co.se/systembolaget/filer/SYST_0407_Program_Alkoholforskningskonferens_Skarpo_1701.pdf

Attitudes towards drinking and drunkenness are becoming more permissive in Sweden

IQ, a subsidiary to the alcohol retail monopoly Systembolaget working with alcohol prevention and risk awareness activities, conducts a survey of population attitudes towards alcohol every year since 2010, called the “Alkoholindex”. In 2016, IQ monitored a trend towards more permissive alcohol attitudes, both concerning everyday use and drunkenness. One group seems to go towards more restrictive attitudes, though; the 16-24 year-olds.

Link to 2016 report: http://iq.se/public/assets/Documents/Alkoholindex/IQ_Alkoholindex_2016.pdf

Fact sheets (in Swedish):

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/29ibnqf8e0gcj7a/AAA3YayIgAmkuYr2bbWDMpNsa?dl=0>

State inquiry NPS

In December 2016 a state inquiry on new psychoactive substances was presented, and its proposal is now out for open consultation until the end of April. The aim of the inquiry was to examine how the classification system of NPS can be made more rapid and effective. Generic classification was not proposed but other measures were proposed to improve the classifications. It should for example be possible to regulate substances as goods hazardous to health also when they are assumed to be a health hazard (i.e. not definitely confirmed). This means that more substances can be regulated at an earlier stage.

Link to end report of the inquiry: <http://www.regeringen.se/rattsdokument/statens-offentliga-utredningar/2016/12/sou-201693/>

Plan for action to decrease narcotics mortality due April 2017

In April 2017 the National Board of Health and Welfare will, in co-operation with The Public Health Agency of Sweden, put forward a national action plan to counter drug-related deaths. The action plan will cover the years 2017–2020. This is a Governmental assignment.

Ongoing implementation of the Tobacco Products Directive in Sweden

The Tobacco Act was amended May 20, 2016, on the basis that the EU tobacco products directive (Directive 2014/40 / EU) was transferred into Swedish law. The period 20 May 2016 - 20 May 2017 is a so-called transitional period, during which tobacco products that meet either the old regulation or the new regulation are out on the Swedish market. The Public Health Agency of Sweden has during the period September 2016 to February 2017 focused on supervision guidance, advice and support to tobacco manufacturers and importers regarding the new legislation. The aim was to achieve compliance. No monitoring of regional and local level supervision activities was carried out during this period. The Swedish Think Tank Tobaksfakta [Tobacco Facts] has, with funds from the Public Health Agency, produced information material to the general public about the background to, and the now ongoing introduction of, the Tobacco Products Directive in Sweden.

Tobaksfakta's information material (in Swedish):

http://www.tobaksfakta.se/information_nya_tobaksregler/