

*Premises licensed for the on-site sale and consumption of alcohol are often violence hotspots and therefore priority locations for interventions that reduce the risk of violence. The effectiveness and cost consequences of an Environmental Health violence reduction intervention was tested in a randomised trial. The intervention comprised an audit of violence risk, recommendations delivered by Environmental Health practitioners to premises' staff on ways in which violence could be reduced based on the risk audit, and re-audit in a subset of premises to assess compliance with recommendations. 300 premises were assigned to receive the intervention; 300 to the control group. The risk audit increased police recording of violence, almost certainly because it increased the ascertainment of violence through improved external scrutiny of premises. Violence levels were reduced in premises which were re-audited compared with control premises.*

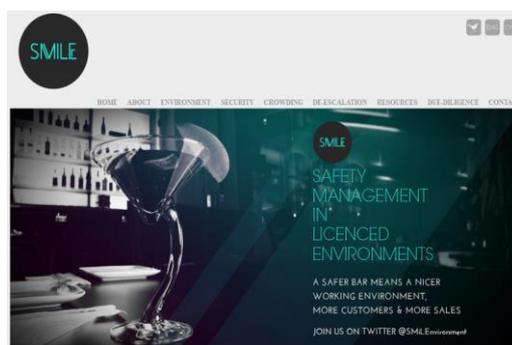
A randomised controlled trial, economic evaluation and a parallel process evaluation were carried out between January 2013 and March 2015 in premises across all 22 Local Authorities in Wales, UK. The primary outcome measure was violence recorded by the police across a 455 day follow-up period.

300 premises were randomly assigned to receive the intervention and 300 to the control group. Due to premises being closed or otherwise unavailable at the time of intervention delivery, 208 premises received the intervention and 245 were in the control group.

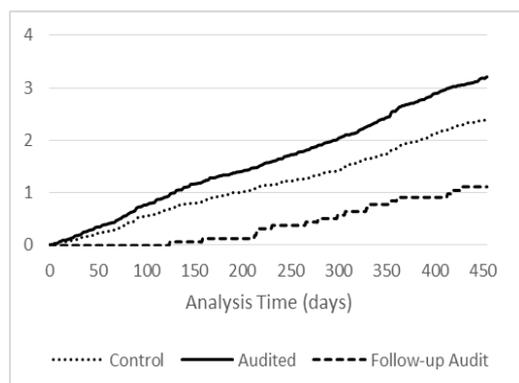
Premises ranged from smaller establishments with one owner-occupier to large nightclubs. On average, premises employed four full-time staff (range 0-100) and eight part time staff (range 0-80). Overall at baseline, staff/customer ratio was positively associated with the number violent incidents in premises such that the more customers per member of staff the greater the levels of violence. Also at baseline, premises without a written risk assessment were more likely to have experienced greater levels of violence.

The risk audit resulted in a significant (+34%) increase in violence ascertained by the police. This was almost certainly the result of the new environmental health scrutiny rather than any real increase in violence. Re-audit of compliance with environmental health recommendations in a subset of 16 premises demonstrated significant (-57%) and cost effective violence decreases in violence compared with control premises.

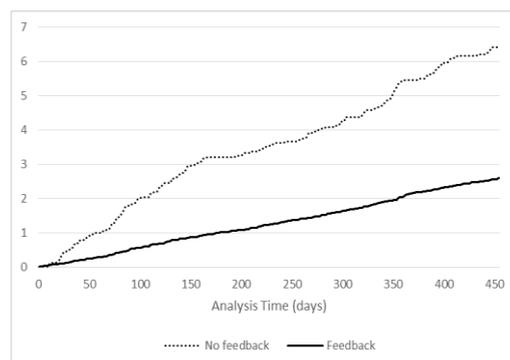
The intervention was acceptable to most environmental health practitioners and premises staff. The intervention was delivered with high levels of fidelity. The average cost of a violent incident in premises licensed for the on-site sale and consumption of alcohol was estimated as £33,657 whereas the average cost of a single visit to a licensed premises, including intervention development and environmental health training costs, was estimated as £125. Audits took, on average, 83 minutes with an average travel time per premises of 18 minutes. Re-audits took, on average, 28 minutes with an average travel time per premises of 13 minutes.



*The intervention was well-received by most environmental health practitioners and premises staff*



*This environmental health audit increased ascertainment of violence. Re-audit to assess compliance decreased violence.*



*10% of premises in the intervention group did not receive guidance on violence reduction based on the risk audit; more violence in these premises was recorded compared to those which received guidance.*

*It was concluded that this environmental health audit increased ascertainment of violence in licensed premises and that re-audit to check compliance with recommendations decreased violence. This intervention was acceptable, feasible and cost effective as part of environmental health practice.*