



# Alcohol dependence



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People with a history of alcohol and drug (substance) dependence are heavily discriminated against.

Substance dependence is classified as a mental health condition, but while other mental health conditions are included as disabilities in the Equality Act (2010), substance dependence is explicitly excluded.

Dr Sarah Wadd and Maureen Dutton (University of Bedfordshire) and Ipsos Mori held a citizens' jury to find out whether members of the public thought alcohol dependence should be excluded from the definition of disability for the purposes of the Equality Act.

Three quarters of the jurors (11/15) did not think that alcohol dependence should be excluded. The research team compared disability discrimination legislation in the United States, Australia, Canada and New Zealand.

Only Great Britain excludes alcohol dependence.



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A citizens' jury on whether alcohol dependence should be included as a disability in the Equality Act

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