

# Training for staff in licensed premises in Sweden

## Responsible Beverage Service in Sweden

A responsible beverage service training programme has been developed in Stockholm as part of the STAD programme. The training programme began operating in 1997 and, in 1999, became mandatory for licensed premises that stayed open until 1am or later. It predominantly targets alcohol servers, but can also be delivered to other staff working in drinking establishments, including managers and door supervisors. The training aims to reduce alcohol-related injuries and violence by improving staff knowledge, attitudes and skills, with the specific goals of:

- Preventing sales of alcohol to minors
- Preventing sales of alcohol to intoxicated customers
- Improving the ability of staff to recognise high-risk situations and intervene appropriately
- Helping staff from drinking establishments develop their own alcohol service guidelines



The training programme has a local focus, with trainers coming from the same municipality as trainees. This provides opportunities for staff from drinking establishments to meet and form relationships with local authorities responsible for alcohol issues. The training programme lasts two days, and covers issues including:

- The effects of alcohol
- Swedish alcohol legislation
- The extent of alcohol-related violence and how this can be prevented
- Service refusal issues and skills
- Drug issues
- Conflict management skills

At the end of the course, participants undertake a written examination and those who successfully complete this are awarded with a diploma. The responsible beverage service training programme has been evaluated through the use of pseudo-intoxicated patrons (i.e. actors pretending to be drunk) to test servers' refusal of alcohol to intoxicated customers. This found continued improvements over time, with 70% of servers tested refusing alcohol service in 2001 compared with just 5% at baseline in 1996.<sup>1</sup>

For further information visit [www.stad.org](http://www.stad.org)

See also Case Study 'Community-based multi-component programme in Sweden'

1. Wallin E, Gripenberg J, Andreasson S. Overserving at licensed premises in Stockholm: Effects of a community action program. *Journal of Studies on Alcohol* 2005; 66: 806-814.