ELECTRONIC ALCOHOL SCREENING AND BRIEF INTERVENTION
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Introduction. This presentation will summarise the findings from several controlled trials of electronic screening and brief intervention (eSBI) for hazardous and harmful alcohol use.

Method. Several randomised controlled trials have been conducted among (1) university students in Australia and New Zealand, (2) Maori and non-Maori students, and (3) out-patients at a large ambulatory care (out-patient) centre in Australia.

Results. Single-centre trials have shown significant reductions in alcohol intake, alcohol-related problems and, among university students, in academic performance. The effect size has been less in multi-centre trials. Whereas Maori students showed significant reductions in alcohol intake, there were only minor effects in non-Maori students. No reduction in alcohol intake and problems was evident among patients attending the ambulatory care centre.

Conclusion. As eSBI is extended to multiple sites, it seems that the efficacy reduces. Likewise, when it is offered opportunistically in clinical settings, it may not have the effect seen among student populations or that therapist-delivered brief interventions have. Caution must be exercised in assuming the benefits of eSBI will be repeated in broad dissemination initiatives.