Alcohol and harm

Lars Moller & Lisa Schölin
World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe
New data
Age standardized alcohol-attributable mortality, 2014 (rate per million)
Alcohol attributable liver cirrhosis mortality. Rates per million
Alcohol attributable cancer mortality. Rates per million
Alcohol attributable injury mortality. Rates per million
Alcohol policy scoring

Strengths

- The role of governments in reducing population exposure to modifiable risk factors is emphasized.
- Political accountability is promoted.
- A rounded evaluation of national alcohol strategies is provided.
- A big picture for each overarching policy area is presented.
- Comparisons between countries are facilitated.
- Monitoring of a country’s progress over time is facilitated.
- Communication with stakeholders is simplified.

Limitations

- Enforcement of policies is not measured.
- Some aspects of the methodology (such as policy weights) are potentially contentious.
- Data for some indicators (such as pricing estimates) are less reliable.
- Aggregated information does not reflect subnational variations in alcohol policies.
- Summary measures are prone to being misinterpreted.
Leadership, awareness and commitment (n=29)
Health services’ response (n=18)
Community and workplace action (n=29)
Drink–driving policies and countermeasures (n=30)
Availability of alcohol (n=30)
Marketing of alcoholic beverages (n=30)
Pricing policies (n=27)
Reducing the negative consequences of drinking and alcohol intoxication (n=31)
Reducing the public health impact of illicit alcohol and informally produced alcohol (n=53)
Monitoring and surveillance (n=30)
Ongoing activities

• Database work:
  1. European Information System on Alcohol and Health (co-funded by the EC)
     • Survey during 2016
       – Including specific EURO/EC indicators including those to monitor the Action Plan on Youth Drinking and Heavy Episodic Drinking
  3. Timeline database (co-funded by the EC)
     • Live during end October 2016
     • 2016 Updated will be included during summer 2017.
Ongoing activities

• Screening and brief intervention (SBI) train-the-trainer toolkit (co-funded by the EC)
  – Develop a toolkit which can be used by all countries when introducing SBI
    • Power point presentations
    • Manuals
    • Videos
    • Material to be printed
  – Expert meeting June 2016 and October 2016
  – Pilot testing December 2016 and May 2017
Up-coming reports

- Alcohol policy scoring
  - Analyze implementation of the WHO European action plan
  - Expected to be published in April 2017.

- Alcohol attributable mortality in the EU (co-funded by the EC).
  - The report will include data for all EU MS with trends in alcohol consumption, alcohol-attributable mortality and policies – also with specific guidance by country. Special focus on young people.
  - Expected to be published during June 2017.
Up-coming meeting

• Regional consultation on alcohol and health
  – 23 October 2017, Regional Consultation
  – 24 – 26 October 2017, Lisbon Addiction Conference
More information on the WHO website

mollerl@who.int
scholinlis@who.int

http://www.euro.who.int/alcohol