

Research List



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COMMUNICATION

Adolescent alcohol use in rural South African high schools

African Journal of Psychiatry, September 2012

Objective: To examine psychosocial correlates of lifetime alcohol use among adolescents in rural South African high schools.

Method: Questionnaires were administered to 1600 students from 20 randomly selected high schools in the Mankweng district within Limpopo province. Self-report data on alcohol use, demographic, environmental and psychosocial variables were collected.

Results: About 22% of the students had ever used alcohol. Males were 2.4 times more likely to use alcohol than females. For students who attended religious services, the odds of ever having used alcohol were double those of students who did not attend religious services. The fitted logistic regression model shows that gender, age, ever having smoked a cigarette, ever damaged property, walking home alone at night, easy availability of alcohol, thinking alcohol use was wrong, attending religious services and number of friends who used alcohol are the best predictors of alcohol use among high school students in this setting.

Conclusion: The results underline the importance of addressing personal, family, peer and school conduct factors as part of alcohol education initiatives. Efforts to prevent alcohol use among rural high school students should focus on changing drinking behaviour and on reducing risk factors for problem drinking.

<http://www.ajop.co.za/Journals/September2012/Adolescent%20alcohol%20use.pdf>

Alcohol use and problem drinking in South Africa: findings from a national population-based survey

African Journal of Psychiatry, March 2011

Objective: This study formed part of the South African National HIV, Incidence, Behaviour and Communication (SABSSM) 2008 survey, which included questions assessing the extent of alcohol use and problem drinking among South Africans.

Method: A multistage random population sample of 15 828 persons aged 15 or older (56.3% women) was included in the survey. Alcohol use was assessed using the Alcohol Use Identification Test (AUDIT). Tabulation of data for different age groups, geolocality, educational level, income, and population group produced the estimates and associated confidence intervals. The odds ratios for these variables in relation to hazardous or harmful drinking were also computed.

Results: Current alcohol use was reported by 41.5% of the men and 17.1% of women. White men (69.8%) were most likely and Indian/Asian women (15.2%) least likely to be current drinkers. Urban residents (33.4 %) were more likely than rural dwellers (18.3%) to report current drinking. Risky or hazardous or harmful drinking was reported by 9%: 17% among men and 2.9% among women. In men, risky drinking was associated with: the 20-54 year age group; the Coloured population group; lower economic status; and lower education. Among women, risky drinking was associated with: urban residence; the Coloured population group; lower education; and higher income.

Conclusion: An increase in current, binge drinking and hazardous or harmful drinking prevalence rates was observed from 2005 to 2008 in South Africa. Multilevel interventions are required to target high-risk drinkers and to create awareness in the general population of the problems associated with harmful drinking. Future prospective studies are needed to assess the impact of problem drinking.

<http://www.africacheck.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/peltzer-article-SA-Alcohol-use-and-problem-drinking.pdf>

Economic Impact Of An Advertising Ban On Alcoholic Beverages

Research undertaken by the Industry Association for Responsible Alcohol Use (ARA)

“Alcohol advertising, consumption and consumption per capita Econometric research by Econometrix proves empirically that there is no statistical relationship between advertising expenditure and the consumption of alcohol in South Africa.

In addition, their literature review of key international studies on this topic found inconclusive evidence that alcohol advertising increases alcohol consumption. This means that policy efforts to reduce per capita alcohol consumption levels by means of regulating or banning liquor advertising may prove ineffective. It may well be that a significant proportion of the alcohol abuse possibly lies, or is associated with the informal market, rather than the formal legal liquor market.” (<http://www.ara.co.za/about/research>)

Chapter 1: The contribution of the liquor industry to the South African economy
http://www.ara.co.za/uploads/ban-on-alcohol-advertising/economic-impact-of-an-adban_econometrix_ara_chapter1.pdf

Chapter 2: Alcohol demand/consumption patterns in South Africa
http://www.ara.co.za/uploads/ban-on-alcohol-advertising/economic-impact-of-an-adban_econometrix_ara_chapter2.pdf

Chapter 3: The cost of harmful alcohol use in South Africa and policy measures to curb harmful use
http://www.ara.co.za/uploads/ban-on-alcohol-advertising/economic-impact-of-an-adban_econometrix_ara_chapter3.pdf

Chapter 4: Overview of alcohol beverages advertising expenditure in South Africa
http://www.ara.co.za/uploads/ban-on-alcohol-advertising/economic-impact-of-an-adban_econometrix_ara_chapter4.pdf

Chapter 5: Link between alcohol consumption and advertising expenditure, and the effectiveness of policy measures
http://www.ara.co.za/uploads/ban-on-alcohol-advertising/economic-impact-of-an-adban_econometrix_ara_chapter5.pdf

Chapter 6: Possible impact of ban of alcoholic beverages advertising in South Africa
http://www.ara.co.za/uploads/ban-on-alcohol-advertising/economic-impact-of-an-adban_econometrix_ara_chapter6.pdf

Chapter 7: Economic Impact Modelling of an Advertising Ban on Alcoholic Beverages
http://www.ara.co.za/uploads/ban-on-alcohol-advertising/economic-impact-of-an-adban_econometrix_ara_chapter7.pdf

Chapter 8: Summary, Conclusions and Recommendations
http://www.ara.co.za/uploads/ban-on-alcohol-advertising/economic-impact-of-an-adban_econometrix_ara_chapter8.pdf

A Public Health Approach to Addressing Alcohol-Related Crime in South Africa

African Journal of Drug & Alcohol Studies, 5(1), 2006

ABSTRACT

South Africa is reported to have one of the highest levels of alcohol consumption per drinker in the world. This article provides a brief review of the role played by alcohol in crime in general, and focuses specifically on the burden of alcohol in South Africa in terms of crime, violence and injury. Strategies likely to be effective in reducing the level of alcohol-related harm are discussed, with particular emphasis being given to initiatives aimed at restricting the physical availability and accessibility of alcohol, restricting alcohol advertising and marketing, placing restrictions on certain alcohol products/containers, introducing counter-measures to more effectively address drinking and driving, and ensuring effective treatment for drink-driving offenders and persons incarcerated for certain crimes. The paper concludes with some comments on the need for the effective translation of strategy into action.

<http://www.healthnet.org.za/admodule/afrijour/2006vol5.pdf#page=46>

Impact of Alcohol Advertising and Media Exposure on Adolescent Alcohol Use: A Systematic Review of Longitudinal Studies

Alcohol and Alcoholism (2009) 44(3): 229-243.

Aims: To assess the impact of alcohol advertising and media exposure on future adolescent alcohol use.

Methods: We searched MEDLINE, the Cochrane Library, Sociological Abstracts, and PsycLIT, from 1990 to September 2008, supplemented with searches of Google scholar, hand searches of key journals and reference lists of identified papers and key publications for more recent publications. We selected longitudinal studies that assessed individuals' exposure to commercial communications and media and alcohol drinking behaviour at baseline, and assessed alcohol drinking behaviour at follow-up. Participants were adolescents aged 18 years or younger or below the legal drinking age of the country of origin of the study, whichever was the higher.

Results: Thirteen longitudinal studies that followed up a total of over 38,000 young people met inclusion criteria. The studies measured exposure to advertising and promotion in a variety of ways, including estimates of the volume of media and advertising exposure, ownership of branded merchandise, recall and receptivity, and one study on expenditure on advertisements. Follow-up ranged from 8 to 96 months. One study reported outcomes at multiple time-points, 3, 5, and 8 years. Seven studies provided data on initiation of alcohol use amongst non-drinkers, three studies on maintenance and frequency of drinking amongst baseline drinkers, and seven studies on alcohol use of the total sample of non-drinkers and drinkers at baseline. Twelve of the thirteen studies concluded an impact of exposure on subsequent alcohol use, including initiation of drinking and heavier drinking amongst existing drinkers, with a dose response relationship in all studies that reported such exposure and analysis. There was variation in the strength of association, and the degree to which potential confounders were controlled for. The thirteenth study, which tested the impact of outdoor advertising placed near schools failed to detect an impact on alcohol use, but found an impact on intentions to use.

Conclusions: Longitudinal studies consistently suggest that exposure to media and commercial communications on alcohol is associated with the likelihood that adolescents will start to drink alcohol, and with increased drinking amongst baseline drinkers. Based on the strength of this association, the consistency of findings across numerous observational studies, temporality of exposure and drinking behaviours observed, dose-response relationships, as well as the theoretical plausibility regarding the impact of media exposure and commercial communications, we conclude that alcohol advertising and promotion increases the likelihood that adolescents will start to use alcohol, and to drink more if they are already using alcohol.

<http://alcalc.oxfordjournals.org/content/44/3/229.full.pdf+html>

Reducing binge drinking to prevent HIV among mineworkers in South Africa

SACEMA Quarterly

<http://sacemaquarterly.com/hiv-prevention/reducing-binge-drinking-to-prevent-hiv-among-mineworkers-in-south-africa.html>

A total ban on alcohol advertising: Presenting the public health case

Charles Parry, Nadine Harker Burnhams, Leslie London

<http://www.scielo.org.za/pdf/samj/v102n7/10.pdf>

Alcohol Policies in Africa

African Journal of Drug & Alcohol Studies, 5(1), 2006

ABSTRACT

This paper reviews studies of the patterns of alcohol use and consumption in Africa. It highlights the findings that alcohol consumption has currently been on the increase with the underage and young persons (ages 10 to 25 years) of both sexes predominating. It was also noted that marketing played a critical role in the globalization of patterns of alcohol use among young people with the production of new alcoholic beverages specially designed for youth markets such as wine coolers, alcopops, maltalternatives, etc. Excessive drinking by youths was also found to be facilitated by free drinks at social occasions. Apart from the pleasure/fun of drinking, damaging health, social and economic consequences were reported which called for urgent public health intervention measures.

The paper then reviews alcohol control policies that have been found effective in the industrialized world and recommends the ones relevant to the African culture that could be added to the existing alcohol policies in different African countries.

<http://www.sahealthnet.co.za/admodule/afjrjour/2006vol5.pdf#page=32>

Alcohol Problems in Developing Countries: Challenges for the New Millennium

Symposium: "Medicine Meets Millennium"

Abstract: The focus of the paper is on alcohol problems in developing countries and specifically what needs to be done to reduce the burden of harm in such countries. It draws heavily on material coming out of the WHO supported Alcohol Policy in Developing Societies project. Focussing on recorded alcohol consumption may not be the best way to compare developed and developing countries as it excludes informally produced and traded alcohol and conceals the fact that there is heavy drinking in some localities and in some groups in many developing countries. In the latter the replacement of traditional and locally produced beverages with industrial beverages has facilitated a pattern of regular heavy drinking. Along with its pleasures and benefits drinking brings many problems for developing societies, including trauma, violence, organ system damage, various cancers, unsafe sexual practices, and injuries to the brain of the developing foetus. These are in addition to negative economic and social consequences. The paper goes on to set out some broad principles which might be useful in guiding intervention efforts in developing countries as well as specific strategies for consideration at both a country and global level. It is argued that in the 22nd century we can expect the use of alcohol to be far more circumscribed than at present.

<http://www.sahealthinfo.net/admodule/Suchtmed.pdf>

Estimating the burden of disease attributable to alcohol use in South Africa in 2000

South African Medical Journal, Vol 97, No 8 (2007)

<http://www.ajol.info/index.php/samj/article/view/13896/59676>

Why South Africa's proposed advertising ban matters

Addiction, Volume 108, Issue 7

"Because of the high numbers of abstainers in many African countries, South Africa's proposed ban on alcohol advertising is an appropriate response, in combination with other evidence-based measures, in a region where alcohol is the leading cause of death and disability, and where alcohol companies are investing billions of dollars to increase consumption of their products."

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/add.12155/full>

Narratives on Alcohol Dependence in the Family in Post-Apartheid South Africa

Journal of Addiction Research and Therapy, 2013

Objective: This study highlights how alcohol dependence in the context of family development in post-apartheid South Africa results in inordinately large social, economic and health problems in society at all levels. The main research question was how did your drinking affect your family?

Methods: The life story interview method was used to investigate how 10 married mothers and single lesbians' drinking influenced their children and family's development. How the participants make sense of their worlds in general and how such person-and context-specific systems of meaning-making or discourses impacted on their alcohol dependent experience within the family context was captured using a discourse analytical approach and presented with themes.

Results: This study's main finding is that because Apartheid's policies disintegrated the family system and the notion of Ubuntu was lost, the women were prone to alcohol dependency.

Conclusion: This study cautions policy makers to become more aware of the uniquely defined construct of a family in the context post Apartheid policies and of alcohol dependence in post-apartheid South Africa and to consider the development of family-based treatment models.

<http://www.omicsonline.org/2155-6105/2155-6105-4-152.pdf>

Alcohol Exposures, Alcohol Marketing, and Their Associations with Problem Drinking and Drunkenness among Youth Living in the Slums of Kampala, Uganda

ISRN Public Health, Volume 2013 (2013)

This study determined the associations between alcohol use exposures, marketing, education, and problem drinking and drunkenness among youth living in the slums of Kampala.

<http://www.hindawi.com/isrn/public.health/2013/948675/>