



Gender Convergence In Australian Drinking: Recent Evidence

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Booze culture... Aussie women are drinking more

Aussie women drinking more alcohol than ever, University of Sydney booze study reveals

health health problems

Women drinking more than men putting themselves at risk

KNOCKING back bottles of wine a night, drink-driving and bingeing — women are more at risk from alcohol than ever.

SA NEWS

Equal rights sees women catching up to men in drinking alcohol

Brad Crouch Medical Reporter, MEDICAL REPORTER, The Advertiser
October 21, 2016 6:06pm



NEWS

Young women in binge-drinking epidemic

Alex White, Sunday Herald Sun
April 27, 2013 9:02pm



YOUNG women are giving the blokes a run for their money in the race to get drunk - and putting themselves at severe risk. Inebriated girls are coming to the attention of police and ambulance crews in increasing numbers across the state.

Victorian hospitals treated 11,980 females for alcohol-related injuries in 2009/10, according to Department of Health figures - soaring from just 6720 in 2002.

Women now drink as much alcohol as men, global study finds

Researchers believe the change is because drinks are cheaper, created for and marketed at women



HEALTH & WELLBEING

Teenage girls are binge drinking to keep up with the boys

SONIA KOHLBACHER
The Australian 12:00AM July 10, 2015



What's the evidence?

Often based on samples of adolescents

- Gender differences in adolescent drinking have been small in Australia since data were first regularly collected in the 1980s

Compare different birth cohorts without considering how gender differences play out over the life course

- E.g. Gender gap is smaller for people born in the late 1990s than the late 1980s, but this may be because the gender gap widens with age, not because new cohorts have a smaller gender gap in drinking

Rely on relatively restrictive measures of drinking

- E.g. any alcohol consumption, at least one risky occasion (5+) in past 12 months
- These may hide gender differences in absolute volume (e.g. 5+ = 6 or 5+ = 20) or frequency

This study

Compares five measures of drinking across 13 years

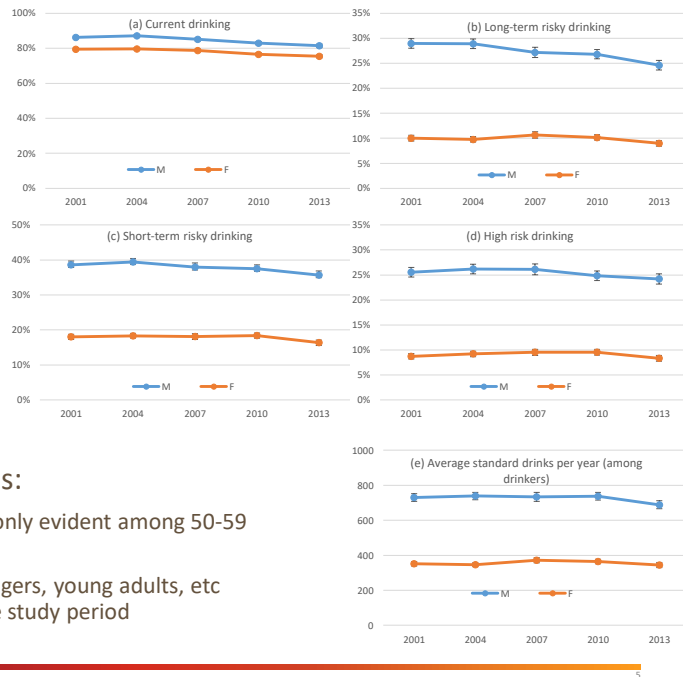
- Based on National Drug Strategy Household Survey
- Age-specific comparisons conducted to ensure comparability

Results

Little narrowing of gender gap

Significant convergence largely due to declines among men

Gender gaps remain substantial



Across 8 age groups:

- Gender convergence only evident among 50-59 year olds
- Gender gaps for teenagers, young adults, etc were stable across the study period

Conclusions

Limited evidence of recent gender convergence in Australian drinking

- Something going on among baby boomers, but otherwise no major shifts
- Across most measures and all age groups (except adolescents) men's drinking was 2-5 times higher than women's

Caution is needed in presenting research on women's drinking

- Evidence that media coverage of women's drinking is particularly problematic (Patterson et al., BMJ)
- Women associated with binge drinking more than men in (UK) media, portrayed in much more judgemental ways
- Burden of disease shows that men have 2.5 times as many DALYs as women due to alcohol



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