

## **Trends in adolescent alcohol-related harms: a systematic review of harm trends in high-income countries with declines in adolescent consumption.**

Emma Vieira<sup>a</sup>, Nicholas Taylor<sup>a</sup>, Abigail Stevely<sup>b</sup>, Amy Pennay<sup>c</sup>, Jonas Raninen<sup>d</sup>, John Holmes<sup>b</sup>, and Michael Livingston<sup>a,c</sup>

<sup>a</sup>National Drug Research Institute, Curtin University, Perth, Australia; <sup>b</sup>Sheffield Addictions Research Group, School of Medicine and Population Health, University of Sheffield, Sheffield, UK; <sup>c</sup>Centre for Alcohol Policy Research, La Trobe University, Melbourne, Australia; <sup>d</sup>Department of Clinical Neuroscience, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden.

Presenter's email: [emma.vieira@curtin.edu.au](mailto:emma.vieira@curtin.edu.au)

**Introduction:** *Alcohol consumption is widespread and one of the leading causes of preventable deaths worldwide. Recent evidence indicates that adolescent alcohol consumption has been decreasing around the world, particularly in high-income countries. While evidence for declining consumption is clear, there has been less research investigating harm trends. This systematic review is the first to review the trends in adolescent alcohol-related harms in high-income countries where a decline in consumption has occurred.*

**Methods:** *We systematically searched research databases for peer-reviewed publications and searched the grey literature for relevant reports or datasets. Included studies reported on adolescents (10-19 years) and were from countries where a 30% reduction in adolescent drinking since the early 2000s occurred. The search was limited to studies from 2005 onwards, reflecting the period of declining consumption. Alcohol-related harm was defined as a health-system based measure, such as hospital admissions directly linked to alcohol use.*

**Key Findings:** *The combined searches resulted in 37 sources for inclusion. Results indicated that for many countries alcohol-related harms were decreasing. This evidence was strongest in the UK, Australia, Ireland, and New Zealand, followed by north America, with Europe indicating the most contradictory results with no clear trend. Increases in harms for some college and female populations was noted across countries.*

**Discussions and Conclusions:** *Evidence indicates that adolescent alcohol-related harms are decreasing in many countries with declines in consumption. Our findings highlighted the need for more publicly available data regarding alcohol-related harms in Europe. Future work in understanding subpopulations with increasing harm rates is warranted, as well as extending the review to a young adult population where declines in alcohol consumption have also been identified.*

**Disclosure of Interest Statement:** *The authors declare no competing interests. JH was funded in part by the Wellcome Trust [208090/Z/17/Z]. ML was supported by the Australian Research Council [FT210100656].*