

## **Alcohol's harm to others in 2021 and 2008: do correlates of harm change and do differences in survey and secondary data sets align?**

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**Introduction / Issues:** In this paper we contrast 2008 and 2021 survey data alongside per capita consumption and alcohol-related harm in official statistics.

**Method:** Using weighted data from the 2008 (n=2,694) and 2021 (n=2,574) national surveys of alcohol's harm to others (AHTO), we compared self-reported harm from respondents' families, friends, co-workers, and the public. Relative changes in AHTO outcomes in these time points were compared for key outcomes by gender, age, rurality, country of birth, education, employment, and neighbourhood socioeconomic status. Confidence intervals around key estimates were used in comparisons of the two national surveys. Differences in these key survey estimates were analysed alongside national indicators of per capita consumption, household expenditure on alcohol and measures of alcohol-related harm (e.g., hospitalisations for alcohol-related car crashes) for 2008 and 2021 or the most recent statistics available.

**Results:** Overall, a lower prevalence of AHTO was found in 2021 than in 2008. Relative changes in this period in alcohol's harm to others varied for different socio-demographic groups. Per capita alcohol expenditure declined in the decade after 2008, as did independent measures of alcohol-related harm from others' drinking.

**Discussions and Conclusions:** Survey worlds have changed, response rates have dramatically diminished, and drinking is declining over time in Australia. These and other potential reasons behind changes in AHTO will be discussed.

**Implications for Practice or Policy:** Studies of alcohol's harm to others continue to provide support for policies seeking to reduce drinking connected to wider individual and community level harms. Results will point to policy priorities in specific subgroups of the Australian society presenting more harm from others drinking.

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