



RESEARCH SUMMARY
Date Compiled: October 2024

Key takeaways from included research:

- An Australian study aimed to identify the prevalence and types of harm children experience as a result of others' drinking. They found that over 17% of caregivers indicated and one or more children in their cared had been impacted by others' drinking with verbal abuse being the most common harm. Researchers concluded that heavier drinking caregivers and other household members was the most substantial predictor of negative impacts on children.
- A City University of New York doctoral student conducted a review of alcohol misuse in New York City due to the COVID-19 pandemic. They highlighted that minority populations were particularly impacted by the pandemic due to their disproportionate health challenges, and the pandemic exacerbated these issues as the population's excessive alcohol consumption increased. To reverse these trends and improve health outcomes, they suggest a multifaceted approach is needed in, including stricter limits on hours of sale, tighter marketing regulations, and increasing the price of alcohol.
- A new study examined potential disparities in relevant outcomes among racial and ethnic groups as they pertain to alcohol-associated liver disease (ALD). Researchers found that Black individuals had the highest levels of daily alcohol consumption (12.6 g/day) while the Hispanic populations had the largest prevalence of episodic drinking (33.5%). They also determined that Hispanic and Asian participants had a higher ALD prevalence while Black participants had a lower ADL prevalence and lower risk of mortality during hospitalization as compared to Non-Hispanic White participants.
- Intimate partner violence (IPV) is a critical public health issue among young adults and is closely linked to alcohol use. This study explored the bidirectional relationship between alcohol consumption and IPV victimization young adults (ages 18-25) with a history of IPV perpetration. Researchers found that alcohol use was associated with increased odds of experiencing physical and sexual IPV victimization, while it did not significantly correlate with psychological IPV. Experiencing IPV however did not significantly influence subsequent alcohol use.

HARM TO CHILDREN FROM OTHERS' DRINKING: A SURVEY OF CAREGIVERS IN AUSTRALIA **August 2024**

Aims: This study aimed to identify the prevalence and types of harm to children from others' drinking in Australia, as indicated by caregivers, and examine socio-demographic characteristics of caregivers who indicated a child was affected by others' drinking.

Design, setting, participants and measurements: A subsample of 854 adult respondents, who were caregivers of children under 18 years from the 2021 Australian Alcohol's Harm to Others study, were asked questions about whether children in their care had been negatively affected by others' drinking in the past year. Weighted prevalence estimates of overall and specific harms to children are presented. Logistic regressions were conducted to determine characteristics associated with indicating harms to children from others' drinking.

Findings: Over 17% of caregivers (95% confidence interval [CI] = 13.0–19.0) indicated that one or more children in their care had been affected by others' drinking in the past 12 months. Verbal abuse (6.2%; 95% CI = 4.3–8.3) was the most common harm indicated, followed by financial harm (4.3%; 95% CI = 2.7–6.2). One percent of caregivers (95% CI = 0.4–2.3) indicated a child was physically hurt and less than 1% (95% CI = 0.2–1.4) indicated a child was the subject of a child protection call due to someone's drinking. Women and caregivers over 65 years were more likely to indicate a child had been affected compared with men and caregivers under 65 years. Caregivers who drank five or more drinks at least three times per week were four times more likely to indicate a child was affected compared with abstainers. Living in a household with someone who drinks heavily and who had negatively affected the child's caregiver was associated with an increased likelihood of child harm.

Conclusions: In 2021, a weighted survey estimate for caregivers in Australia indicated that almost one in six children had been affected by others' drinking. Heavier drinking of caregivers and other household members was the most substantial predictor for indicating a child had been negatively affected by others' drinking.

Source: Hopkins, C., Kuntsche, S., Dwyer, R., Anderson-Luxford, D., & Laslett, A. M. (2024). Harm to children from others' drinking: A survey of caregivers in Australia. *Addiction*.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/add.16637>

In the News: Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education. (2024, September 23). Australian research reveals one in six children harmed by alcohol. *Medical Xpress*.
<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2024-09-australian-reveals-children-alcohol.html>

COMPREHENSIVE POLICY PERSPECTIVES ON MITIGATING ALCOHOL MISUSE AMONG MINORITIZED COMMUNITIES IN NEW YORK CITY **September 2024**

Abstract: Alcohol misuse, encompassing binge drinking and excessive drinking, is a public health concern. The coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic amplified these issues, as many people turned to increased alcohol consumption as an acute and maladaptive coping mechanism to counteract social isolation, psychological distress, and financial stressors. Additionally, increased alcohol availability and advertisements contributed to an increase in alcohol consumption and misuse in the post-COVID-19 era. This situation was particularly concerning among minoritized people in New York City (NYC)—one of the major epicenters of the pandemic—who were already experiencing disproportionate health challenges and social inequities even before the pandemic. Addressing these disparities requires a comprehensive and multifaceted approach, including stricter policies on limiting liquor store hours, tightening regulations on alcohol marketing, implementing pricing strategies such as increasing tax and setting up a floor minimum price, and considering stricter privatization of retail alcohol sales. Integrating alcohol misuse treatment with mental health services, particularly in primary

care, is crucial to mitigate the negative interaction between mental health and alcohol misuse following pandemics. Additionally, these policies should be tailored to consider variations in the unique spatial distribution of population density throughout NYC, ensuring that solutions are effectively targeted to reduce the risk of alcohol dependence and excessive consumption in the city's diverse communities.

Source: Vu, T. T. (2024). Comprehensive policy perspectives on mitigating alcohol misuse among minoritized communities in New York City. *Journal of Hospital Management and Health Policy*. <https://doi.org/10.21037/jhmhp-24-66>

In the News: The City University of New York. (2024, September 25). Addressing alcohol misuse in post-pandemic New York City: A call for comprehensive policy reform. *Medical Xpress*. <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2024-09-alcohol-misuse-pandemic-york-city.html>

RACIAL AND ETHNIC DISPARITIES IN THE NATURAL HISTORY OF ALCOHOL-ASSOCIATED LIVER DISEASE IN THE UNITED STATES

August 2024

Background: Outcomes in alcohol-associated liver disease (ALD) are influenced by several race and ethnic factors, yet its natural history across the continuum of patients in different stages of the disease is unknown.

Methods: We conducted a retrospective cohort study of U.S. adults from 2011 to 2018, using three nationally representative databases to examine potential disparities in relevant outcomes among racial and ethnic groups. Our analysis included logistic and linear regressions, along with competing risk analysis.

Results: Black individuals had the highest daily alcohol consumption (12.6 g/day) while Hispanic participants had the largest prevalence of heavy episodic drinking (33.5%). In a multivariable-adjusted model, Hispanic and Asian participants were independently associated with a higher ALD prevalence compared to Non-Hispanic White interviewees (OR: 1.4, 95% CI: 1.1–1.8 and OR: 1.5 95% CI: 1.1–2.0, respectively), while Blacks participants had a lower ALD prevalence (OR: .7 95% CI: .6–.9), and a lower risk of mortality during hospitalization due to ALD (OR: .83 95% CI: .73–.94). Finally, a multivariate competing-risk analysis showed that Hispanic ethnicity had a decreased probability of liver transplantation if waitlisted for ALD (SHR: .7, 95% CI: .6–.8) along with female Asian population (HR: .40, 95% CI: .26–.62).

Conclusions: After accounting for key social and biological health determinants, the Hispanic population showed an increased risk of ALD prevalence, even with lower alcohol consumption. Additionally, Hispanic and Asian female patients had reduced access to liver transplantation compared to other enlisted patients.

Source: Ayares, G., Díaz, L. A., Fuentes-López, E., Idalsoaga, F., Cotter, T. G., Dunn, W., ... & Arab, J. P. (2024). Racial and ethnic disparities in the natural history of alcohol-associated liver disease in the United States. *Liver International*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/liv.16023>

In the News: UT Southwestern Medical Center. (2024, September 29). How alcohol-associated liver disease differs among races. *Medical Xpress*. <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2024-09-alcohol-liver-disease-differs.html>

ALCOHOL USE AND INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE VICTIMIZATION AMONG YOUNG ADULTS WITH A HISTORY OF PERPETRATION: AN ECOLOGICAL MOMENTARY ASSESSMENT STUDY

September 2024

Background: Intimate partner violence (IPV) is a major public health concern among young adults and has shown a consistent association with alcohol use. However, previous research has used cross-sectional and daily diary designs that may fail to pinpoint the effects of alcohol use within several hours of IPV occurring. The present study used novel ecological momentary assessment (EMA) methods to investigate the bidirectional effect of alcohol use and IPV victimization among young adults with a history of IPV perpetration.

Methods: One hundred and sixty-eight young adults (age 18–25 years) in a dating relationship who reported IPV perpetration in the past year completed 28 days of randomly prompted EMA surveys (four surveys daily). The effect of alcohol use on IPV victimization and the effect of IPV victimization on alcohol use were examined.

Results: The results indicated that alcohol use co-occurs with psychological and physical IPV victimization. Further, alcohol use significantly increased the odds of physical (OR = 4.94; 95% CI = 2.24–10.87) and sexual (OR = 4.66; 95% CI = 1.64–13.22) IPV victimization, but not psychological IPV victimization, in the subsequent EMA survey. Finally, IPV victimization did not significantly increase the odds of reporting alcohol use in the subsequent EMA survey.

Conclusions: Using alcohol is proximally related to IPV victimization among those with a history of IPV perpetration. Intervention efforts would benefit from adapting EMA methods to provide resources the moment they are needed.

Source: Grocott, L. R., Brick, L. A., Armey, M. F., Stuart, G. L., & Shorey, R. C. Alcohol use and intimate partner violence victimization among young adults with a history of perpetration: An ecological momentary assessment study. *Alcohol: Clinical and Experimental Research*.

<https://doi.org/10.1111/acer.15417>