

+++ BREAKING NEWS +++ THE FORGOTTEN GLOBAL HEALTH EMERGENCY +++ BREAKING NEWS +++

Pervasive alcohol harm

- Every 10 seconds a human being dies = 3 million alcohol-related deaths per year
- Alcohol is a causal factor in more than 200 disease and injury conditions
- Alcohol use causes death, disability relatively early in life. In the age group 20–39 years ca. 13.5 % of all deaths are alcohol-attributable¹

5 h ago



ASTRONOMICAL COSTS

Eroding economic productivity: Alcohol is the leading risk factor for premature mortality and disability among those aged 15 to 49 years.

- Alcohol accounts for 10% of all deaths in this age group²
- Jeopardizing economic sustainability: Alcohol harm costs up to 5.44% of Growth Domestic Product in some countries.³
- India: Even after adjusting for tax receipts from the alcohol trade, alcohol poses a net economic loss of \$1506 billion. This amounts to an average loss of 1.45% of GDP per year⁴
- South Africa: Total costs of alcohol use were estimated at 10-12 % of GDP in 2009⁵

7 h ago

SYSTEMIC INACTION

In 2013, countries committed themselves to a 10% reduction of per-capita alcohol use.

In 2015, this commitment was reaffirmed by the inclusion of SDG 3.5.2 into the Agenda 2030.

Nevertheless...

- Until 2030, alcohol per-capita consumption is expected to grow by 17%⁶
- Global goals for reducing alcohol use and harm are unlikely to be achieved⁶
- Progress on alcohol-related SDGs has stalled and can easily be lost⁷



Reality versus potential...

In 2012, alcohol excise taxes were on average less than 20% of retail price⁸

In 2010, the World Health Report showed: Raising taxes on alcohol to 40% of the retail price could have an even bigger impact than a 50% increase in tobacco taxation. Estimates for 12 low-income countries show that consumption levels would fall by more than 10%, while tax revenues would more than triple to a level amounting to 38% of total health spending in those countries.⁹

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Evidence sources:

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- [7] Report by the Director-General, A72/11: "Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", p.1
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