

Unrecorded alcohol: what the evidence tell us?



World Health
Organization

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Interpretation in Russian and Spanish

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About

About 25% of worldwide alcohol consumption is unrecorded. In countries of the former Soviet Union, surrogate alcohol, artisanal spirits and counterfeit industrially produced alcoholic beverages are prevalent. Cultural norms of the Eastern and sub-Saharan African countries explained the consumption of home-brew alcohol. In some African countries, home production of alcoholic beverages represents the sole source of income for the households. In rural China, baijiu (home-distilled spirit) is now produced in small-factory distillers operating in nearly every town. In India, it is estimated that about 50% of the alcohol consumed is illicitly made. In Finland and Sweden, a large proportion of unrecorded alcohol is shopped cross-borders. Unrecorded alcohol may contain toxic ingredients that could lead to poisoning and even death. However, recent evidence suggests that most of the harm derived from unrecorded alcohol is caused by hazardous drinking patterns and not by its quality. Informal production of alcohol is difficult to regulate, curtailing the impact of cost-effective alcohol control interventions. This webinar seeks to shed light on the dimensions of the unrecorded alcohol phenomenon and showcase country practices, their challenges and possible policy responses.

Opening

Naoko Yamamoto

Assistant Director-General, Healthier Population Division, World Health Organization

Carina Ferreira-Borges

Head a.i., World Health Organization European Office for Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases

Juan Tello

Head, Less Alcohol Unit, Department of Health Promotion, World Health Organization

Speakers

Dirk Lachenmeier

Director, Department of Plant-based Food, Chemical and Veterinary Investigation Agency Karlsruhe, Germany

Jürgen Rehm

Senior Scientist, Institute for Mental Health Policy Research, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, Canada

Maria Neufeld

Consultant, World Health Organization European Office for Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases

Ilana Pinsky

Consultant, Less Alcohol Unit, Department of Health Promotion, World Health Organization

Spotlight on countries

Daria Khaltourina

Head, Department of Prevention of Risk Factors and Communication Technologies in Healthcare; Federal Research Institute for Health Organization and Informatics, Ministry of Health, Russian Federation

Rahma Mkuu

Assistant Research Scientist, Department of Health Outcomes and Biomedical Informatics, College of Medicine, University of Florida, United States of America

Maristela Monteiro

Senior Advisor on Alcohol, Pan American Health Organization, Regional Office for the Americas, World Health Organization

Contact us: Lessalcohol@who.int

The event is co-organized by the European Office for Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases of the Division of Country Health Programmes at the World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe and the Less Alcohol Unit of the Department of Health Promotion at the World Health Organization headquarters