THE GLOBAL BURDEN OF ALCOHOL: RESULTS FROM THE GLOBAL BURDEN OF DISEASE STUDY 2015

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Introduction and Aims: Using a comparative risk assessment framework, we’ve estimated national and subnational alcohol consumption patterns and alcohol-attributable deaths during the years 1990 to 2015 for all countries, for 32 causes of death.

Design and Methods: Primary data was obtained from alcohol sales records to model litres per capita of pure alcohol using a spatio-temporal Gaussian process regression, while drinking patterns and trends were modelled in Dismod 2.1 from population surveys. Associated relative risks were generated from analysing published meta-analysis to determine dose-response relationships, as well as their relationship to drinking patterns.

Results: Global death rates attributable to alcohol have decreased by 17%. However, these gains have not been distributed equally. While the death rate for high-income countries has decreased by 29%, South Asian countries have only seen a decrease of 6%, while South-East Asian countries have risen by 7%. In Australia and New Zealand, we’ve estimated a 10% decrease in attributable deaths.

Discussions and Conclusions: Though attributable deaths are decreasing, patterns of consumption indicate more policies are needed to target at-risk groups.

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