INTRODUCTION
Unsafe alcohol consumption causes:
- the death of 3.3 million people yearly
- 139 million net DALYs (disability-adjusted life years)
- 5.1% of the global burden of disease and injury

Many alcohol policies have been introduced globally to reduce the effect of unsafe alcohol consumption.

Aim:
- What are the different approaches MMCs take toward civil alcohol policies?
- To what extent is alcohol prohibition applied in Muslim majority countries (MMCs)?
- What are the challenges facing MMCs in developing alcohol policy?

METHODOLOGY
- English, Arabic and Persian language sources
- Search hierarchy:
  - Government & WHO, for all countries
  - PubMed
  - Alcohol industry, NGO and tourism websites, if information unavailable or inconclusive
  - Published travel guide, at least one other source was sought
  - Some MMCs were searched in depth as case studies

WHY IT IS AN ISSUE IN MMCs?
- Overall consumption has increased compared to two decades ago
- Moreover, people who do consume alcohol in MMCs may drink large quantities
  - e.g. prevalence of heavy episodic drinking in Guinea and Indonesia is 19.2% and 31.9%, respectively

ORIGINS OF ALCOHOL PROHIBITION IN ISLAM
- Arab culture was alcohol consuming culture before Islam
- Alcohol prohibition has accrued in a number of stages within two decades of the creation of a Muslim society
- The gradual Islamic steps towards prohibition succeeded in largely eliminating alcohol from Arabic culture

RESULTS: DIFFERENT CIVIL ALCOHOL POLICIES ADOPTED IN MMCs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Countries with 50%+ Muslim population (N: 50)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total prohibition: N: 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prohibition with concessions: N: 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restriction: N: 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regulation: N: 11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Total prohibition of alcohol consumption and trade e.g. Saudi Arabia
- Prohibition is present in the country but minority groups are excluded e.g. Iran
- Some sub regions or districts have prohibition of consumption and trade while others do not e.g. UAE & Malaysia
- Only non-Muslims can drink
- Policy differ based on the non-Muslim % in a suburb
- A licence is required for purchasing and consuming alcohol
- Alcohol is available and consumption is permitted for all e.g. Turkey
- Some regulatory policies exist, such as age limit, taxes and drink driving
- Some non-Muslims can drink
- Policy differ based on the non-Muslim % in a suburb
- A licence is required for purchasing and consuming alcohol
- Alcohol is available and consumption is permitted for all e.g. Turkey
- Some regulatory policies exist, such as age limit, taxes and drink driving

CHALLENGES FACING MMCs
- Muslim population reject alcohol
- Globalisation and alcohol demand/ alcohol policy
- MMCs new to alcohol policies
- Experienced global alcohol industry and their influence
- Global health and alcohol policy institutes have given limited attention to MMCs

KEY MESSAGES
- MMCs have adapted new civil alcohol policies in recent years
- MMCs need more appropriate tools to assist them in developing alcohol policies
- There is a pressing need for strengthening of the infrastructure and global support for health policy research in MMCs
- MMCs would benefit from customised, policies that are sensitive to religion and culture

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REFERENCES