
Global Alcohol Policy Development in WHO

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The Alcohol Prevention Day in Rome

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Public health problems caused by harmful use of alcohol

Unacceptable high extent of public health problems, in both developing and developed countries

- 2,3 million premature deaths worldwide
- Harmful use of alcohol is considerable in countries with different levels of development
- Increased harm among young people and women worldwide

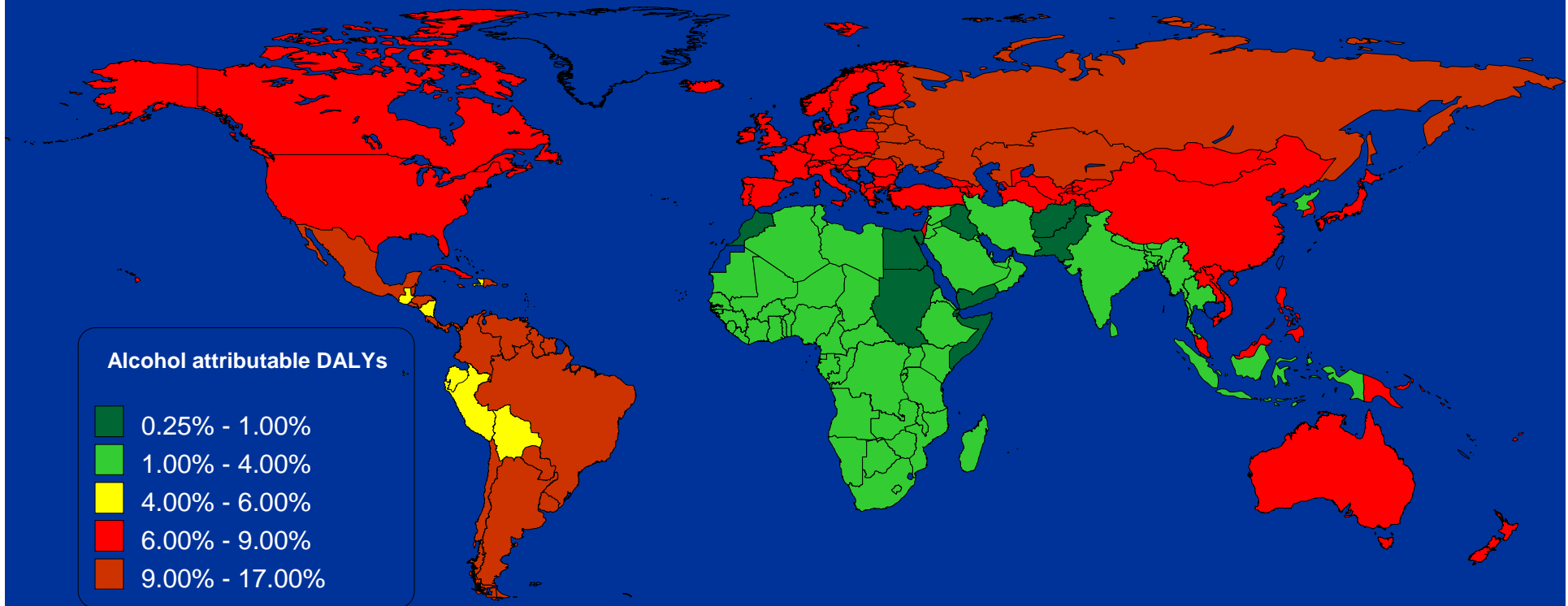


Public health problems caused by harmful use of alcohol

- **Growing awareness on the impact of harmful use of alcohol on the burden of infectious and non communicable diseases**
- **Both health and social consequences – negative impact on social development**



Alcohol-attributable global burden of disease 2002

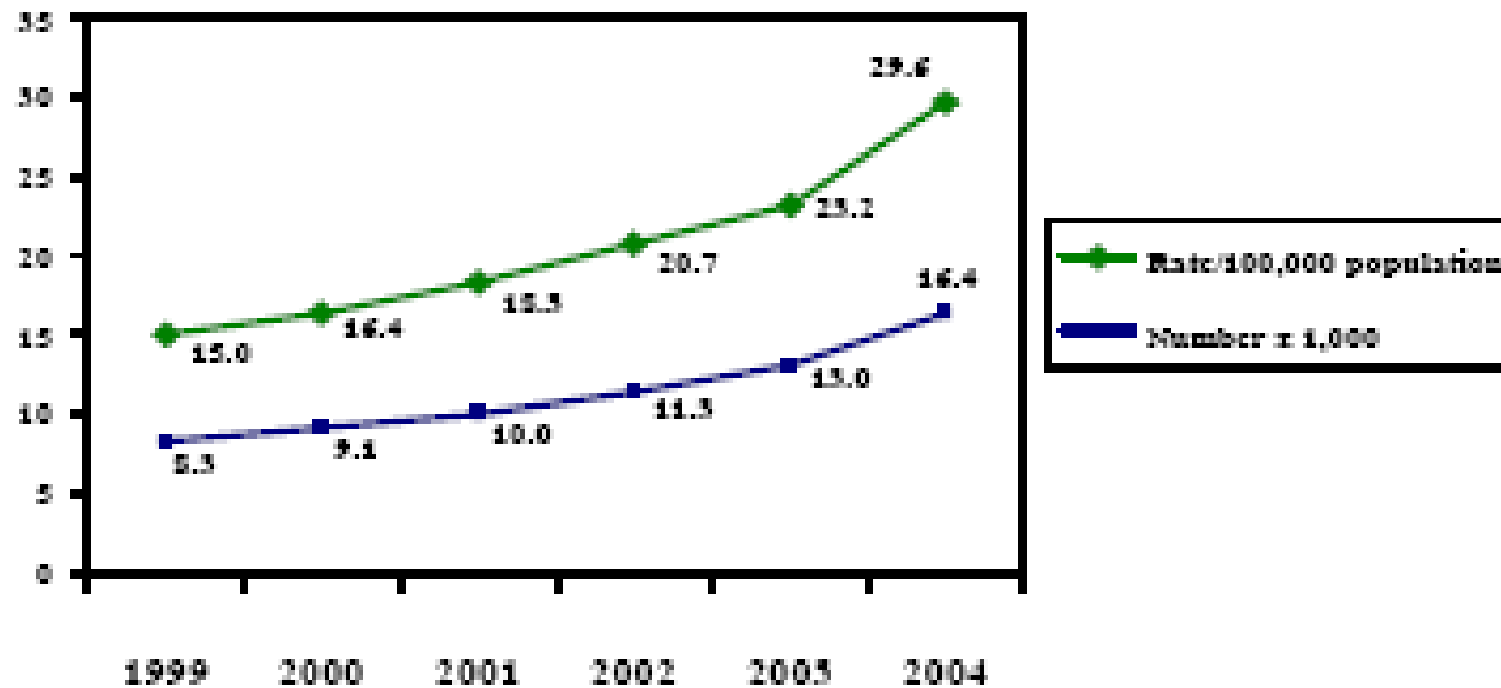


Source: Rehm/Global alcohol database



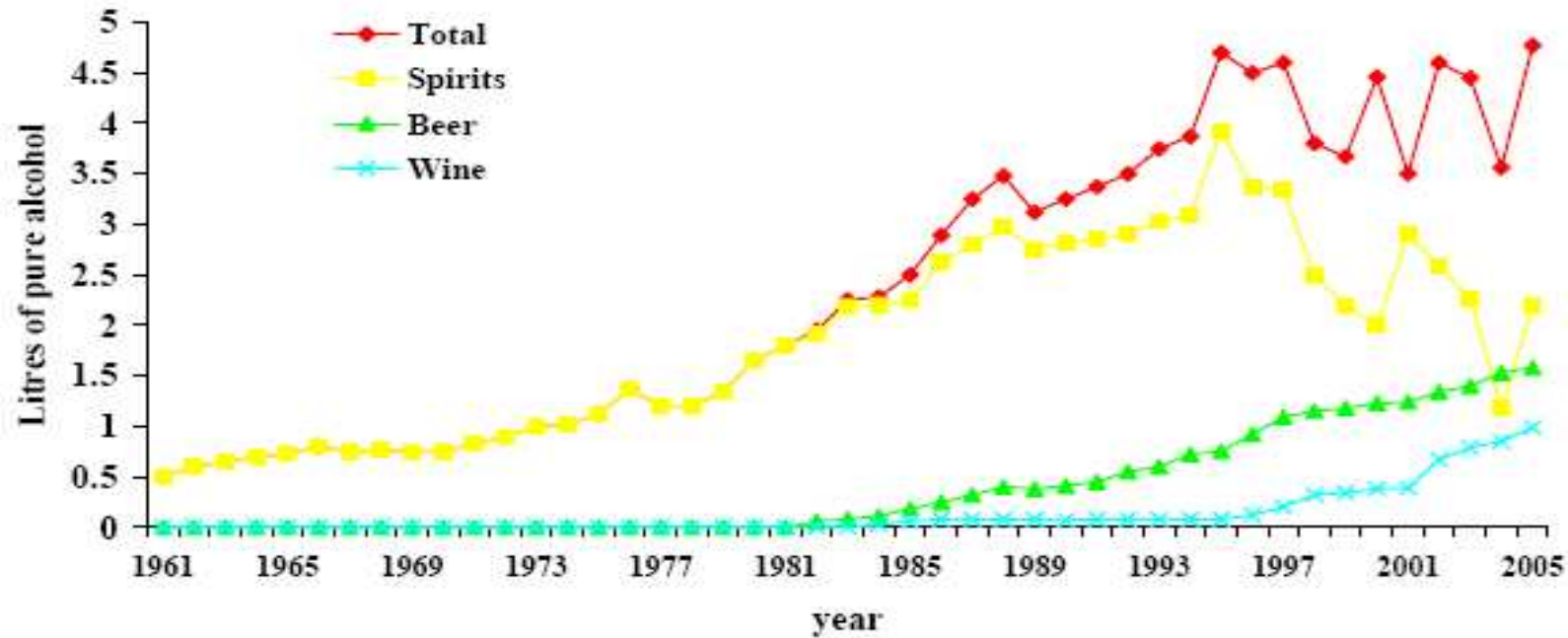
One example of increasing harm - Thailand

Figure 4.4 Trends of alcoholic liver diseases admission in Thailand 1999-2004.



One example of increased consumption China

Figure 2: Recorded adult per capita consumption (15+)



Source: China Statistic Bureau (2005)



BUT - the harm is avoidable!

There is much evidence for the effectiveness, including cost-effectiveness, of different strategies and interventions



The case for global action - WHO is given a mandate

World Health Assembly (WHA) resolutions

- 2004: Health "promotion and healthy lifestyles"
- 2005(58th WHA): Public health problems caused by harmful use of alcohol
- important milestone – WHO Expert Committee on Problems Related to Alcohol Consumption (October 2006)



Policy Development in WHO- WHO Regions

- Since 2005, six WHO regions have responded to the requests in WHA58.26 by formulating, or are in the process of formulating, regional responses to the problem
- Increased awareness of harmful use of alcohol and its role in health and social development



Global policy development in WHO

Executive Board 2008: resolution to WHA

- *2008: Strategies to reduce the harmful use of alcohol*
Recommendation to the 61st World Health Assembly, 19 – 24 May 2008
to adopt a resolution on a global strategy on harmful use of alcohol



8 strategies and policy element options to reduce alcohol-related harm

1. Raising awareness and policy commitment
2. Health sector response
3. Community action to reduce the harmful use of alcohol
4. Drink-driving policies and countermeasures Addressing the availability of alcohol



8 strategies and policy element options to reduce alcohol-related harm

5. Addressing marketing of alcoholic beverages
6. Pricing policies
7. Harm reduction
8. Reducing the public health impact of illegally and informally produced alcohol



WHO Executive Board recommendation

Requests the Director General (WHO) to:

- **Collaborate and consult with MS, intergovernmental organisations, health professionals, NGOs and economic operators – contributions to reducing harmful use of alcohol**
- **Submit to the Sixty-third World Health Assembly (2010) a draft global strategy to reduce harmful use of alcohol**



Progress in Italy – important part of development process

Your contribution important because:

- **Ongoing regional, subregional and national processes will be vital contributions to a future global strategy!**
- **Your long experience of, and competence in, alcohol prevention and treatment**
- **It is a crucial time for a concerted public health effort to reduce alcohol related harm at the global level.**

