
S8. ALCOHOL CONTROL MEASURES AND TRAFIC SAFETY

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There is a huge impact of alcohol on traffic safety. Motor vehicle collision risk increases with driving after drinking. This problem has too many aspects that can be argued; limits of legal consumption, alcohol availability in public, alcohol purchase and alcohol selling storage opening and closing hours.

Development of reliable technology for measurement of alcohol in the body and the ability to link it to increased collision risk of drinking-driving showed us that lowering legal consumption limits down can reduce drinking-driving collision, injury and death rates in the population. Also a correlation between per capita consumption with drinking-driving was observed. Several studies have confirmed that an increase of one litre in per capita consumption of alcohol was associated with an increase in drink-driver fatality rate between %8 and 14%. Another aspect for consumption is price and taxes. A substantial amount of research demonstrates that the price of alcohol or the amount of tax charged is a significant determinant of alcohol consumption. Researchers observed a significant negative relationship between price of alcohol and fatality rates. In some cases, reductions in legal drinking age from 21 to 18 years caused adverse effects like decreased traffic safety so analyses provide strong evidence for the impact of the increased legal drinking age, with important reductions in drink-driving rates and associated deaths. Also another research showed us that hours of sale and accessibility or density of outlets increases the rate of drink-driver fatality.

To sum up drink-driving remains a leading cause of alcohol-related deaths. Additional progress in reducing those deaths will come from several sources, including social evolution, improved counter measures, and learning from international experience. We have seen that alcohol control policies can have a substantial effect on traffic safety measures from now on alcohol control policies unlike in the past may receive more attention to improve traffic safety.

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