

Men and women from low socioeconomic backgrounds experience elevated risk of chronic *and* acute alcohol harms

De Mesa, S. D. (2025). Men and women from low socioeconomic backgrounds experience elevated risk of chronic and acute alcohol harms. *CRDCN Research-Policy Snapshots*, 4(1). <http://hdl.handle.net/11375/30935>

Context

This is one of the first studies that addresses sex differences in people with low socioeconomic positions and alcohol-attributable harm. Alcohol attributable harm was measured by emergency department (ED) visits. Each ED visit was then classified into acute wholly alcohol-attributed (e.g., alcohol intoxication) or chronic wholly alcohol-attributed (e.g., alcoholic liver disease). This study found that men and women of low socioeconomic positions had more acute and chronic alcohol attributable ED visits than their counterparts with high socioeconomic positioning. Further, men with low socioeconomic positioning made up the majority of ED visits in this statistic.

Key finding(s) from the research

Men and women with low socio-economic positioning experienced increased risk of alcohol-related acute and chronic ED visits.

Population(s) studied: Residents of Ontario and Alberta aged 16-64 years old

Research dataset(s) used: Canadian Community Health Survey, Cycles 2.1, 3.1

Policy implications for this research

Low socioeconomic positioning is consistent with lower levels of education, inaccessibility to health resources, poorer diet, and low physical activity. Addressing inequalities at the population level is a step forward in reducing the socio-economic inequality in alcohol-attributed harm. Additionally, the implications from this study can be extended to healthcare, specifically in hospitals. Hospitals, which are already overburdened and understaffed, will benefit from a reduction of alcohol related ED visits and new policy implementations surrounding them.

Policy area(s) this research can inform: Agriculture and food; Health; Population and demography

Read the full article

Benny, C., Hobin, E., Andreacchi, A. T., Schwartz, N., & Smith, B. T. (2024). Socio-economic inequities in emergency department visits for wholly alcohol-attributable acute and chronic harms in Canada, 2003–2017. *Drug and Alcohol Review*, 43(4), 927-36. <https://doi.org/10.1111/dar.13821>