



LA TROBE
UNIVERSITY



centre for alcohol
policy research



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

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ABOUT US

The Centre for Alcohol Policy Research (CAPR) is a world-class academic unit at the forefront of alcohol research.

Alcohol use results in a range of health and social harms. The World Health Organization (WHO) recognises alcohol as a causal factor in more than 60 major types of disease and injury, including liver cirrhosis, diabetes, cancer, road traffic accidents, violence and foetal alcohol spectrum disorders. In Australia, alcohol misuse is a leading preventable cause of death, illness and injury.

OUR AIM

We aim to conduct world-leading alcohol research to build and disseminate the evidence needed for effective public health-oriented alcohol policies.

To achieve this aim, we focus our attention on five streams of research:

- **Measurement and monitoring:** examining trends and patterns in consumption trends, purchasing and harm, as well as contexts of consumption and predictors of harmful drinking.
- **Intersections of drinking cultures:** with health outcomes, social determinants of health and policy contexts.
- **Alcohol-related harm:** harm from others' drinking, family violence, child abuse and neglect.
- **Alcohol policies and social responses:** taxation, trade agreements, liquor outlets and policy changes.
- **Media and emerging technologies:** alcohol exposure in social media and artificial intelligence.



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

The year 2023 reminded me of what is at the heart of Buddhist philosophy: that life is constantly changing; and that when one thing ends, another begins. At the dawn of 2024, this has been the case for the University (with the transition from John Dewar as Vice-Chancellor to Theo Farrell), the School of Psychology and Public Health to which CAPR belongs (which also saw a change in leadership), and CAPR itself.

I was sad when Stephen (Steve) Kent announced that he would step down as the Dean of the School at the end of 2023. Steve had been such an inspirational and supportive leader; the best boss (line manager) I have had so far. Thankfully, Monica Thielking has taken over as Dean and I am delighted to experience the boundless energy she radiates and the new ideas she brings. I am looking forward to working with Monica and Danielle Hearn (the School Manager) in the years to come.

Besides the University and the School, CAPR is also changing. In March 2023, Amy Pennay agreed to be the Deputy Director. It's a relief to have Amy stepping in when I am unavailable, and I am grateful for her advice and the advice of other senior members of CAPR. The other exciting news was that Kylie Lee started with us in December. Kylie has brought a new research focus on Priority Populations and her team to CAPR (starting in early 2024) including James Conigrave, Taleah Reynolds, Teagan Weatherall, Mustafa Al-Ansari, Summer Loggins, and eight CAPR adjuncts, with research scholars, clinicians, health service delivery experts including from the community-controlled health sector. I am thrilled about the opportunity to collaborate with Kylie and her team more closely in 2024 and beyond. Their community- and health service-led research designed to meet local priorities, including of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, is so timely and important. Welcome to CAPR and La Trobe!

Within all these changes, I continue to be excited working in a team of highly motivated and bright minds. These minds have created all the achievements you can read about in this Annual Report. But it is much more than these achievements that thrills me. It's the support, the team spirit, and the fun we have together that makes CAPR such a special place to work. Thank you, CAPR crew for being so amazing!

PROFESSOR EMMANUEL KUNTSCHE

Director, CAPR, School of Psychology and Public Health,
La Trobe University

Below: CAPR staff and students at
CAPR's end of year gathering



MESSAGES FROM KEY STAKEHOLDERS

Reflecting on the Centre for Alcohol Policy Research's (CAPR) achievements as outlined in its Annual Report 2023 is incredibly satisfying. The report highlights the hard work, dedication, and impact of the Centre's research and initiatives.

La Trobe is passionate and strategic about advancing gender equity and I was thrilled that CAPR's Sarah Callinan and Amy Pennay were awarded the VESKI Inspiring Women Bridging the Funding Gap Fellowship, co-funded by The Victorian Endowment for Science, Knowledge and Innovation (VESKI) and La Trobe University. Amy was also awarded the 2023 Tracey Banivanua Mar Fellowship, which not only provides financial support but also helps to address systemic barriers and biases that may hinder the advancement of women researchers. With this fellowship, Amy is poised to make even greater strides in her research and leadership journey, benefiting both CAPR and the broader academic community.

Sarah's receipt of the Excellence in Research Mid-Career award presented at the 2023 La Trobe University Staff Awards ceremony in December at the Agora Theatre in the Melbourne (Bundoora) Campus further underscores a commitment to excellence and the impact of her research on alcohol policy both nationally and internationally. This award also recognises Sarah's exemplary cultural qualities and her collaborative spirit within CAPR and La Trobe University.

CAPR's alignment with La Trobe's Research 2030 strategic plan, focusing on sustainable development goals and digital innovation, highlights its commitment to addressing complex social and health issues. CAPR's policy reach, as demonstrated by Anne-Marie Laslett's engagements with the World Health Organization and the Attorney General, showcases its influence in shaping public discourse and policy on alcohol-related harms.

Moreover, the expertise of researchers like Robin Room, contributing to WHO working groups, underscores CAPR's global impact and its ongoing efforts to collaborate with researchers worldwide to mitigate the harms associated with alcohol consumption.

Indeed, CAPR's continued dedication to research excellence and its collaborative approach position it as a crucial source of expertise and innovation in addressing the challenges posed by alcohol consumption for years to come.

PROFESSOR SUSAN DODDS

Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Vice President (Research and Industry Engagement), La Trobe University



Through 2023 CAPR has demonstrated a dedication to nurturing the next generation of researchers. The centre expanded to recruit six new PhD students and three Research Officers to lead and support pioneering research, such as under the Australia Research Council-funded project led by Amy Pennay exploring heavy drinking culture among young people, and research led by Benjamin Riordan probing the intersection of alcohol imagery and social media. CAPR's expansion and success is attributed to Centre Director Emmanuel Kuntsche's tireless advocacy and support, which will continue to be valuable to mentees into the Centre's future.

This year also saw CAPR staff successful in accruing several grants and awards. My warmest congratulations to Sarah Callinan who received La Trobe University's School of Psychology and Public Health Mid-Career Researcher Excellence Award as well as the Australasian Professional Society of Alcohol and other Drugs Early to Mid-Career Researcher (EMCR) Award for the most cited paper in the journal Drug and Alcohol Review published by an EMCR and was promoted to Principal Research Fellow. I also wish to congratulate Heng (Jason) Jiang who attracted two research grants from Victorian Responsible Gambling Foundation and the Eastern Metropolitan Health Alliance and was appointed as an Academic Leader on the Board of Graduate Research at La Trobe. Anne-Marie Laslett and Benjamin Riordan were promoted during 2023 as they both continue to excel in their respective fields of research. As Susan Dodds noted in her message, Amy Pennay also had a very successful year with respect to securing new funding. These grants and awards recognise the hard work of CAPR staff who continue to lead cutting edge research that has real impacts on alcohol policy both nationally and internationally.

With such talented and influential mentors working at CAPR, I am confident our future researchers are in excellent hands, and CAPR will continue delivering innovative and impactful research. All this success and impact is even more impressive in light of the loss of more than a million dollars in base funding that CAPR experienced in the first half of the pandemic. This could have been a death knell, but thanks to the strong leadership of Emmanuel coupled with CAPR's continually impressive team the Centre has emerged stronger than ever before in their existence.



PROFESSOR STEPHEN KENT

Dean and Head of School, Psychology and Public Health,
La Trobe University

CAPR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Guided by La Trobe University's Research Centre Strategic Framework, CAPR's advisory committee of stakeholders oversees CAPR's activities and gives independent guidance and support to help the Centre meet its aims. CAPR is grateful to the members for their time and dedication.

CHAIR

Professor Rob Moodie

Deputy Head of School and Professor in Public Health, School of Population and Global Health, University of Melbourne

LA TROBE UNIVERSITY

Professor Stephen Kent

Dean and Head of School, Psychology and Public Health

Professor Suzanne Fraser (until 31 March 2023)

Director, Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society

Dr Adam Bourne (standing in for Professor Fraser)

Acting Director, Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society

Stephen May

Chief Advancement Officer, Alumni and Advancement Officer

Professor Richard Gray

Theme Lead, Healthy People, Families and Communities

EXTERNAL EXPERT

Professor Alison Ritter

Director, Drug Policy Modelling Program at the Social Policy Research Centre at the University of New South Wales

CAPR

Professor Emmanuel Kuntsche

Director

Distinguished Professor Robin Room

Founding Director

STAFF & STUDENTS

PROFESSOR AND DIRECTOR

Emmanuel Kuntsche

Bachelor of Arts (Psychology), Bachelor of Arts (Sociology), Master of Science in Psychology, University of Jena, Germany; PhD, Maastricht University, the Netherlands; Habilitation, University of Bamberg, Germany

Emmanuel has been trained in psychology, sociology, public health and statistics. He is recognised as a world-leading scholar in alcohol-related cognitions (expectancies and motives) among young people including pre-school children. He has pioneered the use of mobile phones and artificial intelligence in alcohol research.

DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR AND FOUNDING DIRECTOR

Robin Room

Bachelor of Arts, Princeton, United States; Master of Arts (English), Master of Arts (Sociology), PhD (Sociology), University of California, Berkeley, United States

Robin is among the most respected and cited alcohol researchers in the field. His areas of expertise include: social epidemiology of alcohol, drugs, gambling; policy impact studies (impact of alcohol, drugs, gambling controls); legalisation and control of legal markets for attractive but problematic commodities; and social and cultural studies of alcohol. He also studies the interplay of other addictive and problematic commodities with alcohol in terms of behaviour and policies on them. He has a broad involvement in multinational studies of drinking and harm, including alcohol's harm to others, and in the analysis and governance of alcohol in an international perspective, including a long-term role as an advisor to the WHO.

PROFESSOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Kylie Lee

Bachelor of Music (Honours), University of Melbourne; PhD, James Cook University

Kylie is a mixed methods researcher working to conduct research that meshes with health service and community priorities. Her recent work has focused on creating appropriate methods to measure alcohol use among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and supporting community responses. Kylie and her team created and rolled-out an innovative digital health tool program that includes the Grog Survey App. Kylie is lead editor on a clinical textbook requested by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander alcohol and other drug workers nationally.

Kylie leads CAPR's priority populations research stream. Key projects will begin in January 2024.

NHMRC EMERGING LEADERSHIP FELLOW AND PRINCIPAL RESEARCH FELLOW

Anne-Marie Laslett

Bachelor of Dental Science, Master of Dental Science, University of Melbourne; Master of Public Health, Monash University; PhD, Melbourne School of Population and Global Health, University of Melbourne

Anne-Marie has worked in public health on alcohol and drug epidemiology for over two decades and was awarded her PhD in population and global health in 2014. She leads a program of international and national research on alcohol's harm to others, including family violence and child maltreatment. She applies her expertise to analysing surveys and response agency data on harm from others' drinking that occurs at home, in the workplace, and in public. She recently commenced her National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Emerging Leader Fellowship.

Anne-Marie leads CAPR's alcohol-related harm research stream.

TRACEY BANIVANUA MAR FELLOW

Amy Pennay

Bachelor of Arts (Honours), University of Melbourne; PhD, Curtin University of Technology

Amy is a mixed methods researcher working at the nexus of sociology and public health, investigating how social and cultural factors influence drinking practices, policy implementation and success, and health outcomes. Her recent work has focused on youth drinking practices, (sub)cultures of drinking, and intersections of drinking and policy with social determinants such as gender, class, place and sexuality.

Amy leads CAPR's intersections of drinking cultures, health, and policy research stream.

SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOWS

Sarah Callinan

Bachelor of Arts, Monash University; Psychology (Honours), University of Tasmania; PhD, Swinburne

Sarah has a PhD in educational psychology and specialises in survey research. Her statistical expertise in analysing complex datasets is critical to measuring and understanding alcohol consumption trends and related harms in Australia and internationally. Her recent work has focused on alcohol consumption in the home and survey measurement of consumption and harm. She provides scholarly leadership on topics such as survey research methods, alcohol pricing, trends in consumption and alcohol's harm to others.

Sarah leads CAPR's measurement and monitoring research stream.

SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOW AND SENIOR LECTURER

Heng (Jason) Jiang

Master of Finance and Economics, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT) University; PhD, Deakin University

Heng has a PhD in applied economics. He is highly skilled in quantitative analysis, and his areas of expertise include health economic analyses of alcohol and tobacco use, risky behaviours, and non-communicable diseases and injuries. He is driving CAPR research on estimating impacts of policy or program interventions on alcohol, tobacco and drug use, and related social and health issues.

Heng leads CAPR's structural measures research stream, which covers taxation, trade agreements, liquor outlets and policy changes.

ARC DECRA RESEARCH FELLOW AND SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOW

Benjamin Riordan

Bachelor of Arts, Master of Science, PhD, University of Otago, Aotearoa, New Zealand

Benjamin has a PhD in psychology and specialises in using new and emerging technologies to understand and intervene those who drink. His most recent work focuses on how alcohol and other drugs are presented in the media, what impact exposure to alcohol-related media content is, and how we can use media for intervention or prevention. To answer these questions, he uses new and emerging methods and technology like breathalysers, transdermal monitors, ecological momentary assessments and artificial intelligence. Benjamin commenced his Australian Research Council (ARC) Discovery Early Career Researcher Award (DECRA) in 2023.

Benjamin leads CAPR's alcohol, media and emerging technologies research stream.

POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWS

Gabriel Caluzzi

Bachelor of Arts (Honours), University of Melbourne; PhD, La Trobe University

Gabriel is a primarily qualitative researcher. His research draws on the sociology of health and the sociology of youth to understand how drug and alcohol practices among young people are informed by sociocultural context. His recent work has focused on the needs of young people engaged with drug and alcohol services, shifts in youth drinking culture and drinking practices among midlife women.

Koen Smit

Bachelor of Education, HAN (Hogeschool van Arnhem en Nijmegen in Dutch) University of Applied Sciences, the Netherlands; Bachelor of Science, Master of Science, PhD, Radboud University, the Netherlands

Koen is a quantitative researcher focusing on psychology and public health research. Koen completed his PhD in the Netherlands where he focused on parenting and alcohol use. After, he studied a range of topics, including drinking motives among students, alcohol-related cognitions among children and young adolescents, alcohol and gambling, adolescent eating behaviour, and adolescent's sexual wellbeing and education.

Van Nguyen

Bachelor of Arts (English Linguistics and Literature), Ho Chi Minh city University of Social Sciences and Humanities; Master of Arts (Applied Linguistics), University of Melbourne; PhD, University of Melbourne

Van has a PhD in applied linguistics and specialises in discourse analysis and qualitative research. She has experience working in interdisciplinary research projects, bringing together qualitative and linguistic methodologies. Her research interests are multimodal discourse analysis, qualitative research, risk discourses and communication of risk, particularly of alcohol-related risks to inform policies, programs and initiatives.

RESEARCH OFFICERS

Megan Cook

Jade Rintala

Erin Santamaria

PHD STUDENTS

Abraham Albert Bonela (submitted and graduated 2023)

Gedefaw Alen* (started Jul, 2023)

Dan Anderson-Luxford* (continuing)

Natalie Cerocchi (started Oct, 2023)

Christopher Cheers (submitted thesis Dec 2023)

Simon D'Aquino (started Feb, 2023)

Filip Djordjevic (continuing)

Rowan Dowling* (continuing)

Cassandra Hopkins* (continuing)

Klaudia Kepa* (started Sep, 2023)

Yvette Mojica-Perez* (continuing)

Maree Patsouras* (continuing)

Amany Sabry Basaly Tanyos (continuing)

Alexandra Torney* (continuing)

Bree Willoughby* (started Mar, 2023)

Samatha Salim (started Sep, 2023)

*Also held a research officer position with CAPR.

CENTRE ADMINISTRATION AND PROJECT COORDINATOR

Janette Mugavin

ASSOCIATE RESEARCH FELLOWS

Robyn Dwyer

Lecturer, Department of Public Health, School of Psychology and Public Health, La Trobe University

Sandra Kuntsche

Research Program Manager, Associate Professor, Family Therapy and Systemic Research, The Bouverie Centre, La Trobe University

Sarah MacLean

Professor, Social Work and Social Policy, School of Allied Health, Human Services and Sport, La Trobe University

Mary Walker

Lecturer, Department of Politics, Media, and Philosophy, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, La Trobe University



Above: CAPR's PhD graduate Megan Cook with her supervisors (from the left Emmanuel Kuntsche, Sandra Kuntsche, Megan Cook, Amy Pennay), December 2023. Megan's PhD was conferred in late 2022.

HONORARY RESEARCH FELLOWS

Harindra Jayasekara

Senior Research Fellow, Cancer Epidemiology Division, Cancer Council Victoria; Honorary Fellow, Centre for Epidemiology and Biostatistics Research, University of Melbourne

Florian Labhart

Head of Project, Addiction Switzerland

Kylie Lee

Associate Professor, Faculty of Medicine and Health, University of Sydney and Deputy Director of the Centre of Research Excellence, Indigenous Health and Alcohol (until November 2023)

Michael Livingston

Associate Professor, Alcohol Policy and Strategies, Curtin University

Roisin O'Connor

Professor, Department of Psychology; Director, Young Adult and Alcohol Research Lab; Core Member, Centre for Clinical Research in Health at Concordia University, Canada

Jonas Raninen

Researcher, Swedish Council for Information on Alcohol and Other Drugs; Affiliated Researcher, Department of Clinical Neuroscience, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden; Affiliated Researcher, School of Social Sciences, Södertörn University, Sweden

Johannes Thrul

Assistant Professor, Department of Mental Health, Bloomberg School of Public Health, John Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD, United States of America

Claire Wilkinson

Senior Research Fellow, Drug Policy Modelling Program, Social Policy Research Centre, University of New South Wales and NHMRC Early Career Research Fellow

Cassandra Wright

Research Fellow, Menzies School of Health Research and NHMRC Early Career Research Fellow

SNAPSHOT OF RESEARCH OUTPUTS

PUBLICATIONS = 122

117

Peer reviewed
journal articles
(includes online early view articles)



2

Book
chapters



2

Reports



1

PhD
dissertation



PEOPLE = 31

15

Staff



16

PhD students

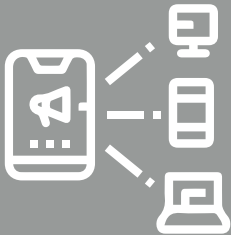


MEDIA = 74

(excluding X followers)

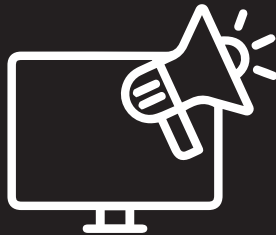
54

Media releases
and stories



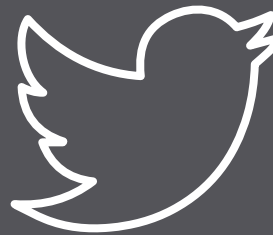
18

Media
appearances



1,608

New and existing X
(formerly Twitter)
followers



2

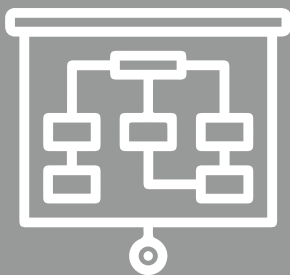
Non peer-reviewed
articles and blogs



PRESENTATIONS = 38

11

Presentations at
seminars and meetings



22

Conference
presentations



5

Workshops and
other activities



SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS AND COLLABORATIONS = 108

27

Editorial
appointments



27

National collaborators

(count is for institutions,
not individuals)



59

International collaborators

(count is for institutions,
not individuals)



SUMMARY OF FUNDING SOURCES

2%

Other

1%

International public sector

11%

La Trobe University

41%

State public sector sources

45%

Australian competitive
grants (Cat. 1)

TOTAL FUNDING
\$1,793,921

MEASUREMENT & MONITORING RESEARCH STREAM

STRATEGIC LEAD: SARAH CALLINAN

This research stream broadly aims to monitor and analyse quantitative trends in alcohol consumption and harm. We use a range of data sources to examine trends and patterns in consumption, purchasing and harm as well as contexts of consumption and predictors of harmful drinking.

All of this work is dependent on valid and reliable measurement of alcohol consumption, harms and all other related variables. As such we also focus on the accurate measurement of alcohol-related variables.

SELECTED RESEARCH PROJECTS

Developing a new screening tool for alcohol use disorders

VESKI Inspiring Women Bridging the Funding Gap Fellowship, co-funded by The Victorian Endowment for Science, Knowledge and Innovation (VESKI) and La Trobe University 2023

Investigator: Sarah Callinan

Establishing the need for a new screening tool for harmful alcohol use

La Trobe University ABC Investment Scheme 2023

Investigators: Sarah Callinan, Paul Dietze (Burnet Institute), Yvette Mojica-Perez, Alexandra Torney, Robin Room

PHD STUDENTS AND PROJECTS

Attitude towards non-drinkers in Australia and the relationship to problematic alcohol use

Christopher Cheers, supervised by Sarah Callinan, Amy Pennay, Xochitl de la Piedad Garcia (Australian Catholic University)

The role of low-cost alcoholic beverages on drinking trends in Australia

Alexandra Torney, supervised by Sarah Callinan, Robin Room

Understanding heavy drinking among young people in Australia (quantitative component)

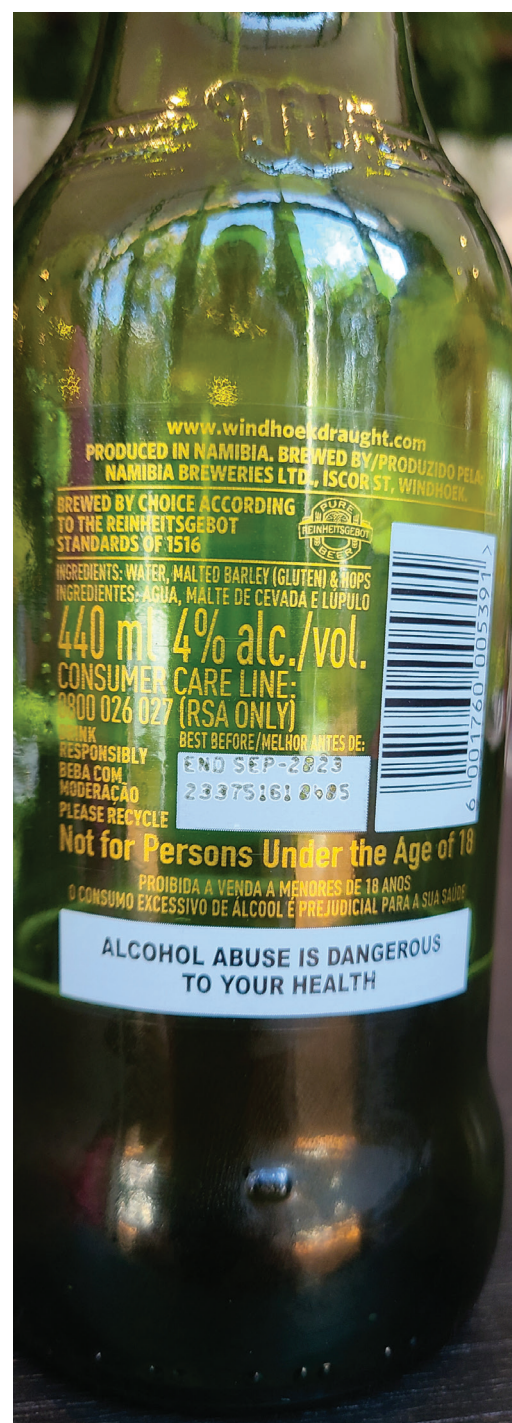
Natalie Cerocchi, supervised by Sarah Callinan, Amy Pennay, John Holmes (University of Sheffield)

Understanding the short- and long-term impacts of COVID-19 on alcohol consumption

Yvette Mojica-Perez, supervised by Sarah Callinan, Amy Pennay, Michael Livingston (Curtin University)

The longitudinal relationship between alcohol consumption and anxiety

Simon D'Aquino, supervised by Sarah Callinan, Benjamin Riordan, Megan Cook



SELECTED ACADEMIC ARTICLES

Callinan, S., Torney, A., Livingston, M., Caluzzi, G., & Pennay, A. (2023). Who are Australia's young heavy drinkers? A cross-sectional population study. *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health*, 47(2), 1–8. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.anzjph.2023.100020>

ABSTRACT SOURCED FROM *AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND JOURNAL OF PUBLIC HEALTH*

Objective: In light of the recent declines in youth drinking, the socio-demographic correlates of (1) annual total alcohol consumption (volume) and (2) monthly single occasion risky drinking among underage young people (14–17-year-olds) and young adults (18–24-year-olds) were examined. **Methods:** Cross-sectional data were drawn from the 2019 National Drug Strategy Household Survey (n=1,547). Multivariable negative binomial regression analyses identified the socio-demographic correlates of total annual volume and monthly risky drinking. **Results:** Those who spoke English as first language reported higher total volume and rates of monthly risky drinking. Not being in school predicted total volume for 14–17-year-olds, as did

having a certificate/diploma for 18–24-year-olds. Living in affluent areas predicted a greater total volume for both age groups, and risky drinking for 18–24-year-olds. Young men in regional areas and working in labour and logistics reported higher total volume than young women in the same groups. **Conclusions:** There are important differences among young heavy drinkers related to gender, cultural background, socio-economic status, education, regionality and work industry. **Implications for public health:** Prevention strategies that are sensitively tailored towards high risk groups (e.g. young men in regional areas and working in trade and logistics) may be of public health benefit.

Cook, M., MacLean, S., & Callinan, S. (2023). Home alone: Patterns and perceptions of solitary home alcohol consumption in an Australian convenience sample. *Drug and Alcohol Review*, 42(5), 1018–1027. <https://doi.org/10.1111/dar.13600>

ABSTRACT SOURCED FROM *DRUG AND ALCOHOL REVIEW*

Introduction: In contrast with extensive literature exploring sociable alcohol use, few studies focus on drinking alone at home, even though the home is the place where the majority of drinking occurs. **Methods:** We draw on survey and interview data gathered in 2018/2019 prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, to identify prevalence and perceptions of solitary home drinking in an Australian convenience sample of heavy and light drinkers (LD). **Results:** A substantial minority of survey participants identified drinking home alone, with over a quarter of heavy drinkers (27%) reporting that they only drank alone in their own home (compared to 15% of LD). In interviews, solitary home drinking was frequently constructed as signifying personal inadequacy, heavy consumption and harm. However, tensions arose through solitary home drinking bringing pleasures, such as

relaxation. It was regarded as more socially acceptable for men than women and lighter home drinking patterns were viewed more positively than heavy drinking. Perceptions of what constitutes solitary home drinking varied, with some suggesting it includes drinking with others present who are not themselves drinking, and others using a more limited definition of consuming alcohol while alone in a house. **Discussion and conclusions:** While strong social sanctions against it persist, solitary home drinking can reflect a lack of opportunity to drink with others and also be associated with more harmful regular patterns of alcohol use. Increasing recognition of home drinking provides a new imperative to better understand the complex stigmatisation that frames solitary home drinking and to explore opportunities to limit associated harms.

Cerocchi, N., Mojica-Perez, Y., Livingston, M., Arunogiri, S., Pennay, A., & Callinan, S. (2023). Examining the association between psychological distress and alcohol use in Australian adolescents over a period of declining consumption. *Drug and Alcohol Review*. (Online early view 3/7/2023). <https://doi.org/10.1111/dar.13703>

ABSTRACT SOURCED FROM *DRUG AND ALCOHOL REVIEW*

Introduction: Youth drinking rates have declined over the past 15 years while self-reported psychological distress has increased, despite a well-recognised positive relationship between the two. The current study aimed to identify changes in the relationship between psychological distress and alcohol use in adolescents from 2007 to 2019. **Methods:** This study used survey responses from 6543 Australians aged 14–19 years who completed the National Drug Strategy Household Survey in 2007, 2010, 2013, 2016 or 2019. Logistic and multivariable linear regressions with interactions (psychological distress \times survey wave) predicted any alcohol consumption,

short-term risk and average quantity of standard drinks consumed per day. **Results:** Psychological distress was a positive predictor of alcohol use and this association remained stable across survey waves as alcohol consumption decreased. **Discussion and Conclusions:** The relationship between distress and alcohol consumption remained relatively steady, even as youth drinking declined, and distress increased. The proportion of drinkers experiencing distress did not increase as consumption rates dropped, suggesting that the decline in youth drinking is occurring independently of the increase in self-reported and diagnosed mental health issues.

Room, R. & Rehm, J. (2023). "Harm per litre" as a concept and a measure in studying determinants of relations between alcohol consumption and harm. *International Journal of Drug Policy*, 115(May, 104006). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.drugpo.2023.104006>

ABSTRACT SOURCED FROM *INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF DRUG POLICY*

The term "harm per litre" has been increasingly used in alcohol research in recent years as a concept and a comparative measure of alcohol-attributable harm in comparisons between environments, circumstances, and patterns of drinking. This essay discusses the origins of the term in connection with analyses in terms of patterns as well as levels of drinking and with concerns about differential harms from drinking different beverage types. Also discussed is the term's current primary usage, in the context of epidemiological concerns about differentially severe harms for poorer persons who drink. It is noted that these same concerns have been discussed, particularly in Britain, using the phrase "alcohol harm paradox".

"Harm per litre" was initially most often used in comparisons between rates of alcohol-attributable harm by beverage type. After 2010, the expression was applied more broadly, particularly after its use in various World Health Organization-related discussions and documents. In addition,

and especially from 2018 onwards when most of the papers using this term were published, it has been used in comparisons by socioeconomic status at the individual level, and by level of socioeconomic development at the country level. Almost all the findings indicate that people with lower socioeconomic status, and countries with lower average income, e.g., low income and lower-middle income countries, incur considerably higher harm per litre (with harm being expressed in disease burden and mortality) than upper middle-income and high-income countries.

"Harm per litre" is a practicable and easy-to-understand concept to compare groups of individuals or countries, and to quantify health inequalities. The next important step will need to be elucidating a better causal understanding of the processes underlying these inequalities, with an emphasis on factors which can be most easily changed by interventions.



Torney, A., Room, R., & Callinan, S. (2023). Cask wine: Describing drinking patterns associated with Australia's cheapest alcohol. *Drug and Alcohol Review*, 42(6), 1322–1331. <https://doi.org/10.1111/dar.13684>

ABSTRACT SOURCED FROM *DRUG AND ALCOHOL REVIEW*

Introduction. In Australia, cask wine is the cheapest alcoholic beverage available, offering the lowest price per standard drink. Despite this, there is little research on the contextual correlates of cask wine consumption. Therefore, the current study aims to describe how cask wine consumption has changed over the last decade. Then, through comparisons between cask and bottled wine, how prices, typical drinking locations, and patterns of consumption differ between the beverages. **Methods:** Cross-sectional data was drawn from two sources. Four waves of the National Drug Strategy Household Survey were used (2010, 2013, 2016 and 2019) in order to examine consumption trends over time. The International Alcohol Control study (2013) in Australia was additionally used to explore pricing and consumption trends in greater detail. **Results:** Cask wine was considerably

cheaper than other forms of wine at \$0.54 per standard drink (95% confidence interval [CI] 0.45–0.62, $p < 0.05$). Consumption trends associated with cask wine differed from that of bottled wine, being consumed almost entirely at home and in significantly greater quantity (standard drinks per day 7.8, 95% CI 6.25–9.26, $p < 0.05$). Among the heaviest drinkers, 13% (95% CI 7.2–18.8, $p < 0.05$) consumed cask wine as their main drink, compared to 5% (95% CI 3.76–6.24, $p < 0.05$) consuming bottled wine. **Conclusions:** Cask wine drinkers are disproportionately more likely to consume higher amounts of alcohol, paying less per drink doing so compared to bottled wine drinkers. As all cask wine purchases were under \$1.30, a minimum unit price may largely affect cask wine purchases, applying to a far smaller proportion of bottled wine.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

- Callinan, S., D'Aquino, S., Riordan, B., Livingston, M., Dietze, P., Gmel, G., & Room, R. (2023, 8 June). Survey questions on quantity and frequency are differentially effective by age in predicting future alcohol consumption. 48th Annual Alcohol Epidemiology Symposium of the Kettil Bruun Society. Johannesburg, South Africa.
- Mojica-Perez, Y. (2023, 8 June). Understanding how the COVID-19 pandemic affected different socio-demographic groups in an Australian representative longitudinal sample. 48th Annual Alcohol Epidemiology Symposium of the Kettil Bruun Society. Johannesburg, South Africa.
- Torney, A., Room, R., & Callinan, S. (2023, 6 June). The impact of financial stress on alcohol consumption and expenditure. 48th Annual Alcohol Epidemiology Symposium of the Kettil Bruun Society. Johannesburg, South Africa.

INTERSECTIONS OF DRINKING CULTURES, HEALTH & POLICY RESEARCH STREAM

STRATEGIC LEAD: AMY PENNAY

This research stream aims to understand how cultures of drinking intersect with health outcomes, social determinants of health and policy contexts.

We explore historical and contemporary shifts in cultures of drinking, investigate heavy and light drinking social worlds, and seek to understand the broader contexts (e.g., structural inequalities, generational factors) in which drinking and harms occur.

Not all policies affect individuals in the same way, and not all policies that work for one generation will work for another. This research stream recognises the need for nuance in policy making. We focus our attention on 'what works' for reducing drinking and harm in different groups, but also how policies may produce problems, or exacerbate social and health inequalities.

SELECTED RESEARCH PROJECTS

Differences in how men and women are studied in alcohol research: A systematic review

La Trobe University ABC Investment Scheme
2023 – 2025

Investigators: Megan Cook, Sarah MacLean, Amanda Cooklin (La Trobe University), Amy Pennay, Benjamin Riordan, Gabriel Caluzzi, Sarah Callinan

From the mainstream to the margins: Investigating the processes and implications of the de-normalisation of heavy drinking for underage young people in Australia

Australian Research Council Discovery Project
2023 – 2026

Investigators: Amy Pennay, Sarah Callinan, Gabriel Caluzzi, Jukka Törrönen (Stockholm University), John Holmes (University of Sheffield)

Left behind? Understanding the impacts of Victoria's public intoxication reform on regional communities

La Trobe University Internal Grant Scheme
2023

Investigators: Amy Pennay, Sarah MacLean, Emmanuel Kuntsche, Sandra Connor (La Trobe University), Jaqui Theobald (La Trobe University), Benjamin Riordan

Mothers' little helper: The link between alcohol use and daily stressors in the specific risk group of working mothers

Australian Research Council Discovery Project
2021 – 2024

Investigators: Sandra Kuntsche, Emmanuel Kuntsche

Wider team: Gabriel Caluzzi, Cassandra Wright (Menzies School of Health Research)

Paradigm shifting alcohol policy to reduce alcohol-related harm

VESKI Inspiring Women Bridging the Funding Gap Fellowship, co-funded by The Victorian Endowment for Science, Knowledge and Innovation (VESKI) and La Trobe University
2023

Investigator: Amy Pennay

Social change and youth drinking: A cross-cultural and temporal examination

Australian Research Council Discovery Early Career Research Award
2019 – 2023

Investigator: Amy Pennay

Wider team: Gabriel Caluzzi, Megan Cook

Understanding heavy alcohol consumption cultures among nurses and lawyers and investigating frames for intervention

Australian Research Council Linkage Project (with partner funding from the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation)

2020 – 2024

Investigators: Robyn Dwyer, Amy Pennay, Michael Savic (Monash University), Sarah MacLean, Rowan Ogeil (Monash University), Dan Lubman (Monash University), Robin Room



Understanding socioeconomic inequalities in alcohol use and harm

Tracey Banivanua Mar Fellowship, La Trobe University

2023 – 2026

Investigator: Amy Pennay

Understanding socioeconomic inequalities in alcohol use, purchasing and harm in Victoria

Victorian Health Promotion Foundation

2023 – 2024

Investigators: Amy Pennay, Sarah Callinan, Michael Livingston (Curtin University), Yvette Mojica-Perez, Alexandra Torney, Gabriel Caluzzi, Nicholas Taylor (Curtin University), Klaudia Kepa

PHD STUDENTS AND PROJECTS

A comparative study of community influence on alcohol licencing in Australia and the United Kingdom

Filip Djordjevic, supervised by Robyn Dwyer, Claire Wilkinson (University of New South Wales), Joanne Reynolds (Sheffield Hallam University), Paul Hickman (Sheffield Hallam University)

Mother's little helper: Alcohol use in working mothers

Maree Patsouras, supervised by Sandra Kuntsche, Gabriel Caluzzi, Cassandra Wright (Menzies School of Health Research), Emmanuel Kuntsche

Understanding heavy drinking among young people in Australia (qualitative component)

Klaudia Kepa, supervised by Amy Pennay, Gabriel Caluzzi, Jukka Törrönen (Stockholm University)

SELECTED ACADEMIC ARTICLES

Pennay, A., Caluzzi, G., Livingston, M., & MacLean, S. Risk and restraint—The key to understanding the decreasing use of alcohol for young people in high income countries? (2023). *Drug and Alcohol Review*, 43(3), 654–663. <https://doi.org/10.1111/dar.13709>

ABSTRACT SOURCED FROM *DRUG AND ALCOHOL REVIEW*

Introduction: In this article we seek to understand the changing social position of alcohol use for young people in Australia by identifying how alcohol has become framed as posing a significant risk to their bodies and futures. **Methods:** Forty interviews were conducted with young people aged 18–21 years from Melbourne, Australia, who had previously identified as light drinkers or abstainers. Drawing on insights from contemporary sociologies of risk, we explored how risk was discussed as a governing concept that shaped young people's views of alcohol, and how it encouraged or necessitated risk-avoidance in daily life. **Results:** Participants drew on a range of risk discourses in framing their abstention or moderate drinking along the lines of health, wellness, wisdom and productivity. They reiterated social constructions of heavy or regular alcohol

use as irresponsible, threatening and potentially addictive. The focus on personal responsibility was striking in most accounts. Participants seemed to have routinised ways of practicing risk avoidance and coordinated drinking practices with other practices in their everyday life, with alcohol therefore 'competing for time'. **Discussion and Conclusions:** Our findings endorse the idea that discourses of risk and individual responsibility shape the contemporary socio-cultural value of alcohol for young people. Risk avoidance has become routine and is manifested through the practice of restraint and control. This appears particular to high-income countries like Australia, where concerns about young people's futures and economic security are increasing, and where neoliberal politics are the foundations of governmental ideology.

Pennay, A., van Egmond, K., Anderson-Luxford, D., Wright, C., Caluzzi, G., Livingston, M., Dickson, G., Nicholson, M., & Kuntsche, E. (2023). Social and contextual factors associated with drinking before, during and after watching Australian Football League games: A pilot ecological momentary assessment study. *Drug and Alcohol Review*, 42(6), 1349–1357. <https://doi.org/10.1111/dar.13706>

ABSTRACT SOURCED FROM *DRUG AND ALCOHOL REVIEW*

Introduction: The aim of this study was to: (i) determine the feasibility of using ecological momentary assessment to collect data from Australian Football League (AFL) fans; (ii) explore pre-game, during-game and post-game consumption patterns of AFL fans; and (iii) explore the social and setting-related factors associated with risky single occasion drinking (5+ drinks) among AFL fans. **Methods:** Thirty-four participants completed up to 10 ecological momentary assessment surveys before, during and after 63 AFL games (n = 437 completed surveys). Surveys collected data about their drinking, and their social and environmental milieu (e.g., location, company). Binary logistic regression analyses clustered by participant identified which game-day characteristics were associated with higher odds of risky single occasion drinking. Significant differences between pre-game, during-

game and post-game drinking on social and environmental factors were explored using pairwise comparisons. **Results:** Risky single occasion drinking was more likely when games began in the early-afternoon (1–3 pm) than late-afternoon (3–6 pm), when participants watched the game at a stadium or pub compared to home, and when participants watched the game with friends compared to family. Pre-drinking was more likely before night games and post-drinking was more likely after day games. Drinking during the game was heavier when watching the game at a pub and when watching with a combined group of friends and family. **Discussion and Conclusions:** Preliminary findings suggest that social and contextual factors matter in the way alcohol is consumed while watching AFL games. These findings require further investigation in larger samples.

Cook, M., Caluzzi, G. & Pennay, A. (2023). "Sober message to parents": Representations of parents in Australian news media on youth drinking. *Contemporary Drug Problems*, 50(2), 254–268. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00914509221147047>

ABSTRACT SOURCED FROM CONTEMPORARY DRUG PROBLEMS

Traditional news media can both reflect and shape public perceptions, including expectations relating to alcohol and parenting. This paper examines representations of parents in Australian news media reporting on youth drinking to understand how parental standards related to alcohol are constructed and articulated. 150 news articles were sampled from a larger study of youth drinking, in which we identified four representations of parents—parents as to blame, good parents, parents as lost and parents as victims. These four representations of parents reflect dominant neoliberal ways of governing, which promote parental education, best practice standards and responsibility as solutions to concerns around youth drinking. We examine the way politicians, research findings and

legal directives (most commonly secondary supply laws) were deployed to attribute parental responsibility and standards of care. While parents as "to blame" or as irresponsible was concretely established in the articles, good parents were far more elusive and strategically individualized in ways that abdicated responsibility from the state, industry and structural burdens. As such, while media representations were able to define and moralize bad parents and parenting practices when it came to youth drinking, what it meant to be a "good parent" was often an ambiguous ideal. We suggest these media representations contribute to intensive parenting standards by providing another platform in which parental behaviors can be publicly scrutinized and moralized.

Caluzzi, G., Fenton, L., Holmes, J., MacLean, S., Pennay, A., Fairbrother, H., & Törrönen, J. (2023). '90 per cent of the time when I have had a drink in my hand I'm on my phone as well': A cross-national analysis of communications technologies and drinking practices among young people. *New Media and Society*. (Online early view 22/1/2023). <https://doi.org/10.1177/14614448221150775>

ABSTRACT SOURCED FROM NEW MEDIA AND SOCIETY

Greater use of communication technologies among young people, including mobile phones, social media and communication apps, has coincided with declines in youth alcohol use in many high-income countries. However, little research has unpacked how drinking as a practice within interconnected routines and interactions may be changing alongside these technologies. Drawing on qualitative interviews about drinking with young people aged 16–23 across three similar studies in Australia, the United Kingdom and Sweden, we identify how communication

technologies may afford reduced or increased drinking. They may reduce drinking by producing new online contexts, forms of intimacy and competing activities. They may increase drinking by re-organising drinking occasions, rituals and contexts. And they may increase or reduce drinking by enabling greater fluidity and interaction between diverse practices. These countervailing dynamics have likely contributed to shifting drinking patterns and practices for young people that may be obscured beneath the population-level decline in youth drinking.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

- Caluzzi, G., Patsouras, M., Wright, C., Kuntsche, E., & Kuntsche, S. (2023, 29 June). Beyond "wine mums": Better understanding the structural and social factors shaping drinking practices among working mothers. *International Sociological Association World Congress of Sociology*. Melbourne, Australia.
- Pennay, A. (2023, 7 June). Risk and restraint: Understanding the changing place of alcohol for young adults. *48th Annual Alcohol Epidemiology Symposium of the Kettil Bruun Society*. Johannesburg, South Africa.
- Patsouras, M., Caluzzi, G., Wright, C., Kuntsche, E., & Kuntsche, S. (2023, 14 November). Alcohol use as a tool for challenging or reinforcing predefined roles? – A qualitative study among working mothers. *Australian Professional Society for Alcohol and Drugs Scientific Conference*. Adelaide, Australia.



ALCOHOL-RELATED HARM RESEARCH STREAM

STRATEGIC LEAD: ANNE-MARIE LASLETT

This research stream focuses on the health and social harms related to alcohol use, including harm from others' drinking, family violence, child abuse and neglect. Our key objectives are to build state-of-the-art national estimates of alcohol's harm to others (AHTO), to better understand and address precipitants of AHTO, and to compare findings with those in other countries in Asia, Europe and the Americas. We will synthesize these findings and consider the national contexts and policies affecting AHTO, including national and international service response systems (emergency rooms, police, family violence services etc.). This stream of research informs local and global alcohol policies and service development.

SELECTED RESEARCH PROJECTS

Alcohol's Harms to Others: patterns, costs, disparities and precipitants

Australian Research Council Linkage Project (with partner funding from Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education and Australian Rechabite Foundation)

2021 – 2024

Investigators: Anne-Marie Laslett, Robin Room, Sandra Kuntsche, Heng (Jason) Jiang, Robyn Dwyer, Chris Doran (Central Queensland University), Diana Edgerton-Warburton (Monash Health)

Wider team: Dan Anderson-Luxford, Bree Willoughby, Koen Smit, Amany Tanyos, Cassandra Hopkins

Construction of alcohol-related risks and harms in public health advertising against underage drinking

Australian Rechabite Foundation

2023 – 2024

Investigators: Anne-Marie Laslett, Van Nguyen, Robyn Dwyer

Exploring the relationship between alcohol use and gambling participation and their impact on associated harms

Victorian Responsible Gambling Foundation

2022 – 2023

Investigators: Anne-Marie Laslett, Heng (Jason) Jiang, Robyn Dwyer, Sarah MacLean, Robin Room

Wider team: Koen Smit (Project Director)

Harmful alcohol use and child protection involvement: Examining the role of parental drinking and alcohol outlet density. A child protection analysis

Australian Rechabite Foundation

2023 – 2024

Investigators: Anne-Marie Laslett, Koen Smit

Researching an all-of-family program in family violence and substance misuse

Australian Research Council Linkage Project

2021 – 2024

Investigators: Cathy Humphreys (The University of Melbourne), Anne-Marie Laslett, Margaret Kertesz (The University of Melbourne), Menka Tsantefski (Griffith University), Sarah Gruner (Department of Families, Fairness and Housing), Nicole Artico (Kids First Australia), Stefan Gruenert (Odyssey House, Victoria), Katreena Scott (University of Western Ontario)

Strengthening networks and technical capacity for alcohol policy development project: alcohol's harm to women and children from men's drinking and policy responses

Thai Health Promotion Foundation (ThaiHealth) via the International Health Policy Program Foundation

2023 – 2024

Investigators: Anne-Marie Laslett, Robin Room, Cass Hopkins, Bree Willoughby, Amany Tanyos, Mary Walker, Ingrid Wilson (Singapore Institute of Technology), Leane Ramsoomar (Medical Research Council, South Africa), Katherine Graham (University of Toronto), Siri Håvås Huagland (University of Agder), Tom Greenfield (Public Health Institute, USA), Ilona Tamutiene (Vytautas Magnus University), Siri Hettige (University of Colombo), Katherine Karriker-Jaffe (RTI International, USA), Natalie Blackburn (Berkeley)



The alcohol's harm to others paradigm

The Victorian Endowment for Science, Knowledge and Innovation (VESKI)

2022–2023

Investigator: Anne-Marie Laslett

Understanding, modelling and reducing alcohol's harm to others

National Health and Medical Research Council Investigator Grant – Early Leadership

2023–2027

Investigator: Anne-Marie Laslett

Victimisation and perpetration of alcohol and other drug-facilitated sexual violence

La Trobe University ABC Investment Scheme

2023

Investigators: Jessica Ison (La Trobe University), Lisa Hooker (La Trobe University), Benjamin Riordan, Gabriel Caluzzi, Ingrid Wilson (Singapore Institute of Technology), Anne-Marie Laslett, Jacqui Theobald (La Trobe University)

PHD STUDENTS AND PROJECTS

Alcohol's harm to children and families in Australia: A mixed methods approach

Cassandra Hopkins, supervised by Anne-Marie Laslett, Robyn Dwyer, Sandra Kuntsche

Alcohol and intimate partner violence in Australia: its extent, change over time and cost

Amany Sabry Basaly Tanyos, supervised by Anne-Marie Laslett, Heng (Jason) Jiang, Rebecca Jenkinson (Australian Institute of Family Studies)

Masculinity and intimate partner violence: What role does alcohol use play?

Bree Willoughby, supervised by Anne-Marie Laslett, Koen Smit, Gail Gilchrist (King's College London), Ingrid Wilson (Singapore Institute of Technology)

SELECTED ACADEMIC ARTICLES

Laslett, A.-M., Room, R., Kuntsche, S., Anderson-Luxford, D., Willoughby, B., Doran, C., Jenkinson, R., Smit, K., Egerton-Warburton, D., & Jiang, H. (2023). Alcohol's harm to others in 2021: Who bears the burden? *Addiction*, 118(9), 1726-1738. <https://doi.org/10.1111/add.16205>

ABSTRACT SOURCED FROM *ADDICTION*

Background and aims: Alcohol's harm to others (AHTO) has become a key driver of national and international alcohol policy. This study aimed to produce a contemporary, comprehensive estimate of the correlates and harms from others' drinking in 2021 in Australia. **Design, setting, participants and measurements:** Across Australia, 2574 adults (1380 women; 1172 men) were sampled via two cross-sectional survey modes: a random-digit dial mobile phone sample of 1000 people and 1574 people from the Life in Australia™ panel survey. In 2021 participants were asked about harms they had experienced from the drinking of family, friends, co-workers and the public in the past year. Applying combined sample weights from each mode, bivariable and adjusted multivariable logistic regressions were used to analyse differences in rates of AHTO by participant gender, age, residence in rural or metropolitan regions, country of birth, education and employment. **Findings:** In 2021, 23.6% reported being negatively affected by strangers' drinking and 21.3% by the drinking of someone they knew, with 34.3% reporting being negatively affected a

lot or a little by either; 42.4% of respondents reported specific harms from strangers' drinking. Thus, 48.1% of respondents reported any harm (negative effects or specific harms) from others' drinking. Women, younger people, Australian-born and heavier episodic drinkers reported significantly higher rates of AHTO compared with other respondents. Smaller percentages (7.5%) of participants reported being harmed substantially by others' drinking, including by people they knew (5.8%) or strangers (2.3%). Stratified analyses showed that heavier drinking, furloughed, younger men who were born overseas in English-speaking countries were affected by others' drinking, whereas women were affected regardless of these factors (apart from age). **Conclusions:** More than one-third of Australian adults appear to have been negatively affected by others' drinking in 2021, with women, younger people and heavier drinkers at greater risk. Substantial harm appears to be more likely to arise from the drinking of people Australians know than from strangers' drinking.

Nguyen, V., Kertesz, M., Davidson, J., Humphreys, C., & Laslett, A.-M. (2023). Program responses for men who perpetrate intimate partner violence in the context of alcohol or other drugs: A scoping review. *Advances in Dual Diagnosis*, 16(1), 24-53. <https://doi.org/10.1108/ADD-07-2022-0021>

ABSTRACT SOURCED FROM *ADVANCES IN DUAL DIAGNOSIS*

Purpose: Substance use plays a significant role in the perpetration of much intimate partner violence (IPV). However, responses to these two issues are rarely integrated. Single focus programme responses can lead to poor outcomes for men as well as their families experiencing these intersecting issues. This scoping paper aims to establish the current state of knowledge on contextual factors influencing the development and implementation of combined programmes. **Design/methodology/approach:** Four electronic databases were systematically searched in May 2021 and December 2021. Twenty-one peer-reviewed studies reporting on ten programmes were included. **Findings:** This scoping review revealed that combined programme responses are an underdeveloped area of research and evaluation. The limited evidence base indicated systemic barriers hindering

services' capacity to expand this field of work, affecting implementation and outcomes. Support is required from the wider service systems to intervene in men's perpetration of IPV in the context of substance use. **Practical implications:** Findings in this scoping review demonstrate the importance of fostering a coordinated and collective response to IPV in the context of substance use. Combined programmes have the potential to reduce siloed practices, enabling more holistic responses for men with intersecting issues. However, researchers and policymakers must also address contextual issues hindering or enabling combined programmes' implementation and development. **Originality/value:** Mapping the evidence based on combined programmes provides direction for further development and research to expand this field of inquiry.

Karriker-Jaffe, K., Blackburn, N., Graham, K., Walker, M.J., Room, R., Wilson, T., Waleewong, O., Gilchrist, G., Ramsoomar, L., & Laslett, A.-M. (2023). Can alcohol policy prevent harms to women and children from men's alcohol consumption? An overview of existing literature and suggested ways forward. *International Journal of Drug Policy*, 119(Sept, 104148), 1–11. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.drugpo.2023.104148>

ABSTRACT SOURCED FROM *INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF DRUG POLICY*

The World Health Organization's list of cost-effective alcohol control policies is a widely-used resource that highlights strategies to address alcohol-related harms. However, there is more evidence on how recommended policies impact harms to people who drink alcohol—such as physical health problems caused by heavy alcohol use—than on second-hand harms inflicted on someone other than the person drinking alcohol, i.e., alcohol's harms to others. In this essay, we describe evidence of impacts of alcohol policy on harms to women and children resulting from men's alcohol consumption, as well as options for making policies more relevant for reducing intimate partner violence and child abuse. We begin with an overview of harms to women and children resulting from men's alcohol consumption and review cost-effective alcohol policies with potential to reduce these harms based on likely mechanisms

of action. Next, we present a rapid review of reviews to describe existing evidence of impacts of these policies on the outcomes of physical violence, sexual violence, and child abuse and neglect. We found little evidence of systematic evaluation of impacts of these important alcohol policies on harms to women and children. Thus, we advocate for increased attention in evaluation research to the impacts of alcohol policies on harms experienced by women and children who are exposed to men who drink alcohol. We also argue for more consideration of a broader range of policies and interventions to reduce these specific types of harm. Finally, we present a conceptual model illustrating how alcohol policies may be supplemented with other interventions specifically tailored to reduce alcohol-related harms commonly experienced by women and children as a result of men's alcohol use.

Smit, K., Jiang, J., Rockloff, M., Room, R., MacLean, S., & Laslett, A.-M. (2023). Associations between heavy episodic drinking, drinking while gambling, and risky gambling. *Journal of Gambling Studies*, 39(4), 1597–1610. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10899-023-10235-w>

ABSTRACT SOURCED FROM *JOURNAL OF GAMBLING STUDIES*

Introduction: Understanding how patterns of drinking are associated with risky gambling in Australia is needed to inform an effective approach to minimise harm. **Methods:** This cross-sectional questionnaire study reports on 2,704 subsampled participants who completed survey questions about their patterns of drinking. With logistic regressions, we examined whether frequency of heavy episodic drinking (HED) and alcohol use while gambling were associated with risky gambling while controlling for sociodemographic variables. **Results:** Occasional HED and monthly HED were associated with any gambling (versus no gambling), but frequent HED was not significantly associated with gambling. The opposite pattern was found when predicting risky gambling. Occasional HED (i.e. less than monthly) was not significantly associated, but a higher frequency of HED

(at least weekly) was associated with a higher likelihood of risky gambling. Drinking alcohol while gambling was associated with risky gambling, over and above HED. The combination of HED and use of alcohol while gambling appeared to significantly increase the likelihood of risky gambling. **Conclusions:** The association of HED and alcohol use while gambling with risky gambling highlights the importance of preventing heavy alcohol use among gamblers. The links between these forms of drinking and risky gambling further suggests that individuals who engage in both activities are specifically prone to gambling harm. Policies should therefore discourage alcohol use while gambling for example by prohibiting serving alcohol at reduced prices or to gamblers who show signs of being affected by alcohol and informing individuals of the risks associated with alcohol use while gambling.

Rintala, J., Room, R., Smit, K., Jiang, H., & Laslett, A.-M. (2023). The 2021 Alcohol's Harm to Others Survey: methodological approach. *International Journal of Alcohol and Drug Research*, 11(2), 48–56. <https://doi.org/10.7895/ijadr.483>

ABSTRACT SOURCED FROM *INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF ALCOHOL AND DRUG RESEARCH*

Background: The 2021 Alcohol's Harm to Others (AHTO) is a comprehensive survey measuring the prevalence of different harms due to another's drinking in the Australian population. First implemented in 2008, the AHTO survey has since been adapted to reflect changes in modern survey research and to be comparable with international AHTO surveys. **Aims:** The current paper aims to provide a detailed account of the 2021 Australian Alcohol's Harm to Others (AHTO) survey, including the procedures for sampling, data collection, weighting, response rate calculation and results from a mode analysis. **Methodology:** The 2021 AHTO survey was conducted by the Social Research Centre (SRC), whereby 1,000 participants were recruited through Random Digit Dial (RDD) and 1,574 through the Life in Australia Panel (LinA). Weights applied to the data to match key respondent

demographics to the Australian population and between the two samples. Multivariable logistic regression models were conducted to probe the extent sample source (RDD; LinA) was associated with various survey outcomes. **Results:** Multiple regression analyses found sample source had a statistically significant association with responses on three out of eight outcomes, with sample source contributing 1 – 8% of the overall variance in these models. **Discussion:** The current paper highlighted the 2021 AHTO survey's comprehensiveness and adaptability to a modern research context as its strengths. Yet some limitations were identified relating to the use of bi-modal survey methods. The methodological critiques from the current paper are vital to inform future AHTO surveys used in both a national and international context.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

- Laslett, A.-M. (2023, 27–30 June). Understanding alcohol's harm to others: leveraging policy to reduce interpersonal violence and harm. 4th World Health Organization Forum on Alcohol, Drugs and Addictive Behaviours. WHO Headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland.
- Laslett, A.-M. (2023, 17 July). Studies of alcohol's harm to others: scoping the extent of the problem and its implications. Invited presentation to the Attorney-General's Department, Canberra, Australia.
- Hopkins, C., Kuntsche, S., Dwyer, R., Heng, J., & Laslett, A.-M. (2023, 5 June). Examining the association between socioeconomic characteristics and substantial harm from others' drinking to caregivers and their children. 48th Annual Alcohol Epidemiology Symposium of the Kettil Bruun Society. Johannesburg, South Africa.



ALCOHOL POLICIES AND SOCIAL RESPONSES

STRATEGIC LEAD: HENG (JASON) JIANG

This research stream focuses on using sophisticated analyses to provide scenarios of pricing policy and alcohol outlet changes on consumption, health, social inequality, and as well as responses to alcohol-related harm.

To restrict the physical, economic and social availability of alcohol is an important function of alcohol policy, and policy change in these areas requires evidence-based recommendations.

Moreover, when a policy or intervention or prevention program aimed at reducing alcohol consumption or alcohol-related harm is implemented, it is important to demonstrate the impact and efficiency of said action.

SELECTED RESEARCH PROJECTS

Alcohol, tobacco and gambling expenditure and their associations with socio-economic inequalities

Australian Research Council

2020 – 2024

Investigators: Heng (Jason) Jiang, Robin Room, Anne-Marie Laslett

Wider team: Rowan Dowling, Koen Smit

Examining associations between alcohol outlet density and domestic and non-domestic assault in NSW (also referred to as: Association of liquor outlet density with domestic violence and assault in NSW)

NSW Government, Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority

2022 – 2023

Investigators: Heng (Jason) Jiang, Michael Livingston (Curtin University), Robin Room, Anne-Marie Laslett

Wider team: Benjamin Riordan

Socio-economic, health and economic outcomes for military families (CAPR subcontracted to examine differences relative to the general population through a series of rapid reviews)

Australian Government, Department of Defence

2022–2023

Investigators: Jennifer McIntosh (La Trobe University), Anna Booth (La Trobe University), Jessica Opie (La Trobe University), Heng (Jason) Jiang

Wider team: Rowan Dowling

Economic assessment methods menu for evaluating gambling interventions

Victorian Responsible Gambling Foundation
2023–2024

Investigators: Paul O'Halloran (La Trobe University), Geoff Dickson (La Trobe University), Heng (Jason) Jiang, Buly Cardak (La Trobe University), Alex Donaldson (La Trobe University), Erica Randle (La Trobe University), Suzanne O'Keefe (La Trobe University)





PHD STUDENTS AND PROJECTS

Associations of alcohol, tobacco, gambling expenditure with socioeconomic inequalities

Rowan Dowling, supervised by Heng (Jason) Jiang, Anne-Marie Laslett, Charles Livingstone (Monash University)

RESEARCH DISSEMINATION

SELECTED ACADEMIC ARTICLES

Smit, K., Dowling, R., Livingstone, M., Room, R., Laslett, A.-M., Ferrier, A., Livingstone, C., Borland, R., & Jiang, H. (2023). Trends in alcohol expenditure in Australia from 1984 to 2015–16: An exploratory study. *Drug and Alcohol Review*, 42(5), 1235–1245. <https://doi.org/10.1111/dar.13662>

ABSTRACT SOURCED FROM *DRUG AND ALCOHOL REVIEW*

Introduction: Excessive alcohol use is associated with non-communicable diseases and social problems, such as work absence, financial problems and family violence. Expenditure and expenditure shares on alcohol are valuable measures to monitor financial activities on this risk behaviour. The aim of this paper is to report trends in alcohol expenditure in Australia over the last two decades. **Methods:** Data are from six waves of Australian Household Expenditure Surveys from 1984 to 2015–2016. We explored trends of alcohol expenditure among Australians and in different socio-demographic groups in the last 30 years. We further examined changes of expenditure on different on- and off-premises beverages over time. **Results:** Absolute alcohol expenditure has remained the same between the 1980s and 2016, after accounting for inflation. However, a declining trend in relative

alcohol expenditure as a proportion of total household expenditure was found across nearly all demographic groups (e.g., sex, age, employment, household income), except for women aged 45–54, who showed an increasing trend of alcohol expenditure after 1998–1999. **Discussion and Conclusions:** The current study shows declines in relative alcohol expenditure, which may reflect declines in alcohol's relative importance within the elements of the person's lifestyle they need to pay for and/or increased awareness of alcohol's health and social harms. Further longitudinal analysis should explore additional predictors of household expenditure on alcohol. Results suggest that current bi-annual indexation increases in alcohol tax should account for increases in income to ensure the effectiveness of pricing. Moreover, attention is needed to address drinking among middle-aged females.

Marzan, M., Callinan, S., Livingston, M., & Jiang, H. (2023). Dose-response relationship between alcohol consumption and workplace absenteeism in Australia. *Drug and Alcohol Review*, 42(7), 1773–1784. <https://doi.org/10.1111/dar.13726>

ABSTRACT SOURCED FROM *DRUG AND ALCOHOL REVIEW*

Introduction: Workplace absenteeism is a burden in Australia. The estimated productivity losses due to alcohol were around \$4.0 billion in 2017, with absenteeism driving 90% of these costs. We aim to determine the dose-response relationship between average daily alcohol consumption and heavy episodic drinking (HED) frequency and workplace absenteeism amongst Australian workers. **Methods:** We used the 2019 National Drug Strategy Household Survey of Australian employed workers aged ≥20 years to 69 years old. Respondents' average daily alcohol consumption was categorised into four: abstainers, light to moderate (1–20 g of alcohol/day), risky (>20–40 g of alcohol/day) and high-risk (>40 g of alcohol/day). HED was classified into four frequency measures (never, less than monthly, monthly, weekly). The outcome variables came from dichotomised measures of: (i) absence due to alcohol consumption; and (ii) broader sickness

absence—absence due to illness or injury in the previous 3 months. **Results:** Risky (adjusted odds ratio 4.74 [95% CI 2.93–7.64]) and high-risk drinking (adjusted odds ratio 6.61 [95% CI 4.10–10.68]) were linked to increased odds of alcohol-related absence. Higher HED frequency was significantly associated with alcohol-related and broader sickness absenteeism. No significant associations exist between regular alcohol consumption and broader sickness absence in fully adjusted models. **Discussion and Conclusions:** Findings suggest that only HED is linked to broader sickness absence. However, there is a strong dose-response association between alcohol consumption and alcohol-related absences for both consumption measures amongst Australian workers. Population-level policies that reduce alcohol consumption to moderate level and less frequent HED might address workplace absenteeism.

Torney, A., Room, R., Jiang, H., Livingston, M. & Callinan, S. (2023). Shifts in the Australian public's opinions towards alcohol policies: 2004–2019. *Drug and Alcohol Review*, 42(7), 1785–1795. <https://doi.org/10.1111/dar.13727>

ABSTRACT SOURCED FROM *DRUG AND ALCOHOL REVIEW*

Introduction: After a period of stagnation, alcohol policy in Australia has received increased attention in the past decade, with Sydney's lockout laws and Queensland's restrictions on trading hours garnering media attention. This study will investigate any changing trends in support towards alcohol policy and identify any demographic-specific shifts. **Methods:** Respondents from the National Drug Strategy Household Survey (conducted every 3 years from 2004 to 2019) were asked to gauge their level of support for 16 alcohol policy items proposed to reduce the problems associated with excessive alcohol use. Mean levels of support for various policy options, as well as demographic predictors of support, were assessed.

Results: After an increase from 2004 to 2013, support for more evidence-based policies on alcohol (e.g., restricting the availability of alcohol) has decreased since 2013. Support for policy items that focus less on the restriction of the availability of alcohol and more on education remained relatively stable in comparison. While demographic groups continue to vary in their extent of support, shifts appear to be occurring fairly uniformly across sex, age, states and drinking groups. **Discussion and Conclusions:** Support for public health-oriented alcohol policies has been decreasing since 2013. The introduction of high-profile policies and less of a media focus on alcohol may be contributing to decreases in support.

Hu, A., Zhao, X., Room, R., Hao, W., Xiang, X., & Jiang H. (2023). The effects of alcohol tax policies on alcohol consumption and alcohol use disorders in Mainland of China: an interrupted time series analysis from 1961–2019. *The American Journal of Drug and Alcohol Abuse*, 49(6), 746–755. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00952990.2023.2280948>.

ABSTRACT SOURCED FROM *THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE*

Background: Overwhelming evidence suggests that increasing alcohol taxes is an effective strategy for curbing alcohol consumption. However, research on the effects of such strategies in low- and middle-income nations is limited. **Objective:** The aim is to explore the temporal effect of alcohol tax policy in China. **Methods:** We employ interrupted time series analysis to investigate the temporal effects of tax policy changes on alcohol consumption and related consequences in Mainland China from 1961 to 2019. The study population, the total population of mainland region of China, aged more than 15 years. **Results:** The results show that the volume tax policy, which was announced in 2000 and implemented in 2001, led to an immediate reduction in the alcohol consumption (coefficient = -0.429 , $p < .001$). Following the implementation of higher alcohol taxes in 1998 and 2001, the

prevalence of alcohol use disorders (AUDs) and related years lived with disability (YLDs) gradually decreased. The relaxation of tax policy in 2006 led to a significant increase in alcohol consumption, both immediately (coefficient = 0.406 , $p < .001$) and in the middle term (coefficient = 0.495 , $p < .001$), as well as contribute to an immediate or medium term significant increase in the prevalence of AUDs (coefficient = 0.038 , $p = .010$; coefficient = 0.032 , $p < .001$) and YLDs (coefficient = 4.363 , $p = .001$; coefficient = 4.226 , $p < .001$). **Conclusion:** This study demonstrates that changes in alcohol consumption and related consequences (increase or decrease) have followed corresponding changes in alcohol tax policies (easing or tightening), indicating that increasing alcohol taxes can be an effective strategy in China for controlling alcohol consumption and related harms.

Mensah, G, Fuster, V, Murray, C. ... Jiang, H., et al. (2023). Global Burden of Cardiovascular Diseases and Risks, 1990–2022. *Journal of American College of Cardiology*, 82(25): 2350–2473. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jacc.2023.11.007>

SUMMARY SOURCED FROM *JOURNAL OF AMERICAN COLLEGE OF CARDIOLOGY*

The Global Burden of Diseases, Injuries, and Risk Factors Study (GBD) is a multinational collaborative research study with >10,000 collaborators around the world. GBD generates a time series of summary measures of health, including prevalence, cause-specific mortality (CSMR), years of life lost (YLLs), years lived with disability (YLDs), and disability-adjusted life years (DALYs) to provide a comprehensive view of health burden for a wide range of

stakeholders including clinicians, public and private health systems, ministries of health, and other policymakers. These estimates are produced for 371 causes of death and 88 risk factors according to mutually exclusive, collectively exhaustive hierarchies of health conditions and risks. This almanac presents results for 18 cardiovascular diseases (CVD) and the CVD burden attributed to 15 risk factors (including an aggregate grouping of dietary risks) by GBD region.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

- Jiang, H., Smith, S., Room, R., & Laslett, A.-M. (2023, 14 November). Dose-response relationship between drinker's alcohol consumption and harm caused to others. Australian Professional Society for Alcohol and Drugs Scientific Conference. Adelaide, Australia.

MEDIA & EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES RESEARCH STREAM

STRATEGIC LEADS: BENJAMIN RIORDAN AND EMMANUEL KUNTSCHKE

This research stream aims to understand how common alcohol is in popular media, how alcohol is depicted in popular media (e.g. positive/negative), what impact exposure to alcohol in popular media can have on alcohol use, and what avenues there are for policy changes and interventions. In this stream of work, we use new and emerging technologies like wearables (e.g. transdermal devices) and artificial intelligence techniques (e.g. machine learning).

SELECTED RESEARCH PROJECTS

Man vs Machine: Critically evaluating the performance of AI to analyse qualitative data

La Trobe University School of Psychology and Public Health Internal Grant Scheme

2023

Investigators: Marie Patsouras, Benjamin Riordan

More than just a chatbot: Assessing the performance and promise of large pre-trained models for zero-shot learning

La Trobe University School of Psychology and Public Health Internal Grant Scheme

2023

Investigators: Benjamin Riordan, Emmanuel Kuntsche, Abraham Bonela, Zhen He (La Trobe University), Dan Anderson-Luxford, Aidan Nibali (La Trobe University)

Novel social media approach to #Identification and #Screening for hazardous drinking among diverse non-college young adults

National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism

2022 - 2024

Investigators: Jennifer Merrill (Brown University), Rose Marie Ward (University of Cincinnati), Benjamin Riordan

Solutions for regulating and monitoring alcohol marketing in Instagram influencer posts

Victorian Health Promotion Foundation Grant

2023 - 2025

Investigators: Emmanuel Kuntsche, Paula O'Brien (University of Melbourne), Robin Room, Zhen He (La Trobe University), Christine Parker (University of Melbourne), Jeannie Paterson (University of Melbourne), Simone Pettigrew (The George Institute), Benjamin Riordan, Aidan Nibali (La Trobe University), Dan Anderson-Luxford

The imitation game: The prevalence and impact of digital alcohol exposure in digital media

Australian Research Council Discovery Early Career Researcher Award

2023 - 2026

Investigator: Benjamin Riordan

Using AI to reveal the true extent and context of alcohol exposure in videos

Australian Research Council Foundation Grant

2023 - 2026

Investigators: Emmanuel Kuntsche, Zhen He (La Trobe University), Benjamin Riordan, Aidan Nibali (La Trobe University), Rutger Engels (Erasmus University Rotterdam), Rainer Hanewinkel (Institut für Therapie- und Gesundheitsforschung)



PHD STUDENTS AND PROJECTS

Application of artificial intelligence to identify and quantify alcoholic beverages and inebriation from audio-visual material

Abraham Albert Bonela, supervised by Emmanuel Kuntsche, Zhen He (La Trobe University)

Capturing the ups and downs: Investigating women's alcohol consumption and mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic in Australia

Dan Anderson-Luxford, supervised by Emmanuel Kuntsche, Benjamin Riordan, Cassandra Wright (Menzies School of Health Research)

How pervasive is alcohol in popular music globally?

Gedefaw Alen, supervised by Benjamin Riordan, Emmanuel Kuntsche, Zhen He (La Trobe University)

Prevalence of alcohol exposure in movies

Samatha Salim, supervised by Emmanuel Kuntsche, Benjamin Riordan, Zhen He (La Trobe University)

RESEARCH DISSEMINATION

SELECTED ACADEMIC ARTICLES

Kuntsche, E., He, Z., Bonela, A. A., & Riordan, B. (2023). Zero-shot learning has the potential to revolutionise research on exposure to alcohol and unhealthy products in digital media [Viewpoint]. *International Journal of Drug Policy*, 118(Aug, 104098), 1-2. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.drugpo.2023.104098>

ABSTRACT SOURCED FROM *INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF DRUG POLICY*

With the advent of social media sites, streaming services, and mobile devices, people are spending more time accessing digital media than ever before. Unfortunately, the increase in digital media use also signifies an increased exposure to representations of alcohol, tobacco, and other substances. Indeed, the portrayal of and references to alcohol and other substances occur frequently on digital media platforms via content sharing, posting, streaming, and marketing. For example, an estimated 2% of Tweets reference alcohol (Alhabash et al., 2018), and tobacco and alcohol are depicted in the majority

of popular Netflix/Amazon Prime series (Barker et al., 2019). Social media platforms also show psychoactive substances such as e-cigarettes, cannabis, opioids, and prescription drugs with content that encourages or even normalizes the use of these substances (Suarez-Lledo & Alvarez-Galvez, 2021). Given the clear link between exposure to alcohol and other substances in the media and their increased use (Sargent & Babor, 2020), the WHO-UNICEF-Lancet commission report highlighted the need to better understand and reduce the amount that people are exposed to those harmful products (Clark et al., 2020).

Patsouras, M., Riordan, B. C., Morgenstern, M., Hanewinkel, R., & Kuntsche, E. (2023). Nearly five times higher than we think: How much people underestimate the amount of alcohol in popular movies and what predicts underestimation. *International Journal of Mental Health and Addiction*. (Online early view 27/1/2023). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11469-022-00998-5>

ABSTRACT SOURCED FROM *INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION*

Reducing alcohol use is challenging due to the volume of alcohol shown in media and the relationship between exposure and use. It is unclear to what degree people are aware of and able to estimate alcohol exposure in the media, such as in movies. In this study, 609 Australian adults estimated the amount of alcohol exposure in up to 10 of 102 popular movies they remembered best. They reported when they last saw each movie, their alcohol use, age, and gender. Participants underestimated the amount

of alcohol in movies by an average of 35.39 times. Movies classified as featuring adult content (PG-13 or R) and movies with the greatest amount of alcohol were particularly underestimated. Individual's age, gender, alcohol use, or when the movie was last viewed had no effect on underestimation. In conclusion, due to the severe underestimation, alcohol exposure should be more seriously reviewed by governmental and medial organizations.

Riordan, B., Conner, T., Scarf, D., Winter, T., Mason, A., Anderson-Luxford, D., & Kuntsche, E. (2023). FoMO predicts alcohol use and harms over and above the big five personality traits among university students. *Journal of Substance Use*. (Online early view 30/11/2023). <https://doi.org/10.1080/14659891.2023.2288846>

ABSTRACT SOURCED FROM JOURNAL OF SUBSTANCE USE

Background: University students are an at-risk group for alcohol use. Fear of Missing Out (FoMO), the feeling that others are having rewarding experiences that one is missing out on, may drive alcohol use and harm. We aimed to investigate whether FoMO could uniquely predict alcohol use over and above known predictors like the big five personality traits. **Methods:** We recruited 392 university students and invited them to take part in a daily diary study where they reported their alcohol use daily over 13 days. Participants also completed a baseline survey and reported personality traits (neuroticism, extraversion, openness, agreeableness, and conscientiousness),

and alcohol-related consequences and completed a final follow-up survey where they reported FoMO. **Results:** Using a zero-inflated negative binomial mixed model, we found that those higher in FoMO consumed more alcohol on drinking days (IRR = 1.11) when controlling for personality traits. Similarly, we found that those higher in FoMO experienced more harms (IRR = 1.10), when controlling personality traits. **Conclusion:** We found that FoMO is a distinct construct and not just isomorphic with the big five personality traits. This suggests that reducing FoMO may be a key aim for alcohol interventions and should be considered when aiming to reduce university student alcohol use.

Riordan, B. C., Winter, T., Carey, K. B., Conner, T. S., Moradi, S., Jang, K., Reid, K. E., Mason, A., & Scarf, D. (2023). A combined web based intervention and ecological momentary intervention for reducing alcohol use among incoming first-year university students: Results from a three-arm randomised controlled trial. *Addictive Behaviors*, 136(Jan, 107471), 1–7. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.addbeh.2022.107471>

ABSTRACT SOURCED FROM ADDICTIVE BEHAVIOURS

Background: The transition from high school to university is associated with increased alcohol use and harm. Web-based interventions (WBIs) and ecological momentary interventions (EMIs) are two methods that have had some success in reducing alcohol use among university students and may be particularly effective if implemented during the transition to university. The aim of the current study was to investigate the effectiveness of a combined WBI and EMI to reduce alcohol use among incoming university students. **Methods:** Incoming first-year students (n = 783, in 2018 and 2019) were randomized into either a WBI + EMI, WBI-only, or an assessment-only condition. All participants completed online questionnaires before university, after their first and second semester, and reported their alcohol use

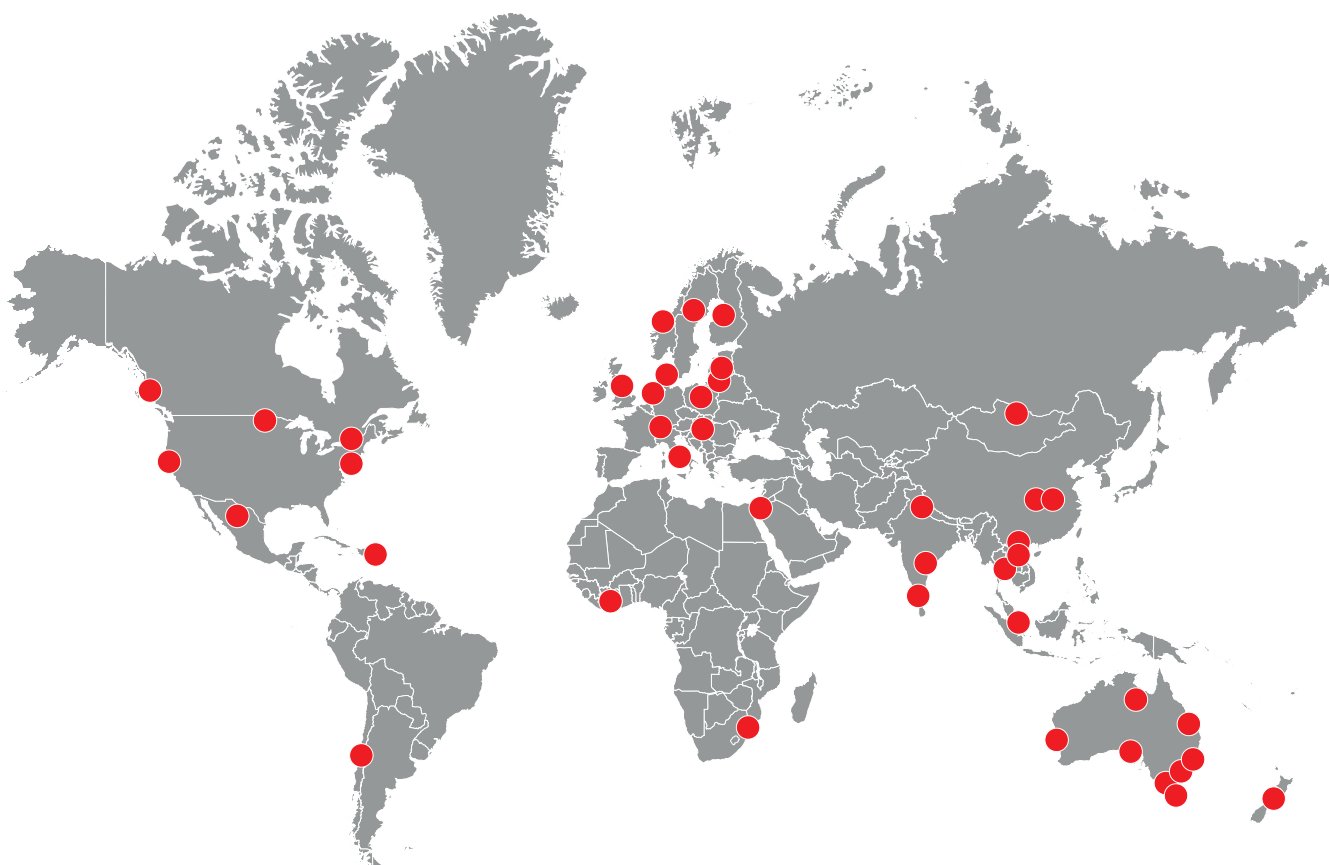
fortnightly throughout their first year. Those in the WBI + EMI and WBI conditions received online feedback about their drinking (i.e., the WBI) immediately following the pre-university survey. Those in the WBI + EMI were also sent eight EMI messages to their mobile phones during Orientation Week and six EMI messages across the academic year aimed at reducing alcohol harm. **Results:** There were no significant differences between the conditions in Orientation Week drinking, academic year drinking (both “typical” semester or fortnightly drinking), or alcohol-related harms. **Conclusion:** A WBI + EMI intervention aimed at the transition to university did not reduce university students’ alcohol use. The transition, however, continues to be a period of serious harm where students drink more than any other period.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

- Kuntsche, E., Riordan, B., & Room, R. (2023, 25 September). Alcohol exposure online: Why it matters and how it can be monitored. Invited presentation at Strategic Public Interest Litigation for Transparency and Accountability of Harmful Digital Marketing: A Researcher-Regulator-Community Dialogue. University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Australia.
- Anderson-Luxford, D., Riordan, B., Diress, G.D., & Kuntsche, E. (2023, 14 November). “Cheers (drink to that)”: An exploration of alcohol content in Top 100 Billboards songs from 1959 to 2020. Australian Professional Society for Alcohol and Drugs (APSAD) Scientific Conference. Adelaide, Australia.
- Kuntsche, E. (2023, 21 June). Collecting better evidence to better understand the digital divide in health promotion – the example of alcohol research. Keynote presentation at the International Expert Workshop ‘Understanding the digital divide in health promotion’. Kulmbach, Germany.
- Santamaria, E., Riordan, B., Anderson-Luxford, D., He, Z., Nibali, A., & Kuntsche, E. (2023, 14 November). “We want beer”: A content analysis of online posts written about the alcohol ban during Qatar’s Soccer World Cup. Australian Professional Society for Alcohol and Drugs (APSAD) Scientific Conference. Adelaide, Australia.

NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

Our strong reputation also comes from our ongoing collaborations with a broad range of both Australian and international researchers across countries such as the USA, Canada, Switzerland, Sweden, Denmark and the UK. CAPR staff both lead and provide input into a number of key projects around alcohol policy, alcohol-related behaviours and alcohol's harms to others.



From the left: Dr Orratai Waleewong, Anne-Marie Laslett, Robin Room and Dag Rekve at the 4th World Health Organization Forum on alcohol, drugs and addictive behaviours. WHO Headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland.



AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS

Our researchers were recognised and celebrated on international, national and local stages. The awards received showcases the talent and commitment to the pursuit of research excellence among our staff and PhD students.

SCIENTIFIC AWARDS

1. **Anderson-Luxford, D. 2023.**
Late Breaker Honourable Mention Award. Presented at the 42nd Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and other Drugs conference.
2. **Callinan, S. 2023.**
Awarded the VESKI Inspiring Women Bridging the Funding Gap Fellowship, co-funded by The Victorian Endowment for Science, Knowledge and Innovation (VESKI) and La Trobe University.
3. **Callinan, S. 2023.**
Excellence in Research – Mid Career. 2023 Staff Awards, La Trobe University.
4. **Callinan, S. 2023.**
Mid-Career Researcher Excellence Award, School of Psychology and Public Health, La Trobe University.
5. **Callinan, S. 2023.**
Early to Mid-Career Researcher Award for the most cited paper in the journal Drug and Alcohol Review published by an early to mid-career researcher. Presented at the 42nd Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and other Drugs conference.
6. **Callinan, S. 2023.**
Promoted to a Level D (Associate Professor / Principal Research Fellow) (in October 2023 for the year starting 2024).
7. **Jiang, H. 2023.**
Appointed as an Academic Leader on the Board of Graduate Research, La Trobe University.
8. **Laslett, A.-M.**
Promoted to a Level D (Associate Professor / Principal Research Fellow) (commencing in 2023)
9. **Laslett, A.-M.**
Appointed as Associate Director, Graduate Research, Care Economy Research Institute, La Trobe University.
10. **Lee, K. 2023.**
Appointed as Professor of Public Health, CAPR, La Trobe University (commencing in December 2023).
11. **Lee, K. 2023.**
Mid-Career Researcher Award. Presented at the 42nd Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and other Drugs conference.
12. **Pennay, A. 2023.**
Awarded the Tracey Banivanua Mar Fellowship, La Trobe University.
13. **Pennay, A. 2023.**
Awarded the VESKI Inspiring Women Bridging the Funding Gap Fellowship, co-funded by The Victorian Endowment for Science, Knowledge and Innovation (VESKI) and La Trobe University.
14. **Pennay, A. 2023.**
Appointed as the Deputy Director of CAPR as of April 2023.
15. **Riordan, B. 2023.**
Promoted to a Level C (Senior Research Fellow) in July 2023 (effective immediately).
16. **Room, R.**
Had his 100,000th citation according to Google Scholar. Robin is by far La Trobe's most cited researcher.



Above: Sarah Callinan presented with her Excellence in Research Mid-Career Award, La Trobe University, Bundoora



Left to right: Sarah Callinan and Amy Pennay accepting their VESKI Inspiring Women grants

SERVICE TO THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY

Our staff provide research-based input and advice to the academic community via editorial and reviewing functions for scholarly journals, as well as supervisory responsibilities to PhD students studying at other universities. This is further recognition of the expertise within CAPR and the commitment to training the next generation of alcohol researchers.

EDITORIAL APPOINTMENTS

JOURNAL	APPOINTMENT
<i>Addiction</i>	Senior Editor: Emmanuel Kuntsche, Managing editor: Sarah Callinan, Associate Editor: Benjamin Riordan
<i>Addicta: The Turkish Journal on the Addictions</i>	Editorial Board Member: Anne-Marie Laslett
<i>Alcohol: Clinical and Experimental Research</i>	Field Editor: Anne-Marie Laslett
<i>BMC Public Health</i>	Editorial Board Member: Heng (Jason) Jiang
<i>Contemporary Drug Problems</i>	Editorial Board Member: Robyn Dwyer, Robin Room
<i>Drug and Alcohol Review</i>	Editor-in-Chief: Robin Room; Special Section Editor: Emmanuel Kuntsche, Benjamin Riordan; Deputy Editor: Gabriel Caluzzi, Sarah Callinan, Emmanuel Kuntsche, Benjamin Riordan
<i>Drugs: Education, Prevention and Policy</i>	Co-editor in Chief: Amy Pennay; International Editorial Board: Gabriel Caluzzi, Megan Cook
<i>European Addiction Research</i>	Editorial Board Member: Emmanuel Kuntsche
<i>Health Sociology Review</i>	Co-Editor-in-Chief: Sarah MacLean
<i>International Journal of Alcohol and Drug Research</i>	Co-Editor-in-Chief: Anne-Marie Laslett; Senior Editor: Jason (Heng) Jiang; Editorial Board Member: Sarah Callinan
<i>International Journal of Drug Policy</i>	Editorial Board: Gabriel Caluzzi
<i>International Society for Addiction Journal Editors</i>	Elected Board Member: Anne-Marie Laslett, Robin Room
<i>Journal of Psychopathology and Clinical Science</i>	Guest Editor: Emmanuel Kuntsche
<i>Nordic Studies on Alcohol and Drugs</i>	Scientific Advisory Board: Robin Room

PHD STUDENT SUPERVISION BEYOND LA TROBE

Daniel Perkins

Thesis title: Ayahuasca as a therapeutic agent for psychiatric and substance use disorders: evidence from a cross sectional and longitudinal survey

Supervisors: Richard Chenhall, Robin Room (CAPR)

University: University of Melbourne

Commenced: 2021

Marwa Mostafa

Thesis: Assessing and promoting oral health amongst young inmates in Australia

Supervisors: Rodrigo Marino, Mark Stooze, Felicity Crombie, Anne-Marie Laslett (CAPR)

University: University of Melbourne

Commenced: 2018

Mia Miller

Thesis: The who, what and why of mid-life women's alcohol use in Australia

Supervisors: Cassandra Wright, Sandra Kuntsche (La Trobe University), Sarah Callinan (CAPR)

University: Menzies University

Commenced: 2022

Ratih Eka Pertiwi

Thesis: The role and place of alcohol consumption amongst young people in Jayapura, Papua, Indonesia

Supervisors: Catherine Vaughan, Richard Chenhall, and Robin Room (CAPR)

University: University of Melbourne

Commenced: 2018

Van Nguyen Callaly

Thesis: A systemic approach to advancing cross-sector collaboration between domestic and family violence, and alcohol or other drugs services

Supervisors: Professor Cathy Humphries, Margaret Kertesz, Jennifer Davidson, and Anne-Marie Laslett (CAPR)

University: University of Melbourne

Commenced: 2021

FUNDING DETAILS

Below is a breakdown of CAPR's key funding sources and where applicable, the major projects funded through these sources.

FUNDS RECEIVED FROM THE SOURCES LISTED HERE TOTALED	1,793,921
AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL (ARC)	483,925
Alcohol's harm to others: Patterns, costs, disparities, and situational precipitants (Linkage Project)	54,084
Mothers' little helper: The link between alcohol use and daily stressors in the specific risk group of working mothers (Discovery Project)	59,987
Researching an all-of-family program in family violence and substance use (via University of Melbourne) (Linkage Project)	11,169
Using AI to quantify alcohol exposure in videos (Discovery Project)	114,875
Using AI to reveal the impact of digital alcohol exposure on alcohol use (DECRA)	163,398
From mainstream to margins: young people, heavy drinking and de-normalisation (Discovery Project)	80,412
NATIONAL HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL (NHMRC)	320,638
Alcohol's harm to others: estimating and reducing harm	320,638
VICTORIAN HEALTH PROMOTION FOUNDATION:	355,398
Partner contribution for ARC Linkage – Understanding heavy alcohol consumption cultures among nurses and lawyers	30,398
Alcohol in Instagram influencer posts	215,000
Understanding socioeconomic inequalities in alcohol use and harm in Victoria	110,000
OTHER PUBLIC SECTOR RESEARCH FUNDING	332,527
The Victorian Endowment for Science, Knowledge and Innovation (VESKI): The alcohol's harm to others paradigm	39,000
The Victorian Endowment for Science, Knowledge and Innovation (VESKI): Developing a new screening tool for alcohol disorders	60,000
The Victorian Endowment for Science, Knowledge and Innovation (VESKI): Paradigm shifting alcohol policy to reduce alcohol related harm	40,000
Department of Enterprise, Investment and Trade, New South Wales Government: Association of liquor outlet density with domestic violence	48,261
Victorian Responsible Gambling Foundation: Exploring the relationship between alcohol use and gambling participation	34,311
Victorian Aboriginal Health Service: Staying strong	110,955

NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANISATIONS	45,914
Australian Rechabite Foundation: Partner contribution for ARC Linkage – Alcohol's harm to others: Patterns, costs, disparities, and situational precipitants	10,000
Australian Rechabite Foundation: Understanding the situations and needs of young people and families in Victoria	11,592
Australian Rechabite Foundation: Construction of alcohol-related risks and harms in public health advertising	9,322
Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education (FARE): Partner contribution for ARC Linkage – Alcohol's harm to others: Patterns, cost, disparities, and situation precipitants	15,000
INTERNATIONAL SECTOR	20,537
International Health Policy Program Foundations, Ministry of Public Health, Thailand: Evidence generation on the harm to others from drinking	1,716
Brown University: Targeting alcohol misuse via social networking sites; identification screening	18,821
MISCELLANEOUS	29,501
Sundry revenue/Fee for service	29,501
LA TROBE UNIVERSITY	205,481
Research Centre, DVCR and Research Theme support and other competitive grants	205,481



LA TROBE
UNIVERSITY



centre for alcohol
policy research

Centre for Alcohol Policy Research School of Psychology and Public Health La Trobe University Melbourne, AUSTRALIA



Email

alcoholpolicy@latrobe.edu.au



Telephone

+61 (03) 9479 5693



Visit us

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Page 21: Pexels-photo-1201996_beer chips and sport

Page 23: Unsplash/Steven Thompson

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Page 34: Unknown

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