

ALCOHOL POLICIES

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This publication represents the views and expert opinions of an IARC Working Group on the Evaluation of Cancer-Preventive Interventions, which met in Lyon, France, 7–11 October 2024

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In 2020, an estimated 741 300 new cancer cases, or 4.1% of all new cancer cases globally, were attributable to alcohol consumption. Alcoholic beverage consumption is a risk factor for numerous other health conditions in addition to cancer.

A Working Group of 20 independent international experts, convened by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) from June to October 2024, reviewed the body of evidence on the effects of selected alcohol policies on reducing alcoholic beverage consumption.

Population-level alcohol policy interventions related to (i) taxation and pricing, (ii) physical availability, (iii) alcohol marketing, and (iv) coordinated and other multiple alcohol policy interventions were evaluated.

In addition, health care-based interventions (i.e. screening and brief interventions, and psychosocial and pharmacotherapy interventions) were reviewed but not evaluated.

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