

ALCOHOL POLICIES

VOLUME 20B

ALCOHOL POLICIES

IARC HANDBOOKS OF
CANCER PREVENTION

ALCOHOL POLICIES

VOLUME 20B

ALCOHOL POLICIES

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

LYON, FRANCE - 2025

IARC HANDBOOKS OF
CANCER PREVENTION

Published by the International Agency for Research on Cancer, 25 avenue Tony Garnier, CS 90627, 69366
Lyon CEDEX 07, France

© International Agency for Research on Cancer 2025

Distributed by WHO Press, World Health Organization, 20 Avenue Appia, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland
(tel.: +41 22 791 3264; fax: +41 22 791 4857; website: <https://www.who.int/publications/book-orders>;
email: bookorders@who.int).

Permissions and rights: Some rights reserved. This work is available under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs 3.0 IGO licence (CC BY-NC-ND 3.0 IGO; <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/igo/>).

Under the terms of this licence, you may copy and redistribute the work for non-commercial purposes, provided the work is appropriately cited, as indicated below. In any use of this work, there should be no suggestion that WHO endorses any specific organization, products, or services. The use of the WHO logo is not permitted.

Any mediation relating to disputes arising under the licence shall be conducted in accordance with the mediation rules of the World Intellectual Property Organization.

To submit requests for adaptations or commercial use and queries on rights and licensing, see the IARC Publications website (<https://publications.iarc.who.int/Rights-And-Permissions>).

Third-party materials: If you wish to reuse material from this work that is attributed to a third party, such as tables, figures or images, it is your responsibility to determine whether permission is needed for that reuse and to obtain permission from the copyright holder. The risk of claims resulting from infringement of any third-party-owned component in the work rests solely with the user.

General disclaimers: The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the World Health Organization concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city, or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

The mention of specific companies or of certain manufacturers' products does not imply that they are endorsed or recommended by the World Health Organization in preference to others of a similar nature that are not mentioned. Errors and omissions excepted, the names of proprietary products are distinguished by initial capital letters.

All reasonable precautions have been taken by WHO to verify the information contained in this publication. However, the published material is being distributed without warranty of any kind, either expressed or implied. The responsibility for the interpretation and use of the material lies with the reader. In no event shall WHO or contributing agencies be liable for damages arising from its use.

The IARC *Handbooks* Working Group alone is responsible for the views expressed in this publication.

IARC Handbooks (and Corrigenda) are published online at <https://publications.iarc.who.int>.

To report an error, please contact editihb@iarc.who.int.

How to cite this publication:

IARC (2025). Alcohol policies. IARC Handb Cancer Prev. 20B:1–282. Available from: <https://publications.iarc.who.int/653>.

IARC Library Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

Names: IARC Working Group on the Evaluation of Cancer-Preventive Interventions.

Title: Alcohol policies.

Description: Lyon: International Agency for Research on Cancer, 2025. | Series: IARC handbooks of cancer prevention, ISSN 1027-5622; v. 20B. | "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." | Includes bibliographical references.

Identifiers: ISBN 9789283245391 (pbk.) | ISBN 9789283245407 (ebook)

Subjects: MESH: Neoplasms. | Alcohol Drinking. | Alcoholic Beverages. | Health Policy. | Risk Factors.

Classification: NLM W1

International Agency for Research on Cancer

The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) was established in 1965 by the World Health Assembly, as an independently funded organization within the framework of the World Health Organization. The headquarters of the Agency are in Lyon, France.

The Agency has as its mission to reduce the cancer burden worldwide through promoting international collaboration in research. The Agency addresses this mission through conducting cancer research for cancer prevention in three main areas: describing the occurrence of cancer, identifying the causes of cancer, and evaluating preventive interventions and their implementation. Each of these areas is a vital contribution to the spectrum of cancer prevention.

The publications of the Agency contribute to the dissemination of authoritative information on different aspects of cancer research. Information about IARC publications, and how to order them, is available at <https://publications.iarc.who.int/>.



IARC Handbooks of Cancer Prevention

In 1969, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) initiated a programme on the evaluation of the carcinogenic risk of chemicals to humans involving the production of monographs of critical reviews and evaluations of individual chemicals.

The *IARC Handbooks of Cancer Prevention* complement the *IARC Monographs*' identifications of carcinogenic hazards. The objective of the programme is to coordinate and publish critical reviews of data on the cancer-preventive effects of primary or secondary interventions, and to evaluate these data in terms of cancer prevention with the help of international working groups of experts in prevention and related fields. The lists of evaluations are regularly updated and are available at <https://handbooks.iarc.who.int/>.

This volume of the *IARC Handbooks of Cancer Prevention* is partly funded by the French National Cancer Institute (INCa) and Institut pour la Recherche en Santé Publique (IReSP) (grant number INCA/IReSP 16650). This publication has been produced with the financial support of the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for Europe. This publication was co-funded by the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of IARC and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union. This publication was supported by the Grant or Cooperative Agreement number NU58DP007177, funded by the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The American Cancer Society (ACS) has provided financial support for this project (ACS contracts #92768 and #99372). The contents of this *IARC Handbook* are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of INCa, WHO, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or the Department of Health and Human Services, or ACS, ACS's staff, or its Board of Directors.



Cover image: © IARC/N. O'Connor.