Alcohol-Attributable Hospital Admissions In BC

Prepared by Andrew Tu and Jane Buxton, BC Centre for Disease Control

INTRODUCTION

This Data Note summarises estimates of how many hospital admissions in British Columbia can be "attributable" to alcohol. The underlying calculations have been conducted by the BC Centre for Disease Control using BC Ministry of Health data on numbers of hospital admissions in the province over the ten-year period 2002 until 2011 with breakdowns by age, gender and main disease category. The estimates rely on standard methods used by the World Health Organization and are summarized in the BC Alcohol and Other Drug Monitoring Project website (see: www.AODmonitoring.ca).

DISCUSSION

In summary, it was estimated that 187,909 hospital admissions during the ten-year period 2002 until 2011 would have been prevented had there been no hazardous or harmful alcohol use in BC. These were evenly divided between "acute" causes i.e. injuries and "chronic" i.e. various kinds of illness. There were approximately twice as many males as females who were admitted for alcohol-related reasons and 11,931 involved young people aged below 20 years. The results are presented according to main categories of causation as well as more detailed types of diagnosis.

Table 1: Hospital admissions in BC 2002-2011 by age/sex and main disease category

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Main Disease Categories</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Cancer</td>
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<tr>
<td>0-14</td>
<td>1,600</td>
<td>3,006</td>
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<tr>
<td>15-29</td>
<td>7,510</td>
<td>15,587</td>
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<td>30-44</td>
<td>12,536</td>
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<td>45-59</td>
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<td>70-79</td>
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<tr>
<td>80+</td>
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<td>Total</td>
<td>68,702</td>
<td>119,207</td>
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<tr>
<td>Age Group</td>
<td>Sex</td>
<td>Specific Disease Categories</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>acute and chronic pancreatitis</td>
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<td>&lt;1</td>
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<td>alcohol abuse</td>
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<td>10 -- 14</td>
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