



Alcohol-Attributable Hospital Admissions In BC

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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

Age Group	Sex		Main Disease Categories	
	Female	Male		
			Cancer	23,514
0-14	1,600	3,006	Cardiovascular	21,526
15-29	7,510	15,587	Digestive	13,860
30-44	12,536	21,648	Intentional Injuries	6,785
45-59	21,598	35,396	Neuro-psychiatric conditions	37,240
60-69	9,297	19,162	Perinatal condition	2,477
70-79	8,653	15,541	Skin disease	105
80+	7,508	8,867	Unintentional injuries	82,404
Total	68,702	119,207	Total	187,909

Table 2: Hospital admissions in BC 2002-2011 by age/sex and specific disease category

Age Group	Sex		Specific Disease Categories	
	Female	Male		
			acute and chronic pancreatitis	4,171
<1	1,222	1,451	alcohol abuse	3,145
1 -- 9	198	847	alcohol dependence	7,137
10 -- 14	180	708	alcoholic cardiomyopathy	200
15-19	2,413	4,912	alcoholic gastritis	2,062
20-24	2,397	5,386	alcoholic polyneuropathy	23
25-29	2,701	5,289	alcoholic psychoses	18,819
30-34	3,023	5,403	breast cancer	2,348
35-39	3,995	7,027	cardiac arrhythmias	17,327
40-44	5,518	9,218	cerebrovascular disease (haemorrhagic)	581
45-49	7,166	10,740	cerebrovascular diseases	41
50-54	7,414	12,173	chronic pancreatitis alcohol	917
55-59	7,018	12,483	cirrhosis	6,710
60-64	4,742	10,002	degeneration of nervous system	221
65-69	4,555	9,160	drowning	35
70-74	4,265	8,116	epilepsy	4,407
75-79	4,388	7,425	ethanol and methanol toxicity	408
80-84	3,818	5,115	falls	12,515
85+	3,691	3,752	fetal alcohol syndrome	118
Total	68,702	119,207	finding of alcohol	<5
			fires	294
			homicide	3,439
			hypertensive disease	1,187
			laryngeal cancer alcohol	669
			liver cancer	1,153
			low birth weight	2,358
			mva	7,144
			oesophageal cancer alcohol	1,650
			oesophageal varices	2,190
			oropharyngeal cancer alcohol	1,156
			other intentional injuries	31
			other neoplasms	16,538
			other unintentional injuries	60,561
			poisoning (alcohol)	769
			poisonings	1,085
			psoriasis	105
			suicide (alcohol)	741
			suicides	2,166
			unipolar depression	3,488