

## **Summary Notes: International Project on Alcohol and Assaults**

Held in connection with KBS Thematic Meeting in Melbourne March 13 and 15, 2010

Two meetings were held with 6 participants at the first and 14 at the second.

The following is a brief summary of discussion points and tentative decisions.

**Scope of the project.** It was decided that the focus would initially be on alcohol and physical assaults, with the possibility of considering sexual assaults later on as the project evolved. Assaults would include morbidity as well as mortality (homicide and suicide).

**New data:** At this stage the project would focus on secondary analysis of existing data (such as survey data), or archival data – hospital, mortality or police statistics. It is expected that in the future funding would be sought which would facilitate collecting of new data.

**Type of data for cross-jurisdiction comparison.** While it would be ideal to seek to gather identical data for all participating jurisdictions, this may not be feasible; therefore a two-tiered approach was proposed.

1. Based on the response to the checklist (see attached) it might be feasible to identify a few variables where there are sufficient data points and with data of reasonable quality from several sites to conduct time series analyses.
2. Within each country the lead person(s) should use the best data from their site to conduct analyses of the associations between alcohol and assaults. The data used in these analyses may not be identical across the participating countries.

**Time frame and data frequency.** The two are related, if only annual data are available for some variables, then a longer time frame, such as 50 years may be preferred for the analyses. If monthly or quarterly data are feasible, then a shorter overall time frame may work.

**Prevalence of drinking:** The estimated annual prevalence of drinkers varies greatly by global region. Therefore a new variable on this point was added to the checklist.

**Consumption variables.** There was a discussion of how to measure both consumption based on official sales and unrecorded consumption – surrogate alcohol, home production, smuggling, personal cross-border import etc. The revised checklist also provides a row on unrecorded consumption. If it is feasible to get a few data points of estimated unrecorded consumption, it might be possible to project backwards about the contribution of unrecorded consumption to total consumption. Then the analysis might be done two ways, focusing on official consumption and violence, or focusing on total consumption (official plus unrecorded) and violence.

**Violence variables:** There was some discussion about obtaining estimates of the prevalence of violence from various sources. This includes police statistics, E-code data, ER studies, and surveys on victimization or with victimization questions.

**Outlet density:** This variable was proposed as an additional point to be considered in the checklist. There is extensive literature on the association between outlets and assaults.

**Next steps:**

*Violence variables:* Rob Parker is planning to take the lead on developing a working paper that considers the pros and cons of estimating population level violence using several approaches: police statistics, ICD codes, ER studies, and victimization surveys. Suggestions and information from project members are welcomed.

*Unrecorded consumption.* Norman Giesbrecht is planning to take the lead on developing a working paper that assembles recent estimates on unrecorded consumption in the jurisdictions represented at these meetings in Melbourne. Suggestions and information from project members are welcomed.

*All participants:*

1. Participants are invited to complete the checklist. If you have done so, please use the attached revised version and provide information on the three new rows on outlet density, prevalence of drinking and unrecorded consumption in this form, and resubmit.
2. If there have been surveys of victimization in your jurisdiction in recent years, please bring a copy of the relevant questions asked and some details about the survey – when it was done, sample, response rate, etc. for the meeting in Lausanne.
3. If you come across recent papers or reports on alcohol-related violence in your jurisdiction, please send to Rob Parker so that they can be sent around to all project participants.

**Next meeting:**

For those who are able to attend, the next in-person meeting will be held in connection with the Annual KBS Alcohol Epidemiology Meeting in Lausanne, on Sunday May 30<sup>th</sup> from 2 to 5.30 p.m. Agenda to be provided prior to the meeting.

It is expected that there will be a second meeting of the project group later in the week, possibly Tuesday pm. June 1<sup>st</sup>.

Thanks for your interest in this project.

Rob Parker, Ann Hope, Norman Giesbrecht  
March 24, 2010

## Comparative Alcohol & Violence Study [updated checklist]

Dear Colleague,

Please complete the checklist below, as much as possible, at this time. For the comments section, if there is not enough space, please use footnotes. For the sources of data, a short version is fine, rather than the full description of the institutional source.

It will be feasible to submit an updated version at later time. In returning the form, also indicate if you are the main contact person for your jurisdiction for this project, and if not, please provide the name and email address of who is. Further details on this project will be forthcoming before the next meeting in Lausanne, Switzerland, [Sunday] May 30, 2010..

Thank you for your interest, Robert Nash Parker, Norman Giesbrecht, and Ann Hope

**Variable-data Checklist**      **Name of Person(s) completing this checklist.....**  
**Country .....**  
**Date Checklist competed.....**

Row no.	Variable short name	Variable description	Time Period (yrs)	Frequency of data points (yr, quarter)	Breakdowns [age, gender, etc.]	Sources of data	Comments: Quality of data, changes in definitions, etc.
1	Sales	Alcohol sales					
2.	Unrecorded consumption	Estimates of illegal or home made potable or surrogate alcohol <sup>1</sup>					
3	Consumption	Self-reported surveys					
4.	Prevalence of drinkers	Estimates of per cent who reported drinking in past yr.					
5.	All sales outlets	Number of places where alcohol is sold <sup>2</sup>					
6	Population	Population data – total and aged 15+					
7	Total Assaults – F	Fatal assaults					
8	Total Assaults –	Non fatal assaults					
9	Selected assaults – D	Homicides					
10	Selected	Serious injury					

<sup>1</sup> Can be either as a percent of total consumption [unrecorded plus official sales] or a separate estimated of per capita consumption of unrecorded beverages.

<sup>2</sup> If feasible, indicate if breakdown is feasible by on-premise (drinking on site) versus off-premise (package stores) .

	assaults – Morb.						
<b>11.</b>	Suicides	Death from suicide					
<b>12</b>	Suicide attempts	Injury or trauma					
<b>13.</b>	Surveys	Survey data on assaults – either victim or perpetrator based					
<b>14</b>	Special studies	Published papers or reports on alcohol and assault in jurisdiction					