Unrecorded alcohol: what the evidence tell us?

Friday, 2 July, 2021 - 14:00 - 15:30 CET
Interpretation in Russian and Spanish

About
About 25% of worldwide alcohol consumption is unrecorded. In countries of the former Soviet Union, surrogate alcohol, artisanal spirits and counterfeit industrially produced alcoholic beverages are prevalent. Cultural norms of the Eastern and sub-Saharan African countries explained the consumption of home-brew alcohol. In some African countries, home production of alcoholic beverages represents the sole source of income for the households. In rural China, baijiu (home-distilled spirit) is now produced in small-factory distillers operating in nearly every town. In India, it is estimated that about 50% of the alcohol consumed is illicitly made. In Finland and Sweden, a large proportion of unrecorded alcohol is shopped cross-borders. Unrecorded alcohol may contain toxic ingredients that could lead to poisoning and even death. However, recent evidence suggests that most of the harm derived from unrecorded alcohol is caused by hazardous drinking patterns and not by its quality. Informal production of alcohol is difficult to regulate, curtailing the impact of cost-effective alcohol control interventions. This webinar seeks to shed light on the dimensions of the unrecorded alcohol phenomenon and showcase country practices, their challenges and possible policy responses.

Opening
Naoko Yamamoto
Assistant Director-General, Healthier Population Division, World Health Organization
Carina Ferreira-Borges
Head a.i., World Health Organization European Office for Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases
Juan Tello
Head, Less Alcohol Unit, Department of Health Promotion, World Health Organization

Speakers
Dirk Lachenmeier
Director, Department of Plant-based Food, Chemical and Veterinary Investigation Agency Karlsruhe, Germany
Jürgen Rehm
Senior Scientist, Institute for Mental Health Policy Research, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, Canada
Maria Neufeld
Consultant, World Health Organization European Office for Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases
Ilana Pinsky
Consultant, Less Alcohol Unit, Department of Health Promotion, World Health Organization

Spotlight on countries
Daria Khaltourina
Head, Department of Prevention of Risk Factors and Communication Technologies in Healthcare; Federal Research Institute for Health Organization and Informatics, Ministry of Health, Russian Federation
Rahma Mkuu
Assistant Research Scientist, Department of Health Outcomes and Biomedical Informatics, College of Medicine, University of Florida, United States of America
Maristela Monteiro
Senior Advisor on Alcohol, Pan American Health Organization, Regional Office for the Americas, World Health Organization

Contact us: Lessalcohol@who.int

The event is co-organized by the European Office for Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases of the Division of Country Health Programmes at the World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe and the Less Alcohol Unit of the Department of Health Promotion at the World Health Organization headquarters.