

Epidemiology of Alcohol Use in the World and the Czech Republic: Consumption, Misuse, Addiction, Morbidity, and Mortality



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SUMMARY: *The text provides basic information on the epidemiology of alcohol use in the world and the Czech Republic. Together with Andorra and Estonia, the Czech Republic ranks among the countries with the highest consumption of alcohol in the world. With regard to patterns of alcohol use among countries, the largest number of abstainers can be found in Islamic countries, while Europe records the fewest non-drinkers. Poland and Brazil are among the states with the highest number of people with alcohol dependence. In the Czech Republic, abstainers account for approximately 10% of the general population, 2 to 3% of the Czech population engage in the problematic consumption of alcohol that requires professional help and fulfils the dependence syndrome criteria, and another 11 to 20% of the population consumes alcohol in a risky way. A comparison with the data on treatment demand indicates that only a small percentage of people with disorders caused by alcohol use seeks professional help; the approximate number of alcohol users in treatment does not exceed 28 thousand. Regarding the number of alcohol-related deaths, between 1995 and 2002, a moderate rising tendency in the number of deaths associated with alcohol was observed among men, while the number of such deaths among women recorded a slight decline.*

KEY WORDS: ALCOHOL – EPIDEMIOLOGY – MORTALITY – MORBIDITY

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