

Introduction

The objective of this review was to compile currently available information on alcohol related issues in Member Countries. This will form the basis of design and development of policies and programmes and identify research needs to prevent alcohol related harm in the Region. The information contained in this compilation is from several sources.

First, relevant publications by all Units of the World Health Organization, after the year 2000 on alcohol were reviewed. The WHO Global Alcohol Database containing information from the WHO Global Status Report on Alcohol and the WHO Global InfoBase, which contains country level data on important NCD risk factors including alcohol use, were particularly useful. The WHO SEARO documents containing the most recent information on alcohol policies and legislation too were used extensively.

Searches on peer-reviewed journals were also carried out. Mainly, the database of the National Library of Medicine, of the National Institute of Health of the United States, also known as PubMed was used for this purpose. The Hellis Library Network was also used. Abstracts of suitable publications and full-text articles of those considered important were obtained. For all countries such articles published after 2000 were considered. Similar searches were carried out for articles before 2000 for countries for which we could not find relevant information.

Internet searches for conference proceedings, irrespective of the date published were carried out countries from which sufficient data were not available. Information from the WHO Country Offices was also sought for such countries. The data from WHO Risk Factor Survey of the Stepwise approach to Non-communicable diseases was also considered. Once the latest data from this survey becomes available, it can be appended to this compilation.

Country-wise, the published studies have been arranged in chronological order for this documents. It will be extremely useful if the readers of this document point out any errors of omission of commission, in order to improve its quality.