

Special Issue

Social Determinants of Alcohol Use and Its Consequences

Message from the Guest Editors

Alcohol is an established risk factor for a wide range of outcomes. To understand the full epidemiological picture of alcohol use and its consequences, the role and impact of the diverse social determinants and the inequalities related to them must be studied. Not only do social determinants influence alcohol use directly, but there are also several examples where they influence the relationship between alcohol use and health outcomes. For example, the relationship between alcohol use and its various outcomes is more often than not found to differ by sex and gender. Furthermore, the risk relationships between alcohol use and health burden likely differ from one country context to another. However, currently, the bulk of evidence on such relationships is based on a fairly uniform group of western, high-income countries. Alcohol use and its consequences must be understood in the context of wider social and economic determinants, rather than considering it merely as individual health behavior. The Special Issue is intended to draw attention to the importance of social determinants of alcohol use and its consequences by providing a forum to publish this line of research.

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Addressing the environmental and public health challenges requires engagement and collaboration among clinicians and public health researchers. Scientific discoveries and advances in this research field play a critical role in providing a rational basis for informed decision-making toward control and prevention of human diseases, especially the illnesses that are induced from environmental exposure to health hazards.

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