

# Harms to Women and Children from Men's Alcohol Use: An Evidence Review and Directions for Policy

Anne-Marie Laslett, Leane Ramsoomar, Katherine J. Karriker-Jaffe, Cassandra Hopkins, Kathryn Graham, Natalie Blackburn, Mary Jean Walker, Siri H. Haugland, Ilona Tamutienė, Robin Room, Thomas K. Greenfield, Gail Gilchrist, Amany S. B. Tanyos, Bree Willoughby, Siri Hettige, Orratai Waleewong, and Ingrid M. Wilson



RTI Press publication OP-0098-2509

RTI International is an independent scientific research institute dedicated to improving the human condition. The RTI Press mission is to disseminate information about RTI research, analytic tools, and technical expertise to a global audience. RTI Press publications are peer-reviewed by at least two independent substantive experts and one or more Press editors.

### Suggested Citation

Laslett, A.-M., Ramsoomar, L., Karriker-Jaffe, K. J., Hopkins, C., Graham, K., Blackburn, N., Walker, M. J., Haugland, S. H., Tamutienė, I., Room, R., Greenfield, T. K., Gilchrist, G., Tanyos, A. S. B., Willoughby, B., Hettige, S., Waleewong, O., & Wilson, I. M. *Harms to women and children from men's alcohol use: An evidence review and directions for policy*. Publication No. OP-0098-2509. RTI Press. <https://doi.org/10.3768/rtpress.2025.op.0098.2509>.

This publication is part of the RTI Press Research Report series. Occasional Papers are scholarly essays on policy, methods, or other topics relevant to RTI areas of research or technical focus.

RTI International  
3040 E. Cornwallis Road  
Durham, NC 27713-2852

Tel: +1.919.541.6000  
E-mail: [rtpress@rti.org](mailto:rtpress@rti.org)  
Website: [www.rti.org](http://www.rti.org)

©2025 RTI International. RTI International is a trade name of Research Triangle Institute. RTI, RTI Press, and the RTI logo are U.S. registered trademarks of Research Triangle Institute. Use of RTI Press publications for text and data mining, AI training, and similar technologies is prohibited without RTI's express written permission.



This work is distributed under the terms of a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 license (CC BY-NC-ND), a copy of which is available at <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0>.

<https://doi.org/10.3768/rtpress.2025.op.0098.2509>

[www.rti.org/rti-press](http://www.rti.org/rti-press)

## Contents

About the Authors	i
Acknowledgments	ii
Abstract	ii
Introduction	1
Harms to Women	2
Alcohol-Related Actions and Harms by the Alcohol-Affected Man	3
Impacts of Men's Alcohol Use on Women's Health and Well-Being	3
Framing the Role of Alcohol	4
Harms to Children	5
Relationships and Family	5
Violence and Maltreatment	5
Health, Development, Psychological, and Well-Being Impacts	6
Social and Educational Outcomes	6
An Expanded Model for Understanding Harms to Women and Children from Men's Alcohol Use	6
Community- and Societal-Level Contexts	6
Intersecting Contextual Determinants	7
The Need for Policies and Gender-Informed Interventions to Reduce Harms to Women and Children	8
The Way Forward	9
Data Availability Statement	10
References	10

## About the Authors

**Anne-Marie Laslett**, PhD, is a professor and National Health and Medical Research Council Emerging Leadership Fellow in the Centre for Alcohol Policy Research at La Trobe University (Australia), and associate director of graduate studies at the Care Economy Research Institute, also at La Trobe University. <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5652-7336> ([a.laslett@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:a.laslett@latrobe.edu.au))

**Leane Ramsomar**, PhD, is a public health researcher in the Gender and Health Research Unit of the South African Medical Research Council, as well as extraordinary lecturer in the School of Health Systems and Public Health at the University of Pretoria. <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1934-579X> ([leane.ramsomar@mrc.ac.za](mailto:leane.ramsomar@mrc.ac.za))

**Katherine J. Karriker-Jaffe**, PhD, is a senior director of the Center for Health Behavior & Implementation Science at RTI International (United States). <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2019-0222> ([kkarrikerjaffe@rti.org](mailto:kkarrikerjaffe@rti.org))

**Cassandra Hopkins**, MPP, is a doctoral candidate with the Centre for Alcohol Policy Research at La Trobe University. <https://orcid.org/0009-0006-8514-7256> ([c.hopkins@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:c.hopkins@latrobe.edu.au))

**Kathryn Graham**, PhD, is an emeritus scientist within the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, as well as adjunct professor at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health at the University of Toronto (Canada). <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3318-3598> ([kgraham@uwo.ca](mailto:kgraham@uwo.ca))

**Natalie Blackburn**, PhD, at the time of writing, was a public health analyst in the Center for Health Behavior & Implementation Science at RTI International. She currently is an investigator with the Comprehensive Health Research Centre at the National School of Public Health at the Universidade Nova de Lisboa (NOVA) (Portugal). <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7914-2658> ([nblackburn@rti.org](mailto:nblackburn@rti.org))

**Mary Jean Walker**, PhD, is a senior lecturer in the Department of Politics, Media, and Philosophy at La Trobe University. <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8823-9651> ([mary.walker@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:mary.walker@latrobe.edu.au))

**Siri H. Haugland**, PhD, is professor and head of the Psychosocial Health Department in the Faculty of Health and Sport Sciences at the University of Agder (Norway). <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5906-5453> ([siri.h.haugland@uia.no](mailto:siri.h.haugland@uia.no))

**Ilona Tamutienė**, PhD, is a professor in the Department of Public Administration in the Faculty of Political Science and Diplomacy, as well as a senior researcher at the Vytautas Kavolis Transdisciplinary Social and Humanities Research Institute, both within Vytautas Magnus University (Lithuania). <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8697-867X> ([ilona.tamutiene@vdu.lt](mailto:ilona.tamutiene@vdu.lt))

**Robin Room**, PhD, is a distinguished professor within the Centre for Alcohol Policy Research at La Trobe University. <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5618-385X> ([r.room@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:r.room@latrobe.edu.au))

**Thomas K. Greenfield**, PhD, is a senior scientist at the Alcohol Research Group of the Public Health Institute (United States). <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3108-4812> ([tgreenfield@arg.org](mailto:tgreenfield@arg.org))

**Gail Gilchrist**, PhD, is professor within the National Addictions Centre at King's College London (United Kingdom). <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5616-6283> ([gail.gilchrist@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:gail.gilchrist@kcl.ac.uk))

**Amany S. B. Tanyos**, MPH, is a doctoral candidate with the Centre for Alcohol Policy Research at La Trobe University. <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3298-3761> ([a.tanyos@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:a.tanyos@latrobe.edu.au))

**Bree Willoughby**, BPsychSc (Hons), is a doctoral candidate with the Centre for Alcohol Policy Research at La Trobe University. <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7857-3819> ([b.willoughby@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:b.willoughby@latrobe.edu.au))

**Siri Hettige**, PhD, is an emeritus professor in the Department of Sociology at the University of Colombo (Sri Lanka). <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5442-8027> ([hettigesiri@gmail.com](mailto:hettigesiri@gmail.com))

**Orratai Waleewong**, PhD, is a researcher with the International Health Policy Program in the Ministry of Public Health, Thailand. <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6596-6901> ([orratai@ihpp.thaigov.net](mailto:orratai@ihpp.thaigov.net))

**Ingrid M. Wilson**, PhD, is an associate professor at the Singapore Institute of Technology and at the Judith Lumley Centre at La Trobe University. <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4236-5561> ([ingrid.wilson@singaporetech.edu.sg](mailto:ingrid.wilson@singaporetech.edu.sg))

## RTI Press Associate Editor

Valerie Flax

## Abstract

Across the world, men consume more alcohol and experience more alcohol-related harm from their own drinking than women. Men's alcohol use also results in more harm to others, including harm to women and children. However, relatively few studies have focused on the scope and impacts that men's harmful alcohol use may cause other people, and few studies or policies specifically address harms that women and children experience because of men's alcohol use. Drawing on three recent reviews of the literature covering harm to women, harm to children, and policy options for reducing harmful drinking by men, we have synthesized the evidence to inform future alcohol, health, and social policy implementation; service and response system development; and directions for research. Findings suggest possible system changes to continue advancement toward health and well-being for women and children around the world.

## Acknowledgments

This work was funded in part by the Strengthening Networks and Technical Capacity for Alcohol Policy Development Project (under the World Health Organization Southeast Asian Region of Operations and Thai Health Promotion Foundation collaboration) through the International Health Policy Program Foundation. Anne-Marie Laslett also was funded by the Australian National Health and Medical Research Council (Investigator Grant 2016706) and by the Australian Research Council (LP190100698). Leane Ramsoomar was supported by the Gender and Health Research Unit of the South African Medical Research Council.

## Introduction

Numerous studies have shown that across countries and cultures, men drink more than women (Wilsnack et al., 2018; Wilsnack et al., 2009; World Health Organization, 2018a, 2024a). Globally, men also experience more alcohol-related problems, including aggression, accidents, and injury, from their own drinking than do women (Obot & Room, 2005; Wilsnack et al., 2000; World Health Organization, 2024a, 2024b). Moreover, when drinking, men are more likely to engage in violent and problematic behaviors that negatively affect their social relationships (Graham et al., 2011; Rolfe et al., 2006). Thus, relative to women's drinking, men's drinking not only results in more harm to themselves (World Health Organization, 2018a, 2024a) but also results in more adverse effects on others, notably women and children with whom they are in close relationships (Laslett et al., 2024; Stanesby et al., 2018; World Health Organization, 2024b). Because a relatively small proportion of the population drink heavily, most harm to drinkers is attributable to light and moderate use rather than to dependent drinking or alcohol use disorder (Babor et al., 2010; Rossow et al., 2013). Likewise, the harm men's drinking inflicts on others, including women and children, is not confined to men with alcohol use disorders. Such harm can arise from a range of drinking patterns, including occasional episodes of heavy drinking (Haugland et al., 2015).

Gender differences in alcohol consumption and associated harms often relate to societal norms (World Health Organization, 2024b). For example, traditional masculinity may encourage higher alcohol consumption and risk-taking after drinking, which can harm both the drinker and others (Patró-Hernández et al., 2020). Both general and domestic alcohol-related violence are mostly attributable to men (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2023).

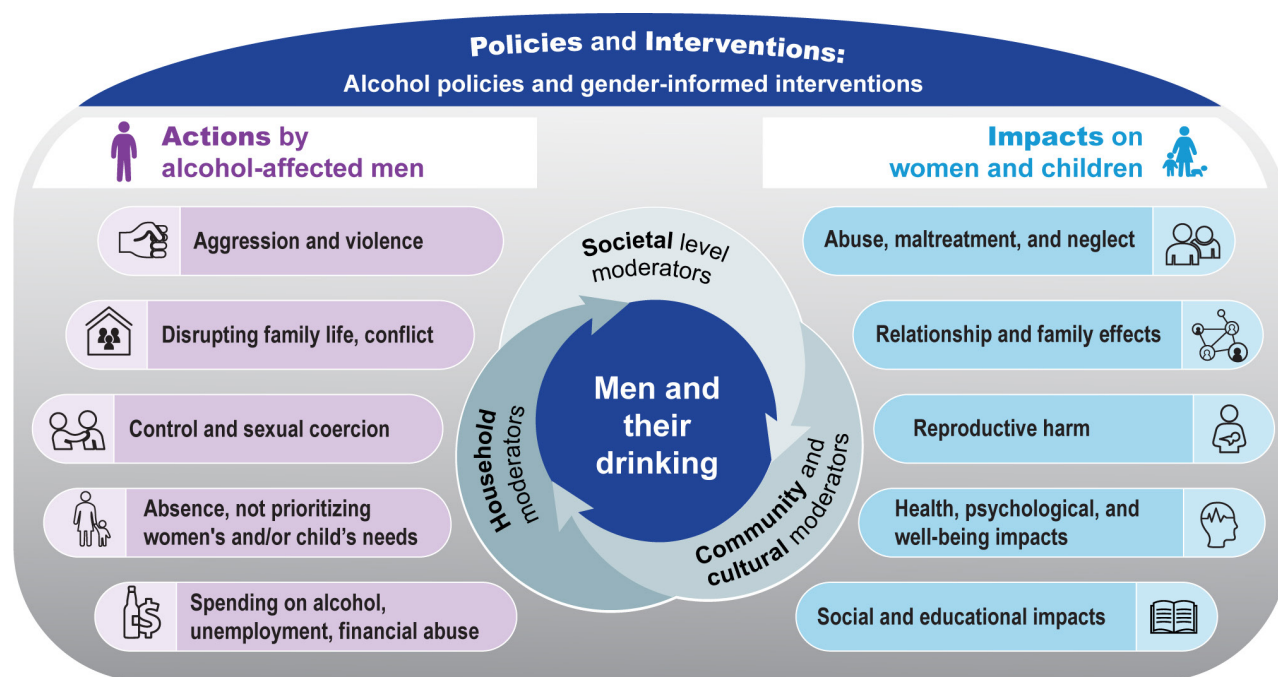
Intersectionality (Crenshaw, 1991) highlights how political and social identities result in privilege and discrimination. For example, factors such as race, gender, disability, sexuality, and class often intersect and overlap to create greater disadvantage for some groups and greater empowerment for others. In the case of intimate partner violence and alcohol use

(both separately and together), we see how these identities and factors may result in higher alcohol use and heightened vulnerability to violence for populations in low- and middle-income countries or those subject to multiple systemic oppressions, such as colonization and poverty. Along with gender inequality, these vulnerabilities interact to create greater disadvantage. Women suffer the greatest harm from men's alcohol use when they are poor or have fewer resources and when gender roles in the culture normalize harm to women, such as when violence toward a wife is considered a husband's right.

Thus, men's alcohol use can lead to a multitude of harms to women (Huhtanen & Tigerstedt, 2012; Radcliffe et al., 2021) and children globally (Giusto & Puffer, 2018; Hameed, 2019). Few studies have focused on the scope, extent, diversity, and long-term impact of the harm that men's alcohol use causes women and children, and few policy options specifically address these harms (Karriker-Jaffe et al., 2023; Wilson et al., 2014). In response, the World Health Organization–funded International Health Policy Program Foundation, based in the Ministry of Health, Thailand, in keeping with the Sustainable Development Goals relating to health and gender equality (United Nations, 2015), funded reviews of literature on harm to women from men's alcohol use (Wilson et al., 2024), harm to children from men's alcohol use (Hopkins et al., 2024), and potential policy directions to reduce harm from men's alcohol consumption (Karriker-Jaffe et al., 2023). This paper draws on the three published reviews and connects the key findings to inform policy, system responses, and service responses, forming an evidence base for advocacy and intervention.

The left side of Figure 1 shows the different ways that alcohol affects men's behavior relevant to harms to women and children, and the right side shows adverse consequences experienced by women and children from men's drinking. We discuss these actions and their consequences in more detail below. The circle and arrows in the center describe the factors and interventions at different levels that can moderate the relationship between men's alcohol-affected behavior and the impacts on women and children. These include household, community, cultural, and broader societal factors.



**Figure 1. A model for understanding harms affecting women and children from men's alcohol use**

How to read the diagram: In addition to alcohol policies and gender-informed interventions (at top), the factors presented in the center can change the relationships between the actions on the left (in purple) and the impacts on the right (in blue).

Source: Adapted from (Hopkins et al., 2024).

For example, personal affluence (household level) may protect women and children from some harms from men's drinking, while economic disadvantage could intensify some impacts. Community supports for women may help to lessen harms, while cultural factors such as local tolerance of alcohol-related intimate partner violence can increase the risk of more-severe harms. Similarly, societal level factors such as gender equality and economic development can moderate the extent to which men's alcohol-affected actions cause harm to women and children. Intersecting contextual determinants also may enhance men's power or create additional disadvantages for women and children. Thus, these proximal and structural factors and policies can, by their presence or absence, protect or disempower women and children. Finally, the figure shows the potential impact of policies and interventions directed toward decreasing men's drinking as well as toward reducing the harms from men's drinking. The following sections discuss this interplay of moderating factors, as well as some specific policies and interventions that may mitigate men's negative alcohol-related actions and protect women and children from harm.

## Harms to Women

There is a long history of women's movements calling for equality, safety, and security and acknowledging that women's lives and homes should be free from men's violence and heavy drinking. Yet there has been limited focus recently on how men's drinking can affect women's lives. Recent evidence from nine countries shows that many women, ranging from 4 percent of women in Nigeria to 33 percent of women in Vietnam, reported living with a harmful, heavy-drinking partner (Callinan et al., 2019). The United Nations Multi-Country Study on Men and Violence revealed that the odds of men reporting intimate partner violence perpetration were 3.4 times greater if they reported heavy episodic drinking, with the odds increasing further when men also reported less-equitable attitudes about women (Laslett et al., 2022).

Women experience the harmful actions of alcohol-affected men in different ways. Qualitative accounts from women provide nuanced perspectives on the alcohol-related harms that men inflict, with participants framing the role of alcohol critically and

insightfully. The harms and the short- and long-term impacts on women from men's alcohol use are described in the following sections.

### Alcohol-Related Actions and Harms by the Alcohol-Affected Man

The qualitative literature identifies multiple types of harmful actions by men related to their alcohol use and the effect of these actions on women. These actions range in severity. Women's descriptions reinforce quantitative evidence linking alcohol use to more-severe intimate partner violence (Cafferky et al., 2018; Graham et al., 2011). Women's reports in many studies substantiate the issues of sexual coercion and violence from an alcohol-affected partner, but alcohol-related intimate partner sexual violence has yet to receive much research attention. The role of and the response to men's alcohol use in economic abuse, such as withholding funds for household expenses or controlling a woman's earnings, are not yet well-studied either (Postmus et al., 2020).

Women's reports of men's acts of violence and aggression under the influence of alcohol include physical aggression, such as punching, kicking, burning, and use of weapons; verbal aggression, such as bullying and shouting; emotional abuse, such as humiliating or insulting; and intimidating actions, such as threatening death or injury and causing fear (Annan & Brier, 2010; Backe et al., 2022; Clark et al., 2019; Deuba et al., 2016; Keenan et al., 1998; Mazibuko & Umejesi, 2015; Satyanarayana et al., 2015; Sedziafa et al., 2016; Tamutienė & Laslett, 2017; Wilson et al., 2017).

Sexual aggression is consistently related to times when partners were alcohol-affected. Women describe being subjected to forced sex, sexual violence, and sexual coercion (Backe et al., 2022; Chowdhury et al., 2006; Guggisberg, 2019; Keenan et al., 1998; Mazibuko & Umejesi, 2015; Sedziafa et al., 2016; Tamutienė & Laslett, 2017; Wilson et al., 2017). Alcohol use also is reported to reduce the likelihood of men agreeing to safe sex, thereby increasing women's vulnerability to unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections (Cash, 2011; Fox et al., 2007; Kyriakakis et al., 2012).

"He was drunk and so he hit me because he was suspicious, just in case. ... It was because he was drunk, and I had come home from work really tired. ... It was always when he came home drunk."

(Lennon et al., 2021)

Women report that their partner's alcohol use is linked to economic abuse in several ways (Backe et al., 2022; Cash, 2011; Keenan et al., 1998; Kyriakakis et al., 2012; Nascimento et al., 2019; Wechsberg et al., 2013; Wilson et al., 2017). Men's spending on alcohol may leave insufficient funds for necessities such as food and clothing. Men's alcohol use also can lead to unemployment or missed work, thereby lowering family income and increasing women's work burden and risk of other harmful situations, such as forced prostitution. Further, financial problems for the family related to men's alcohol use may trigger conflicts that can escalate into violence toward women.

Some women describe men's alcohol use within a broader context of abusive and controlling behaviors (Cash, 2011; Chowdhury et al., 2006; Deuba et al., 2016; Gilchrist et al., 2019; Lennon et al., 2021; Keenan et al., 1998; Nascimento et al., 2019; Rao, 1997; Wechsberg et al., 2013; Wilson et al., 2020; Wilson et al., 2017), including restrictions on a woman's movement, social ties, work, and access to resources. Alcohol-related abuse and the fear a woman feels because of a man's drinking can facilitate the man's control and increase the woman's compliance. Sexual jealousy and resulting controlling behavior also are more likely when a man is intoxicated.

### Impacts of Men's Alcohol Use on Women's Health and Well-Being

The harms resulting from men's alcohol use are often hidden or not recognized as harms, although they affect not only women's health and well-being but also their whole lives (Wilson et al., 2024). Physical injuries from violence are not the only harm; men's alcohol use affects intimate relationships and family functioning, as well as women's mental health and social well-being. Men's alcohol use also decreases household stability and exacerbates women's economic disempowerment. These harms

further intersect and cascade to reinforce women's disadvantages, particularly in contexts where women are subject to other forms of discrimination.

**Harms to physical health.** The link between alcohol use and increased volatility and severity of intimate partner violence is well-established (Graham et al., 2011). Men affected by alcohol can inflict fatal harm and significant acute and long-term physical injury and disability on women through physical beatings (Backe et al., 2022; Fox et al., 2007; Kaur & Garg, 2010; Keenan et al., 1998; Mazibuko & Umejesi, 2015; Rao, 1997; Satyanarayana et al., 2015; Tamutienė & Laslett, 2017; Wechsberg et al., 2013; Wilson et al., 2019). Women also report other harms from men's alcohol use affecting their physical health, such as body aches and chronic pain, weight loss, and sleep difficulties (Nascimento et al., 2019; Satyanarayana et al., 2015).

**Reproductive harms,** including injuries, inability to conceive, child deaths, and unwanted pregnancies, can result from alcohol-involved violence during pregnancy and alcohol-related sexual aggression in general. In addition, some women describe men's alcohol use as increasing the likelihood of their partner's infidelity and risky sexual behaviors, thereby increasing women's risk of sexually transmitted infections, including HIV (Backe et al., 2022; Cash, 2011; Deuba et al., 2016; Fox et al., 2007; Kyriakakis et al., 2012).

"My partner, when he drinks, he doesn't have a cut-off point. He gets quite abusive when drinking. It's like two different people when alcohol is involved. I feel intimidated and scared when my partner is angry, and I feel the same when he is drunk. You know, things get a bit out of hand ... the sexual abuse.... When he has been drinking, then he is not a very nice person ... and I fight back and get upset."

(Guggisberg, 2019)

**Mental health harms** that women experience include psychological distress, reduced self-esteem and loss of identity, anxiety and depression, and suicidality (Bloom et al., 2022; Ezard, 2014; Hellum et al., 2022; Guggisberg, 2019; Kohli et al., 2015; Nascimento et al., 2019; Sørensen et al., 2017; Wilson et al., 2017;

"My husband, there was this thing that after he drank, when he comes into the house, we have to fight, the children cry and we have to fight, he would make a noise and he would hit me, and I must leave the house running."

(Backe et al., 2022)

Wilson et al., 2018; Wilson et al., 2019; Wilson et al., 2020). Women express fear and anxiety from the constant vigilance required from living with a partner who is aggressive when affected by alcohol. Women also may experience sadness, despair, and a feeling of helplessness because of their inability to change their partner's alcohol use.

Men's alcohol use also plays a role in marital conflict and decreased family functioning (Cash, 2011; Clark et al., 2019; Nascimento et al., 2019; Rao, 1997; Satyanarayana et al., 2015; Sedziafa et al., 2016; Sørensen et al., 2017; Stöckl & Gardner, 2013; Tamutienė & Laslett, 2017; Wilson et al., 2020; Wilson et al., 2019). Women describe their male partners' intoxication as contributing to verbal aggression, jealous accusations, and fights triggering violence. Men's alcohol use also causes relational conflict; in particular, when women question or challenge men about their alcohol use and its impact on the family, men often counter with threats and violence.

In addition, women describe social harms linked to a partner's alcohol use, including loneliness, shame, social isolation, and even self-isolation, as a way to avoid anticipated humiliation or situations that would trigger memories of abuse (Cash, 2011; Ezard, 2014; Hellum et al., 2022; Kyriakakis et al., 2012; Kohli et al., 2015; Mazibuko & Umejesi, 2015; Nascimento et al., 2019; Satyanarayana et al., 2015; Sørensen et al., 2017; Stöckl & Gardner, 2013; Tamutienė & Laslett, 2017; Wilson et al., 2020).

## Framing the Role of Alcohol

The qualitative literature reveals that women who consistently experience harm from a partner who is alcohol-affected often frame alcohol as a main cause of intimate partner violence and other harms, or as a trigger for conflict or escalation to violence (Annan & Brier, 2010; Bloom et al., 2022; Clark et al., 2019; Deuba et al., 2016; Galvani, 2006; Gilchrist et al.,



2019; Kaur & Garg, 2010; Keenan et al., 1998; Kohli et al., 2015; Mazibuko & Umejesi, 2015; Radcliffe et al., 2021; Rao, 1997; Wilson et al., 2017).

Studies also show that women commonly describe different sides of their partner, distinguishing the sober “good man” from the intoxicated or drunk “bad man” (Bloom et al., 2022; Hellum et al., 2022; Mazibuko & Umejesi, 2015; Wilson et al., 2017). This framing is not always present, however; some women question a causal link between alcohol and violence and note that violence also occurs when their husbands are not drinking (Kaur & Garg, 2010). Women’s qualitative descriptions of alcohol’s role in the harm they experience reflect an ongoing debate about alcohol’s causal role in violence toward women, as well as alcohol being an excuse for violence (Gilchrist et al., 2019; Leonard & Quigley, 2017). Although the role of alcohol use in men’s perpetration of violence is complex, it is important that any research on this topic take women’s lived experiences into account.

“My husband beats me whenever he is drunk. He is not always drunk, though. He is a nice person when he is sober.”

(Mazibuko & Umejesi, 2015)

## Harms to Children

The prevalence of children living with individuals who have problematic drinking patterns varies widely. A European study spanning 19 countries found rates of exposure ranging from 6.2 percent of children in Italy to 35.2 percent of children in Lithuania (Tamutienė & Stumbrys, 2023). Although both paternal and maternal alcohol use can negatively affect children, men are more likely than women to drink and to drink heavily (World Health Organization, 2024a). As a result, more children may be exposed to men’s drinking and potential harm than to women’s. In fact, in 17 of the 19 countries included in the European study, children were significantly more likely to reside with men who self-reported problematic alcohol consumption than with women who self-reported this behavior (Tamutienė & Stumbrys, 2023).

“It interferes because he would rather spend his money on alcohol than spending with the children. Drink is the priority, we sometimes lack food, but not drink.”

(Nascimento et al., 2019)

Men’s alcohol consumption within the family is linked to direct and indirect harm to children (Karriker-Jaffe et al., 2023). The harms can be categorized into four areas: (1) relationships and family; (2) violence and maltreatment; (3) health, development, psychological, and well-being impacts; and (4) social and educational outcomes.

### Relationships and Family

Heavy drinking by men in the family is associated with negative outcomes, including marital discord, conflict, and reduced family cohesion (Allen et al., 2022; Giusto & Puffer, 2018; Hameed, 2019; Heimdahl & Karlsson 2016; Orford, 1990; Park & Schepp, 2015b). Parental alcohol use also can negatively affect parent–child relations (Hameed, 2019; McGovern et al., 2020; Orford, 1990; Park & Schepp, 2015b; Solis et al., 2012). Children of fathers who drink heavily may feel less emotionally close to their fathers, possibly because of the impact of the father’s drinking on conflict within the home, neglect of family responsibilities, or estrangement.

### Violence and Maltreatment

Men’s heavy drinking can create a toxic family environment, compromising the safety of children, who may become targets of violence and witness violence against others (Allen et al., 2022; Chan et al., 2021; Choenni et al., 2017; Hameed, 2019; Isobe et al., 2020; Orford, 1990). Both direct and indirect exposure to increased violence and conflict within the household adversely impact children’s development and their mental and physical well-being (Hameed, 2019). Violence between adults in a household also has been linked to increased risk of child abuse and neglect (Chan et al., 2021; McTavish et al., 2016). Although several reviews have identified a link between parental heavy drinking and child maltreatment (Choenni et al., 2017; Karriker-Jaffe et

al., 2023; McGovern et al., 2021; Orford, 1990; Solis et al., 2012), most studies do not differentiate between the father's and mother's drinking.

### Health, Development, Psychological, and Well-Being Impacts

Men's heavy drinking can contribute to a range of negative physical and psychological outcomes for children, both at a specific time and lasting into adulthood (Park & Schepp, 2015a). Evidence suggests a father's heavy alcohol consumption may be associated with aggressive behavior among children, hyperactivity disorders (mixed results), and adolescent drinking (McGovern et al., 2020).

The effects of men's heavy drinking on children can be moderated by risk and protective factors that affect children's vulnerability or resilience. Protective factors such as a secure relationship or better parenting by a non-alcohol-affected parent (often the mother) can buffer some of the negative effects of another parent's (often the father's) alcohol use disorder on children (Park & Schepp, 2015a). In addition, resilience and positive coping strategies such as engagement with community or religious organizations and obtaining social support may help mitigate negative alcohol-related outcomes (Włodarczyk et al., 2017). Children whose parents have an alcohol use disorder also may take on caregiving roles, though assuming these roles can lead to poor self-concept, a sense of isolation, and other emotional problems, such as difficulties with trust later in life (Jokinen et al., 2021).

### Social and Educational Outcomes

Generally, disruptions to the family environment from the father's and other male relatives' drinking can negatively impact children's schooling outcomes. Fathers' heavy drinking has been linked to educational challenges for their children, including school-related behavioral problems and lower educational attainment (McGovern et al., 2020). School behavioral problems associated with paternal alcohol misuse may include truancy, absenteeism, suspensions, attention difficulties, and conduct problems. Evidence suggests that the number of male relatives with an alcohol use disorder affects children's risk of deficits in verbal and abstract reasoning, verbal

learning, performance IQ, and memory (Solis et al., 2012). Effects on children's learning differ across developmental stages, suggesting that the interplay of resilience and risk factors can vary over the life course (Solis et al., 2012).

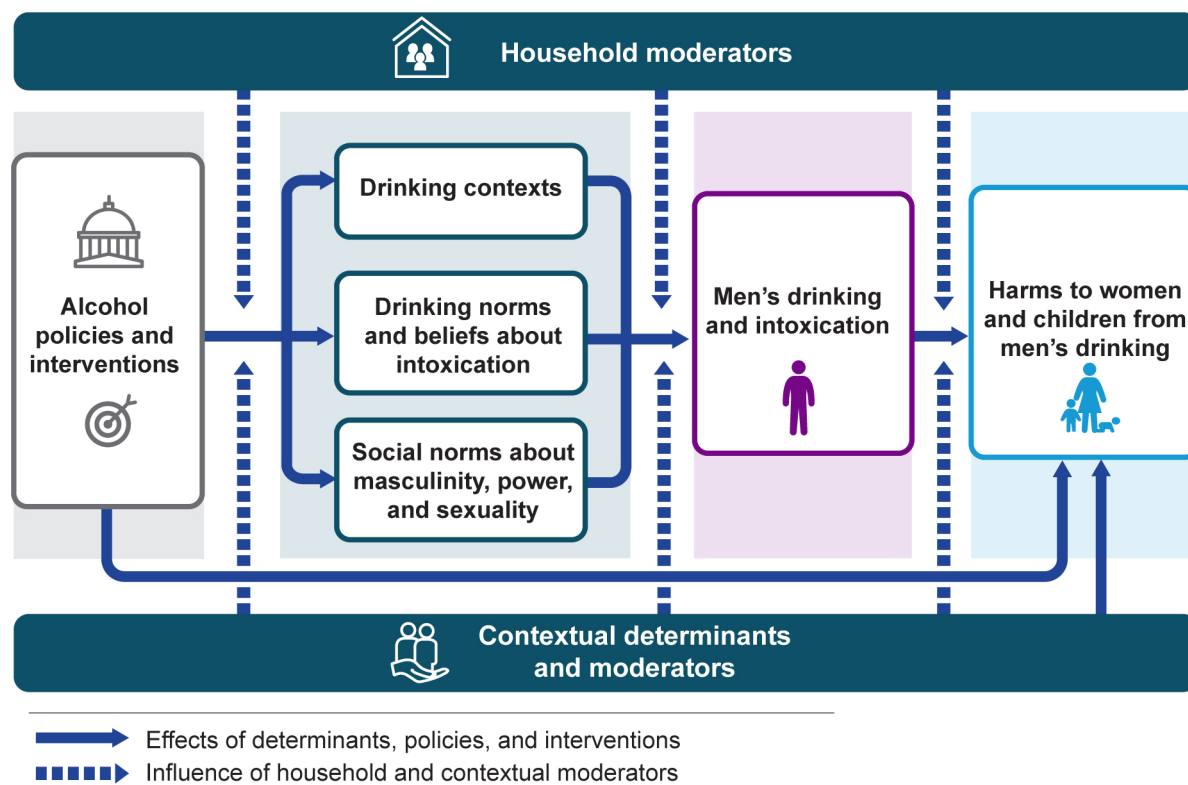
### An Expanded Model for Understanding Harms to Women and Children from Men's Alcohol Use

Figure 2 highlights community, cultural, and household factors that may modify the associations between men's alcohol use and harm to women and children. These moderators include contextual determinants and household factors that can intensify the impacts of men's alcohol use (e.g., poverty, gender inequality) or lessen them (e.g., women's access to emotional support and financial assets), as described below.

#### Community- and Societal-Level Contexts

Community- and societal-level contexts contribute to harms that women and children experience because of men's alcohol use (Allan et al., 2012; Laslett et al., 2019). Community-based factors may include socioeconomic disadvantage, social disorganization, available supports and treatment services, and the number of retail alcohol outlets and licensed (or unlicensed) premises in an area. Cultural factors may include social norms around alcohol use and women's roles, other distinguishing features of a community (for instance, unique elements of life in rural Australia or on a tea estate in Sri Lanka), religiosity, and community or group characteristics seen in heavy-drinking social worlds. For example, norms that place men in positions of power relative to women have been linked to higher levels of alcohol use among men and to alcohol-related consequences for children and families (Laslett et al., 2021; Laslett et al., 2022; Lisco et al., 2015). Hegemonic masculinity norms also can contribute to increased household violence, where children may become direct or indirect victims of violent behavior (Giusto & Puffer, 2018). As discussed above, women's experiences demonstrate the ways men's entitlement to drink is inviolable and illustrate how attempts to question it can trigger conflict and risk of significant harm.

**Figure 2. A model providing possibilities for integrating cost-effective policy interventions for reducing the harms from men's alcohol use on women and children**



How to read the diagram: Follow the solid arrows to view the effects of determinants, policies, and interventions on specific outcomes. Follow the dashed arrows to understand the influence of household and contextual moderators.

Source: Adapted from Karriker-Jaffe et al., 2023.

Thus, research and policy on alcohol-related harm to women and children need to explicitly target the culture of men's alcohol use that enables such attitudes to persist.

A socio-ecological perspective (Bronfenbrenner, 1979; McLeroy et al., 1988) considers the interplay of these community and societal factors in relation to the impacts on women and children associated with men's alcohol use. For example, although a community's cultural norms that privilege men's alcohol use can facilitate harms to women and children, these harms may be especially pronounced in societies with greater gender inequality (Giusto & Puffer, 2018; Huq et al., 2021; Wilson et al., 2024). In contrast, legal systems that punish men for alcohol-related violence toward women may decrease the likelihood of such harms, even in communities with norms that support heavy alcohol use by men.

### Intersecting Contextual Determinants

Social determinants, poverty, and gender inequality can interact with each other and with men's alcohol use to determine the harms women and children experience (Blagg et al., 2018; Heise & Kotsadam, 2015; Our Watch, 2021). High rates of poverty have been associated with exacerbated individual and family consequences of men's alcohol use (Giusto & Puffer, 2018). Societal gender inequalities also can compound harms to women. Gender inequality exists in all societies where men have disproportionate power over women, which is reinforced by physiological differences as well as gendered social norms that ascribe hierarchical roles to men and women. Patriarchal social systems that privilege men's economic, legal, and political power over women also facilitate gender inequality. The disproportionate power of men, combined with their higher alcohol

consumption and a lack of restraint on drinking behavior, may result in significant and frequent harm to both women and children.

## **The Need for Policies and Gender-Informed Interventions to Reduce Harms to Women and Children**

Evaluations that have identified cost-effective alcohol policies have generally not examined the effects of these policies on harms to women and children from men's alcohol use. This section summarizes a review of global research on the impacts of cost-effective alcohol policies on harms to women and children resulting from men's alcohol consumption (Karriker-Jaffe et al., 2023) and describes the potential for complementary interventions to enhance gender-responsiveness (World Health Organization, 2024b) and reduce harm.

Policy interventions identified as cost-effective for reducing alcohol-related harms include “best buys” (World Health Organization, 2018b, 2021), such as increasing alcohol taxes and prices, reducing availability of alcohol (regulating density of alcohol outlets, limiting hours and days of sale, establishing or raising the legal purchasing age), and banning or comprehensively restricting alcohol marketing and advertising (Babor et al., 2022; World Health Organization, 2018b, 2021). Gender-responsive extensions of these policies include interventions such as promoting women's employment outside the alcohol sector and mobilizing civil society groups and local organizations to counteract alcohol advertising targeting certain groups, such as women (World Health Organization, 2024b). At present, however, the effects of these “best buy” policies specifically on the harm to women and children are less-studied than the effects of these policies on the people consuming alcohol, with studies of child abuse and neglect being particularly rare (except for studies by Freisthler et al., 2007, 2008 and by Markowitz & Grossman, 1998, 2000).

Given the secondary effects of men's alcohol consumption on women and children, one direction might be to pair alcohol policies with comprehensive community interventions and individually focused strategies to facilitate a focus on harms specific to women and children from men's alcohol use. The

model in Figure 2 above suggests possibilities for integrating cost-effective policy interventions (World Health Organization, 2018b; 2021) with evidence-based, theoretically informed interventions to (1) change the drinking context, (2) modify drinking norms, (3) adapt individually focused interventions, and (4) address elements of power that contribute to harms that women and children experience because of men's alcohol consumption.

Interventions to change the drinking context include bystander intervention training programs for staff of venues that sell alcohol, as well as enhanced policy and enforcement interventions that focus on licensed and unlicensed premises where alcohol is sold for on-site consumption. Interventions to modify drinking norms include comprehensive community approaches. These strategies are most effective when they are based in local leadership and include multiple interventions and alcohol control policies that are both enacted and enforced. These comprehensive strategies can reduce problems associated with public alcohol consumption, including violence (Hauritz et al., 1998; Homel et al., 1997).

Another strategy is to declare “dry zones” where no alcohol consumption is permitted. Commonly, these zones are focused on public places such as parks and roads, although some localities declare certain homes or entire municipalities as dry, where alcohol sales are not permitted or where certain sales practices such as “liquor by the drink” are restricted. Individually focused interventions might include strategies such as rationing alcohol or banning alcohol consumption by people convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol. These strategies are similar in many ways to license suspension, which is more common. Finally, increased access to specialized alcohol treatment is another important strategy to reduce harms to women and children resulting from men's alcohol use.

Interventions also are needed to address elements of power that contribute to harm. Gender-transformative approaches remove structural barriers and reduce gender inequalities to empower women and girls (Marcus et al., 2022). A review of interventions to reduce alcohol consumption found little evidence of the effects of these interventions on intimate partner violence (Wilson et al., 2014),



and none of the interventions specifically addressed the social norms and power structures that can exacerbate these harms. In fact, some research with alcohol policy-makers suggests little interest in addressing gender issues at all (Farrugia et al., 2022). Research on violence has identified the importance of approaches that address gender norms that contribute to violence (Jewkes et al., 2015); however, we found no interventions focused on harms to women, including violence, from men's drinking that have adopted a gender-transformative approach. As suggested by Jewkes and colleagues (2015), such an approach would, for example, address social roles relating to masculinity and how these relate to men's drinking. Other approaches might not focus on alcohol at all but rather focus on women's financial independence, which could mitigate harm from the man's alcohol use.

Studies highlight multiple disadvantages (intersectionality) for women from men's alcohol use in low- and middle-income countries, where alcohol use is increasing (Babor et al., 2022) and which carry a disproportionate burden of harmful alcohol use (Room et al., 2022; Sørensen, et al., 2022). Thus, future studies and interventions need to tailor prevention and response programs to these heterogeneous contexts and acknowledge the intersectionality of the problems of alcohol use, harms to women, and poverty often found in low- and middle-income countries.

## The Way Forward

Reducing men's alcohol use and alcohol-related harm to women and children will help meet the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (United Nations, 2015) relating to ending discrimination and violence against women and girls (SDG Targets 5.1 and 5.2) (World Health Organization, 2020). This evidence review has highlighted key findings to inform that path. In summary:

- Men's alcohol use causes a multitude of harms to women and children. Harms often are hidden or unrecognized, and many are cascading, cumulative, and interactive. For example, little research has focused on financial harms from

men's drinking, despite potential impacts on schooling and other opportunities for children and women in the household.

- Harms are greater in low- and middle-income countries where women have fewer resources and options and where both women and children tend to be more disempowered. More harms occur in countries and subcultures with greater gender inequality. Women suffer the most harm when they are poor or have few resources and when gender roles in the culture normalize control of women.
- Alcohol policies and other interventions to reduce harm should center gender and be gender-transformative to advance women's and children's health.

Addressing the issue of harms to women and children from men's alcohol use requires an intersectoral (e.g., health, legal, social services) and multitiered approach with actionable steps for policy-makers, service providers, community organizations, and researchers. Given the policy, programmatic, research, and requisite funding implications of this work, we provide concrete steps for each of these parties below.

To advance global and regional alcohol policy that includes response to harms that women and children suffer because of men's alcohol use, decision-makers should explicitly consider evidence on these harms. Increasing resource allocations may help prevent and respond to such harms. More monitoring and evaluation is needed for intersectoral programs to prevent and respond to alcohol-related harms to women and children. In addition to evidence-based alcohol policies, policies that help women and children, such as those that reduce poverty, increase women's economic empowerment, and protect children, also will reduce the alcohol-related harms they experience. Future research could include impacts on women and children as outcomes examined in any policy or program evaluations.

Civil society and community-based organizations could educate communities about harms experienced by women and children from men's alcohol use through public awareness and advocacy campaigns. Partnerships with local community and governing bodies may encourage enactment of alcohol



control and related policies that protect women and children from alcohol-related harm. Intentional and meaningful inclusion of community members in co-creation and delivery of effective interventions also may help reduce harm to women and children from men's alcohol use.

Researchers could examine the policies currently designated as effective and evaluate the extent to which these policies reduce harms to women and children from men's alcohol use. Both quantitative and qualitative research could inform development and evaluation of policies to reduce these harms, including a range of policies and interventions beyond those focused solely on alcohol. Communities may be valuable partners able to identify and prioritize alcohol-related harm using participatory, women- and child-centered methods that amplify

the voices of those affected by men's alcohol use. Cross-cultural studies may help describe and address the intersectionality of alcohol use and its harms to women and children in diverse contexts. Dedicated financial resources for researchers, program developers, clinicians, and others would enable collaboration across sectors to address harms to women and children from men's alcohol use, using programmatic and policy efforts that have been shown to reduce these alcohol-related harms in societies around the world.

---

## Data Availability Statement

In this publication, we do not report on, analyze, or generate any data.

---

## References

- Allan, J., Clifford, A., Ball, P., Alston, M., & Meister, P. (2012). 'You're less complete if you haven't got a can in your hand': Alcohol consumption and related harmful effects in rural Australia: The role and influence of cultural capital. *Alcohol and Alcoholism*, 47(5), 624–629. <https://doi.org/10.1093/alcalc/ags074>
- Allen, K., Melendez-Torres, G. J., Ford, T., Bonell, C., Finning, K., Fredlund, M., Gainsbury, A., & Berry, V. (2022). Family focused interventions that address parental domestic violence and abuse, mental ill-health, and substance misuse in combination: A systematic review. *PLoS One*, 17(7), e0270894. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0270894>
- Annan, J., & Brier, M. (2010). The risk of return: Intimate partner violence in northern Uganda's armed conflict. *Social Science & Medicine*, 70(1), 152–159. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2009.09.027>
- Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). (2023). *Personal Safety, Australia*. <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/crime-and-justice/personal-safety-australia/latest-release>
- Babor, T., Caetano, R., Casswell, S., Edwards, G., Giesbrecht, N., Graham, K., Grube, J. W., Hill, L., Holder, H., Homel, R., Livingston, M., Österberg, E., Rehm, J., Room, R., & Rossow, I. (2010). *Alcohol: No ordinary commodity: Research and public policy* (2nd ed.). Oxford University Press. <https://doi.org/10.1093/acprof:oso/9780199551149.001.0001>
- Babor, T., Casswell, S., Graham, K., Huckle, T., Livingston, M., Österberg, E., Rehm, J., Room, R., Rossow, I., & Sornpaisarn, B. (2022). *Alcohol: No ordinary commodity* (3rd ed.). Oxford University Press. <https://doi.org/10.1093/oso/9780192844484.001.0001>
- Backe, E. L., Bosire, E., & Mendenhall, E. (2022). "Drinking too much, fighting too much": The dual "disasters" of intimate partner violence and alcohol use in South Africa. *Violence Against Women*, 28(10), 2312–2333. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10778012211034206>
- Blagg, H., Williams, E., Cummings, E., Hovane, V., Torres, M., & Woodley, K. N. (2018). Innovative models in addressing violence against Indigenous women. *ANROWS Horizons*, 1. [https://anrows.intersearch.com.au/anrowsjspui/bitstream/1/19739/1/4\\_3-Blagg-Final-Report.pdf](https://anrows.intersearch.com.au/anrowsjspui/bitstream/1/19739/1/4_3-Blagg-Final-Report.pdf)

- Bloom, B. E., Hamilton, K., Adeke, B., Tuhebwe, D., Atuyambe, L. M., & Kiene, S. M. (2022). 'Endure and excuse': A mixed-methods study to understand disclosure of intimate partner violence among women living with HIV in Uganda. *Culture, Health & Sexuality*, 24(4), 499–516. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13691058.2020.1861328>
- Bronfenbrenner, U. (1979). *The ecology of human development: Experiments by nature and design*. Harvard University Press. [https://khoerulanwarbk.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/urie\\_bronfenbrenner\\_the\\_ecology\\_of\\_human\\_developbokos-z1.pdf](https://khoerulanwarbk.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/urie_bronfenbrenner_the_ecology_of_human_developbokos-z1.pdf)
- Cafferky, B. M., Mendez, M., Anderson, J. R., & Stith, S. M. (2018). Substance use and intimate partner violence: A meta-analytic review. *Psychology of Violence*, 8(1), 110–131. <https://doi.org/10.1037/vio0000074>
- Callinan, S., Rankin, G., Room, R., Stanesby, O., Rao, G., Waleewong, O., Greenfield, T. K., Hope, A., & Laslett, A. M. (2019). Harms from a partner's drinking: An international study on adverse effects and reduced quality of life for women. *The American Journal of Drug and Alcohol Abuse*, 45(2), 170–178. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00952990.2018.1540632>
- Cash, K. (2011). What's shame got to do with it: Forced sex among married or steady partners in Uganda. *African Journal of Reproductive Health*, 15(3), 25–40. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/41762343>
- Chan, K. L., Chen, Q., & Chen, M. (2021). Prevalence and correlates of the co-occurrence of family violence: A meta-analysis on family polyvictimization. *Trauma, Violence & Abuse*, 22(2), 289–305. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1524838019841601>
- Choenni, V., Hammink, A., & van de Mheen, D. (2017). Association between substance use and the perpetration of family violence in industrialized countries: A systematic review. *Trauma, Violence & Abuse*, 18(1), 37–50. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1524838015589253>
- Chowdhury, A. N., Ramakrishna, J., Chakraborty, A. K., & Weiss, M. G. (2006). Cultural context and impact of alcohol use in the Sundarban Delta, West Bengal, India. *Social Science & Medicine*, 63(3), 722–731. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2006.02.006>
- Clark, C. J., Ferguson, G., Shrestha, B., Shrestha, P. N., Batayeh, B., Bergenfeld, I., Chang, S., McGhee, S. (2019). Mixed methods assessment of women's risk of intimate partner violence in Nepal. *BMC Women's Health*, 19(1), 20. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12905-019-0715-4>
- Crenshaw, K. (1991). Mapping the margins: Intersectionality, identity politics, and violence against women of color. *Stanford Law Review*, 43(6), 1241–1299. <https://doi.org/10.2307/1229039>
- Deuba, K., Mainali, A., Alvesson, H. M., & Karki, D. K. (2016). Experience of intimate partner violence among young pregnant women in urban slums of Kathmandu Valley, Nepal: A qualitative study. *BMC Women's Health*, 16, 11. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12905-016-0293-7>
- Ezard, N. (2014). It's not just the alcohol: Gender, alcohol use, and intimate partner violence in Mae La refugee camp, Thailand, 2009. *Substance Use & Misuse*, 49(6), 684–693. <https://doi.org/10.3109/10826084.2013.863343>
- Farrugia, A., Moore, D., Keane, H., Ekendahl, M., Graham, K., & Duncan, D. (2022). Noticed and then forgotten: Gender in alcohol policy stakeholder responses to alcohol and violence. *Qualitative Health Research*, 32(10), 1419–1432. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10497323221110092>
- Fox, A. M., Jackson, S. S., Hansen, N. B., Gasa, N., Crewe, M., & Sikkema, K. J. (2007). In their own voices: A qualitative study of women's risk for intimate partner violence and HIV in South Africa. *Violence Against Women*, 13(6), 583–602. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1077801207299209>
- Freisthler, B., Gruenewald, P. J., Remer, L. G., Lery, B., & Needell, B. (2007). Exploring the spatial dynamics of alcohol outlets and Child Protective Services referrals, substantiations, and foster care entries. *Child Maltreatment*, 12(2), 114–124. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1077559507300107>
- Freisthler, B., Gruenewald, P. J., Ring, L., & LaScala, E. A. (2008). An ecological assessment of the population and environmental correlates of childhood accident, assault, and child abuse injuries. *Alcoholism, Clinical and Experimental Research*, 32(11), 1969–1975. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1530-0277.2008.00785.x>
- Galvani, S. (2006). Alcohol and domestic violence: Women's views. *Violence Against Women*, 12(7), 641–662. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1077801206290238>

- Gilchrist, G., Dennis, F., Radcliffe, P., Henderson, J., Howard, L. M., & Gadd, D. (2019). The interplay between substance use and intimate partner violence perpetration: A meta-ethnography. *The International Journal on Drug Policy*, 65, 8–23. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.drugpo.2018.12.009>
- Giusto, A., & Puffer, E. (2018). A systematic review of interventions targeting men's alcohol use and family relationships in low- and middle-income countries. *Global Mental Health (Cambridge, England)*, 5, e10. <https://doi.org/10.1017/gmh.2017.32>
- Graham, K., Bernards, S., Knibbe, R., Kairouz, S., Kuntsche, S., Wilsnack, S. C., Greenfield, T. K., Dietze, P., Obot, I., & Gmel, G. (2011). Alcohol-related negative consequences among drinkers around the world. *Addiction (Abingdon, England)*, 106(8), 1391–1405. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1360-0443.2011.03425.x>
- Guggisberg, M. (2019). Aboriginal women's experiences with intimate partner sexual violence and the dangerous lives they live as a result of victimization. *Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment & Trauma*, 28(2), 186–204. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10926771.2018.1508106>
- Hameed, M. A. (2019). The tripartite tragedy: Alcohol and other drugs, intimate partner violence and child abuse. *Children Australia*, 44(1), 32–41. <https://doi.org/10.1017/cha.2018.52>
- Haugland, S. H., Holmen, T. L., Krokstad, S., Sund, E. R., & Bratberg, G. H. (2015). Intergenerational hazardous alcohol use and area factors: The HUNT study, Norway. *Substance Use & Misuse*, 50(14), 1753–1764. <https://doi.org/10.3109/10826084.2015.1037396>
- Hauritz, M., Homel, R., Mcilwain, G., Burrows, T., & Townsley, M. (1998). Reducing violence in licensed venues through community safety action projects: The Queensland experience. *Contemporary Drug Problems*, 25(3), 511–551. <https://doi.org/10.1177/009145099802500306>
- Heimdahl, K., & Karlsson, P. (2016). Psychosocial interventions for substance-abusing parents and their young children: A scoping review. *Addiction Research and Theory*, 24(3), 236–247. <https://doi.org/10.3109/16066359.2015.1118064>
- Heise, L. L., & Kotsadam, A. (2015). Cross-national and multilevel correlates of partner violence: An analysis of data from population-based surveys. *The Lancet. Global Health*, 3(6), e332–e340. [https://doi.org/10.1016/s2214-109x\(15\)00013-3](https://doi.org/10.1016/s2214-109x(15)00013-3)
- Hellum, R., Bilberg, R., & Nielsen, A. S. (2022). “He is lovely and awful”: The challenges of being close to an individual with alcohol problems. *Nordic Studies on Alcohol and Drugs*, 39(1), 89–104. <https://doi.org/10.1177/14550725211044861>
- Homel, R., Hauritz, M., Wortley, R., Mcilwain, G., & Carvolth, R. (1997). Preventing alcohol-related crime through community action: The Surfers Paradise Safety Action Project. In R. Homel (Ed.), *Policing for prevention: Reducing crime, public intoxication and injury* (pp. 35–90). Crime Prevention Studies, Vol 7. Criminal Justice Press.
- Hopkins, C., Håvås Haugland, S., Greenfield, T. K., Tamutienė, I., Hettige, S., & Laslett, A.-M. (2024). Harms to children from men's heavy drinking: A scoping review. *International Journal of Alcohol and Drug Research*, 12(2), 85–100. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.7895/ijadr.523>
- Huhtanen, P., & Tigerstedt, C. (2012). Women and young adults suffer most from other people's drinking. *Drug and Alcohol Review*, 31(7), 841–846. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1465-3362.2012.00480.x>
- Huq, T., Alexander, E. C., Manikam, L., Jokinen, T., Patil, P., Benjumea, D., Das, I., & Davidson, L. L. (2021). A systematic review of household and family alcohol use and childhood neurodevelopmental outcomes in low- and middle-income countries. *Child Psychiatry and Human Development*, 52(6), 1194–1217. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10578-020-01112-3>
- Isobe, J., Healey, L., & Humphreys, C. (2020). A critical interpretive synthesis of the intersection of domestic violence with parental issues of mental health and substance misuse. *Health & Social Care in the Community*, 28(5), 1394–1407. <https://doi.org/10.1111/hsc.12978>
- Jewkes, R., Flood, M., & Lang, J. (2015). From work with men and boys to changes of social norms and reduction of inequities in gender relations: A conceptual shift in prevention of violence against women and girls. *Lancet*, 385(9977), 1580–1589. [https://doi.org/10.1016/s0140-6736\(14\)61683-4](https://doi.org/10.1016/s0140-6736(14)61683-4)
- Jokinen, T., Alexander, E. C., Manikam, L., Huq, T., Patil, P., Benjumea, D., Das, I., & Davidson, L. L. (2021). A systematic review of household and family alcohol use and adolescent behavioural outcomes in low- and middle-income countries. *Child Psychiatry and Human Development*, 52(4), 554–570. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10578-020-01038-w>

- Karriker-Jaffe, K. J., Blackburn, N., Graham, K., Walker, M. J., Room, R., Wilson, I. M., Waleewong, O., Gilchrist, G., Ramsoomar, L., & Laslett, A. M. (2023). Can alcohol policy prevent harms to women and children from men's alcohol consumption? An overview of existing literature and suggested ways forward. *International Journal on Drug Policy*, 119, 104148. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.drugpo.2023.104148>
- Kaur, R., & Garg, S. (2010). Domestic violence against women: A qualitative study in a rural community. *Asia-Pacific Journal of Public Health*, 22(2), 242–251. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1010539509343949>
- Keenan, C. K., el-Hadad, A., & Balian, S. A. (1998). Factors associated with domestic violence in low-income Lebanese families. *Image—the Journal of Nursing Scholarship*, 30(4), 357–362. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1547-5069.1998.tb01333.x>
- Kohli, A., Perrin, N., Mpanano, R. M., Banywesize, L., Mirindi, A. B., Banywesize, J. H., Mitima, C. M., Binkurhorhwa, A. K., Bufole, N. M., & Glass, N. (2015). Family and community driven response to intimate partner violence in post-conflict settings. *Social Science & Medicine*, 146, 276–284. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2015.10.011>
- Kyriakakis, S., Dawson, B. A., & Edmond, T. (2012). Mexican immigrant survivors of intimate partner violence: Conceptualization and descriptions of abuse. *Violence and Victims*, 27(4), 548–562. <https://doi.org/10.1891/0886-6708.27.4.548>
- Laslett, A.-M., Cook, M., Ramsoomar, L., Morojele, N., & Waleewong, O. (2024). Alcohol's impact on the health and wellbeing of women in low- and middle-income countries: An integrative review. *International Journal of Alcohol and Drug Research*, 12(S2), S120–S138. <https://doi.org/10.7895/ijadr.471>
- Laslett, A.-M., Graham, K., Wilson, I. M., Kuntsche, S., Fulu, E., Jewkes, R., & Taft, A. (2021). Does drinking modify the relationship between men's gender-inequitable attitudes and their perpetration of intimate partner violence? A meta-analysis of surveys of men from seven countries in the Asia Pacific region. *Addiction*, 116(12), 3320–3332. <https://doi.org/10.1111/add.15485>
- Laslett, A.-M., Kuntsche, S., Wilson, I. M., Taft, A., Fulu, E., Jewkes, R., & Graham, K. (2022). The relationship between fathers' heavy episodic drinking and fathering involvement in five Asia-Pacific countries: An individual participant data meta-analysis. *Alcoholism, Clinical and Experimental Research*, 46(12), 2137–2148. <https://doi.org/10.1111/acer.14955>
- Laslett, A. M., Room, R., Waleewong, O., Stanesby, O., & Callinan, S. (Eds.) (2019). *Harm to others from drinking: Patterns in nine societies*. World Health Organization. <https://iris.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665/329393/9789241515368-eng.pdf>
- Lennon, S. E., Aramburo, A. M. R., Garzón, E. M. M., Arboleda, M. A., Fandiño-Losada, A., Pacichana-Quinayaz, S. G., Muñoz, G. I. R., & Gutiérrez-Martínez, M. I. (2021). A qualitative study on factors associated with intimate partner violence in Colombia. *Ciencia & Saude Coletiva*, 26(9), 4205–4216. <https://doi.org/10.1590/1413-81232021269.21092020>
- Leonard, K. E., & Quigley, B. M. (2017). Thirty years of research show alcohol to be a cause of intimate partner violence: Future research needs to identify who to treat and how to treat them. *Drug and Alcohol Review*, 36(1), 7–9. <https://doi.org/10.1111/dar.12434>
- Lisco, C. G., Leone, R. M., Gallagher, K. E., & Parrott, D. J. (2015). “Demonstrating masculinity” via intimate partner aggression: The moderating effect of heavy episodic drinking. *Sex Roles*, 73, 58–69. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11199-015-0500-2>
- Marcus, R., Samuels, F., Jalal, S., & Belachew, H. (2022). *Gender-transformative programming*. Background paper series: UNICEF Gender Policy and Action Plan 2022–2025. UNICEF. <https://www.unicef.org/lac/en/media/43146/file>
- Markowitz, S., & Grossman, M. (1998). Alcohol regulation and domestic violence towards children. *Contemporary Economic Policy*, 16(3), 309–320. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1465-7287.1998.tb00521.x>
- Markowitz, S., & Grossman, M. (2000). The effects of beer taxes on physical child abuse. *Journal of Health Economics*, 19(2), 271–282. [https://doi.org/10.1016/s0167-6296\(99\)00025-9](https://doi.org/10.1016/s0167-6296(99)00025-9)
- Mazibuko, N., & Umejesi, I. (2015). Blame it on alcohol: Passing the buck on domestic violence and addiction. *Géneros: Multidisciplinary Journal of Gender Studies*, 4(2), 718–738. <https://doi.org/10.17583/generos.2015.1325>



- McGovern, R., Gilvarry, E., Addison, M., Alderson, H., Geijer-Simpson, E., Lingam, R., Smart, D., & Kaner, E. (2020). The association between adverse child health, psychological, educational and social outcomes, and nondependent parental substance: A rapid evidence assessment. *Trauma, Violence & Abuse*, 21(3), 470–483. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1524838018772850>
- McGovern, R., Newham, J. J., Addison, M. T., Hickman, M., & Kaner, E. F. (2021). Effectiveness of psychosocial interventions for reducing parental substance misuse. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews*, 3(3), CD012823. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1002/14651858.cd012823.pub2>
- McLeroy, K. R., Bibeau, D., Steckler, A., & Glanz, K. (1988). An ecological perspective on health promotion programs. *Health Education Quarterly*, 15(4), 351–377. <https://doi.org/10.1177/109019818801500401>
- McTavish, J. R., MacGregor, J. C., Wathen, C. N., & MacMillan, H. L. (2016). Children's exposure to intimate partner violence: An overview. *International Review of Psychiatry*, 28(5), 504–518. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09540261.2016.1205001>
- Nascimento, V. F. D., Lima, C. A. S., Hattori, T. Y., Terças, A. C. P., Lemes, A. G., & Luis, M. A. V. (2019). Daily life of women with alcoholic companions and the provided care. *Anais da Academia Brasileira de Ciências*, 91(1), e20180008. <https://doi.org/10.1590/0001-3765201920180008>
- Obot, I. S., & Room, R. (Eds.) (2005). *Alcohol, gender and drinking problems: Perspectives from low and middle income countries*. World Health Organization.
- Orford, J. (1990). Alcohol and the family: An international review of the literature with implications for research and practice. In L. Kozlowski, H. Annis, H. Cappell, F. Glaser, M. Goodstadt, Y. Israel, H. Kalant, E. Sellers, & E. Vingilis (Eds.), *Research advances in alcohol and drug problems* (Vol. 10, pp. 81–155). Springer Science and Business Media, LLC.
- Our Watch. (2021). *Change the story: A shared framework for the primary prevention of violence against women in Australia* (2nd ed.) <https://assets.ourwatch.org.au/assets/Key-frameworks/Change-the-story-Our-Watch-AA.pdf>
- Park, S., & Schepp, K. G. (2015a). A systematic review of research on children of alcoholics: Their inherent resilience and vulnerability. *Journal of Child and Family Studies*, 24, 1222–1231. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10826-014-9930-7>
- Park, S., & Schepp, K. G. (2015b). Understanding Korean families with alcoholic fathers in a view of Confucian culture. *Journal of Addictions Nursing*, 26(3), 111–119. <https://doi.org/10.1097/jan.0000000000000085>
- Patró-Hernández, R. M., Nieto Robles, Y., & Limiñana-Gras, R. M. (2020). Relación entre las normas de género y el consumo de alcohol: Una revisión sistemática [The relationship between gender norms and alcohol consumption: A systematic review]. *Adicciones [Addictions]*, 32(2), 145–158. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.20882/adicciones.1195>
- Postmus, J. L., Hoge, G. L., Breckenridge, J., Sharp-Jeffs, N., & Chung, D. (2020). Economic abuse as an invisible form of domestic violence: A multicountry review. *Trauma, Violence & Abuse*, 21(2), 261–283. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1524838018764160>
- Radcliffe, P., Gadd, D., Henderson, J., Love, B., Stephens-Lewis, D., Johnson, A., Gilchrist, E., & Gilchrist, G. (2021). What role does substance use play in intimate partner violence? A narrative analysis of in-depth interviews with men in substance use treatment and their current or former female partner. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 36(21–22), 10285–10313. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0886260519879259>
- Rao, V. (1997). Wife-beating in rural south India: A qualitative and econometric analysis. *Social Science & Medicine*, 44(8), 1169–1180. [https://doi.org/10.1016/s0277-9536\(96\)00252-3](https://doi.org/10.1016/s0277-9536(96)00252-3)
- Rolfe, A., Dalton, S., Krishnan, M., Orford, J., Mehdikhani, M., Cawley, J., & Ferrins-Brown, M. (2006). Alcohol, gender, aggression and violence: Findings from the Birmingham untreated heavy drinkers project. *Journal of Substance Use*, 11(5), 343–358.
- Room, R., Miller, M., Waleewong, O., Assanangkornchai, S., Beccaria, F., Benegal, V., Borges, G., Gmel, G., Graham, K., Hao, W., Mäkelä, P., Morojele, N., Hanh, H. T. M., Obot, I., O'Brien, P., Pinsky, I., Sornpaisarn, B., Stockwell, T., & Laslett, A.-M. (2022). Research agendas for alcohol policymaking in the wider world. *International Journal of Alcohol and Drug Research*, 10(1), 34–44. <https://doi.org/10.7895/ijadr.353>



- Rossow, I., Bogstrand, S. T., Ekeberg, Ø., & Normann, P. T. (2013). Associations between heavy episodic drinking and alcohol related injuries: A case control study. *BMC Public Health*, 13, 1076. <https://doi.org/10.1186/1471-2458-13-1076>
- Satyanarayana, V. A., Hebbani, S., Hegde, S., Krishnan, S., & Srinivasan, K. (2015). Two sides of a coin: Perpetrators and survivors perspectives on the triad of alcohol, intimate partner violence and mental health in South India. *Asian Journal of Psychiatry*, 15, 38–43. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ajp.2015.04.014>
- Sedziafa, A. P., Tenkorang, E. Y., & Owusu, A. Y. (2016). "... he always slaps me on my ears": The health consequences of intimate partner violence among a group of patrilineal women in Ghana. *Culture, Health & Sexuality*, 18(12), 1379–1392. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13691058.2016.1187291>
- Solis, J. M., Shadur, J. M., Burns, A. R., & Hussong, A. M. (2012). Understanding the diverse needs of children whose parents abuse substances. *Current Drug Abuse Reviews*, 5(2), 135–147. <https://doi.org/10.2174/1874473711205020135>
- Sørensen, J. B., Agampodi, T., Sørensen, B. R., Siribaddana, S., Konradsen, F., & Rheinländer, T. (2017). 'We lost because of his drunkenness': The social processes linking alcohol use to self-harm in the context of daily life stress in marriages and intimate relationships in rural Sri Lanka. *BMJ Global Health*, 2(4), e000462. <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjgh-2017-000462>
- Sørensen, J. B., Tayebi, S., Brokhattingen, A., & Gyawali, B. (2022). Alcohol consumption in low-and middle-income settings. In V. B. Patel & V. R. Preedy (Eds.), *Handbook of substance misuse and addictions: From biology to public health* (pp. 1–20). Springer International Publishing. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-67928-6\\_59-1](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-67928-6_59-1)
- Staneshby, O., Callinan, S., Graham, K., Wilson, I. M., Greenfield, T. K., Wilsnack, S. C., Hettige, S., Hanh, H. T. M., Siengsounthone, L., Waleewong, O., & Laslett, A. M. (2018). Harm from known others' drinking by relationship proximity to the harmful drinker and gender: A meta-analysis across 10 countries. *Alcoholism, Clinical and Experimental Research*, 42(9), 1693–1703. <https://doi.org/10.1111/acer.13828>
- Stöckl, H., & Gardner, F. (2013). Women's perceptions of how pregnancy influences the context of intimate partner violence in Germany. *Culture, Health & Sexuality*, 15(10), 1206–1220. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13691058.2013.813969>
- Tamutienė, I., & Laslett, A.-M. (2017). Associative stigma and other harms in a sample of families of heavy drinkers in Lithuania. *Journal of Substance Use*, 22(4), 425–433. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14659891.2016.1232760>
- Tamutienė, I., & Stumbrys, D. (2023). How many children live with persons with problematic drinking patterns across 19 European countries? *Drugs: Education, Prevention & Policy*, 30(3), 241–249. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09687637.2021.2020728>
- United Nations. (2015). *Transforming our world: The 2030 agenda for sustainable development. Resolution adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 25 September 2015*. United Nations. <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/21252030%20Agenda%20for%20Sustainable%20Development%20web.pdf>
- Wechsberg, W. M., Myers, B., Reed, E., Carney, T., Emanuel, A. N., & Browne, F. A. (2013). Substance use, gender inequity, violence and sexual risk among couples in Cape Town. *Culture, Health & Sexuality*, 15(10), 1221–1236. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13691058.2013.815366>
- Wilsnack, R. W., Vogeltanz, N. D., Wilsnack, S. C., Harris, T. R., Ahlström, S., Bondy, S., Csémy, L., Ferrence, R., Ferris, J., Fleming, J., Graham, K., Greenfield, T., Guyon, L., Haavio-Mannila, E., Kellner, F., Knibbe, R., Kubicka, L., Loukomskaia, M., Mustonen, H., Weiss, S. (2000). Gender differences in alcohol consumption and adverse drinking consequences: Cross-cultural patterns. *Addiction*, 95(2), 251–265. <https://doi.org/10.1046/j.1360-0443.2000.95225112.x>
- Wilsnack, R. W., Wilsnack, S. C., Gmel, G., & Kantor, L. W. (2018). Gender differences in binge drinking: Prevalence, predictors, and consequences. *Alcohol Research: Current Reviews*, 39(1), 57–76. [https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC6104960/pdf/arcr-39-1-e1\\_a08.pdf](https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC6104960/pdf/arcr-39-1-e1_a08.pdf)
- Wilsnack, R. W., Wilsnack, S. C., Kristjanson, A. F., Vogeltanz-Holm, N. D., & Gmel, G. (2009). Gender and alcohol consumption: Patterns from the multinational GENACIS project. *Addiction*, 104(9), 1487–1500. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1360-0443.2009.02696.x>

- Wilson, I. M., Graham, K., Laslett, A.-M., & Taft, A. (2020). Relationship trajectories of women experiencing alcohol-related intimate partner violence: A grounded-theory analysis of women's voices. *Social Science & Medicine*, 264, 113307. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2020.113307>
- Wilson, I. M., Graham, K., & Taft, A. (2014). Alcohol interventions, alcohol policy and intimate partner violence: A systematic review. *BMC Public Health*, 14, 881. <https://doi.org/10.1186/1471-2458-14-881>
- Wilson, I. M., Graham, K., & Taft, A. (2017). Living the cycle of drinking and violence: A qualitative study of women's experience of alcohol-related intimate partner violence. *Drug and Alcohol Review*, 36(1), 115–124. <https://doi.org/10.1111/dar.12405>
- Wilson, I. M., Willoughby, B., Tanyos, A., Graham, K., Walker, M., Laslett, A.-M., & Ramsoomar, L. (2024). A global review of the impact on women from men's alcohol drinking: The need for responding with a gendered lens. *Global Health Action*, 17(1), 2341522. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1080/16549716.2024.2341522>
- Wilson, S. R., Lubman, D. I., Rodda, S., Manning, V., & Yap, M. B. H. (2018). The personal impacts of having a partner with problematic alcohol or other drug use: Descriptions from online counselling sessions. *Addiction Research and Theory*, 26(4), 315–322. <https://doi.org/10.1080/16066359.2017.1374375>
- Wilson, S. R., Lubman, D. I., Rodda, S., Manning, V., & Yap, M. B. H. (2019). The impact of problematic substance use on partners' interpersonal relationships: Qualitative analysis of counselling transcripts from a national online service. *Drugs: Education, Prevention & Policy*, 26(5), 429–436. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09687637.2018.1472217>
- Włodarczyk, O., Schwarze, M., Rumpf, H.-J., Metzner, F., & Pawils, S. (2017). Protective mental health factors in children of parents with alcohol and drug use disorders: A systematic review. *PLoS One*, 12(6), e0179140. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0179140>
- World Health Organization. (2018a). *Global status report on alcohol and health 2018*. <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789241565639>
- World Health Organization. (2018b). *Saving lives, spending less: A strategic response to noncommunicable diseases*. <https://iris.who.int/handle/10665/272534>
- World Health Organization. (2020). *Alcohol consumption and sustainable development: Factsheet – Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Health targets*. WHO Regional Office for Europe. <https://iris.who.int/handle/10665/340806>
- World Health Organization. (2021). *Saving lives, spending less: The case for investing in noncommunicable diseases*. <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240041059>
- World Health Organization. (2024a). *Global status report on alcohol and health and treatment of substance use disorders*. <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240096745>
- World Health Organization. (2024b). *Gender-responsive approaches to the acceptability, availability and affordability of alcohol*. <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240090125>

RTI International is an independent scientific research institute dedicated to improving the human condition. Our vision is to address the world's most critical problems with technical and science-based solutions in pursuit of a better future. Clients rely on us to answer questions that demand an objective and multidisciplinary approach—one that integrates expertise across social, statistical, data, and laboratory sciences, engineering, and other technical disciplines to solve the world's most challenging problems.