

# Abstract

## Drinking volume, drinking patterns, and alcohol-related problems: Disentangling their associations by socio-economic status

**Authors:** Elena Gomes de Matos (IFT Institut für Therapieforschung, Munich)Ludwig Kraus (IFT Institut für Therapieforschung, Munich; Centre for Social Research on Alcohol and Drugs (SoRAD), Stockholm University)Renate Soellner (Department of Psychology, Hildesheim University)Daniela Piontek (IFT Institut für Therapieforschung, Munich)

**Abstract:** **Introduction:**  
We aim at exploring the concurrent associations between drinking volume, drinking pattern and alcohol-related problems, and compare them between groups of different socio-economic status (SES).

**Methods:**  
Data were taken from the 2012 Epidemiological Survey of Substance Abuse (ESA), a national survey conducted in the general population aged 18 to 64. Past year alcohol consumers were included in the analyses. Structural equation modelling (SEM) was applied to simultaneously assess all possible associations between alcohol volume, frequency of episodic heavy drinking (EHD) and number of symptoms of alcohol use disorder (AUD) according to DSM-5. Models were compared between educational levels.

**Results:**  
Preliminary results indicate that among males the models differ substantially between SES groups. At low SES, the number of AUD symptoms was strongly associated with EHD frequency, but not with volume. At the other SES levels, EHD frequency and volume both had an independent effect on number of AUD symptoms. The association between volume and EHD frequency was weakest at high SES.

**Conclusion:**  
Among males, the patterns in the association between AUD symptoms and two aspects of alcohol use (volume, pattern) varied by SES. This indicates different causal pathways between drinking and alcohol-related problems.

**Topic:** Use, misuse, addiction

**Keywords:** alcohol-related problems, DSM-5, socio-economic status