

Presentation,

Alcohol use and alcohol-use disorders among older adults in Germany: a literature
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Abstract

Background. The population of western societies is ageing rapidly and according to the 2010 revision of the World Population Prospects by the United Nations, individuals aged 60 years and older represent 22% of the population in Europe and 19% of the population in the USA today, while in 2050, those aged 60 years and older will represent 34% and 27%, respectively. Simultaneously, alcohol consumption among the elderly has increased in recent years and the proportion of elderly with problematic alcohol consumption is of considerable size. The prevalence of alcohol use and misuse in successive cohorts of the elderly is likely to increase as well. Compared to the knowledge on alcohol use and alcohol use disorders in younger adults, very little is known on the subjects in older people. **Aims.** We will review the evidence related to alcohol use and alcohol-use disorders among the elderly in Europe. **Methods.** By using relevant keywords PubMed, PsycINFO and Medline databases will be searched. Papers meeting the eligibility criteria will be selected through a sequential process of screening title, abstract and full text. **Results.** Alcohol use and alcohol use-disorders of senior citizens with other age groups, by gender and country of origin will be compared. **Discussion.** Alcohol use and alcohol use disorders in the elderly and specific subgroups will be discussed regarding particular drinking patterns, i.e. how much and what sorts of alcohol are usually consumed and in which contexts, and help seeking behaviour, i.e. whether there has been made use of any kind of therapeutic help in order to control the abuse of alcohol.