

**Trends in alcohol-related mortality in East and West Germany, 1980 to 2009: age, period, and cohort variations**

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**Introduction:** Several indicators suggest that both the extent and the trends of alcohol-related mortality differ between East and West Germany. For example, socio-economic differences as well as regional drinking patterns are assumed to affect the risk of dying from an alcohol-induced disease. In addition, different political, economic and social developments might have an influence on long-term trends. The present study addresses two questions: (1) What are the unbiased and independent age, period, and cohort effects on alcohol-related mortality trends in Germany? (2) Do these trends differ between East and West Germany?

**Methods:** Data on alcohol-related mortality come from the national causes of death register for the years 1980 to 2009. Separate numbers are available for East and West Germany. Analyses will include all 100 percent alcohol-attributable deaths based on diagnostic codes of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-9 and ICD-10). Age-period-cohort analyses will be conducted using the Intrinsic Estimator model. Gender-stratified analyses will be conducted if cell sizes are sufficient.

**Results:** Descriptive age, period and cohort patterns of alcohol-related mortality in East and West Germany will be presented. In addition, results of the statistical analyses will be summarised by showing incidence rate ratios.

**Conclusion:** The delineation of age, period and cohort effects in long-term mortality trends enables the identification of specific risk factors based on individual, social and/or environmental influences. The comparison of regional patterns is important for the evaluation of former as well as for the planning of further prevention and intervention measures.

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