

Assoziation Schweizer Psychotherapeutinnen und Psychotherapeuten Association Suisse des Psychothérapeutes Associazione Svizzera degli Psicoterapeuti Associaziun Svizra dals Psicoterapeuts Prevention and early intervention for alcohol-related harm

4 % of the Swiss population drinks alcohol in a risky way chronically (women 2 and men 4 glasses per day).

About 250 000 persons in Switzerland are addicted.

Men are drinking with more risk than women, but women are catching up.



Less teenagers up to 15 years are consuming alcohol, but the rate of adolescent people between 15 and 24 years, who are drinking alcohol in a risky way, has strongly increased.

Every 4th teenager (that is 26%) between 15 and 19 years drinks at least once a month too much alcohol. 38% of adolescents' between 20 and 24 years are drinking too much alcohol at least once a month.



Every 12th case of death in Switzerland is caused by alcohol consumption.

3 out of 5 cases of death are caused by chronic alcohol abuse.

Every 8th traffic accident either fatal or with seriously injured persons is caused by alcohol abuse. At the weekends its every 2nd accident.



Alcohol abuse causes annual costs of about 4.2 billion of Swiss Francs (= 3.8 billion Euro).

The biggest part are losses to the economy as the productivity is reduced. About 2.2 billion of CHF loss is caused by early deaths, illness and early retirement. Further loss of about 1.2 billion of CHF is due to absence from work or a reduced job performance.

The direct costs for the health system are 600 million CHF, for treatments of diseases caused by alcohol abuse, accidents and addiction treatments.

Further 250 million of CHF are caused by prosecution.



Swiss Scientific Studies

Cost and Benefit Analysis of Population-Based Disease and Accident Prevention and Health Promotion, C. Meier, R. Stähli, T. Szucs, 2006.

Report about addiction and prevention with migrants in canton Zurich, J. Oggier, M. Ideli, 2005.

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Legal Provisions

In Switzerland the union (der Bund) and the cantons are entrusted with alcohol politics. Therefore, every canton has its special alcohol policy with regulations and laws.

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Legal Provisions

These regulations are:

- Limitations of alcohol sales regarding shops, time and age of the costumer.
- Alcohol is not permitted to be given to teenagers under 16 or 18 from any adult.
- Alcopops are not allowed for teenagers under 18 years.
- The canton authorizes test purchase of alcohol.
- Limitation of alcohol advertisement.
- Special trade tax for alcohol.



National Initiative

Alcohol prevention campaign of the Bund from 2015 to 2017: "How much is too much?"

1st step: to provide facts about abusive alcohol consumption and support the reflection of the individual alcohol consumption.

2nd step: to show, that alcohol changes the perception.

3rd step: a dialog week with information booth, cinema performances, lectures and contests for teenagers.



Legal Provisions

In Switzerland alcohol is not allowed to be sold to teenagers younger than 16, liquor only to adults from 18 years onwards.

Alcohol is not permitted to be given to teenagers under 16 or 18 from adults.

Alcopops are not allowed for teenagers under 18 years.

In many cantons there are regular information programs and campaigns at schools about alcohol abuse and addiction.



Care of Alcoholics

There are many sensible regulations in Switzerland concerning the sale of alcohol but also campaigns against its abuse. A problem is that a lot of regulations are cantonal, which gives opportunities for example to buy easier alcohol in another canton where the regulation is less strict.

Swiss credo: As little regulation as possible, as they are banking on self-responsibility and self-regulation, which works on many but not on everybody.



Role of Psychotherapists

Psychotherapy is part of clinical treatement specialized on alcohol addiction and abuse.

Information centre for alcohol addicts as well as their relatives with one on one psychotherapy as well as group therapy.

Health policies especially in Zurich favors outpatient treatment over inpatient treatment, therefore, the supply of outpatient treatment is increasing.

Depending on the severity of the addiction inpatient treatment is still very important and often used.

With chronic patients a good and sustainable relationship with the psychotherapist is essential.



Good Enviroment for Alcoholics

Bodily fitness against alcohol abuse

Being drunk should be less cool with young people

Alcohol shouldn't be easily available.



Further Developement in Alcohol Prevention

Support for daily life, for example home visits from social workers and longtime psychotherapeutically treatment Supervised forms of living

Low-threshold services concerning psychotherapeutically offers as well as social offers.

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Further Developement in Alcohol Prevention

More outpatient treatment than inpatient treatment is a good trend that should be further developed.

Alcoholics need support in everyday life not only inpatient treatment that only helps them as long as they are in the clinic.

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