

ALCOHOL AND VIOLENCE

Fact sheet



50%

50% of perpetrators of violence

Reviews of international studies indicate that alcohol has been consumed prior to assaults by between 33% to 50% of perpetrators of violence.



7%

7% increase in the number of violent attacks

Studies show an increase in alcohol consumption of an average of one litre per person causes a 7% increase in the number of violent attacks.

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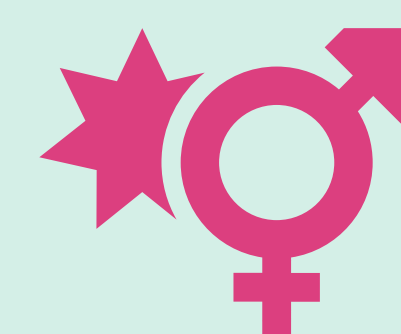
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Prevalent

Alcohol use is prevalent in different types of violence

The types of violence where alcohol is present include child maltreatment, intimate partner violence, elder abuse and sexual violence.



87%

Perpetrators of IPV impaired by alcohol

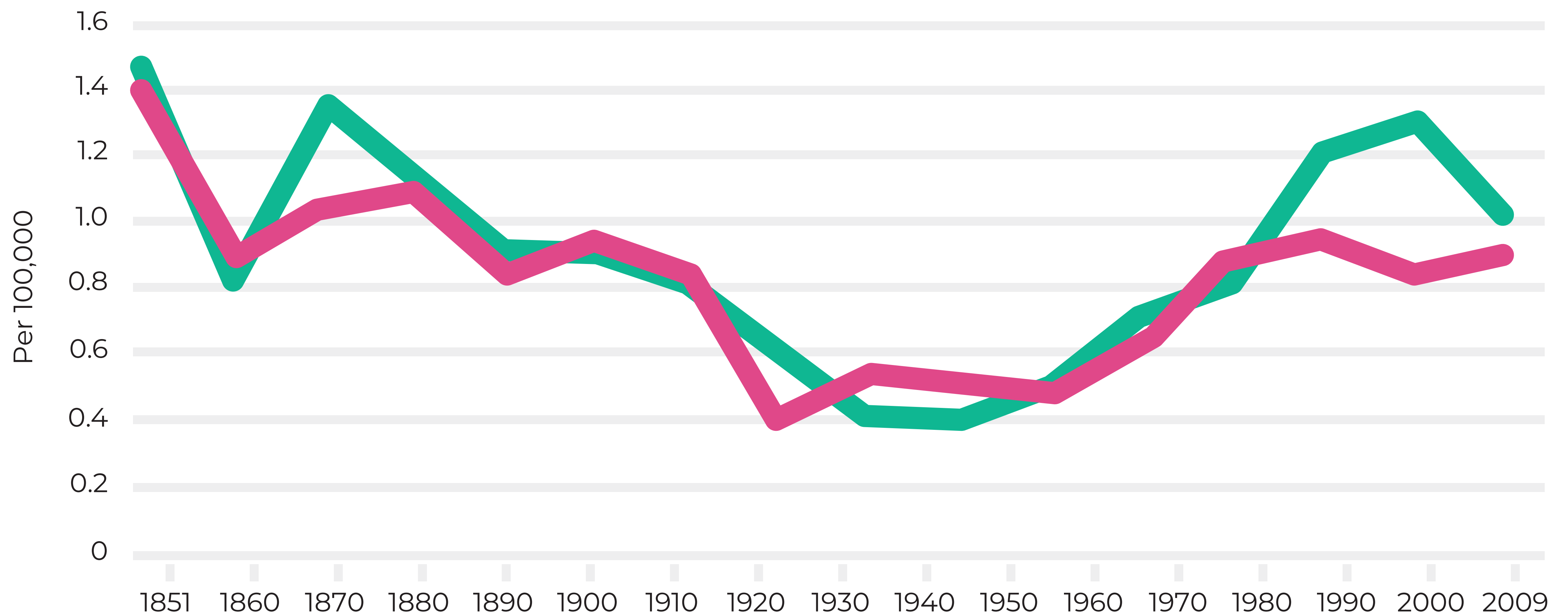
Estimates of alcohol-related intimate partner violence (IPV) vary between countries with the percentage of perpetrators who are impaired by alcohol ranging from 48% to 87%.

Alcohol Effects

Close covariation between alcohol use and violence

Homicide. Number of persons killed according to vital statistics, 1851 – 2009. Per 100,000

Registered alcohol consumption (litre per capita 15 years and older, scale adjusted, divided by 8), 1851 – 2009, 5-year average*



From: von Hofer, H. (2011). Brott och straff i Sverige 1750 – 2010 (Crime and punishment in Sweden 1751 – 2010), 4:e uppl. Kriminologiska institutionens rapportserie, nr 2011:3. Stockholm: Stockholms universitet.

* Values on Y-axis (0 – 1.6) for alcohol consumption have been divided by 8 in order to use the same scale for both lines. For the pink line the value 1 means 8 litre alcohol per person per year.

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TAXES



Solutions

Measures to reduce population alcohol consumption have been proven effective to reduce violence

These include:

- excise taxes on beer, wine and spirits;
- reduced hours or days of sale of alcoholic beverages;
- the minimum age for legal alcohol purchasing; and
- regulations on the number of alcohol outlets.

These have proven effective in reducing levels of violence both in low-to middle-income and high-income countries.

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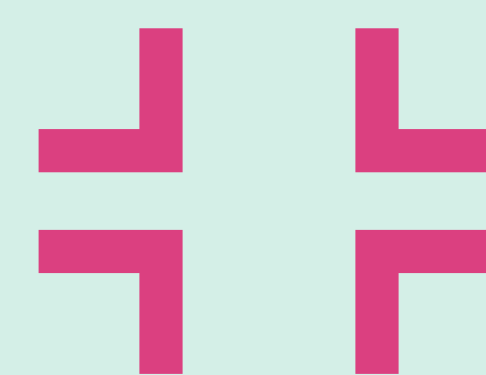
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Higher tax

Higher affordability reduces violent behavior

Higher taxes and higher prices are linked with reductions in violent crime, self-reported perpetration of violence against children, rates of STIs, risky sexual behaviors, and criminal and violent behavior.



MUP

Minimum unit price can reduce violent offenses

The introduction of minimum pricing in Saskatchewan, Canada increased the minimum price of alcohol by 9% and was linked with an 18% reduction in violent offenses.

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Outlets

Number of outlets in an area is linked to different forms of violence

Concerning different forms of violence, including homicide, robbery, assault, IPV, sexual assault, and child maltreatment there is a link with alcohol outlet density.



5 Assaults

Extending opening hours increases violence

A high-quality study of 18 Norwegian cities found that for every one hour increase in on-premises trading hours there was a significant increase of 5 assaults per 100,000 inhabitants per quarter.

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Privatized alcohol, public harm

Privatization of alcohol retail drives alcohol availability and related harm

- Abolishing the alcohol retail monopoly in the US state of Washington 2012 increased the number of stores selling alcohol.
- An analysis of local areas in Seattle found that for each additional off-premises alcohol outlet in a given census block group increased aggravated assaults by **8%** and non-aggravated assaults by **6%**.
- Each on-premise outlet increased aggravated and non-aggravated assaults by **5%**.

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More alcohol, more violence

Increasing the number of alcohol outlets drives up family violence

A study of alcohol outlet density and domestic violence in Melbourne, Australia from 1996-2005 found a strong link between family violence and the density of off-licence (take-away) liquor outlets in an area.

- An increase in one off-premise licence per 1,000 residents was linked with a 28.6 % increase in the mean domestic violence rate.
- A smaller, but still positive link, between the densities of on-premises licenses was also found.