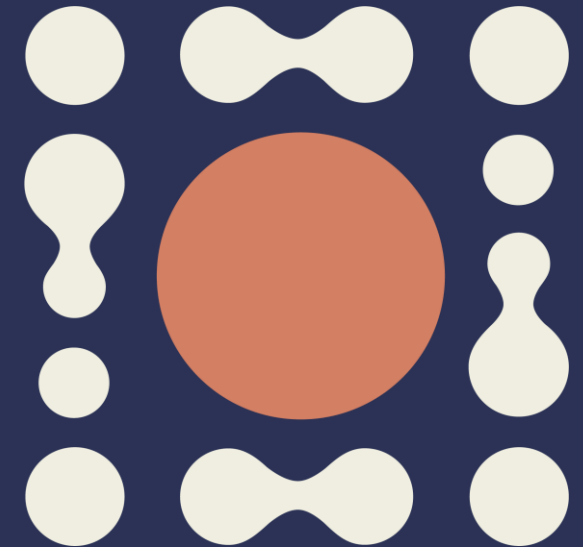


European burden of cancer in 2020 attributable to alcohol use

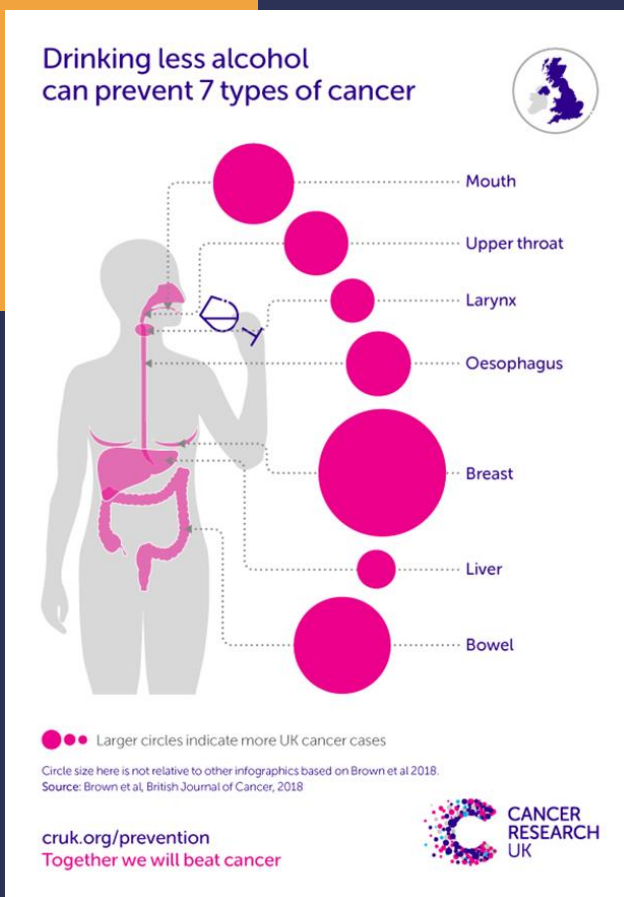
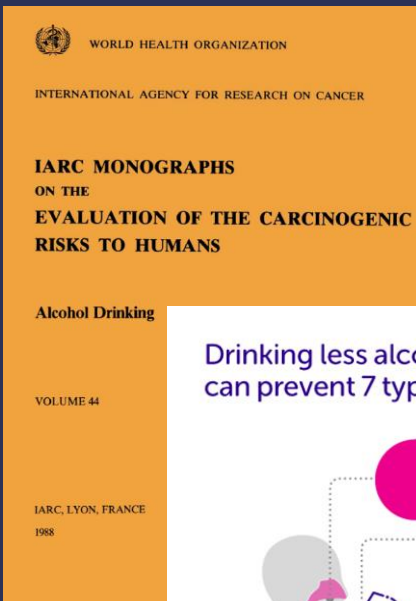
Harriet Rungay
PhD Student, Cancer Surveillance Branch
International Agency for Research on Cancer

European Public Health Conference
10–12 November 2021

International Agency
for Research on Cancer



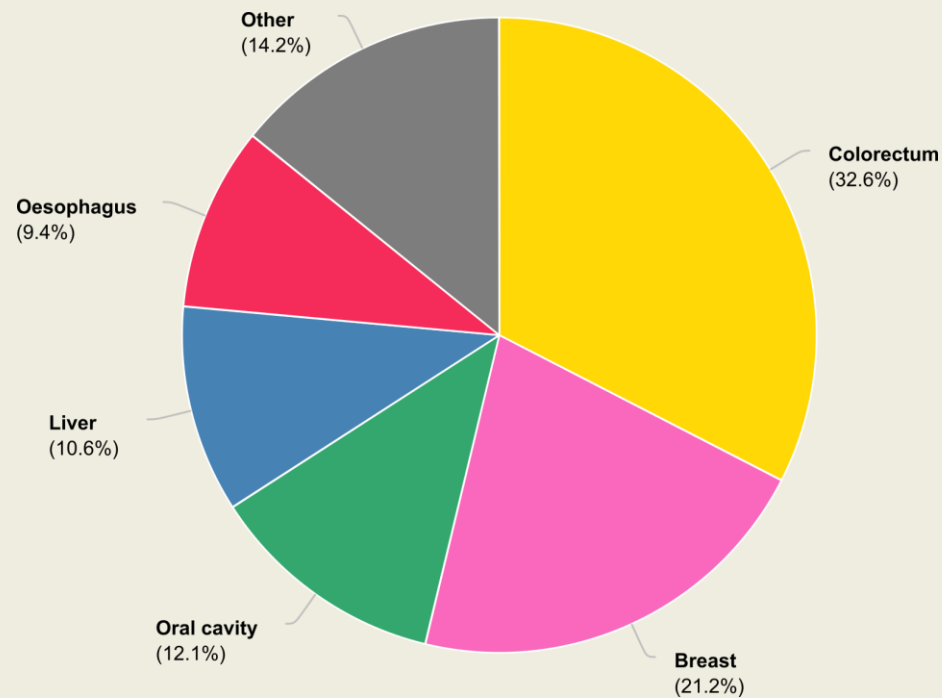
Introduction & methods



- Population Attributable Fraction (PAFs) calculated using:
 - Cancer incidence 2020 – IARC’s GLOBOCAN 2020 estimates of cancer incidence in 185 countries
 - Alcohol prevalence 2010 – Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, Canada
 - Relative risks of developing cancer – World Cancer Research Fund Continuous Update Project
- Estimated cancer cases attributable to alcohol and age-standardised incidence rates per 100,000 people
- Also measured contribution of 3 levels of alcohol intake:
 - Moderate (<20 g alcohol per day)
 - Risky (20 to 60 g per day)
 - Heavy (>60 g per day) drinking

Results: cancers attributable to alcohol in Europe

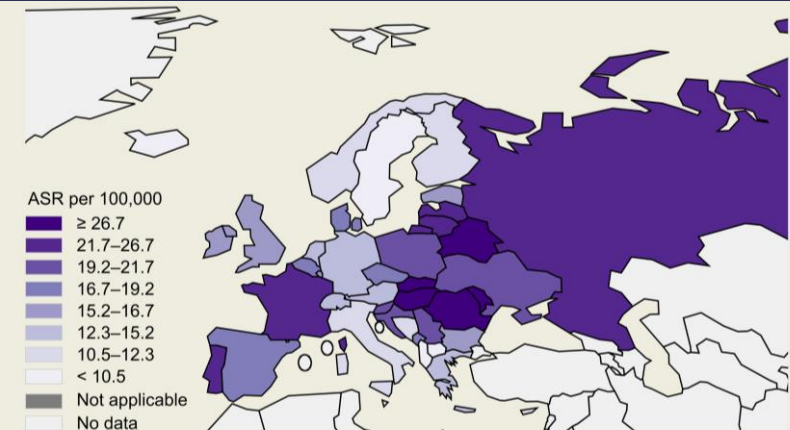
- 181 000 new cases of cancer in Europe in 2020 attributable to alcohol consumption (4.5% of all cases)
- Top alcohol-attributable cancer sites: colorectum (59 000 cases), breast (38 500 cases), and oral cavity (22,000 cases)
- Differences between men and women:
- Two thirds of cases were among men (68%, 120 000 cases)
- Pattern of age-standardised rate of alcohol-attributable cancer incidence differed by sex



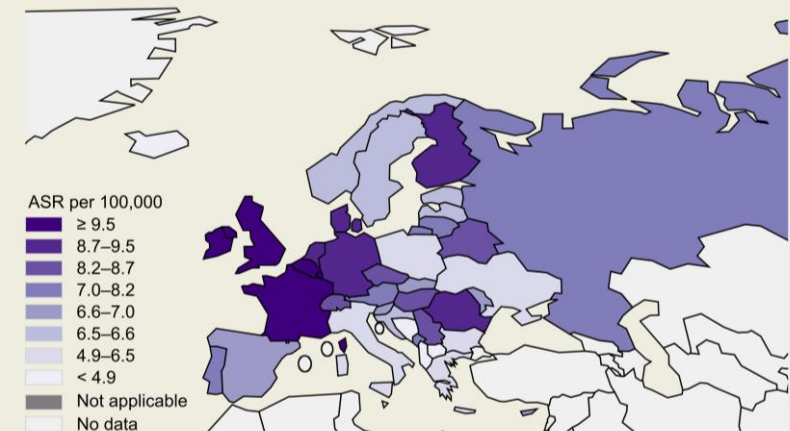
181 000 cases

Rumgay H et al. 2021, *Lancet Oncol*

Men

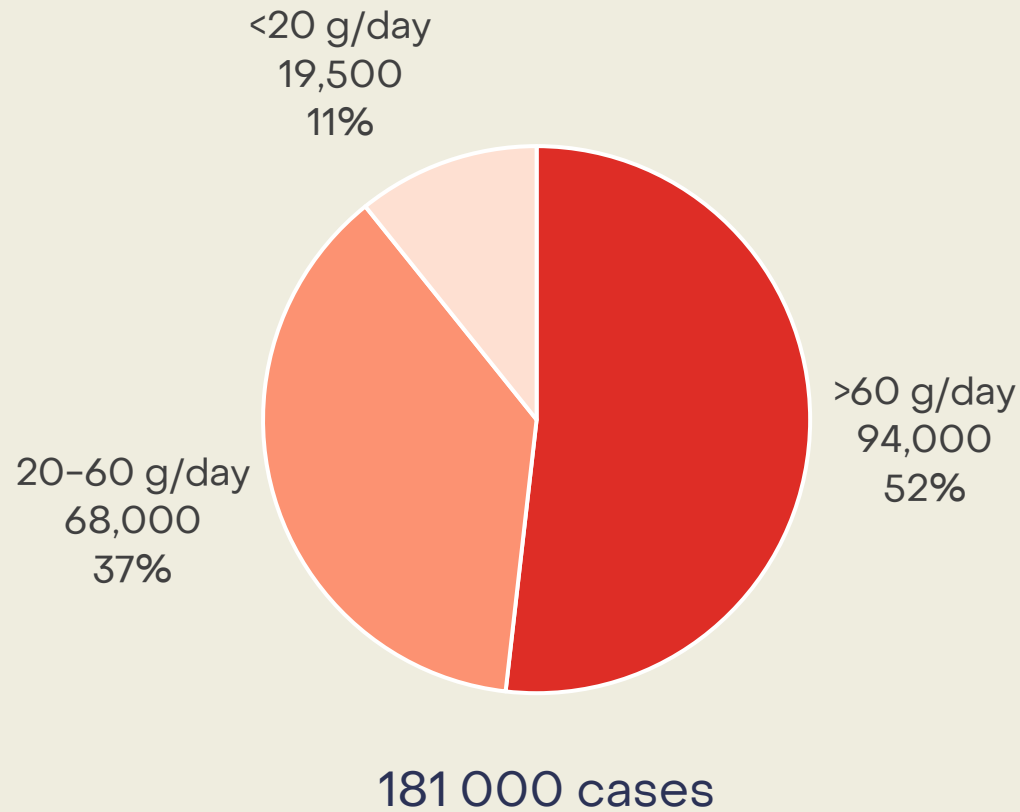


Women



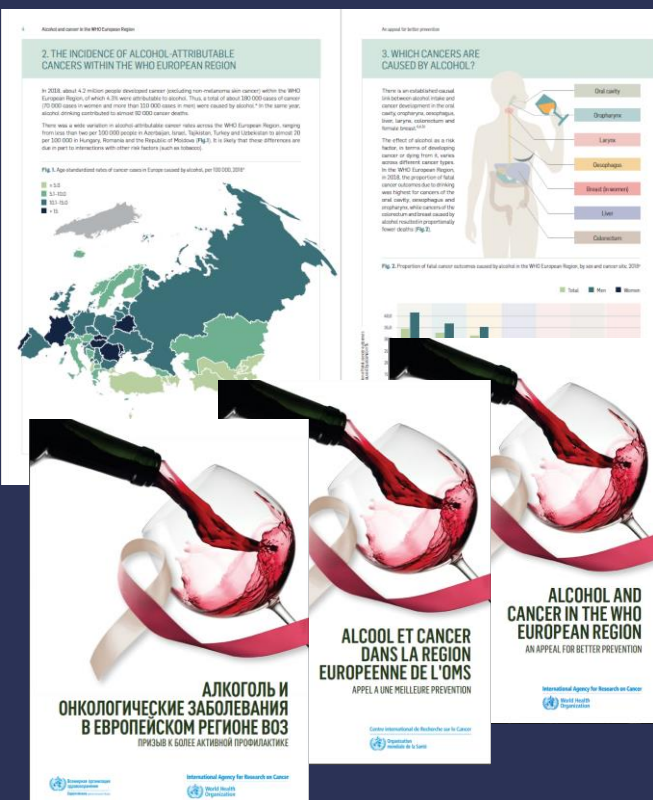
Results: cancers attributable to alcohol in Europe

- Heavy drinking (>60 g/day): half (52%) of cancer cases attributable to alcohol
- Moderate drinking (<20 g/day): 1 in 10 (11%) cancer cases attributable to alcohol
- Differences between countries and men and women:
- Higher contribution of heavy drinking in Central and Eastern European countries
- Higher contribution of moderate drinking among women



Summary, conclusions & acknowledgments

- An estimated 181,000 (4.5%) cancer cases in Europe in 2020 were attributable to alcohol use
- Cancer types with most alcohol-attributable cases: colorectum, breast, oral cavity
- Males represented two thirds of total alcohol-attributable cancer cases
- Public awareness of the link between alcohol and cancer is low
- We need effective policies to decrease alcohol use in Europe



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gco.iarc.fr/causes/alcohol



CANCERS ATTRIBUTABLE TO ALCOHOL

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