

WHO and Alcohol and Society Conference

Community Action on Alcohol in Denmark

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Community action on alcohol in Denmark

- No tradition for strong national alcohol control policy
- Traditionally the municipality strategy has been school education for children
- Focus on community/municipality action:
 - evidence based methods
 - systematic prevention and control policy, early detection, brief intervention, and referral to alcohol treatment

Alcohol problems in Denmark

- 860.000 persons - 15% - with harmful use of alcohol or alcohol dependence
- 140.000 persons with alcohol dependence
- 122.000 children (0-18 years) in families with alcohol problems
- 632.000 persons in Denmark grew up in families with alcohol problems
- 12.000 persons per year get alcohol treatment

*Source: "Alkoholforbrug i DK", SIF, 2008
Source: "Danskernes alkoholvaner", SST, 2008*

Economic costs for municipalities with 50.000 citizens

The social and health cost because of:

- people with alcohol dependence in alcohol treatment
- people in hospitals with alcohol related illnesses are:

Total 28,3 million Danish kroner per year:

- 4,2 million Danish kroner to finance the health care system
- 18,2 million Danish kroner for transfer payments
- 5,4 million Danish kroner for support to children and young people

Social and health costs for all municipalities

Social and health costs because of:

- People with alcohol dependence in treatment
- People in hospitals with alcohol related illnesses:
- 3,1 billion Danish kroner per year
- Calculation for the 140.000 with alcohol dependence 7,8 billion per year
- Total cost for alcohol treatment 283,5 million Danish kroner

Building prevention structures and routines in the municipalities

- Alcohol policy in municipalities
 - Building an organisation across the different branches of administration to coordinate implementation of the alcohol policy and action plan
- Alcohol policy in schools
 - Agreement between parents in the 5th to 10th grade about postponing alcohol debut and handling parties for children and young people
- Early detection of parents with alcohol problems in the social sector, schools and kindergarten
 - Support to the children and the parents
- Quality in alcohol treatment

Alcohol policy: Norm and frame setting

Alcohol policy consists of:

- Norm setting and reduction of the availability of alcohol
- Early detection/brief intervention
- Referral to alcohol treatment

Alcohol policy in 20 municipalities

- Alcohol policy for the municipality as such
- An alcohol organisation comprising the different branches of administration
- Alcohol policy for the municipality as a workplace
- Alcohol action plan for the professional work directed towards the citizens in the municipality: kindergartens, schools, institutions for the elderly, job centres

Reducing availability in 8 municipalities

The municipalities have the possibility to reduce availability:

- by reducing the numbers of places where alcohol is sold
- by securing that the alcohol licences are controlled and withdrawn when not followed
- by developing competences in responsible beverage serving

Early detection of alcohol problems in the social sector, kindergartens and schools in 78 municipalities

The task of pedagogues and teachers:

- To consider alcohol problems as a possible background factor if a child is not doing fine
- To combine the registration of the child with registration of the behaviour of the parent
- To talk with the parents about alcohol habits
- If necessary refer the parents to family alcohol treatment

Alcohol treatment for families

Evidence for alcohol treatment for families show:

- that partners are much more aware of the alcohol problem than the drinker
- partners need support or treatment when there is alcohol problems in the family
- support to partners alone motivates the drinker to go to treatment and stay in treatment
- alcohol treatment for families is more effective than individual treatment

Source: "Familieorienteret alkoholbehandling – et litteraturstudium af familiebehandlingens effekter " Helle Lindgaard, SST 2006

Source: "familier med alkoholproblemer – et litteraturstudium af familieorienteret alkoholbehandling", Helle Lindgaard 2012

Centrally formulated Action plans

Action plans for the municipalities with evidence based methods and material related to the traditional risk factors:

- Smoking
- Alcohol
- Nutrition
- Obesity
- Exercise
- Drugs
- Sexual health
- Indoor environment
- Mental health