

### Psychosocial and Demographic Correlates of Alcohol Related Mortality

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**Background:** Alcohol-related deaths (ARD) in the UK have doubled in the last 15-20 years. This study examines the psychosocial and demographic correlates of alcohol-related mortality.

**Aims and Objectives:** To examine 1) whether stressful life events affect ARD and combined alcohol and drug related fatality (CDAF). 2) The demographic distributions of ARD and CDAF. 3) The difference in the proportion of suicide and accidental death among ARD and CDAF's.

**Methods:** Cross-sectional cohort study utilising the psychological autopsy method. Data was collected at West London Coroner's office from 2006-2008. Of 429 autopsies, 278 met inclusion criteria, of which 48 and 52 were ARD and CDAF respectively.

**Results:** The majority (96% for ARD and 76.9% for CDAF) were males. For ARD 50% were aged under 44 yrs. However, for CDAF the majority were under 44 yrs. Combined the majority (60%) were under 44 yrs. CDAF had a normal distribution across the 5 age groups, peaking at 35-44. ARD peaked in 45-54 and 16-24 age groups.

**Conclusion:** There is a clear difference in the demographic distribution among ARD and CDAF cases. No statistically significant difference in the proportion of suicide and accidental deaths were identified. However, further amendments to the Social Readjustment Rating Scale could provide a better insight as to whether life events have an influence on an individual's suicidal tendencies.