

Alcohol Harms Prevention Initiative

California Department of Public Health



Mission

To reduce the adverse effects of alcohol use on individuals, families, and communities in California through research and evidence-based prevention strategies.

Vision

AHPI envisions a California unburdened by preventable harms and disparities caused by alcohol.

Background

Excessive alcohol use is associated with health risks, including high blood pressure, cancers, liver disease, sexual risk behaviors, injuries, and violence. Excessive alcohol use is also associated with behavioral health concerns, including anxiety and depression. Adolescents whose parents drink alcohol may be more likely to drink themselves. Among adults, those who experienced adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) as children are more likely to develop alcohol use disorder later in life.

Between 2020-2021, an average of 19,335 people died per year due to excessive alcohol use in California, an increase from 2018-2019. These deaths led to more than 492,097 years of life lost per year.

Objectives and Key Results

AHPI uses evidence-based strategies at the population level to prevent alcohol related harms in California through:

- **Stakeholder Collaboration** – build diverse partnerships and engage on alcohol-related harms prevention efforts.
- **Research** – share data on alcohol use and alcohol-related harms in California via reports and data visualizations.
- **Creating Awareness** – develop culturally relevant health education materials, including fact sheets, infographics, social media, and other resources about alcohol-related harms.