

# MOTIVES OF ALCOHOL DRINKING IN DIFFERENT AGE GROUPS OF ADULTS IN CROATIA

Diana Jovičić Burić<sup>1</sup>, Barbara Raguž<sup>1</sup>, Ljiljana Muslić<sup>1</sup>,  
Iva Pejnović Franelić<sup>1</sup>, Sanja Musić Milanović<sup>1,2</sup>



1 Croatian Institute of Public Health; 2 School of Public Health "Andrija Štampar", School of Medicine, University of Zagreb

## Background

Drinking of alcohol becomes an important issue with aging due to changes in absorption, distribution, and metabolism of alcohol and medications. This study aims to compare the motives for drinking among different age groups of the adult population in Croatia.

## Material & Methods

- Standardized European Alcohol Survey (SEAS) within EU Joint Action on Reducing Alcohol Related Harm (JA RARHA)
- Motives for drinking measured with MD scale consisted of 10 items
- Selected sample of those who drink alcohol (n=1171) divided in three age groups: Young or Early Adulthood (18-34), Middle Adulthood (35-49) and Late Middle Adulthood (50-64)
- Difference between age groups analyzed using parametric and non-parametric tests

## Results

Figure 1. Factor scores (rotated component matrix) of 10 reasons for drinking



Table 1. Differences between age groups in motives for drinking among those who drank in the last 12 months

Motives for drinking	Age groups						ANOVA/K-W Test	
	1 - Young/Early Adulthood (18-34)		2- Middle Adulthood (35-49)		3 - Late Middle Adulthood (50-65)		F/ $\chi^2$	Post hoc test
	M	$\sigma$	M	$\sigma$	M	$\sigma$		
Pleasure	8,48	3,35	7,43	3,42	6,99	3,27	15,69**	(1,2) (1,3)
Problems	4,32	2,17	3,85	1,87	3,91	1,99	23,51**	(1,2) (1,3)
Fitting in with others	3,52	1,97	3,14	1,71	3,16	1,82	12,19**	(1,2) (1,3)
Healthiness	3,38	1,92	3,91	2,26	4,55	2,53	49,71**	(1,2) (1,3) (2,3)

\*(1,2) differences between age groups 1 and 2, (1,3) differences between age groups 1 and 3, (2,3) differences between age groups 2 and 3

\*\* p<0.01

## Conclusion

- The results showed that there is a difference in alcohol drinking motives between age groups. The Young/Early Adulthood age group drinks more often than the other two groups for fun, because alcohol helps them cope with problems and makes it easier for them to fit in. With aging, motives for drinking shift towards healthiness and belief that alcohol is a part of a healthy diet.
- The results confirm the need to consider not only patterns of drinking but also motives for drinking when planning public health interventions for specific age groups.