COMPARING DRINKING PATTERNS, PROBLEMS AND ATTITUDES IN SIX EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

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Notes on Contributors

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The Six-Country Survey of the European Comparative Alcohol Study: Comparing Patterns and Assessing Validity

Introducing a series of analyses, the paper considers validity problems in survey data in general, and the specific issues arising around a telephone survey on alcohol issues in 2000 in Finland, Sweden, Germany, Great Britain, France and Italy.

HÅKAN LEIFMAN

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A Comparative Analysis of Drinking Patterns in Six EU Countries in the Year 2000

While there has been some convergence on frequency of drinking, it is still highest in Italy and France and lowest in Sweden and Finland. Conversely, average quantity per occasion is highest in Sweden, Finland and the UK and lowest in France and Italy, although Italians are not particularly low in how often they drink a bottle of wine (or equivalent) or more.

HÅKAN LEIFMAN

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Alcohol Consumption and the Experience of Adverse Consequences—A Comparison of Six European Countries

Overall prevalence of alcohol-related harm, as reported by drinkers in a survey, was highest in Finland and the UK and lowest in France and Italy. The risk curves for problems by volume of drinking tended to be less steep in France and Italy. In all six countries, both volume of drinking and heavier drinking occasions predicted alcohol-related problems.

MATS RAMSTEDT
Informal Alcohol Control in Six EU Countries

Having tried to influence a relative or friend to drink less in the last year was common in all countries (30%-38%). Pressing a friend was most likely among Italians, pressing a spouse most likely among Finns and British. Pressing others was generally more common among drinkers than abstainers, among women than men, and among younger rather than older adults.

ÖRJAN HEMSTRÖM

Attitudes Toward Alcohol Policy in Six EU Countries

A majority of respondents in Italy, Sweden and France agreed that the government has a responsibility to keep down how much people drink, while British respondents were evenly split and only a minority in Finland and Germany agreed. Generally, those who drank little or nothing were more likely to agree.

ÖRJAN HEMSTRÖM

Can Alcohol Expectancies and Attributions Explain Western Europe’s North-South Gradient in Alcohol’s Role in Violence?

In responses to items about attitudes relevant to alcohol’s role in violence, it was found that Italians and British were most likely to excuse behavior because of drunkenness, while Finnish respondents were most likely to value showing no effects from drinking. The potential meanings of these and other unexpected findings are discussed.

ROBIN ROOM AND SANDRA BULLOCK

Books: Review/Commentary


ISSUE EDITOR: HÅKAN LEIFMAN