

Submissions must not exceed 250 words (excluding title & authors), an extra 50 words are given **only** to submissions who answer the two optional points. The document **must not** be password protected or saved as read only, as this may result in your abstract failing to upload successfully. Use Arial 11-point type only. Please structure your submission using the subheadings below - use the subheadings that work best for your abstract and remove the additional subheading not being used, e.g. If you are using *Key Findings* – remove the *Results* subheading.

Using ambulance attendance data to quantify harms arising from alcohol intoxication

SHARON MATTHEWS^{1,2}, ALI CHEETHAM^{1,2}, ROSE CROSSIN^{1,2,3}, DEBBIE SCOTT^{1,2}, KAREN SMITH^{4,5,6}, DAN I. LUBMAN^{1,2}

¹ Eastern Health Clinical School, Monash University, Box Hill, Australia, ² Turning Point, Eastern Health, Richmond, Australia, ³ Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health, Parkville, Australia, ⁴ Ambulance Victoria, Doncaster, Australia, ⁵ Department of Community Emergency Health and Paramedic Practice, Monash University, Frankston, Australia, ⁶ Department of Epidemiology and Preventative Medicine, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia,

Presenter's email: SharonM@turningpoint.org.au

Introduction and Aims: Harmful patterns of alcohol use is an avoidable risk factor for disease, illness, and injury. There are positive signs in Australia that, at a population level, alcohol consumption is decreasing. However, in contrast, alcohol-related harm may be increasing, highlighting that average alcohol consumption alone cannot be used as a proxy measure for alcohol-related harm. Therefore, the aim of this study was to determine whether alcohol intoxication harm follows similar trends to population-level consumption data and whether particular population sub-groups are most at risk from alcohol intoxication harms.

Design and Methods: Ambulance attendance data (Victoria, Australia, January 2012 to June 2017) were extracted from a database of coded ambulance records. All 108,164 ambulance attendances that reported alcohol intoxication was a significant contributor to that attendance were included. Attendance characteristics were categorised by age and gender, and other characteristics of the attendance were analysed, with comparison between 'Alcohol only intoxication' and 'Alcohol and other substance intoxication' attendances.

Results: Alcohol intoxication attendances have increased in all age groups, other than under 18s. The greatest increase was observed in those aged over 50. Of all ambulance attendances involving alcohol intoxication, 82.5% of those involve only alcohol. There were significant differences in patients demographics and attendance characteristics, between 'alcohol only' attendances and 'alcohol and other substance' attendances.

Discussions and Conclusions: These results highlight a need for public health messaging to be re-targeted to address the harms associated with alcohol intoxication, as there is growing evidence that harms are increasing despite widespread decreases in alcohol consumption.

Implications for Practice or Policy: There may be a need to shift from population-level interventions to interventions that are targeted to high-risk sub-groups. However, further research is needed in order to understand the factors that increase harm within these groups, as well as identifying other population subgroups that may be vulnerable to alcohol intoxication-related harms.

Disclosure of Interest Statement:

Funding for the overall Ambo Project was provided by the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services. The authors confirm that there are no financial declarations to be made, and no competing interests, relevant to this study. Funding bodies had no involvement in the decision to publish this study.

ORAL/POSTER/WORKSHOP ABSTRACT TEMPLATE

Submissions must not exceed 250 words (excluding title & authors), an extra 50 words are given **only** to submissions who answer the two optional points. The document **must not** be password protected or saved as read only, as this may result in your abstract failing to upload successfully. Use Arial 11-point type only. Please structure your submission using the subheadings below - use the subheadings that work best for your abstract and remove the additional subheading not being used, e.g. If you are using *Key Findings* – remove the *Results* subheading.

Sharon Matthews is a research fellow in the population health team of Turning Point, with an interest in drug and alcohol epidemiology, and particularly the harms from alcohol in an ageing population.