

Associations of alcohol, tobacco and gambling expenditure with housing affordability in Australia

Lamia Lazmi Khandker¹, Anne-Marie Laslett¹, Charles Livingston², Ron Borland³, Robin Room^{1,4}, Heng Jiang^{1,5}

¹Centre for Alcohol Policy Research, School of Psychology and Public Health, La Trobe University, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, ²School of Public Health & Preventive Medicine, Monash University, Melbourne, VIC, Australia, ³School of Psychological Sciences, University of Melbourne, Melbourne, VIC, Australia, ⁴Centre for Social Research on Alcohol and Drugs, Department of Public Health Sciences, Stockholm University, Stockholm, Sweden, ⁵Centre for Health Equity, Melbourne School of Population and Global Health, University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

Presenter's email: L.Khandker@latrobe.edu.au

Introduction and Aims: Drinking, smoking and gambling are common lifestyle risk behaviours, which constitute critical social and health challenges for Australia. This study aims to explore whether alcohol, tobacco and gambling expenditure correlate to the housing affordability.

Method: The study used the 2015-16 wave of Australian Household Expenditure Survey (HES) from ABS and examined the alcohol, tobacco and gambling expenditure among different income group and household compositions by taking t-test for mean difference with 95% CI and ANOVA test. If a household spends more than 30% of their income in housing, then they are less likely to afford a house. We analysed how education, different family type, income and housing ownership affects alcohol, gambling and tobacco expenditure. We used simple linear regression models to examine the association of alcohol, tobacco and gambling expenditure with housing affordability and ownership, controlling for the effects of age, education, household composition, household disposable income

Results: We found alcohol, tobacco and gambling expenditure varies in different income groups and household compositions. We also found that housing unaffordability was significantly associated with lower proportion of household expenditure on alcohol, tobacco and gambling in three multivariate logistic regression models and the expenditure share on alcohol, tobacco and gambling have a significant substitutional relationship among them.

Discussion and Conclusions: The findings of this study suggest that the housing unaffordability has a significant contribution to the reduced expenditure share on alcohol, tobacco and gambling in Australia. This result may suggest that the reduction in alcohol and tobacco consumption the last decade in Australia, may be partially due to the increase in housing unaffordability.

Disclosure of Interest Statement: This work is supported by Australian Research Council Discovery Project Grant (DP200101781). HJ is supported by National Health and Medical Research Council Project Grant (GNT1141325).