



Alcoholism and Aging

(See also: [Prescription Drugs](#) and [Mental Health](#))

The abuse of alcohol by older adults may be less prevalent than other age groups but according to most researchers it is more difficult to detect. Some studies indicate the effects of alcohol misuse on one's health may be cumulative, such that misuse at an earlier age may not affect one's health until later years. Alcoholism is more prevalent among older African Americans, Hispanic men and men in general. Alcohol abuse among older adults is believed to be symptomatic of other chronic and mental health conditions. Despite this knowledge, there is little research on the effectiveness of prevention and treatment programs among the elderly. These links help define the parameters of alcohol use as a social issue and public health problem.

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Consumer Information

Age and Alcoholism Abuse - Age Page

(National Institute on Aging and
National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism)

<http://www.niaaa.nih.gov/publications/agepage.htm>

Alcohol Alert – Alcohol and Aging

(National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism)

<http://www.niaaa.nih.gov/publications/aa40.htm>

Alcohol and Substance Use Disorders in Older Adults - Older Adults and Mental Health – Mental Health: A Report of the Surgeon General (1999)

(Office of the Surgeon General, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services)

http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/mentalhealth/chapter4/sec5.html - service_substance

What Information Do Seniors Receive on the Internet About Alcohol?

(Aging Canada)

http://www.agingincanada.ca/what_Internet_info_do_seniors_receive.htm

Elderly, Alcohol and Alcoholism

(Lake County Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Board)

<http://www.lakeadamhs.org/elderly.htm>

Chemical Dependency and Older Adults

(Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association)

<http://199.44.234.6/resource/justfact!/cdandol.pdf>

Support Organizations and Resources

Alcoholics Anonymous

<http://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org/>

Adult Children of Alcoholics

<http://www.adultchildren.org/>

Al-Anon/ALATeen

<http://www.al-anon.alateen.org/>

Treatment Referral Information

(National Institute on Alcoholism and Alcohol Abuse)

<http://www.niaaa.nih.gov/other/referral.htm>

National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence

<http://www.ncadd.org/index.html>

Alcoholism – Medline Plus

(National Library of Medicine)

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/alcoholism.html>

Elderly Use and Abuse of Alcohol and Drugs

Interest Group of the Gerontological Society of America

(University of South Florida)

<http://www.fmhi.usf.edu/amh/schonfeld/GSA-Alcohol.htm>

Statistics

Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

(interactive – select prevalence, alcohol consumption & age for group)

(Center for Disease Control and Prevention)

<http://www.cdc.gov/brfss/>

Substance Abuse Among Older Adults

(Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration)

<http://www.health.org/govstudy/shortreports/olderadults/>

American Statistics on Older Adults and Drinking

(Aging Canada)

http://www.agingincanada.ca/american_statistics_on_drinking.htm

Fact Finder – Join Together Online – Substance Abuse

(Join Together)

http://www.jointogether.org/sa/action/tools/facts/reader.jtml?Object_ID=256154

Quick Facts (some of the tables are age specific)

(National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism)

<http://www.niaaa.nih.gov/databases/qf.htm>

Alcohol and the Elderly (UK)

(Institute of Alcohol Studies)

<http://www.ias.org.uk/factsheets/elderly.htm>

Alcohol and the Elderly (France)

(Alcoweb)

http://www.alcoweb.com/english/gen_info/alcohol_health_society/alco_social_env/elderly/elderly.html

Government Agencies

National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism

<http://www.niaaa.nih.gov/>

National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information

<http://www.health.org/>

Clinical Guidelines and Reports

At Any Age, It Does Matter: Substance Abuse and Older Adults (for Professionals)

(U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration)

http://pathwayscourses.samhsa.gov/samhsa_pathways/courses/aaap_4_pg1.htm

Alcohol, Medication and Older Adults

For Those Who Care About or Care for an Older Adult

(U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration)

http://pathwayscourses.samhsa.gov/samhsa_pathways/courses/aaac_intro.htm

Older Adults, Alcohol and Depression

(Aging Canada)

http://www.agingincanada.ca/Alcohol_and_Depression_best3.pdf

Ageing and Addiction: Helping Older Adults Overcome Alcohol or Medication Dependence

(Hazelton)

<http://agingandaddiction.net/>

Brief Physician Advice For Alcohol Problems in Older Adults: A Randomized Community-Based Trial

(National Library of Medicine)

http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=PubMed&list_uids=10334615&dopt=Abstract

Clinical Guidelines Alcohol Use Disorders In Older Adults

(American Geriatric Society)

<http://www.americangeriatrics.org/products/positionpapers/alcohol.shtml>

Substance Use by Older Adults:

Estimates of Future Impact on the Treatment System

(Office of Applied Statistics, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration)

<http://www.samhsa.gov/oas/aging/toc.htm>

Substance Abuse Among Older Adults Treatment Improvement Protocol

(Center for Substance Abuse Treatment)

<http://www.health.org/govpubs/BKD250/>

The Physician's Guide to Helping Patients with Alcohol Problems

(National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism)

<http://www.niaaa.nih.gov/publications/physicn.htm>

Substance Abuse Resource Guide: Older Americans

(National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information)

<http://www.health.org/govpubs/ms443/>

10th Special Report to Congress on Alcohol and Health

(National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism)

<http://www.niaaa.nih.gov/publications/10report/intro.pdf>

Alcohol Dependence in Older Adults (Course Module)

(Age Works)

http://www.ageworks.com/course_demo/522/week5/week5.htm

Late-Onset Alcoholism: Gaining Understanding

(Treatment Improvement Exchange)

<http://www.treatment.org/TAPS/TAP17/tap17late.onset.html>

Older Women Pose Special Substance Abuse Issues

(Hazelden Foundation)

http://www.hazelden.org/NEWSLETTER_DETAIL.dbm?ID=117

Articles

Alcohol and Drug Dependence in Older Adults

(Geriatric Times)

<http://www.geriatrictimes.com/g001023.html>

Trial Targets Depression, Alcohol Abuse in Elderly

UCSF Daybreak News

(University of California – San Francisco)

http://www.ucsf.edu/daybreak/2000/07/25_trial.html

When Seniors Drink: Alcoholism and the Elderly

(Missouri Bar Association)

<http://www.mobar.org/law/seniors.htm>

Elderly Drug and Alcohol Abuse Often Undetected

(Colorado Springs Independent)

<http://www.csindy.com/csindy/2000-02-02/news.html>

Alcohol Problems In Older Patients Often Escape Detection

(Agency for Health Care Quality and Research)

<http://www.ahcpr.gov/research/apr96/dept6.htm - head3>

Expert: Alcohol problems often overlooked in the elderly – Purdue News

(Purdue University)

<http://news.uns.purdue.edu/html4ever/9712.Krach.alcohol.html>

Research Abstracts and Bibliography

Alcohol Use Disorders In Older Adults: Resources And References

(American Geriatrics Society)

<http://www.americangeriatrics.org/products/alcohbib.pdf>

Prospective Study of Alcohol Consumption and Risk of Dementia in Older Adults

(Journal of the American Medical Association)

<http://jama.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/abstract/289/11/1405>

Effects of Alcohol-Related Disease on Hip Fracture and Mortality: A Retrospective Cohort Study of Hospitalized Medicare Beneficiaries

(American Journal of Public Health) <http://www.ajph.org/cgi/content/abstract/91/7/1089>

Treatment of Substance Abuse in the Elderly

(Alcohol and Drug Abuse Institute, University of Washington)

http://depts.washington.edu/adai/lib/bibs/tx_110.htm

Alcohol and Alcohol Problems Science Database (ETOH) (search on “elderly”)

(National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism)

<http://etoh.niaaa.nih.gov/>

KLEIN Bibliography: Alcohol and Drug Abuse among the Elderly

(Kansas Elder Law Network)

<http://www.keln.org/bibs/rohleder.html>

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