

A Review of the Impacts of Health and Health Behaviors on Women's Alcohol Use

Susan L. Clemens, MPH; Belinda M. Grant, BA/BSc; Sharon L. Matthews, MSc

Objectives: To summarize longitudinal research regarding physical health and health behaviors on women's subsequent alcohol use. **Methods:** Medline/PsycINFO databases were searched; from over 5000 articles, 29 met inclusion criteria. **Results:** Prior consumption and substance use are strong predictors of later consumption. Prior consumption was also reported to moderate the relationship between other health/health behaviors variables

and consumption. Perception of one's health status may be important in modifying consumption patterns among some subgroups. **Conclusions:** Routine alcohol screening may help identify women at risk of developing harmful alcohol use. Mechanisms to reduce alcohol access among young women should be supported.

Key words: alcohol, women, longitudinal, health, health behavior
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