



Personal information on the author

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Position: MD, PhD

Organisation

Karolinska Institutet Stockholm

Most important career path

- MD 1985
 - PhD 1990
 - Associate professor, Karolinska Institutet 1992
 - Director of the STAD project 1995 – 2005
 - Head, department for alcohol and drug prevention, Swedish National Institute of Public Health 2005 – 2009
 - Senior consultant, Stockholm Centre for Addiction, 2010
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Title of presentation

Cost effectiveness of prevention of alcohol related violence

Description of the contribution

The objective of this research was to study effects on violent crimes of a community alcohol prevention program and to calculate the program's cost-effectiveness. The design was a time-series quasi-experimental design including a control area. The intervention was a comprehensive community intervention program, addressing the environment in which alcohol is consumed and consisting of training in responsible beverage service for servers combined with policy initiatives in the community, especially increased enforcement. Data on police-reported violence during the period of January 1994 to September 2000 were analyzed through ARIMA modeling. A survey among victims of violence (N=604) was also performed.

Results: During the intervention period, violent crimes decreased significantly, by 29% in the intervention area, controlled for the development in the control area.

The cost of implementing the program was €788 000. Overall savings of the program were calculated to €31 314 000, related to the judicial system, production losses, health care issues, and other damage. The negative impact on health was calculated to 236 QALYs.

Conclusion: It was concluded that the intervention seemed to have been successful in reducing violent crimes. Furthermore, the results demonstrate reliable cost-savings (1:40) and health gains (about 3-4 lives in perfect health). The outcome supports the notion that community action projects working on a local basis can be effective in decreasing alcohol-related problems at licensed premises.