

Abstract citation ID: ckae144.2103**Exploring the dynamics of alcohol use, poverty and the role of social context in Athens, Greece****Sotiria Kyriakidou***S Kyriakidou¹, C Temenos¹, C Henry¹, T Paparrigopoulos², K Triantafyllou²*¹Geography Department, University of Manchester, Manchester, UK²School of Medicine, National and Kapodistrian University, Athens, Greece

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Background: A body of research conducted across diverse national context, including the United Kingdom, Russia, Denmark and Norway, shows a robust link between poverty and increased alcohol related harm, even after accounting for different drinking patterns. This paper examines the unexplored relationship between poverty and alcohol use in Athens, Greece, focusing on alcohol's impact related to the familial and social life of individuals and whether this system is affected by poverty.

Methods: This is a 2021 cross-sectional study, with 300 adult participants of mean age 45.8. We administered four questionnaires. The participants were equally distributed above and below the poverty threshold, sampled randomly. The latter were beneficiaries of social services. The data analysis established two scoring variables: the level of dysfunction from alcohol use and the level of strength of family ties. We computed their correlation and multiple linear regressions to assess their relationships.

Results: Individuals not residing in poverty exhibit a higher frequency of alcohol use (81.9%) than their counterparts (57.1%), however, those living in poverty tend to consume greater quantities of alcohol per occasion ($p < 0.001$) and reported elevated levels of dysfunction within familial and social interactions.

Conclusions: This study indicates that different consumption patterns are tied to diverse socioeconomic strata, with binge drinking behaviours specifically linked to financial hardship. Also, alcohol related dysfunction and family and social dynamics are affected by poverty. Our findings show that as dysfunction attributed to alcohol use increases, participants socialize less and report lower levels of well-being. In contrast those with balanced family ties and social encounters exhibit the opposite trend. This study warrants further exploration in cities in Southern Europe.

Key messages:

- To mitigate alcohol use, policies empowering social and familial connections are of high importance.
- Uncovering poverty as a factor for binge drinking can inform prevention strategies.