

Alcohol use, drunkenness and tobacco smoking in rural western Kenya

T. Q. Lo¹, J. E. Oeltmann², F. O. Odhiambo³, C. Beynon⁴, E. Pevzner², K. P. Cain^{2,3}, K. F. Laserson^{3,5} and P. A. Phillips-Howard⁶

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of Tuberculosis Elimination, Atlanta, GA, USA., Epidemic Intelligence Service Program, Office of Workforce and Career Development

² Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of Tuberculosis Elimination, Atlanta, GA, USA., International Research and Programs Branch

³ Kenya Medical Research Institute/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Research and Public Health Collaboration

⁴ Centre for Public Health, Liverpool John Moores University, UK

⁵ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Center for Global Health

⁶ Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, Liverpool, UK

Abstract

OBJECTIVES To describe the prevalence of smoking and alcohol use and abuse in an impoverished rural region of western Kenya.

METHODS Picked from a population-based longitudinal database of demographic and health census data, 72 292 adults (≥ 18 years) were asked to self-report their recent (within the past 30 days) and lifetime use of tobacco and alcohol and frequency of recent 'drunkenness'.

RESULTS Overall prevalence of ever smoking was 11.2% (11.0–11.5) and of ever drinking, 20.7% (20.4–21.0). The prevalence of current smoking was 6.3% (6.1–6.5); 5.7% (5.5–5.9) smoked daily. 7.3% (7.1–7.5) reported drinking alcohol within the past 30 days. Of these, 60.3% (58.9–61.6) reported being drunk on half or more of all drinking occasions. The percentage of current smokers rose with the number of drinking days in a month ($P < 0.0001$). Tobacco and alcohol use increased with decreasing socio-economic status and amongst women in the oldest age group ($P < 0.0001$).

CONCLUSIONS Tobacco and alcohol use are prevalent in this rural region of Kenya. Abuse of alcohol is common and likely influenced by the availability of cheap, home-manufactured alcohol.

Appropriate evidence-based policies to reduce alcohol and tobacco use should be widely implemented and complemented by public health efforts to increase awareness of their harmful effects.

keywords drinking alcohol, smoking, rural, western Kenya

Introduction

Worldwide, tobacco use continues to be the leading cause of preventable death (World Health Organization 2011c), and almost 4% of deaths are attributed to the harmful use of alcohol (Rehm *et al.* 2007; World Health Organization 2011c). Alcohol use is a causal factor in 60 types of disease and injury, a contributory factor to 200 other diseases (such as cancers, liver cirrhosis, hypertension and pancreatitis) and is associated with violence, suicides, child abuse/neglect and workplace absenteeism (Corrao *et al.* 2004; Borges *et al.* 2006; Lau *et al.* 2008; World Health Organization 2011c). People with alcohol-associated diseases smoke more than people with non-alcohol-related disease, suggesting a synergism between alcohol-related harm and cigarette smoking (Lau *et al.* 2008).

Globally, tobacco-related illnesses kill up to half of its users or approximately six million people annually (World Health Organization 2011b). The prevalence of smoking is increasing amongst people in low- and middle-income countries (LMIC), and by 2030, tobacco use is predicted to result in more than eight million deaths worldwide, and 80% of these premature deaths occurring in LMIC (World Health Organization 2011c). Smoking and alcohol consumption substantially contribute towards chronic diseases, which are estimated to cause more than 60% of deaths globally, with more than 80% of these occurring in LMIC (Lopez & Mathers 2006; A-begunde *et al.* 2007). Without effective prevention and control programmes, as the economies of LMIC grow, so will risk factors for disorders such as cardiovascular diseases (including smoking). When coupled with the

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current burden of infectious diseases, global health inequalities will be further exacerbated (Ezzati *et al.* 2005). The need for action to deal with the growing burden of non-communicable diseases in African countries has been well documented (Mayosi *et al.* 2009; Alwan *et al.* 2010).

Despite the expected contribution of tobacco use and the harmful use of alcohol to morbidity and mortality, epidemiological data are still lacking for many countries, especially countries with less established market economies (Degenhardt *et al.* 2008; Giovino *et al.* 2012). In Kenya, epidemiological data on smoking and harmful use of alcohol are available for selected populations such as adults attending medical facilities (Ndeti *et al.* 2009; Othieno *et al.* 2009) and adolescents (Mugisha *et al.* 2003; Ogwell *et al.* 2004) and from small-scale surveys (NACADA Authority 2007, 2010). Other research on tobacco and alcohol use in sub-Saharan Africa have identified these behaviours as risk factors or variables that impact treatment of communicable diseases (Kalichman *et al.* 2006; Chersich *et al.* 2007, 2009; Amuha *et al.* 2009; Abaynew *et al.* 2011). The lack of comprehensive data representative of the Kenyan population limits our ability to assess the magnitude of the problem.

The aim of our study was to estimate the prevalence of smoking and alcohol use amongst adults according to poverty level, marital status, sex and age in a rural population in western Kenya. Our study area has an ongoing Health and Demographic Surveillance System (HDSS),

thereby providing an opportunity to sample across a population with known sociodemographic characteristics. As of September 2012, this epidemiological study is the largest study examining factors associated with alcohol and tobacco use in a sub-Saharan African country.

Methods

Study site and population

The population is described in detail elsewhere (Cohen & Atieno-Odhiambo 1989; Phillips-Howard *et al.* 2003; Odhiambo *et al.* 2012). Briefly, the study site comprises 385 villages spread over a 700 km² area along the shores of Lake Victoria, Nyanza Province in western Kenya. The area is rural and includes Asembo (Rarieda District), Wagai and Yala (Gem District), and Karemo (Siaya District) (Figure 1). The population are Luo with polygynous families living in compounds comprised of a separate house for each wife and her children. Most are subsistence farmers.

Health and demographic surveillance system and data processing

The HDSS is a population-based system that is used to longitudinally record demographic data of more than 220 000 individuals. A household census of the total population, where field staff visit households and survey



Figure 1 Map of study area.

individuals to collect demographic information, occurs three times each year from January to April, May to August and September to December. Census information comprises births, deaths, in- and out-migrations, pregnancies, morbidity, parental survival status, immunisation status for children under 2 years, religion, marriage and ethnicity. Education and socio-economic status (SES) are collected once every 2 years. Economic indicators gathered for each household include the occupation of the head of household, primary source of drinking water, use of cooking fuel, ownership of material assets and livestock possessions (Meltzer *et al.* 2003). From these economic indicators, a household SES index was calculated as a weighted average of the indicators using multiple correspondence analysis (MCA). MCA provides a composite asset index score for categorical variables and does not presume indicator values are normally distributed. The MCA household SES index was then used to rank households within our study population by quintiles ranging from 1 (poorest) to 5 (least poor) households (Filmer & Pritchett 2001; McKenzie 2005; Booyesen *et al.* 2008).

In 2011, we added a module for adults aged 18 years and older to measure their use of alcohol and tobacco. Alcohol and tobacco use data presented in this article are from household interviews conducted in parallel with the HDSS second round census from May to August 2011. If an individual was not at home, a senior adult informant in the household was asked to serve as a proxy and report on the absent individual's alcohol consumption and smoking behaviour. Whenever possible, individuals were interviewed privately due to the sensitive nature of questions regarding drinking and smoking.

We asked participants (i) if they ever consumed alcohol, (ii) the number of days alcohol was consumed in the past 7 days, and if they reported no alcohol use in the past 7 days, then we asked (iii) about the past 30 days. Because of restrictions in the number of questions that could be added to the survey, we did not use existing tools such as the CAGE questionnaire (Sendagire *et al.* 2012). In Kenya, consumption of local brew is common (NACADA Authority 2007). The alcohol content of such beverages can vary widely, as does the size of cups, and drinkers generally have their cups topped up as they drink. These factors would render any effort to measure quantity of alcohol consumed based on alcohol content and volume highly inaccurate. Instead, participants who reported drinking in the past 30 days were also asked about the number of days in the past 30 that they were 'drunk'. Local vernacular was used by field staff to define 'drunk' as any time in which the participant exhibited behaviour readily associated with excessive alcohol consumption (e.g. difficulty in walking straight, slurred

or incoherent speech or a sense of feeling 'tipsy').

Responses on the number of days alcohol was consumed in the past 7 days and the number of days the drinker was 'drunk' in the past 7 days were multiplied by 4.3 (52 weeks/12 months) to obtain past-30-day estimates.

The categories presented for the number of days drinking in the past 30 days are based on the calculated tertiles amongst those who drank. Tertiles were 1–7, 8–17 and >17 days per month. For smoking, we calculated the proportion of people that ever smoked, had smoked at least 100 cigarettes in their lifetime and current smoking (i.e. reported smoking at least 100 cigarettes and reported smoking at the time of the interview) (Lau *et al.* 2008). We calculated smoking and drinking prevalence and 95% confidence intervals and present estimates stratified by gender, age, wealth index and marital status. We performed crude and adjusted logistic regression and calculated 95% confidence intervals to assess factors related to current smoking and problem drinking, those who drank on at least 8 days during the past 30 and were drunk at least half of the times they drank.

Ethical considerations

Surveillance activities and informed consent procedures were reviewed by the Kenyan Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) scientific and ethics committees. The protocol for this analysis was reviewed and approved by CDC. Due to low literacy levels in Luo and English in the study area, participants are orally informed of their right to withdraw before each census takes place and acknowledge their consent through their signature or thumb print. Data are stored securely, without names, and can only be accessed by people authorised to do so; data are stored at KEMRI/CDC Research and Public Health Collaboration campus at Kisian in western Kenya.

Results

Overall, interviews on 72 292 individuals were conducted. The majority of respondents were female (56.9%), between 18 and 29 years of age (35.8%), married or cohabitating (57.2%) and had a primary education (63.9%). In comparison with men, a greater proportion of women were 40 years or older (50.6% *vs.* 41.0%, $P < 0.0001$), widowed (28.4% *vs.* 3.4%, $P < 0.0001$) and had no formal education (18.6% *vs.* 4.2%, $P < 0.0001$) (Table 1).

Amongst adults 18 years and older, the overall prevalence of ever drinking alcohol was 20.7% (20.4–21.0) and that of ever smoking was 11.2% (11.0–11.5) (Table 2).

Table 1 Characteristics of the study population by gender

	Gender				Total	
	Male		Female			
	<i>n</i>	%*	<i>n</i>	%*	<i>N</i>	%*
Total	31 188		41 104		72 292	
Respondent						
Proxy	19 018	61.0	17 707	43.1	36 725	50.8
Self	12 170	39.0	23 397	56.9	35 567	49.2
Age category						
18–29	12 656	40.6	13 216	32.2	25 872	35.8
30–39	5733	18.4	7060	17.2	12 793	17.7
40–49	3850	12.3	6183	15.0	10 033	13.9
50–59	3439	11.0	6007	14.6	9446	13.1
60+	5510	17.7	8638	21.0	14 148	19.6
Marital status						
Single	10 630	34.2	5737	14.0	16 367	22.7
Married/ cohabitating	18 252	58.6	23 022	56.1	41 274	57.2
Divorced	1177	3.8	628	1.5	1805	2.5
Widow	1068	3.4	11 629	28.4	12 697	17.6
Highest education completed						
None	1318	4.2	7631	18.6	8949	12.4
Primary	20 064	64.5	25 983	63.5	46 047	63.9
Secondary	8311	26.7	6610	16.1	14 921	20.7
Post-secondary	1434	4.6	710	1.7	2144	3.0

*Percentages exclude missing data.

The prevalence of drinking alcohol in the past 30 days was 7.3% (7.1–7.5) amongst all individuals and 34.6% (33.9–35.4) amongst ever drinkers. In total, the prevalence of current smoking was 6.3% (6.1–6.5) and 5.7% (5.5–5.9) smoked daily. The prevalence of both smoking and drinking was two to three times higher amongst men than women. Overall, 1.7% of persons reportedly had smoked daily and drank alcohol on 18 or more days in the past 30 days (the highest tertile calculated for persons who reported drinking in the past 30 days).

Amongst the 34.6% of ‘ever drinkers’ that drank in the past 30 days, 60.3% reported being drunk on half or more of all drinking occasions. Table 3 shows that the trend for being ‘drunk’ on half or more of all drinking occasions increased as the number of reported days of drinking in the past 30 days increased ($P < 0.0001$). Amongst those who reported drinking on 18 days or more, two-thirds reported being ‘drunk’ on half or more of all occasions when they drank. Amongst those who drank in the past 30 days, the per cent of current smokers significantly increased from 40.9% to 61.3% with increasing number of days in a month drinking ($P < 0.0001$).

Table 2 Alcohol and smoking prevalence by gender

	Male			Female			Total		
	Yes (%)*	No (%)*	Unknown	Yes (%)*	No (%)*	Unknown	Yes (%)*	No (%)*	Unknown
Ever smoke	4945 (16.4)	25 126 (83.6)	1117	2978 (7.4)	37 445 (92.6)	681	7923 (11.2)	62 571 (88.8)	1798
Smoked 100 cigarettes lifetime	4401 (14.7)	25 473 (85.3)	1314	2516 (6.2)	37 806 (93.8)	782	6917 (9.9)	63 279 (90.1)	2096
Smokes now	3382 (11.2)	26 689 (88.8)	1117	1042 (2.6)	39 381 (97.4)	681	4424 (6.3)	66 070 (93.7)	1798
Smokes every day	3066 (10.2)	26 959 (89.8)	1163	928 (2.3)	39 486 (97.7)	690	3994 (5.7)	66 445 (94.3)	1853
Ever drink	9191 (31.0)	20 443 (69.0)	1554	5269 (13.1)	34 810 (86.9)	1025	14 460 (20.7)	55 253 (79.3)	2579
Drank in the past 30 days	4079 (14.2)	24 694 (85.8)	2415	931 (2.3)	38 946 (97.7)	1227	5010 (7.3)	63 640 (92.7)	3642
Did not get drunk†	799 (19.6)			290 (31.1)			1089 (21.7)		
Drunk <50% when drinking†	733 (18.0)			169 (18.2)			902 (18.0)		
Drunk 50%+ when drinking†	2547 (62.4)			472 (50.7)			3019 (60.3)		
Ever drink and ever smoke	4569 (15.1)	25 675 (84.9)	944	2309 (5.7)	38 211 (94.3)	584	6878 (9.7)	63 886 (90.3)	1528
Smokes daily and drinks 18+ days in a month	1027 (3.4)	29 217 (96.6)	944	166 (0.4)	40 354 (99.6)	584	1193 (1.7)	69 571 (98.3)	1528

*Percentages exclude missing data.

†Percentages calculated amongst those who drank in the past 30 days.

Table 3 Per cent of time drunk by the number of days drinking and current smoking status amongst those who drank in the past 30 days

	Days in a month drinking						Total	
	1–7		8–17		18+			
	<i>n</i>	%*	<i>n</i>	%*	<i>n</i>	%*	<i>n</i>	%*
Total	1338		1674		1998		5010	
% of time drunk when drinking								
Did not get drunk	506	37.8	395	23.6	188	9.4	1089	21.7
<50%	147	11.0	282	16.8	473	23.7	902	18.0
50%+†	685	51.2	997	59.6	1337	66.9	3019	60.3
Smokes now								
Yes†	545	40.9	825	49.5	1222	61.3	2592	51.9
No	789	59.1	842	50.5	770	38.7	2401	48.1
Unknown	4		0		7		11	

*Percentages exclude missing data.

† $P < 0.0001$ (test of trend).

For male individuals, 61.0% of interviews were from proxy respondents (Table 1). In comparison with self-respondents, individuals represented by proxies were younger (median age 30 years *vs.* 46, $P < 0.0001$) and had lower prevalence of ever smoking (6.5% *vs.* 15.9%, $P < 0.0001$), current smoking (4.6% *vs.* 7.9%, $P < 0.0001$) and ever drinking (13.8% *vs.* 27.4%). Drinking alcohol in the past 30 days was more common amongst individuals with proxy respondents (49.8% *vs.* 32.1%, $P < 0.0001$). Table 4 includes estimates of crude and adjusted associations between current smoking, problem drinking and select factors. After adjusting for cofactors, proxy report was not associated with current smoking but it was significantly associated with problem drinking (OR = 1.93, $P < 0.0001$).

Figures 2 and 3 are illustrations of smoking and drinking indicators by SES index category from 1 (poorest) to 5 (least poor). All smoking and drinking indicators significantly fell with rising SES index. The prevalence of daily smoking was more than triple (11.0% *vs.* 3.3%, $P < 0.0001$), and the prevalence of being drunk on 50% or more on all occasions when drinking was more than double (6.3% *vs.* 2.9%, $P = 0.01$) amongst the poorest compared to the least poor SES index quintiles.

The prevalence of smoking and drinking indicators by gender and age categories is shown in Figures 4 and 5. For men, both smoking and drinking indicators substantially increased between the age groups of 18–29 years and 30–39 years and began to level off or dropped for those aged 60 years or older. For women, the percentage of persons smoking remained small but increased significantly after 50 years of age. Drinking indicators amongst

women rose significantly with increasing age. Amongst women 60 years or older, 88.6% of the current smokers were daily smokers and 51.0% of those who drank in the past 30 days were drunk on half or more of occasions when drinking. Widowed followed by married/cohabitating women had the highest prevalence of ever smoking and drinking. The percentage of widowed women who ever smoked and drank alcohol was more than tripled from the ages of 50–59 (7.6%) to those aged 60 years and older (24.1%).

Crude and adjusted associations between selected factors and current smoking and problem drinking are presented in table 4. After adjustment, ever drinking (OR = 28.28, $P < 0.0001$), men (OR = 3.40, $P < 0.0001$), older age groups and increasing wealth index were significantly associated with current smoking. Current smoking (OR = 4.52, $P < 0.0001$), men (OR = 2.67, $P < 0.0001$), for all age groups 40 years and above (see Table 4), and the highest wealth index quintile (OR = 0.70, $P = 0.0001$) were significantly associated with problem drinking.

Discussion

Based on our analyses, both smoking and alcohol use are prevalent in this region of Kenya. Drinking alcohol, however, is more prevalent than smoking, which is consistent with previous data for Nyanza province (NACADA Authority 2007; Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) 2010). Alcohol, such as *chang'aa* (a traditional spirit) and *busaa* (a traditional beer), may be easier to obtain, as it is made in households and sold cheaply in

Table 4 Crude and adjusted multivariate logistic regression models for current smokers and problem drinkers

	Crude OR (lower CL, upper CL)	Adjusted OR (lower CL, upper CL)
<i>Currently smokes</i>		
Ever drink	44.37 (40.21, 48.95)	28.28 (25.51, 31.36)
Gender		
Male	4.79 (4.46, 5.14)	3.40 (3.12, 3.70)
Female	Referent	Referent
Age		
18-29	Referent	Referent
30-39	3.77 (3.38, 4.21)	1.99 (1.76, 2.26)
40-49	4.06 (3.62, 4.55)	2.23 (1.95, 2.54)
50-59	4.95 (4.43, 5.54)	2.59 (2.28, 2.95)
60+	5.30 (4.78, 5.88)	1.83 (1.62, 2.06)
Wealth index		
1	Referent	Referent
2	0.63 (0.57, 0.69)	0.62 (0.56, 0.70)
3	0.50 (0.46, 0.55)	0.51 (0.46, 0.58)
4	0.36 (0.33, 0.40)	0.36 (0.32, 0.40)
5	0.28 (0.25, 0.30)	0.28 (0.25, 0.31)
Respondent		
Proxy	0.57 (0.53, 0.60)	0.98 (0.90, 1.06)
Self	Referent	Referent
<i>Drunk 50%+ of time when drinking 8+ days in past 30 days</i>		
Currently smokes	5.58 (5.08, 6.13)	4.52 (4.09, 5.00)
Gender		
Male	4.39 (3.89, 4.96)	2.67 (2.34, 3.05)
Female	Referent	Referent
Age		
18-29	Referent	Referent
30-39	1.32 (1.14, 1.54)	1.17 (0.99, 1.38)
40-49	1.29 (1.10, 1.51)	1.30 (1.10, 1.55)
50-59	1.04 (0.89, 1.21)	1.22 (1.03, 1.45)
60+	0.51 (0.44, 0.59)	0.75 (0.64, 0.88)
Wealth index		
1	Referent	Referent
2	0.99 (0.85, 1.14)	0.85 (0.72, 1.00)
3	1.01 (0.88, 1.17)	0.86 (0.73, 1.01)
4	0.98 (0.85, 1.12)	0.86 (0.74, 1.01)
5	0.78 (0.68, 0.89)	0.70 (0.60, 0.82)
Respondent		
Proxy	2.34 (2.14, 2.56)	1.93 (1.74, 2.14)
Self	Referent	Referent

this rural setting (Papas *et al.* 2010). Traditional home brewing of alcohol occurs in many countries in Africa (Willis 2002; Macintyre & Bloss 2011). In Kenya, *chang'aa*, which literally means 'kill me quick', is the most popular form of alcohol in Nyanza province (NACADA Authority 2007) and is made from millet and corn. *Chang'aa*, which costs approximately 20 Kenyan shillings or USD\$0.25 a glass, is a fifth to a tenth of the cost of commercially manufactured brews and is therefore more

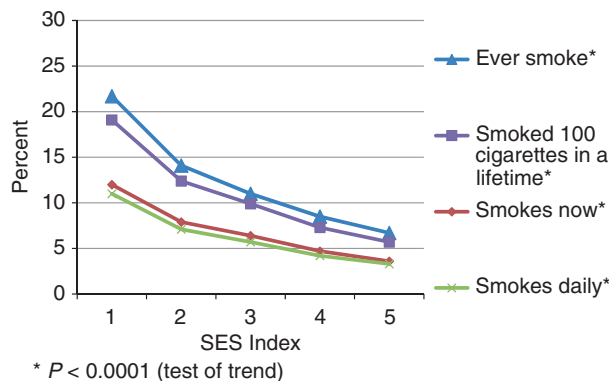


Figure 2 Smoking characteristics by socio-economic status (SES) index (one poorer to five least poor) amongst the study population. * $P < 0.0001$ (test of trend).

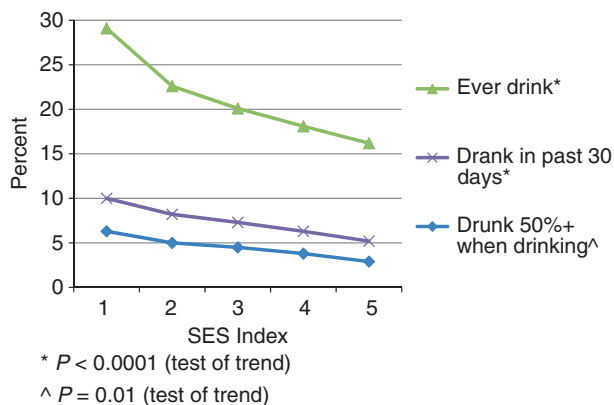


Figure 3 Drinking characteristics by socio-economic status (SES) index (one poorer to five least poor) amongst study population. * $P < 0.0001$ (test of trend). ^ $P = 0.01$ (test of trend).

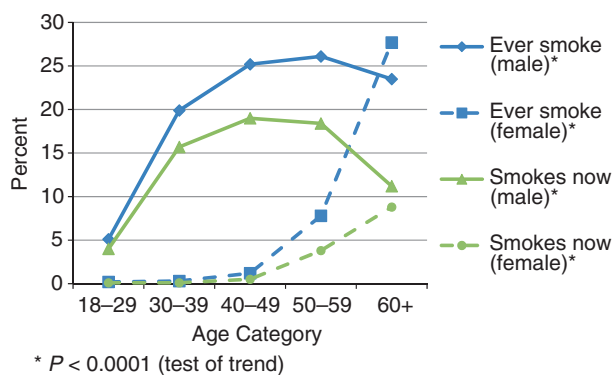


Figure 4 Lifetime and current smoking status by age category and gender amongst study population. * $P < 0.0001$ (test of trend).

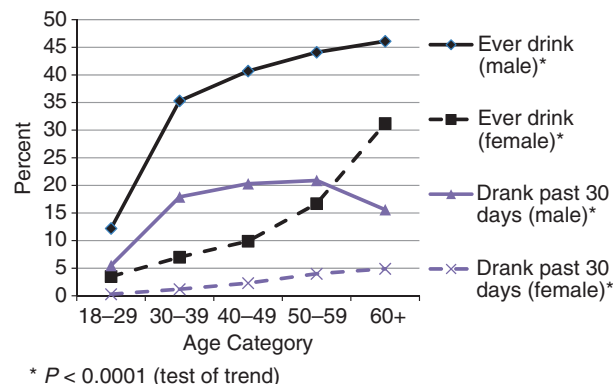
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Figure 5 Lifetime and recent drinking status (past 30 days) by age category and gender amongst study population. * $P < 0.0001$ (test of trend).

accessible to residents. *Chang'aa* poses serious health concerns as it causes death or blindness from methanol poisoning or from other toxic substances and colourants added to enhance alcohol content.

Our prevalence estimates of smoking and drinking for residents of the HDSS site in Nyanza Province are lower than previously reported national estimates for Kenya. Based on the 2003 World Health Survey, amongst rural residents, 26.2% ever drank alcohol and 12.7% currently smoke (World Health Organization 2003). The Kenyan National Agency for the Campaign Against Drugs Authority (NACADA) reported 38.8% ever drinking and 20.0% ever smoking for rural residents in 2007 (NACADA Authority 2007). One reason for the lower estimates in our study may be due to responses from proxies who may not have known an individuals' past drinking and smoking behaviours. Alternatively, the Kenyan government legalised home brews through the Alcoholic Drinks Control Act in 2010. The Act is intended to take business away from illicit brewers, control production, reduce exposure through limiting outlets and to control the time and mode of consumption and the age of use (NACADA 2010). It is possible that this survey reflects a reduction in alcohol consumption since the enactment of the new law.

The main determinants of alcohol-related harm are the volume of alcohol consumed and the pattern of consumption, particularly instances of heavy ('binge') drinking (World Health Organization 2011a). Here, a finding of importance is the high percentage of those who become drunk when drinking, particularly men and people of lower SES. Although both lifetime and current drinkers are a minority in this community, those that state they consume alcohol do so to excess. This finding is consistent with data from the 2008 to 2009 Kenyan Demographic Health Survey where 34% and 65% of

women reported that their husbands/partners were drunk 'often' and 'sometimes', respectively (Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) 2010). Clausen and colleagues explain this 'all or none' pattern present in some African countries including Kenya, where individuals are either heavy drinkers or abstainers. This differentiation may be a result of a significant percentage of individuals who are outliers participating in a behaviour outside the social norm, while the majority abstain from the behaviour as demonstrated by the high prevalence of persons reporting that they do not drink (Clausen *et al.* 2009). While it is possible that drinkers specifically consume alcohol to get drunk, a person's ability to regulate their drunkenness is complicated by the fact that home-brewed alcohol varies considerably in terms of its ethanol concentration (Papas *et al.* 2010). The pattern we observed for alcohol use may extend to smoking as well, given the high percentages of individuals who smoke daily and smoked more than 100 cigarettes in a lifetime, relative to the majority that reported never smoking.

The prevalence of current smoking amongst women overall is higher than what has been reported nationally in Kenya by the World Health Survey (1.0%) and the NACADA (1.3%) (World Health Organization 2003; NACADA Authority 2007). These higher rates in women, however, are driven by the substantial increase in smoking amongst women aged 50 years and older. Our finding is consistent with other studies of tobacco smoking in neighbouring Tanzania, Rwanda and Malawi, where the prevalence amongst women was greatest for the over 50 years of age group (Jagoe *et al.* 2002; Negin *et al.* 2011). Increasing age in women has also been found to be associated with higher odds of currently drinking, although this was not significant for Kenya (Martinez *et al.* 2011). Reasons for this trend of smoking and drinking in older women in rural Kenya are unclear as are the public health implications, although anecdotally locals suggest older women do not have the same cultural restrictions as younger women.

In this impoverished region, the poorest had significantly higher rates of drinking and smoking. This trend holds for smoking data in the World Health Survey (World Health Organization 2003) and for men in rural Nyanza province in the Kenya Demographic Health Survey (KDHS)¹ (Kenya National Bureau of Statistics

¹Although neither representative nor significant, the highest reported smoking prevalence was in the poorest quintile, while the lowest was in the richest. This is the inverse for Kenya overall in the KDHS, which shows an increasing trend with the exception of the highest quintile. The numbers of women smoking were too small for meaningful comparisons.

(KNBS) 2010). However, it is counter to data reported by NACADA, which showed higher rates of both alcohol and smoking in wealthier individuals (NACADA Authority 2007). The difference in prevalence between our data and the NACADA data may be due to the greater accessibility of commercially produced alcohol and cigarettes by wealthier, urban households in Kenya, which our study did not include. However, the low cost of traditional home-brewed alcohol makes it accessible for even the poorest members of the community. Our findings are consistent with other studies that have found higher rates of smoking and drinking amongst the poorest individuals (De Silva *et al.*, 2010; Neufeld *et al.* 2005; Aekplakorn *et al.* 2008).

Our study has several limitations. First, drinking and smoking frequencies are based on self-report from either individuals or their proxy. Proxies may not be knowledgeable of an individual's smoking and drinking behaviours, particularly over ones lifetime. With the exception of number of days drinking in the last 30 days, proxy responses yielded lower rates of drinking and smoking behaviours than did self-report responses. Household interviews occurred during daylight hours when those working outside the home were not present, and therefore, individuals represented by proxy respondents may have different risk behaviours than those who were directly interviewed. This is supported by those represented by proxies were significantly younger than those represented by themselves. In our adjusted multivariate models, relative to self-report, proxies were associated with problem drinking but not current smoking, which may indicate that problem drinking is less socially desirable. Given the tendency for individuals to underestimate drinking behaviours in surveys (Stockwell *et al.* 2004), data from proxies may be more reliable.

Another limitation results from the need to multiply out responses for past 7-day drinking and past 7-day drunk to estimate drinking and drunkenness in the past 30 days. Although there may have been differential recall bias based on the different time frames and past 7-day alcohol consumption may not represent the full 30 days, we considered the benefits of obtaining a single variable to outweigh the limitation of substratifying analyses. Regardless of time frame, the majority of individuals were drinking to be drunk, and this proportion increased with greater drinking frequency. Lastly, the alcohol and smoking data generated were limited to assessing frequency of use. In this preliminary prevalence study, we were unable to explore the types or quantity of alcohol or cigarettes consumed. This limitation precluded a greater understanding of drunkenness and associated risk factors. Development of future studies with more detailed

consumption behaviour data would form a basis for ascertaining health risks and potential interventions.

In summary, we documented a high prevalence of drinking until drunk amongst current drinkers, 1 in 10 men smoke daily and both smoking and problem drinking were greatest amongst the poor and older women in an impoverished community with high rates of HIV, malaria and TB. Given the prominent role that drinking and smoking also have on a multitude of diseases and conditions, having baseline data is necessary to identify trends and focus points for intervention. In recent studies in East Africa, alcohol abuse was related to defaulting from TB treatment (Muture *et al.* 2011; Sendagire *et al.* 2012). Based on our data, programmes and interventions are needed to promote responsible alcohol consumption and tobacco use cessation and prevent the initiation of these behaviours. Policies should be evidence based and appropriate both regionally and nationally and should regulate the availability and cost of alcohol by controlling illicit production and alcohol marketing activities. Complementary initiatives that promote public health awareness of alcohol-related harm should be employed across all levels of the population. Other recommendations include monitoring alcohol attributable morbidity and mortality to evaluate the alcohol-related burden and increasing the capacity of services to prevent and treat abuse of alcohol, including alcohol use screening initiatives (World Health Organization 2010).

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Corresponding Author Terrence Lo, Division of Tuberculosis Elimination, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1600 Clifton Road NE, MS E-10, Atlanta, GA, 30333 USA. E-mail: terrencelo@cdc.gov