



Alcohol - still a Balanced View?

**Alcohol—
A Balanced View**

ROYAL COLLEGE OF
GENERAL PRACTITIONERS

Peter Anderson

**The Nick
Heather Lecture**

**Santiago, Chile
INEBRIA 2018**



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A Balanced View**

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Published by
The Royal College of General Practitioners

**Where are we,
30 years on?**



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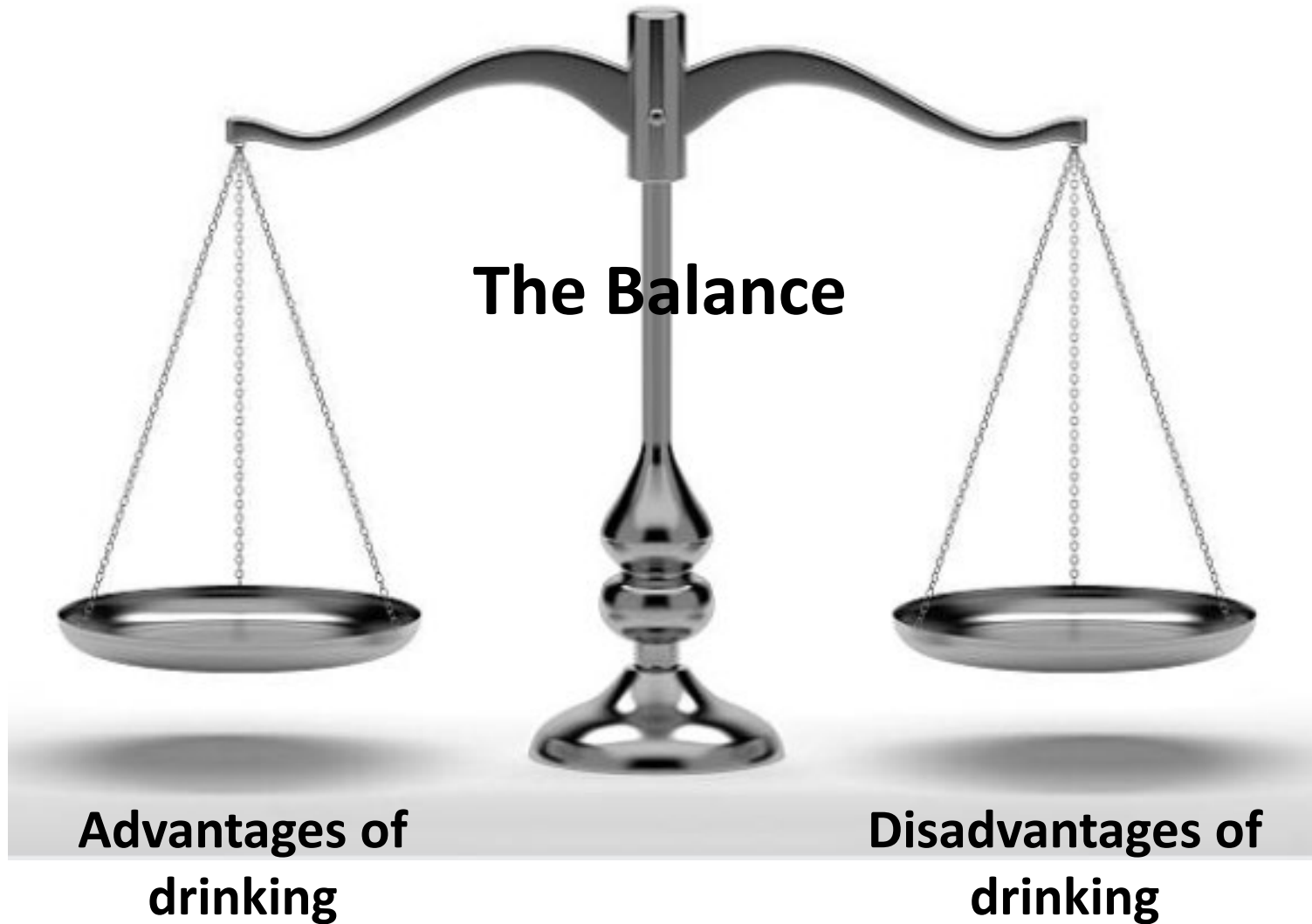
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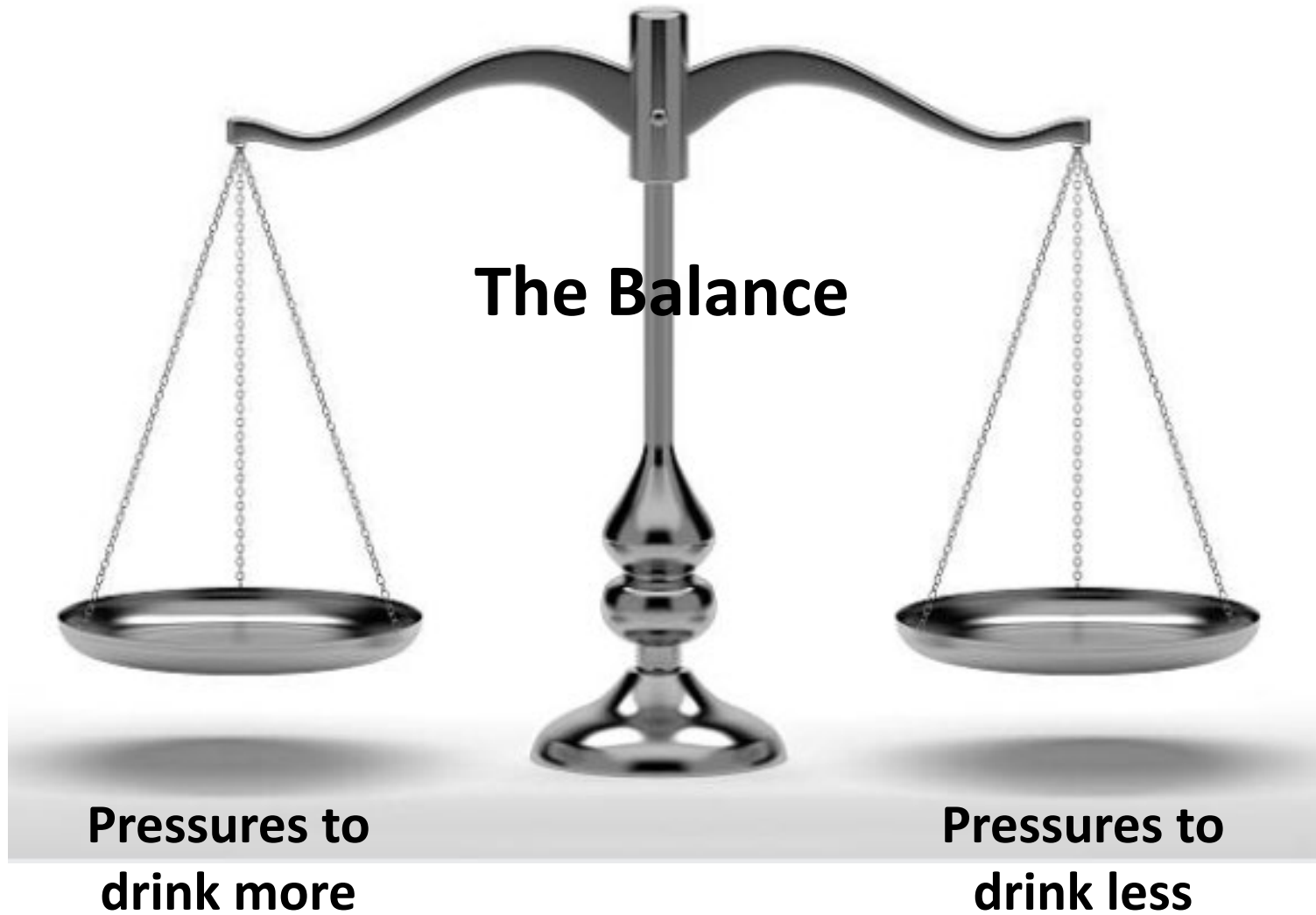
Not for alcohol

Not against alcohol

Goal to reduce the harm done by alcohol



Determines where an individual lies on the continuum of consumption and harm



**Determines where an individual lies on the
continuum of consumption and harm**



Lighter drinking

Heavier drinking

Role of GP to shift balance from heavier drinking ...



Lighter drinking

Heavier drinking

to lighter drinking...



Examine report:

What does it say for us today?

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Simplicity

Complexity

We will look at the balance



Simplicity

Complexity

We have gone too far in the direction of complexity



Simplicity

Complexity

We need to shift balance back towards simplicity

**Rebalancing to simplicity allows balance to
be maintained, with one area of
increased complexity**

**In other words, we are going
to do away with four things,
and add one thing**



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Look at five things covered by the report:

- 1. There are no dichotomies, no diseases – only continua**
- 2. Alcohol is the risk factor**
- 3. We measure consumption**
- 4. Simple advice to cut down drinking**
- 5. Community support to community agents**



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- 1. There are no dichotomies, no diseases – only continua**



**“We do not subscribe to the view
that alcoholism is in itself a disease”**

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“We do not subscribe to the view that alcoholism [alcohol abuse; alcohol use disorder; alcohol dependence] is in itself a disease”

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‘Instead, everyone’s drinking is spread along a continuum from one end with no harm to another end with great harm’

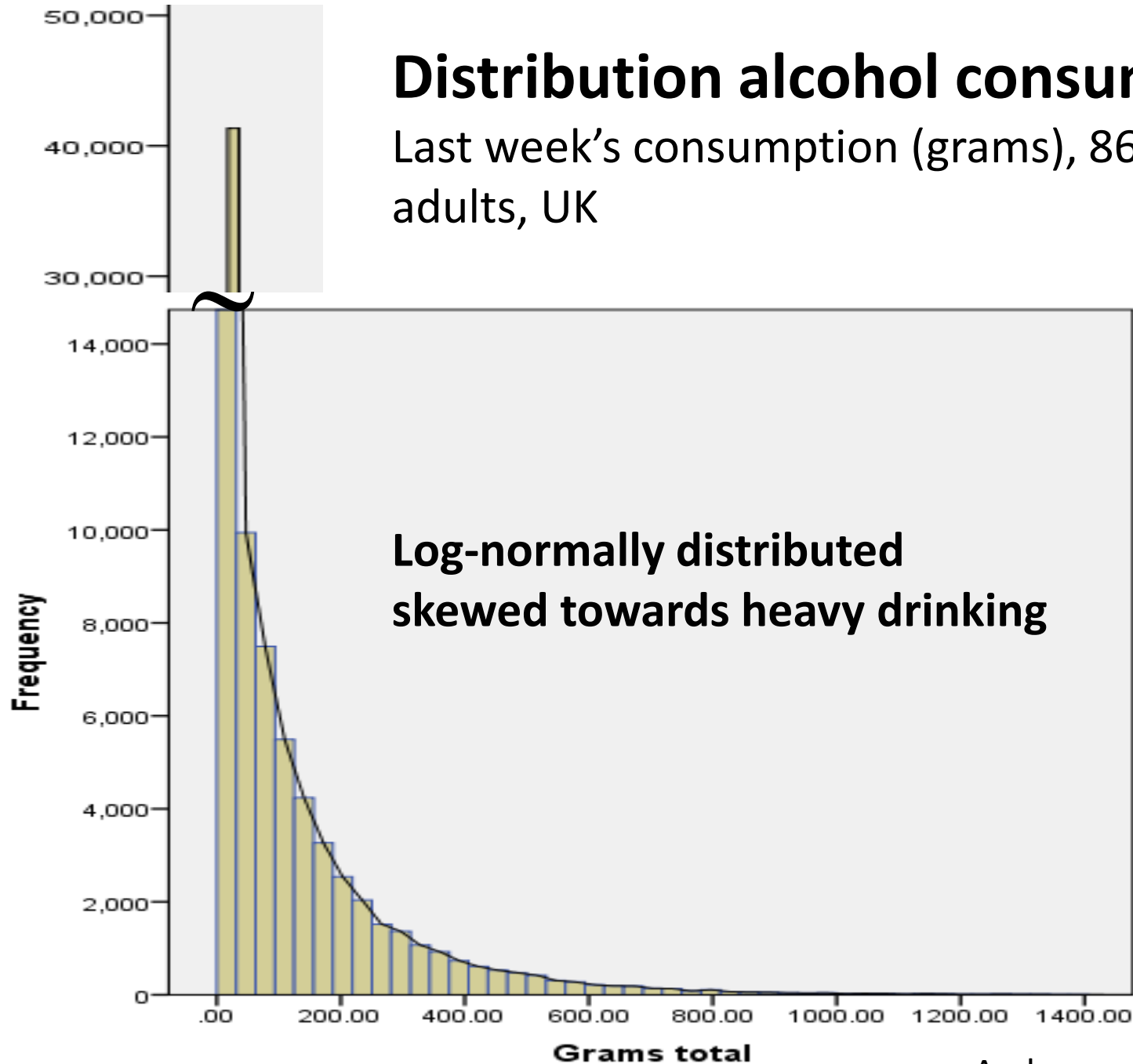
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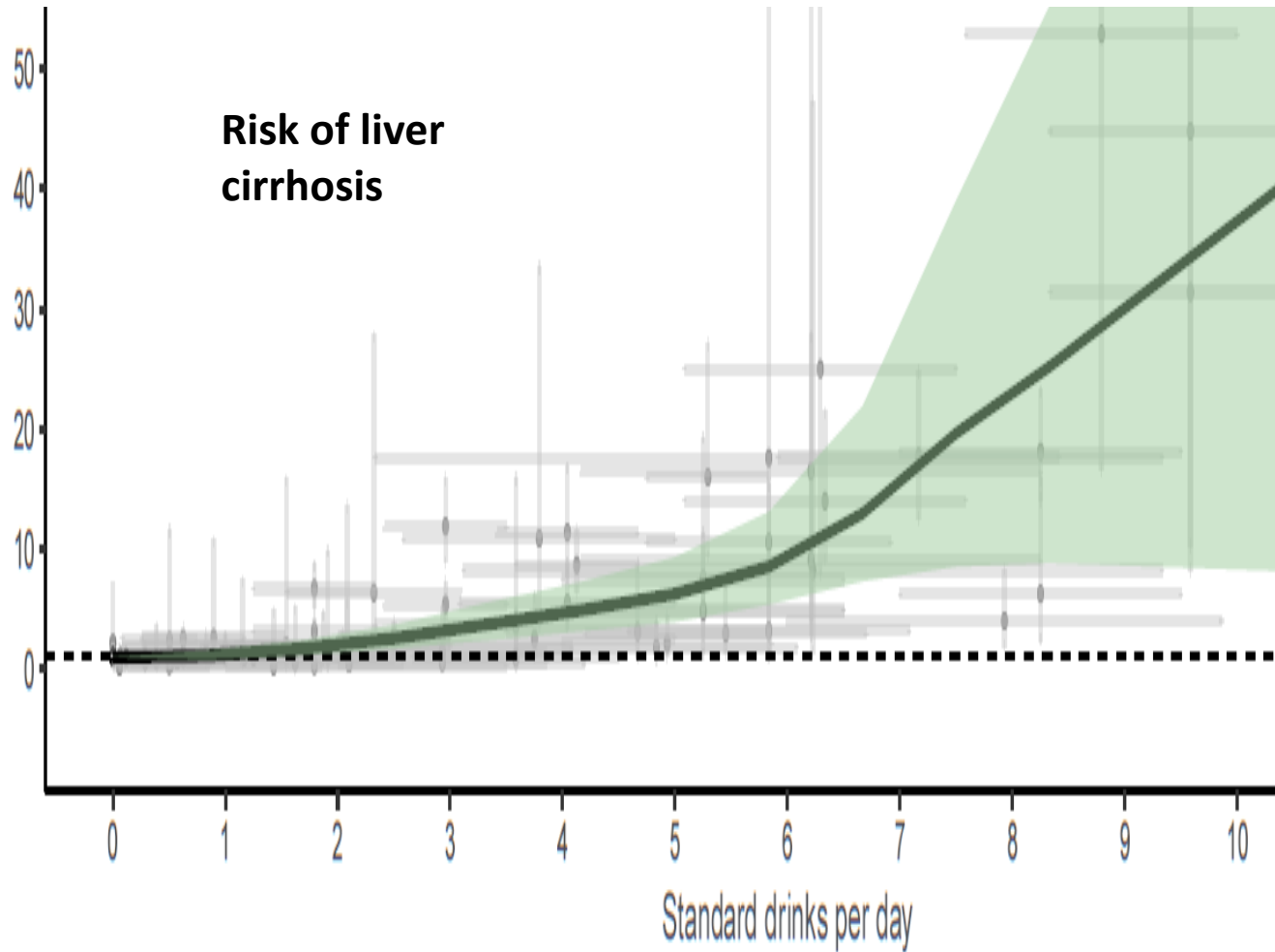
- In medical settings, and, indeed often in academic and lay settings, heavy users of alcohol are commonly dichotomized into those with an ‘alcohol use disorder’ or those with not.
- However, ‘alcohol use disorder’ is a clinical construct that is often used as a shorthand to identify individuals who might benefit from advice or treatment.
- But as a condition in itself, it is a medical artefact which occurs in all grades of severity, with no natural distinction between ‘health’ and ‘disease’, and no grounding in biology or nature.

Distribution alcohol consumption:

Last week's consumption (grams), 86170 adults, UK

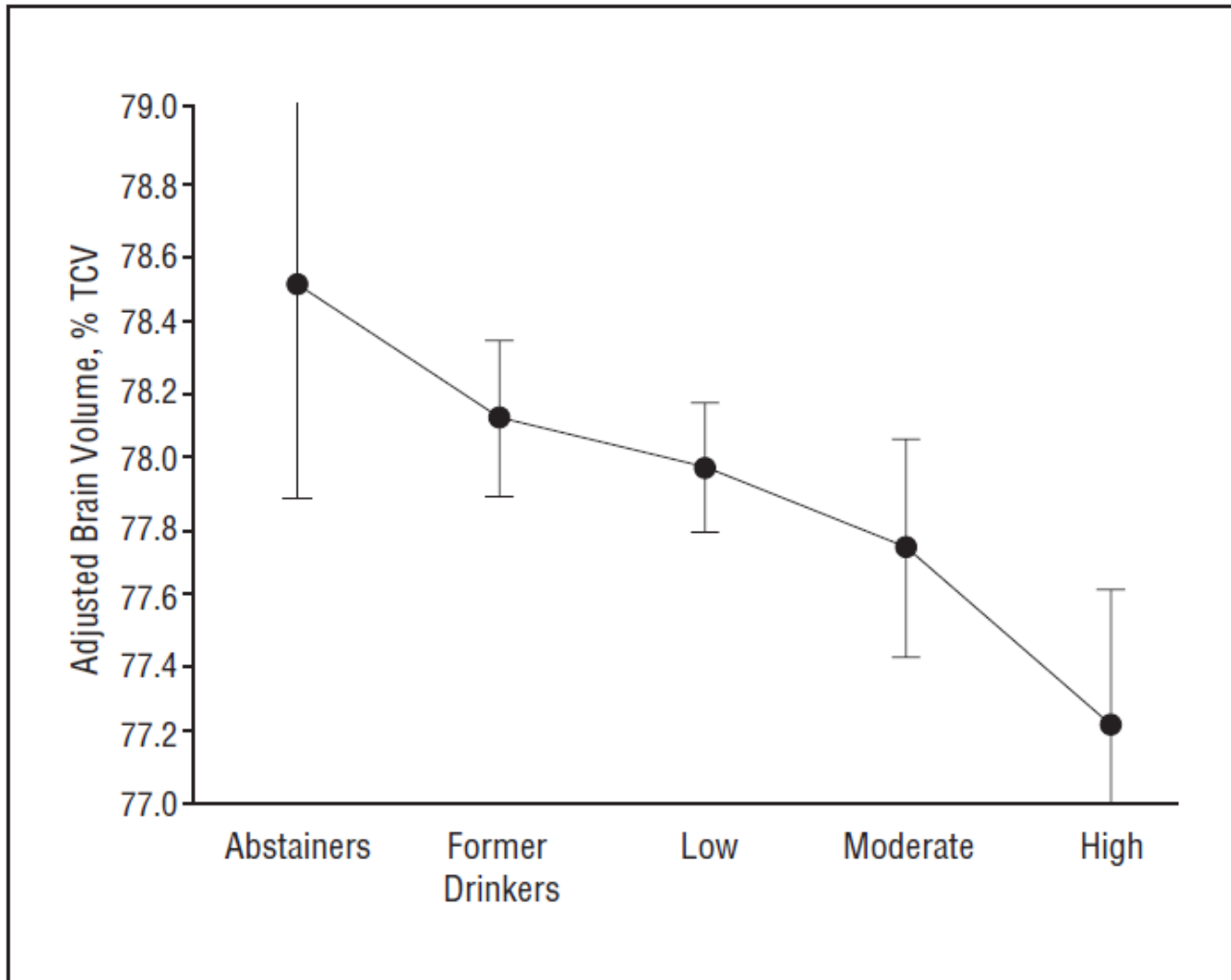


Disease risk from alcohol is a continuous (often exponential) relationship

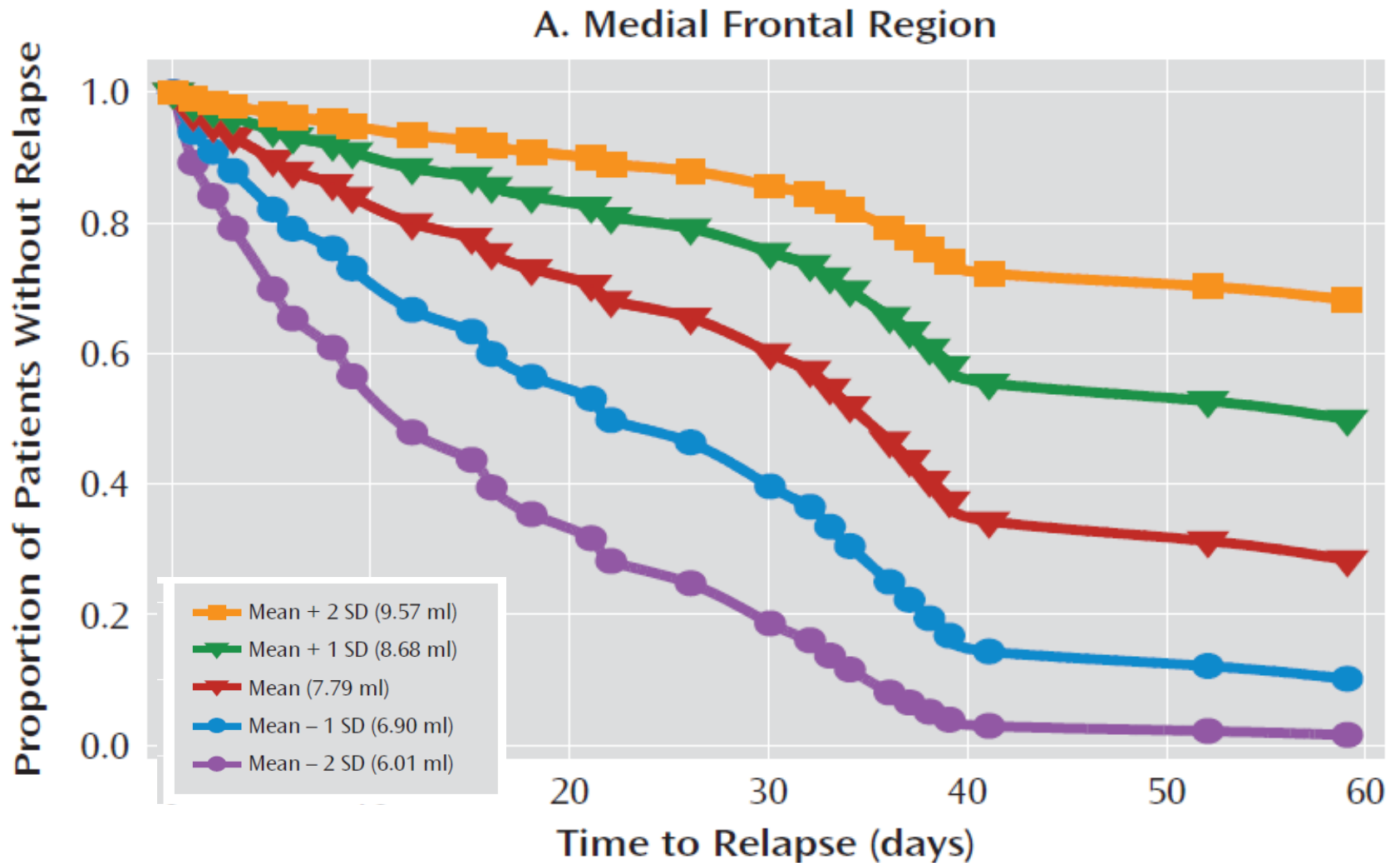


- Unmanaged heavy drinking can be associated with even further heavy drinking, often culminating in a more difficult to manage state due to associated brain atrophy.
- The brain atrophy, though, is a consequence of the heavy drinking.

Relationship between drinking levels and brain volume from Framingham study



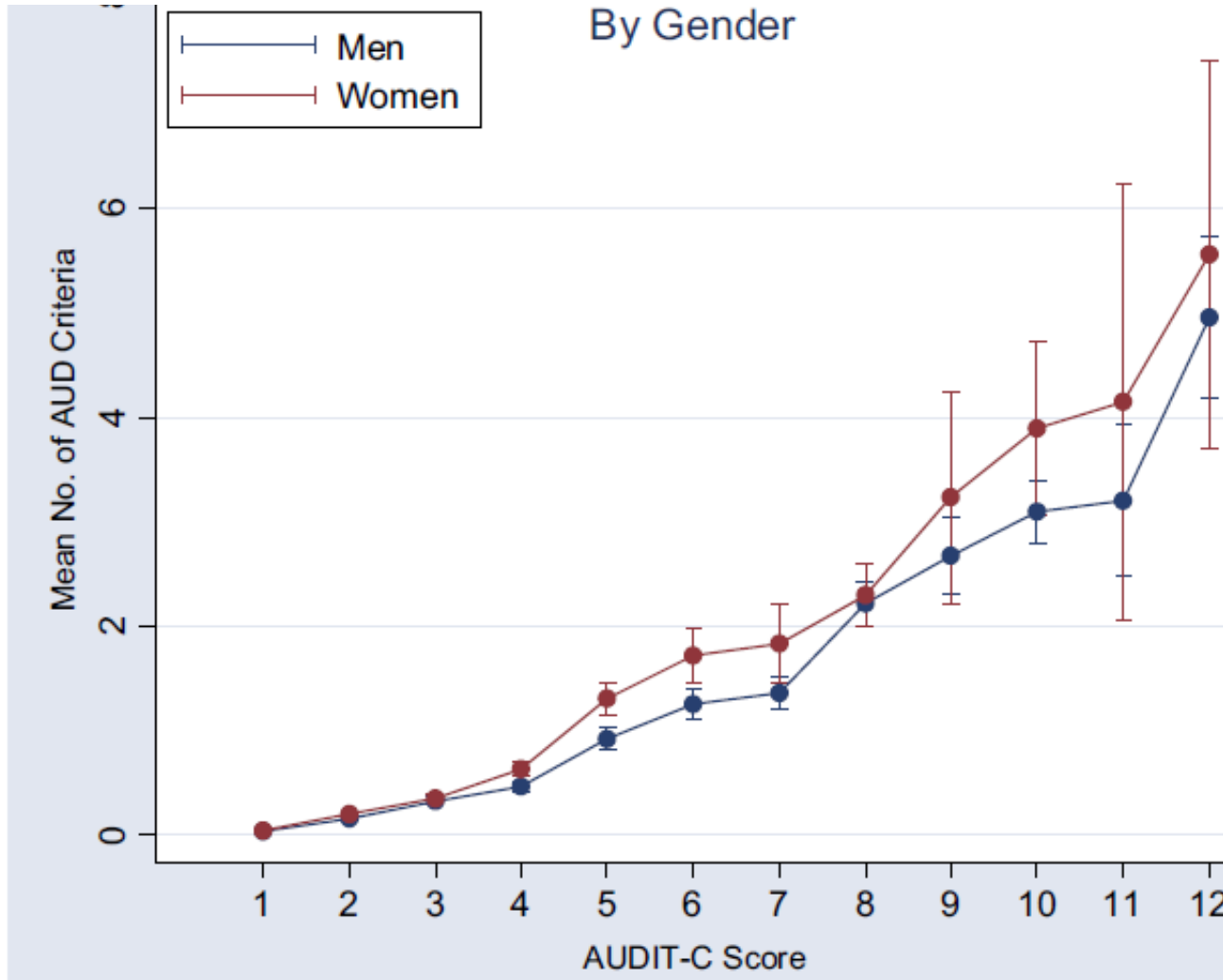
Gray matter volume deficits predict time to relapse in 'alcohol-dependent' patients



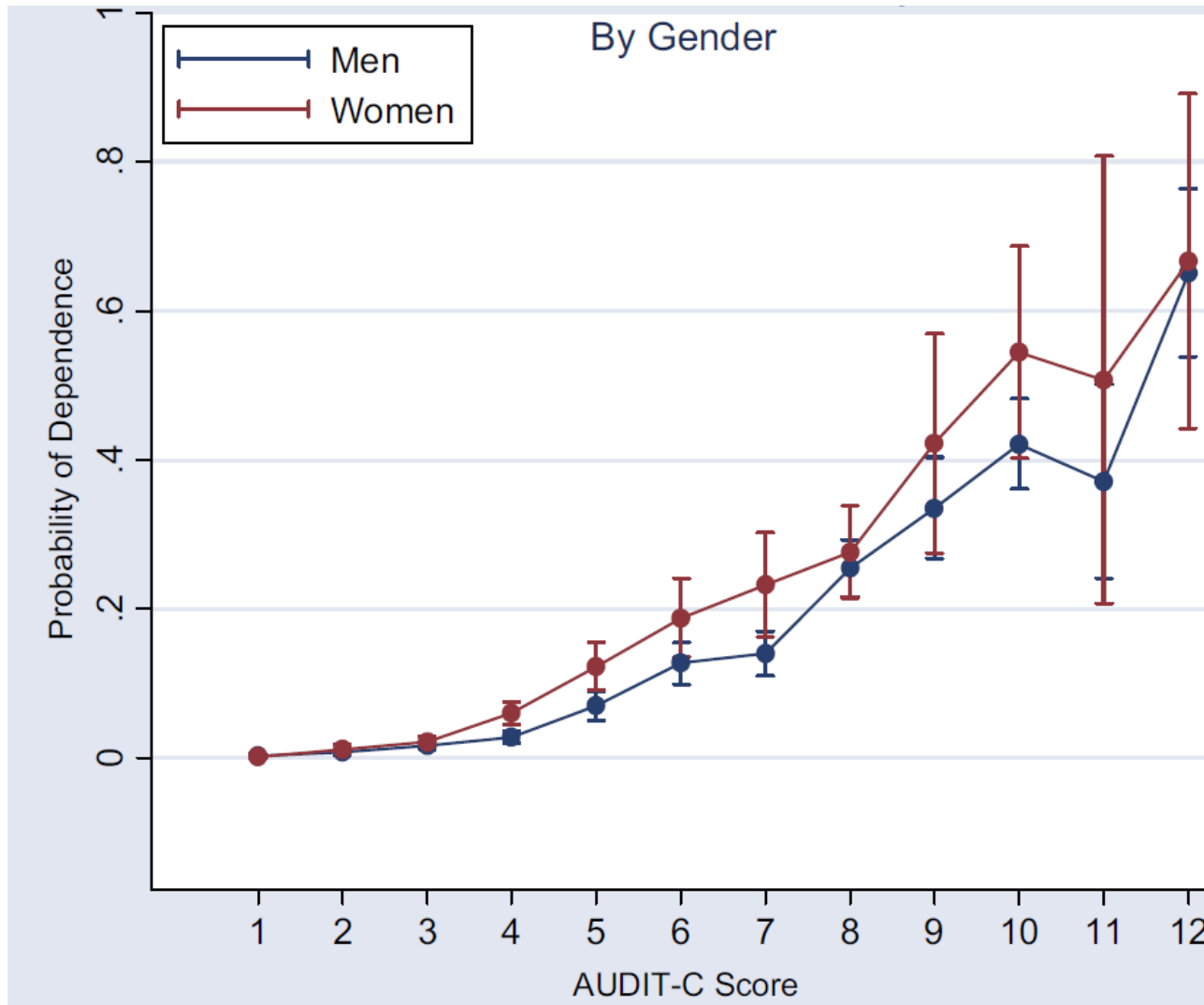
Alcohol dependence/alcohol use disorder: simply defined as a score on a checklist of symptoms

DSM-IV		DSM-5		
In the past year, have you:		In the past year, have you:		
Any 1 = ALCOHOL ABUSE	Found that drinking—or being sick from drinking—often interfered with taking care of your home or family? Or caused job troubles? Or school problems?	1	Had times when you ended up drinking more, or longer, than you intended?	
	More than once gotten into situations while or after drinking that increased your chances of getting hurt (such as driving, swimming, using machinery, walking in a dangerous area, or having unsafe sex)?	2	More than once wanted to cut down or stop drinking, or tried to, but couldn't?	
	More than once gotten arrested, been held at a police station, or had other legal problems because of your drinking? **This is not included in DSM-5**	3	Spent a lot of time drinking? Or being sick or getting over other aftereffects?	
	Continued to drink even though it was causing trouble with your family or friends?	4	Wanted a drink so badly you couldn't think of anything else? **This is new to DSM-5**	
Any 3 = ALCOHOL DEPENDENCE	Had to drink much more than you once did to get the effect you want? Or found that your usual number of drinks had much less effect than before?	5	Found that drinking—or being sick from drinking—often interfered with taking care of your home or family? Or caused job troubles? Or school problems?	
	Found that when the effects of alcohol were wearing off, you had withdrawal symptoms, such as trouble sleeping, shakiness, restlessness, nausea, sweating, a racing heart, or a seizure? Or sensed things that were not there?	6	Continued to drink even though it was causing trouble with your family or friends?	
	Had times when you ended up drinking more, or longer, than you intended?	7	Given up or cut back on activities that were important or interesting to you, or gave you pleasure, in order to drink?	
	More than once wanted to cut down or stop drinking, or tried to, but couldn't?	8	More than once gotten into situations while or after drinking that increased your chances of getting hurt (such as driving, swimming, using machinery, walking in a dangerous area, or having unsafe sex)?	
	Spent a lot of time drinking? Or being sick or getting over other aftereffects?	9	Continued to drink even though it was making you feel depressed or anxious or adding to another health problem? Or after having had a memory blackout?	
	Given up or cut back on activities that were important or interesting to you, or gave you pleasure, in order to drink?	10	Had to drink much more than you once did to get the effect you want? Or found that your usual number of drinks had much less effect than before?	
	Continued to drink even though it was making you feel depressed or anxious or adding to another health problem? Or after having had a memory blackout?	11	Found that when the effects of alcohol were wearing off, you had withdrawal symptoms, such as trouble sleeping, shakiness, restlessness, nausea, sweating, a racing heart, or a seizure? Or sensed things that were not there?	
				The presence of at least 2 of these symptoms indicates an Alcohol Use Disorder (AUD) .
				The severity of the AUD is defined as: Mild: The presence of 2 to 3 symptoms
				Moderate: The presence of 4 to 5 symptoms
				Severe: The presence of 6 or more symptoms

There is a smooth line relationship between levels of alcohol consumption and the score on the checklist



There is a smooth line relationship between levels of alcohol consumption and the score on the checklist



Thus, “alcohol use disorder” is a diagnostic artefact.

No more is needed to consider what is called “alcohol use disorder” other than the amount of alcohol consumed.



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Simplifying (1):

Terms like ‘alcohol dependence’, ‘alcohol use disorder’ ‘alcohol abuse’ are not useful;

So, let’s simplify and do away with them;

We only need the term ‘alcohol use’



**2. Alcohol is a risk factor,
that exists on a continuum;
causes harm on a continuum;
and has no risk-free level**

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Risk thresholds for alcohol consumption: combined analysis of individual-participant data for 599 912 current drinkers in 83 prospective studies



Angela M Wood, Stephen Kaptoge, Adam S Butterworth, Peter Willett, Samantha Warnakula, Thomas Bolton, Ellie Paige, Dirk S Paul, Michael Sweeting, Stephen Burgess, Steven Bell, William Astle, David Stevens, Albert Koulman, Randi M Selmer, WM Monique Verschuren, Shinichi Sato, Inger Njølstad, Mark Woodward, Veikko Salonen, Berge G Nordestgaard, Bu B Yeap, Astrid Fletcher, Olle Mander, Lewis H Kuller, Beate Balkau, Michael Marmot, Wolfgang Koenig, Edoardo Casiglia, Cyrus Cooper, Volker Arndt, Oscar H Franco, Patrik Wennberg, John Gallacher, Agustín Gómez de la Cámara, Henry Vöhrke, Christina C Dahm, Caroline E Dale, Manuela M Bergmann, Carlos J Crespo, Yvonne T van der Schouw, Rudolf Kaaks, Leon A Simons, Pagona Lagiou, Josje D Schoufour, Jolanda M A Boer, Timothy J Key, Beatriz Rodriguez, Conchi Moreno-Iribas, Karina W Davidson, James O Taylor, Carlotta A Sacerdote, Robert B Wallace, J Ramon Quiros, Rosario Tumino, Dan G Blazer II, Allan Linneberg, Makoto Daimon, Salvatore Panico, Barbara Howard, Guri Skeie, Timo Strandberg, Elisabete Weiderpass, Paul J Nietert, Bruce M Psaty, Daan Kromhout, Elena Salamanca-Fernandez, Stefan Kiechl, Harlan M Krumholz, Sara Grioni, Domenico Palli, José M Huerta, Jackie Price, Johan Sundström, Larraitz Ariola, Hisatami Arima, Ruth C Travis, Demosthenes B Panagiotakos, Anna Karakatsani, Antonia Trichopoulos, Tilman Kühn, Diederick E Grobbee, Elizabeth Barrett-Connor, Natasja van Schoor, Heiner Boeing, Kim Overvad, Jussi Kauhanen, Nick Wareham, Claudia Langenberg, Nita Forouhi, Maria Wennberg, Jean-Pierre Després, Mary Cushman, Jackie A Cooper, Carlos J Rodriguez, Masaru Sakurai, Jonathan E Shaw, Matthew Kruiman, Trudy Voortman, Christa Meisinger, Anne Tjønneland, Hermann Brenner, Luigi Palmieri, Jean Dallongeville, Eric J Brunner, Gerd Assmann, Maurizio Trevisan, Richard F Gillum, Ian Ford, Naveed Sattar, Mariana Lazo, Simon G Thompson, Pietro Ferrari, David A Leon, George Davey Smith, Richard Peto, Rod Jackson, Emily Banks, Emanuele Di Angelantonio, John Danesh, for the Emerging Risk Factors Collaboration/EPIC-CVD/UK Biobank Alcohol Study Group*



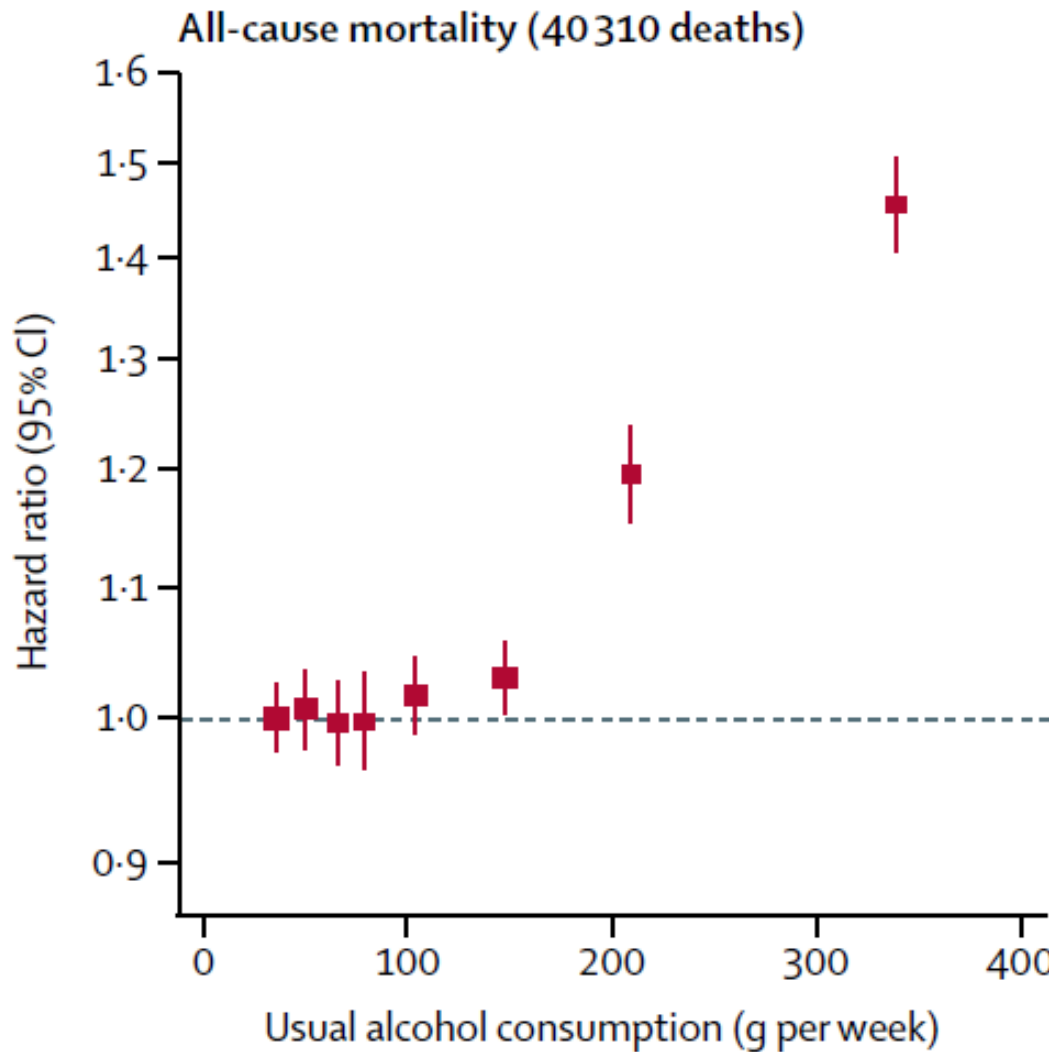
Summary

Background Low-risk limits recommended for alcohol consumption vary substantially across different national guidelines. To define thresholds associated with lowest risk for all-cause mortality and cardiovascular disease, we studied individual-participant data from 599 912 current drinkers without previous cardiovascular disease.

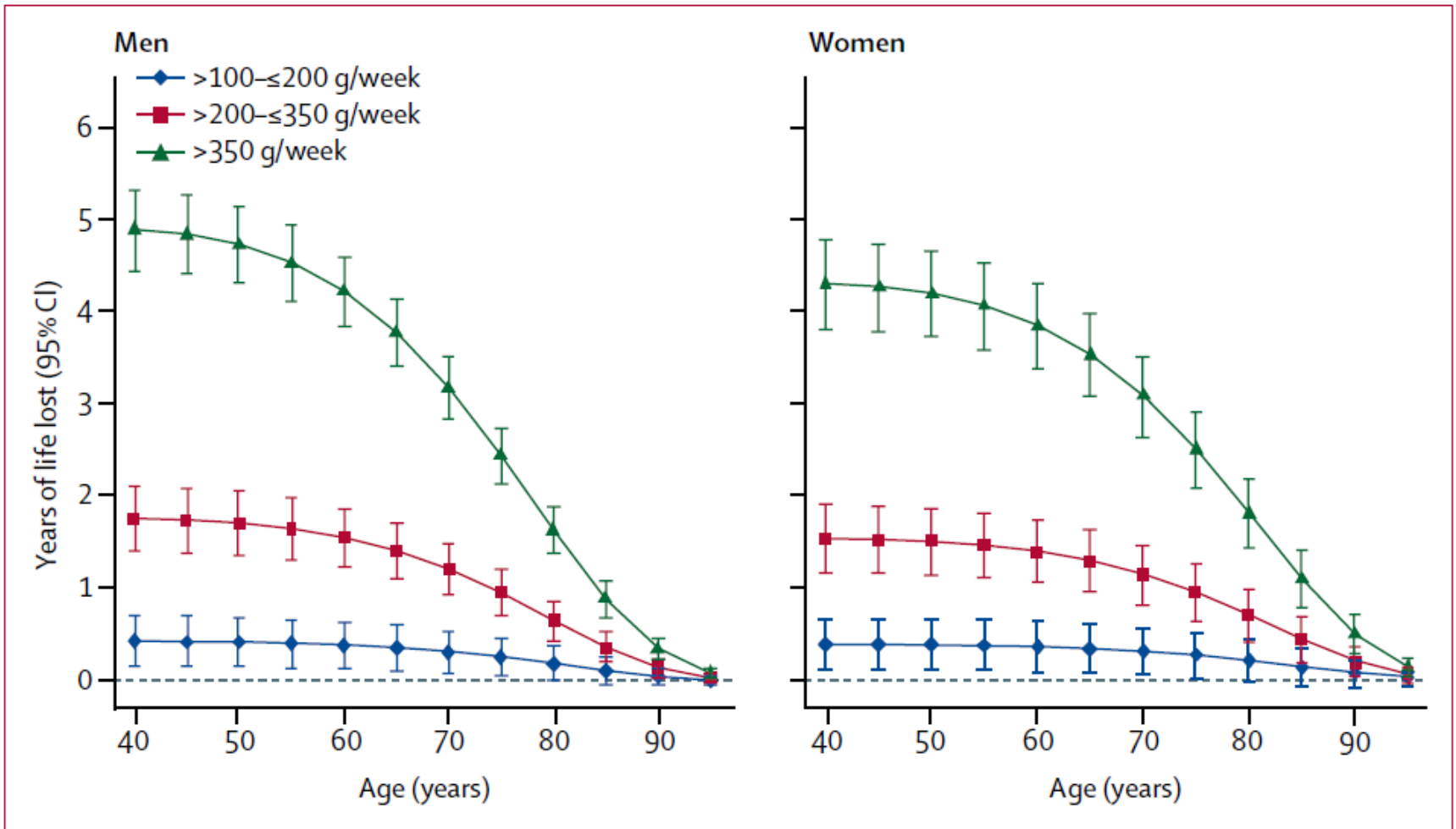
Lancet 2018; 391: 1513-23

See Comment page 1460

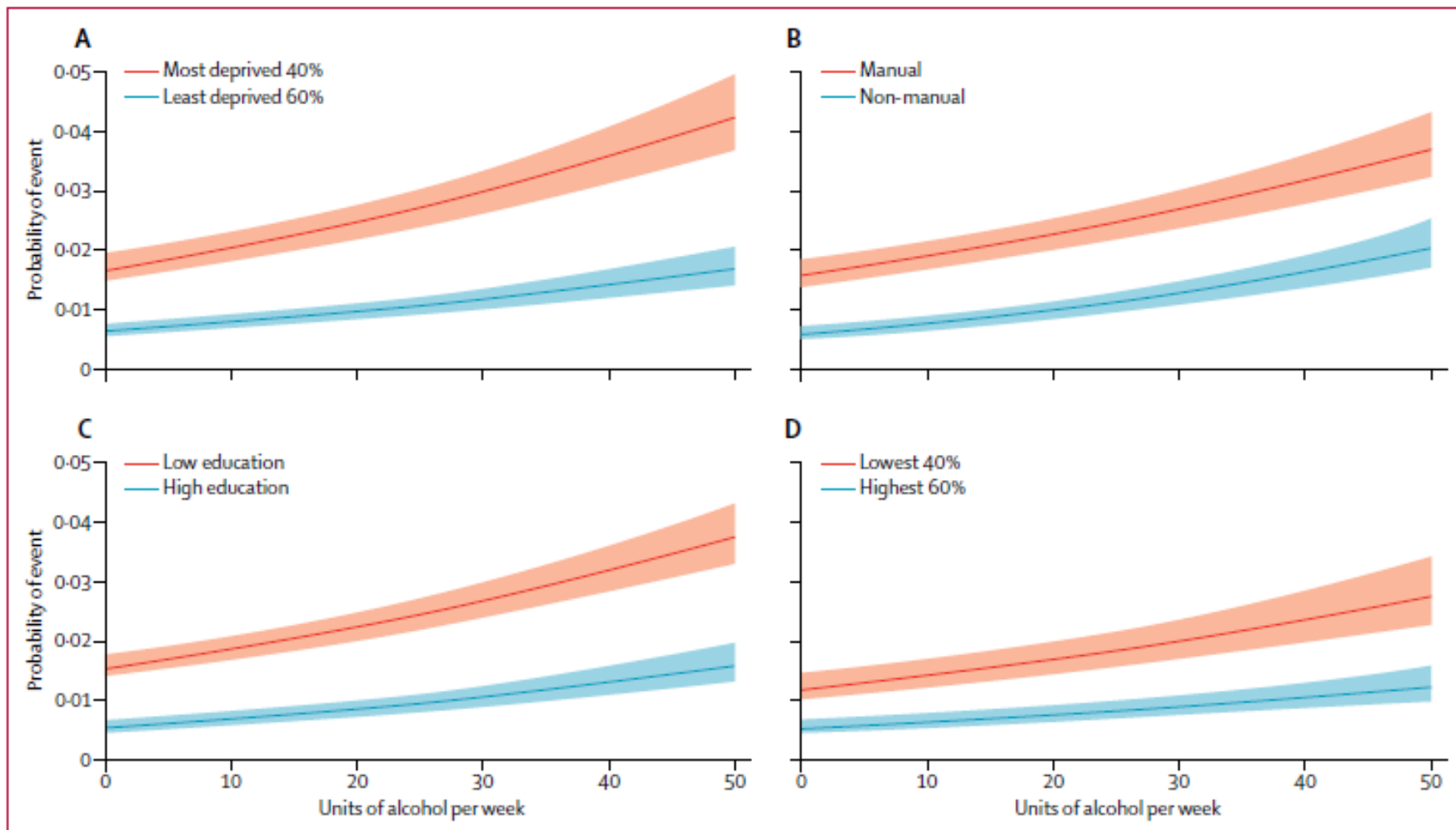
* Other investigators of the Emerging Risk Factors



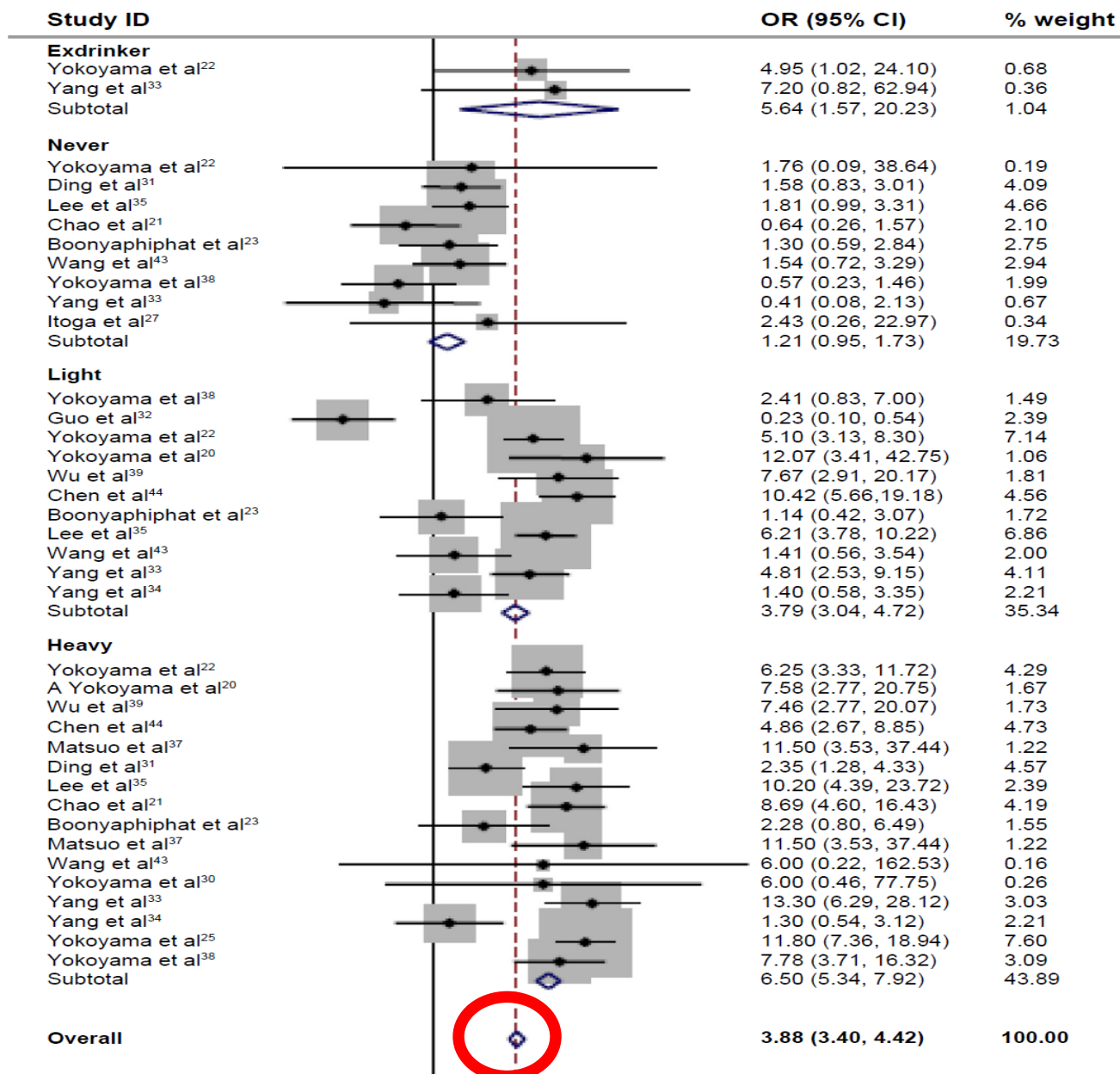
HR all-cause mortality
Reference category: 0-25 g alcohol/week



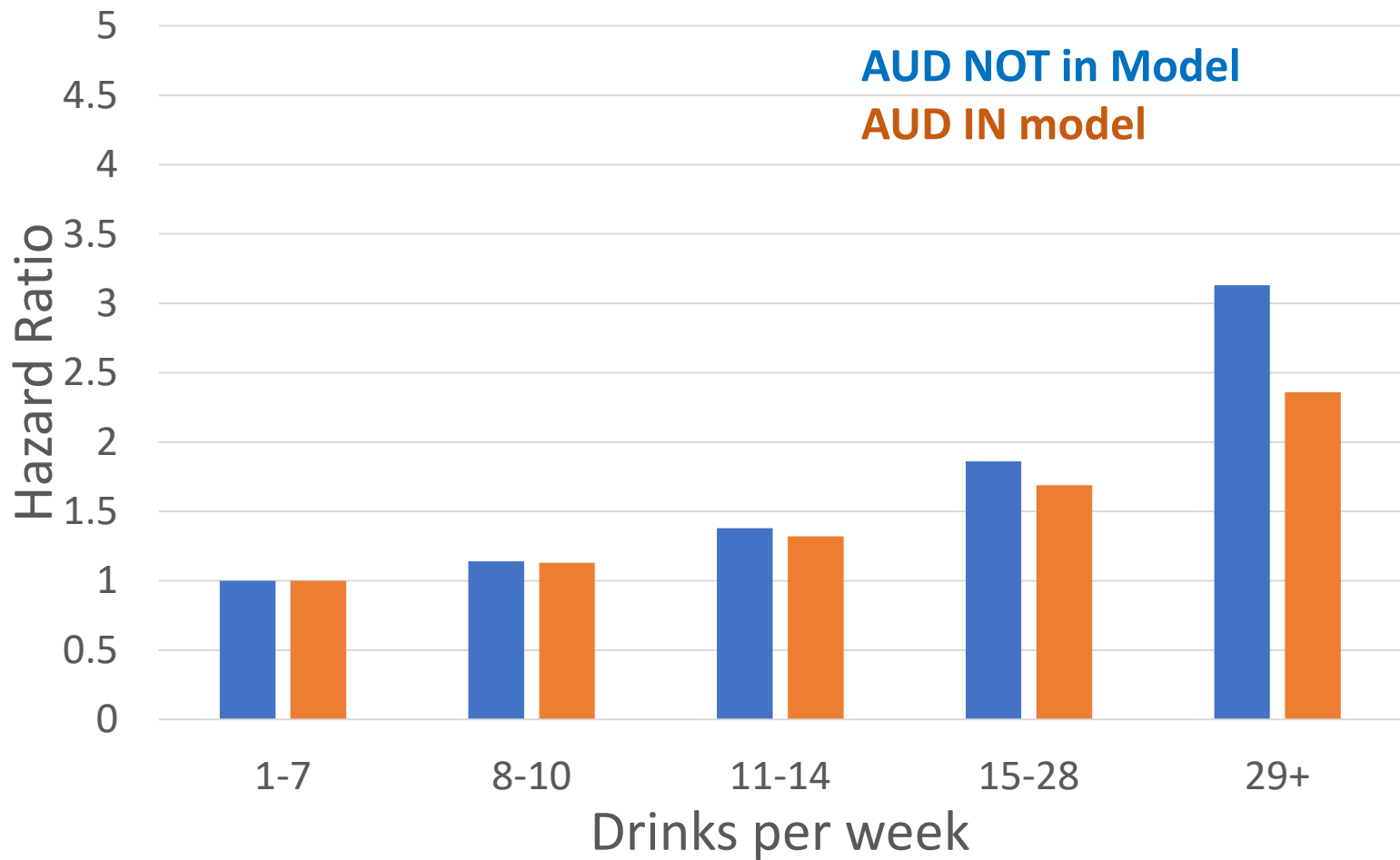
Loss of years due to alcohol by age
Reference category: 0-100 g alcohol/week



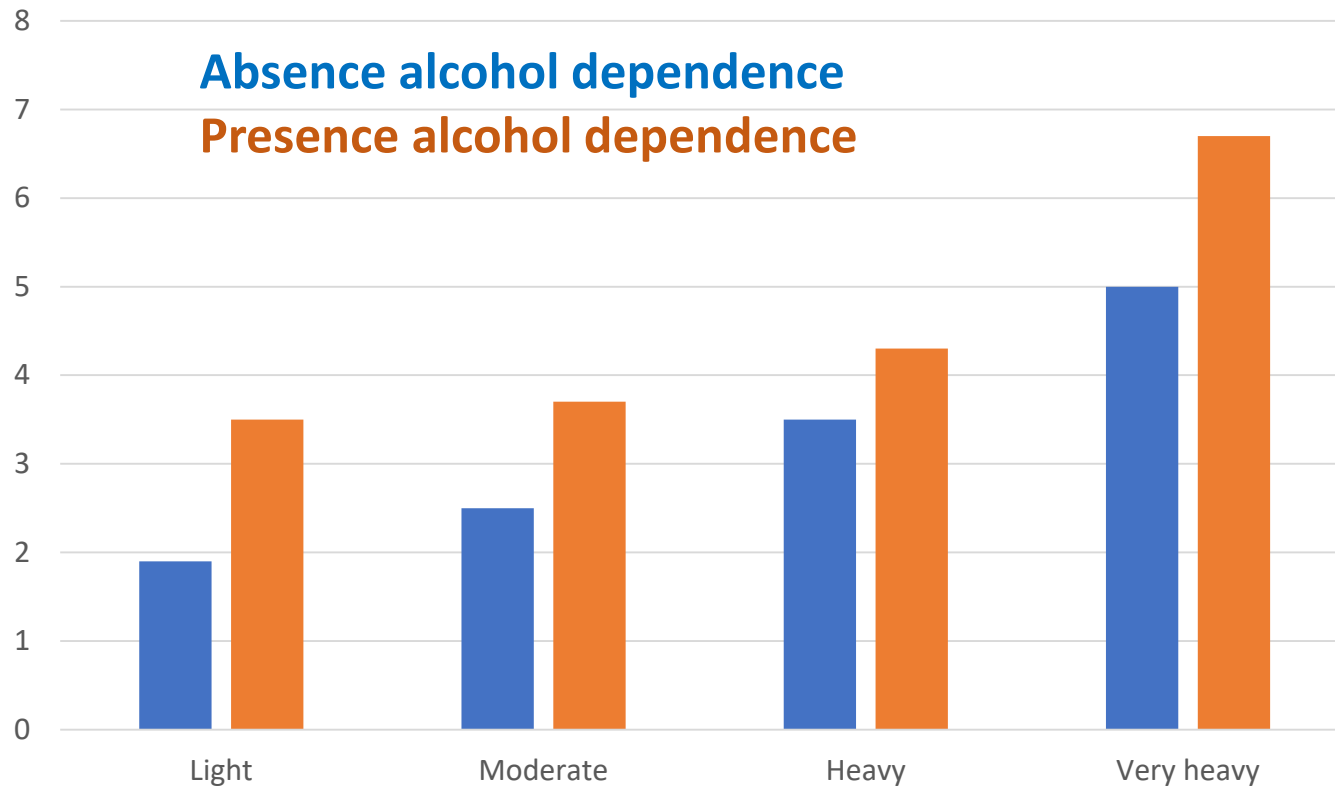
Linked cohort data from Scotland
Events are death and hospitalizations



Risk of oesophageal cancer by
ALDH2 AG genotype presence



Risk of death by drinks per week with presence (yes/no) of AUD NOT in model and presence (yes/no) of AUD IN model; follow-up study of US army personnel



Number of drinks per week by drinking category by absence or presence of dependence; US adults, National Health Interview Survey

There has been a fashion to use phrases such as:

- **Harmful use of alcohol**
- **Unhealthy alcohol use**

Harmful: “Fraught with (carrying as an attribute) harm or injury; injurious, hurtful (having the quality of causing hurt or injury)”

Unhealthy: “Prejudicial or hurtful to health”

- ✓ As any alcohol has the attribute of causing harm, the terms harmful and unhealthy are redundant
- ✓ **We just need “use of alcohol”**



Oxford
English
Dictionary



OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS



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Simplifying (2):

**We do not need terms like
'harmful alcohol use'
'unhealthy alcohol use';**

**So, let's simplify and do
away with them;**

**We only need the term
'use of alcohol', which
exists on a continuum,
increases harm with
increasing consumption,
and can be easily measured**



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**3. All we need to do is to
measure consumption**

We are MEASURING, we are NOT SCREENING

AUDIT-C Questions:	Scoring system					Your score:
	0	1	2	3	4	
How often do you have a drink containing alcohol?	Never	Monthly or less	2 - 4 times per month	2 - 3 times per week	4+ times per week	
How many units of alcohol do you drink on a typical day when you are drinking?	1 - 2	3 - 4	5 - 6	7 - 9	10+	
How often do you have 6 or more units on one occasion?	Never	Less than monthly	Monthly	Weekly	Daily or almost daily	

Screening is:

"the presumptive identification of unrecognized disease or defect by the application of tests, examinations, or other procedures which can be applied rapidly. Screening tests sort out apparently well persons who probably have a disease from those who probably do not" (1951 US Commission on Chronic Illness)

As we have done away with terms, conditions and diseases, **there can be no screening.**

We are measuring alcohol consumption, as one measures blood pressure and blood glucose levels.

Thus, SBI or SBIRT, is no longer the correct term:

It should be MBI or MBIRT

The I in MBI or MBIRT is also wrong

As **M** is also an I

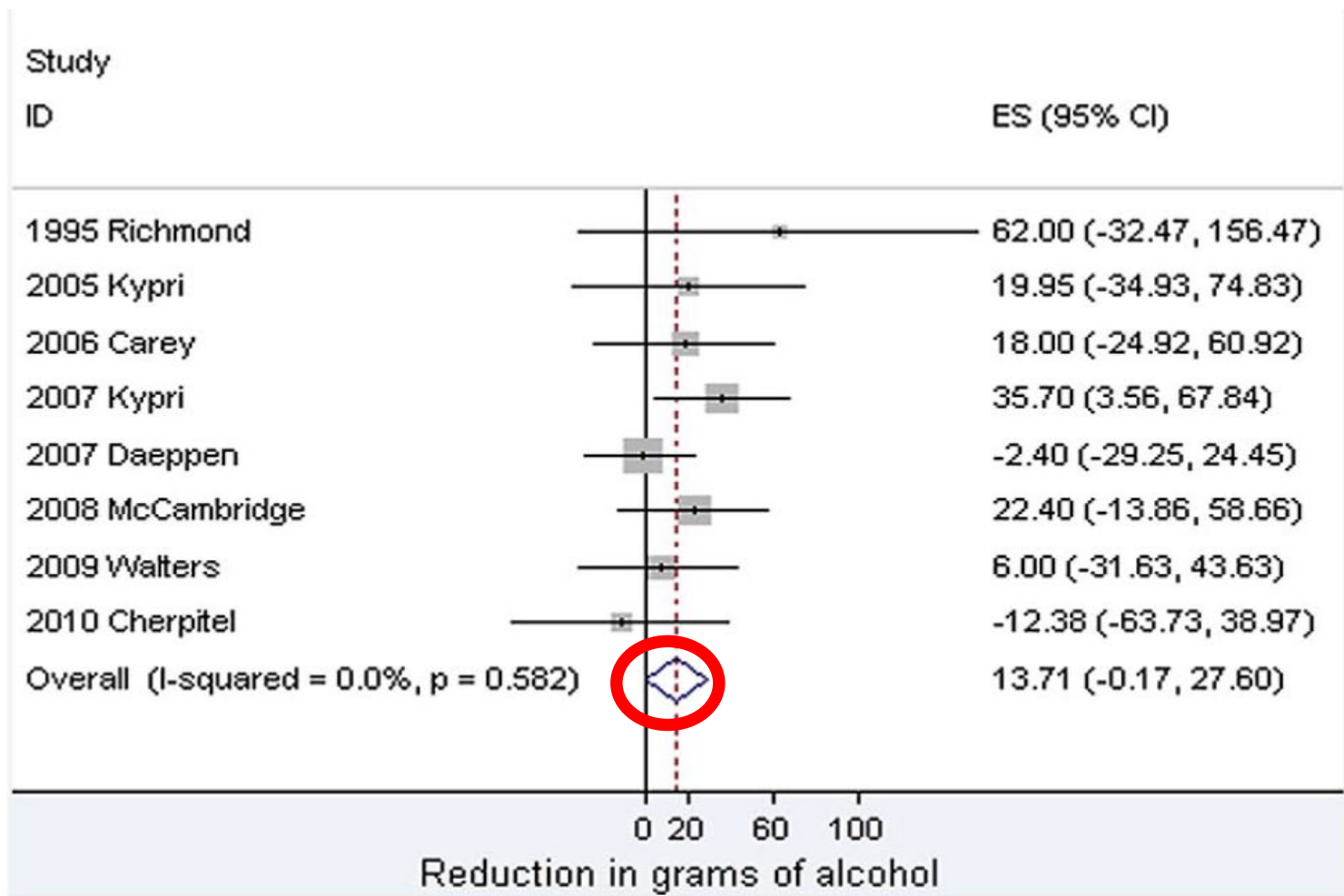


Figure 2. Meta-analysis of the effects of answering questions on total weekly drinking.
 doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0023748.g002

Thus, we need to:

Replace I for A (Advice)

It should be MBA or MBART

(We will get rid of RT later on)



Lighter drinking

Heavier drinking

Role of GP to shift balance in favour of lighter drinking



Lighter drinking

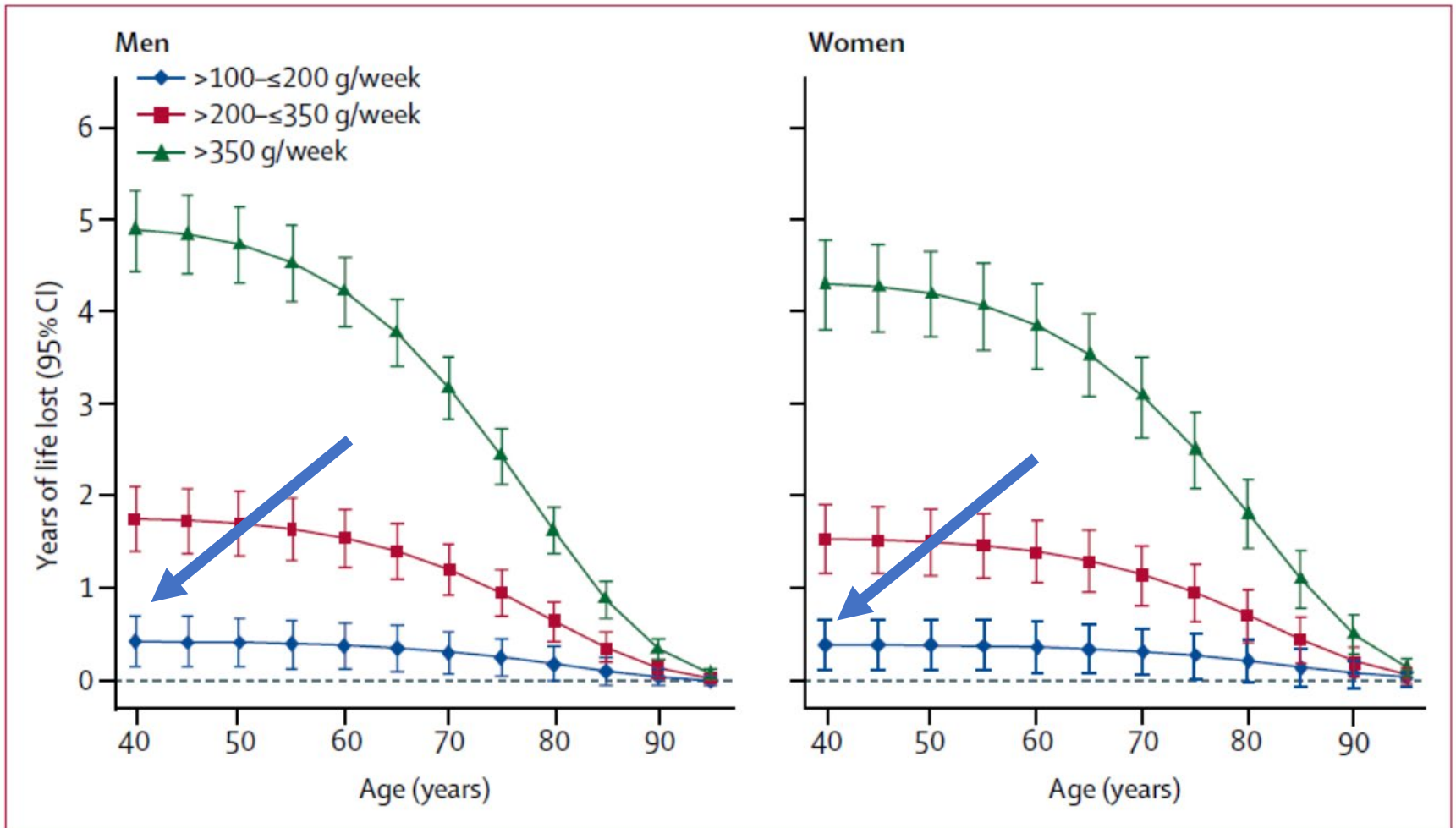
Heavier drinking

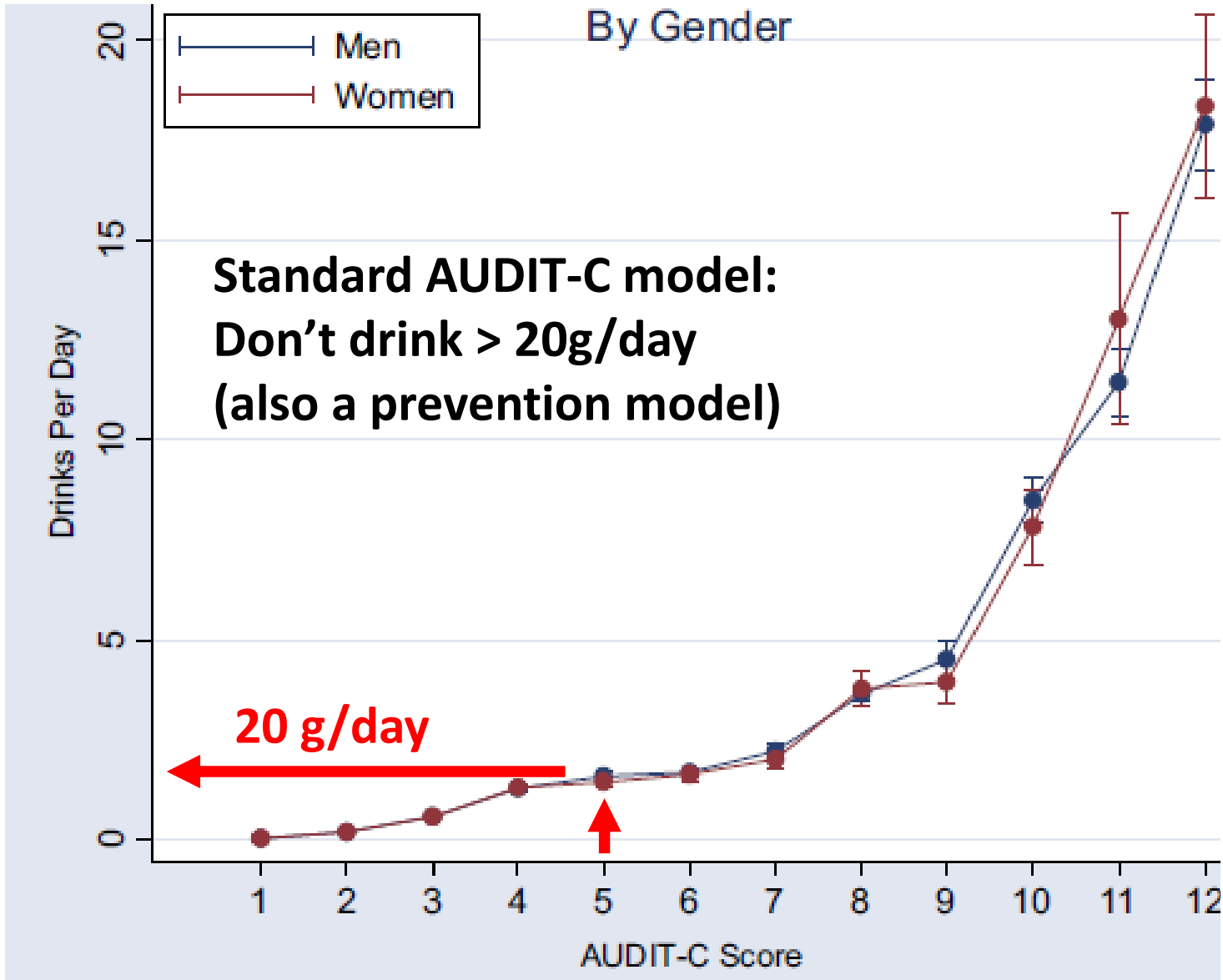
So, what are the thresholds of drinking for a response?

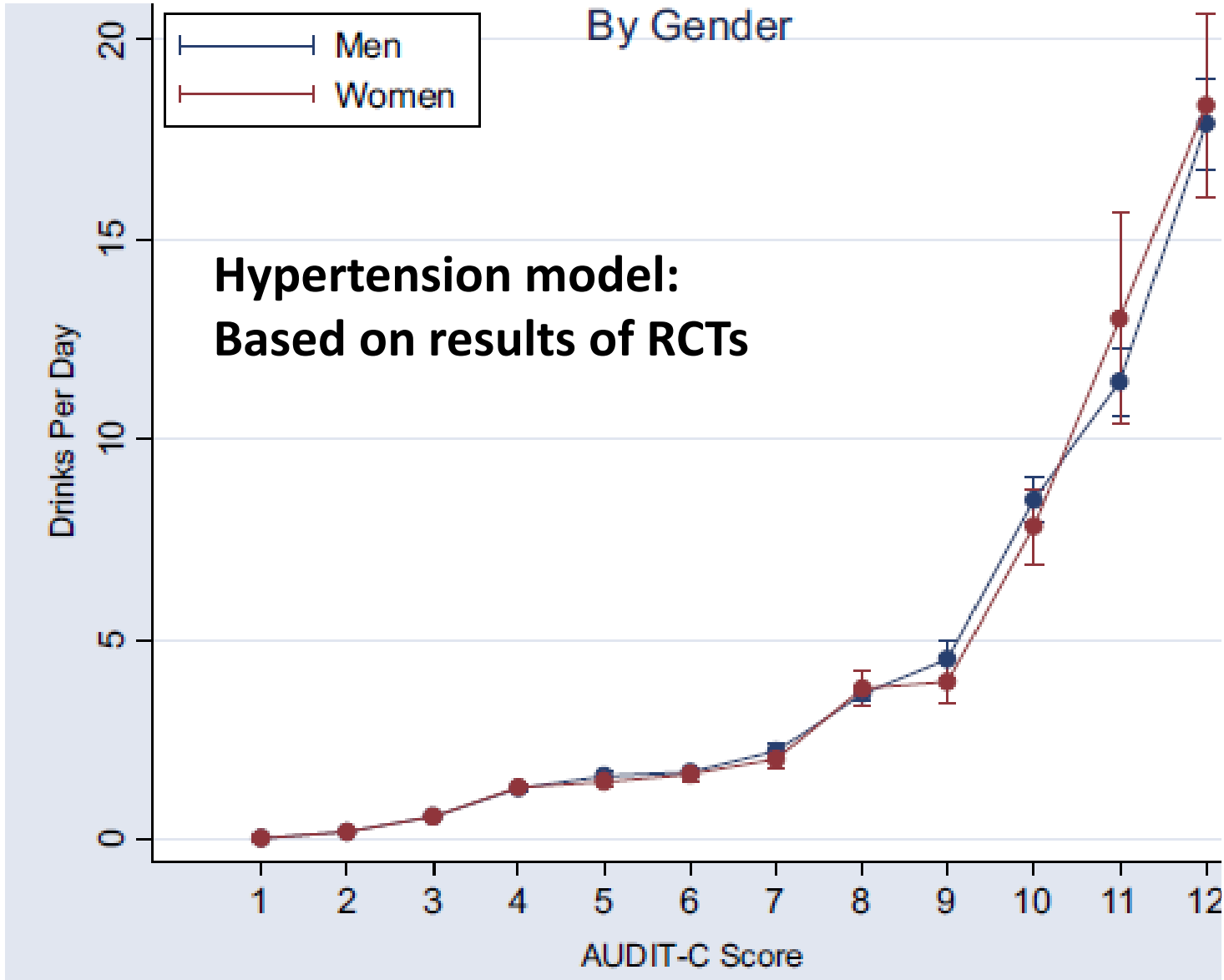
A continuum of thresholds:

- i. The prevention model
- ii. The standard AUDIT-C model
- iii. The AUDIT-C model, based on the blood pressure model

Prevention model: Don't drink > 100g/week (14g/day)







In Hypertension, **levels of blood pressure that are chosen as thresholds** for advice and pharmacological treatment are determined by randomized controlled trials:

At what threshold level, does advice lead to a meaningful reduction in blood pressure?

So, for alcohol, we ask, at what threshold level, does advice lead to a meaningful reduction in alcohol consumption?

Effectiveness of brief alcohol interventions in primary care populations (Review)

Kaner EF, Dickinson HO, Beyer FR, Campbell F, Schlesinger C, Heather N, Saunders JB, Burnand B, Pienaar ED

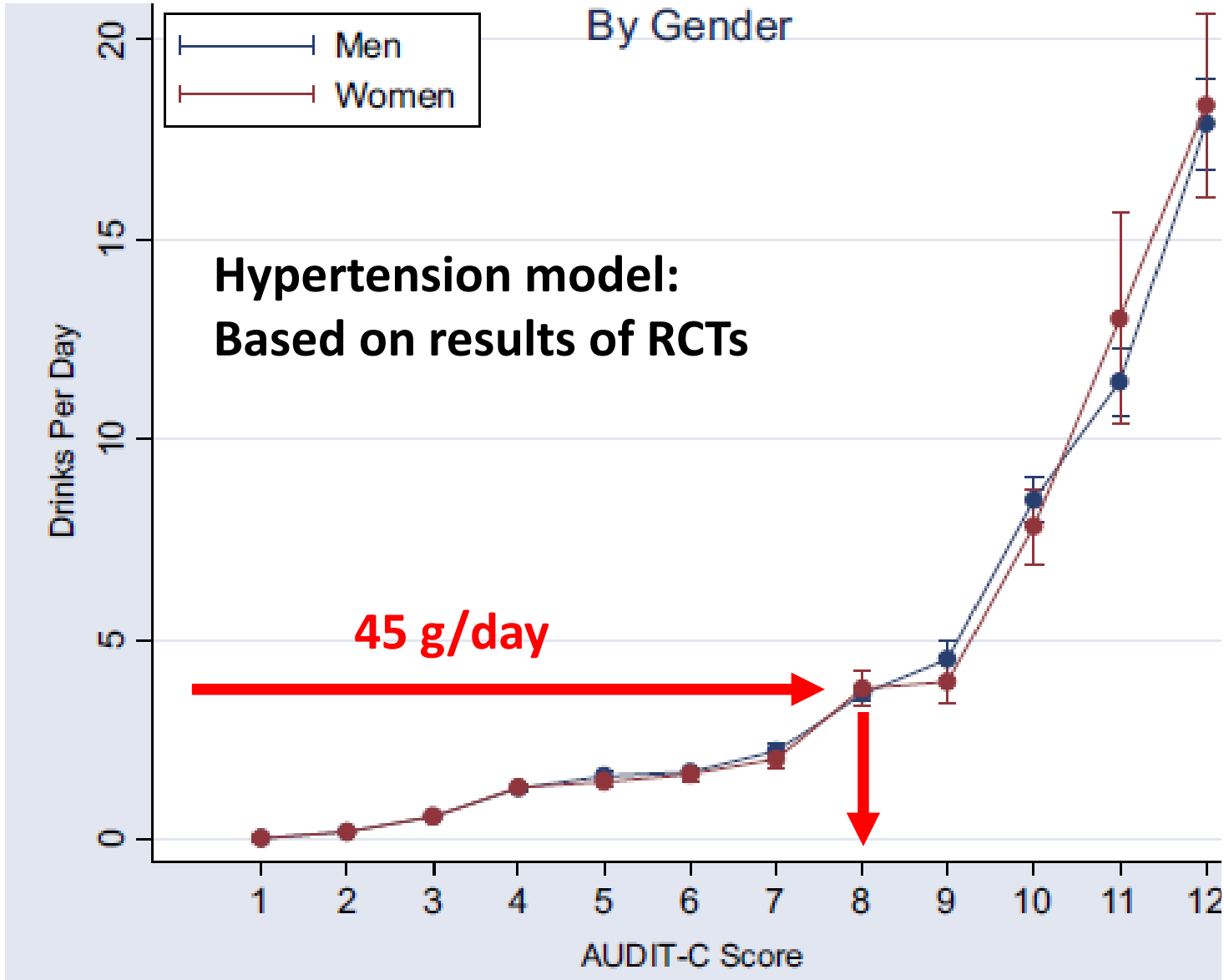
29 trials

Baseline consumption: 313g/week, 45g/day

Reduction: 38 grams/week

Kaner EF, Dickinson HO, Beyer FR, Campbell F, Schlesinger C, Heather N, Saunders JB, Burnand B, Pienaar ED.
Effectiveness of brief alcohol interventions in primary care populations.
Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2007, Issue 2. Art. No.: CD004148.
DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD004148.pub3.

www.cochranelibrary.com



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2018

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Effectiveness of brief alcohol interventions in primary care populations (Review)

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For two reasons:

Kaner EFS, Beyer FR, Muirhead C, Campbell F, Pienaar ED, Bertholet N, Daeppen JB, Saunders JB, Burnand B.
Effectiveness of brief alcohol interventions in primary care populations.
Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2018, Issue 2. Art. No.: CD004148.
DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD004148.pub4.

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Reason 1: trial settings



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Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews

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2018

Effectiveness of brief alcohol interventions in primary care populations (Review)

Kaner EF, Dickinson HO, Beyer FR, Campbell F, Schlesinger C, Heather N, Saunders JB, Burnand B, Pienaar ED

24/29 trials implemented in general practice settings

Kaner EF, Dickinson HO, Beyer FR, Campbell F, Schlesinger C, Heather N, Saunders JB, Burnand B, Pienaar ED.
Effectiveness of brief alcohol interventions in primary care populations.
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Effectiveness of brief alcohol interventions in primary care populations (Review)
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WILEY

Effectiveness of brief alcohol interventions in primary care populations (Review)

Kaner EFS, Beyer FR, Muirhead C, Campbell F, Pienaar ED, Bertholet N, Daepfen JB, Saunders JB, Burnand B

38/69 trials implemented in general practice settings;
27/69 trials implemented in emergency care settings

Kaner EFS, Beyer FR, Muirhead C, Campbell F, Pienaar ED, Bertholet N, Daepfen JB, Saunders JB, Burnand B.
Effectiveness of brief alcohol interventions in primary care populations.
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Effectiveness of brief alcohol interventions in primary care populations (Review)
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All settings: 38g/week

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Effectiveness of brief alcohol interventions in primary care populations (Review)

Kaner EFS, Beyer FR, Muirhead C, Campbell F, Pienaar ED, Bertholet N, Daepfen JB, Saunders JB, Burnand B

GP settings: 26g/week A&E settings: 10g/week

Kaner EFS, Beyer FR, Muirhead C, Campbell F, Pienaar ED, Bertholet N, Daepfen JB, Saunders JB, Burnand B.
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Reason 2: baseline consumption



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**Baseline consumption:
313g/week**

**Baseline consumption:
183/week**

Kaner EF, Dickinson HO, Beyer FR, Campbell F, Schlesinger C, Heather N, Saunders JB, Burnand B, Pienaar ED.
Effectiveness of brief alcohol interventions in primary care populations.
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Figure 7. Meta-regression of quantity of drinking at 12 months on baseline consumption.

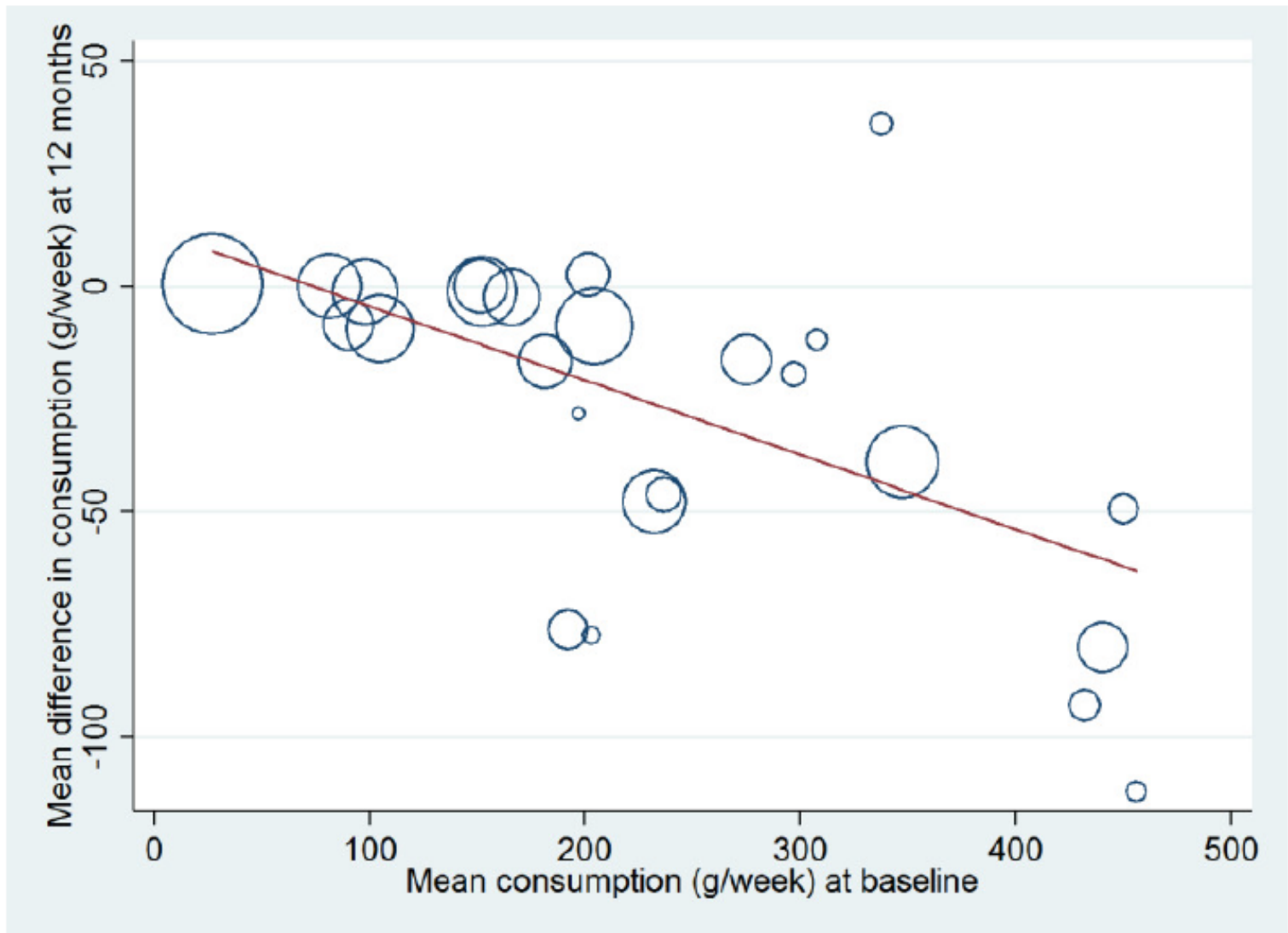


Figure 5. Meta-regression of quantity of drinking at 12 months on year of publication of trial.

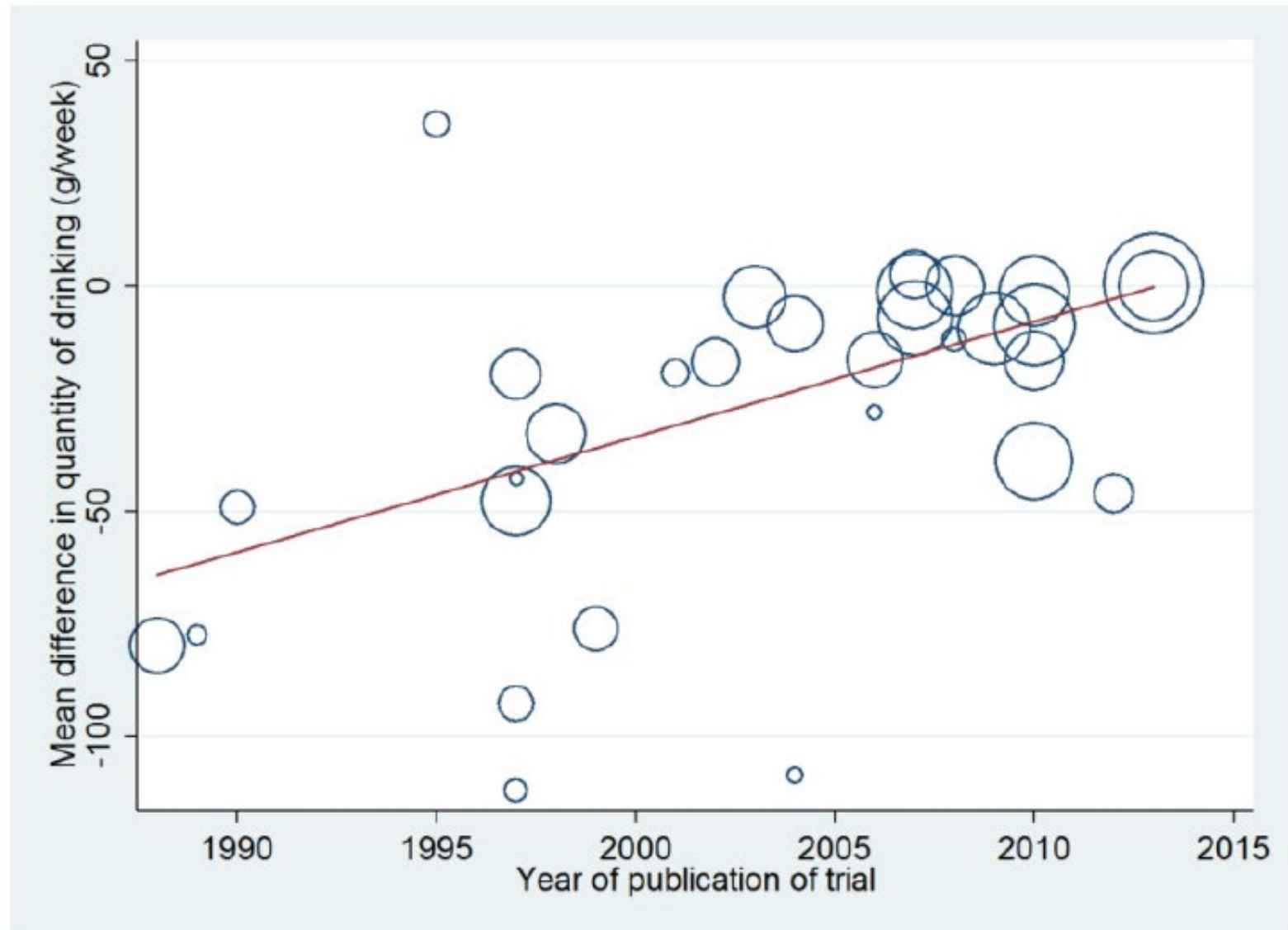
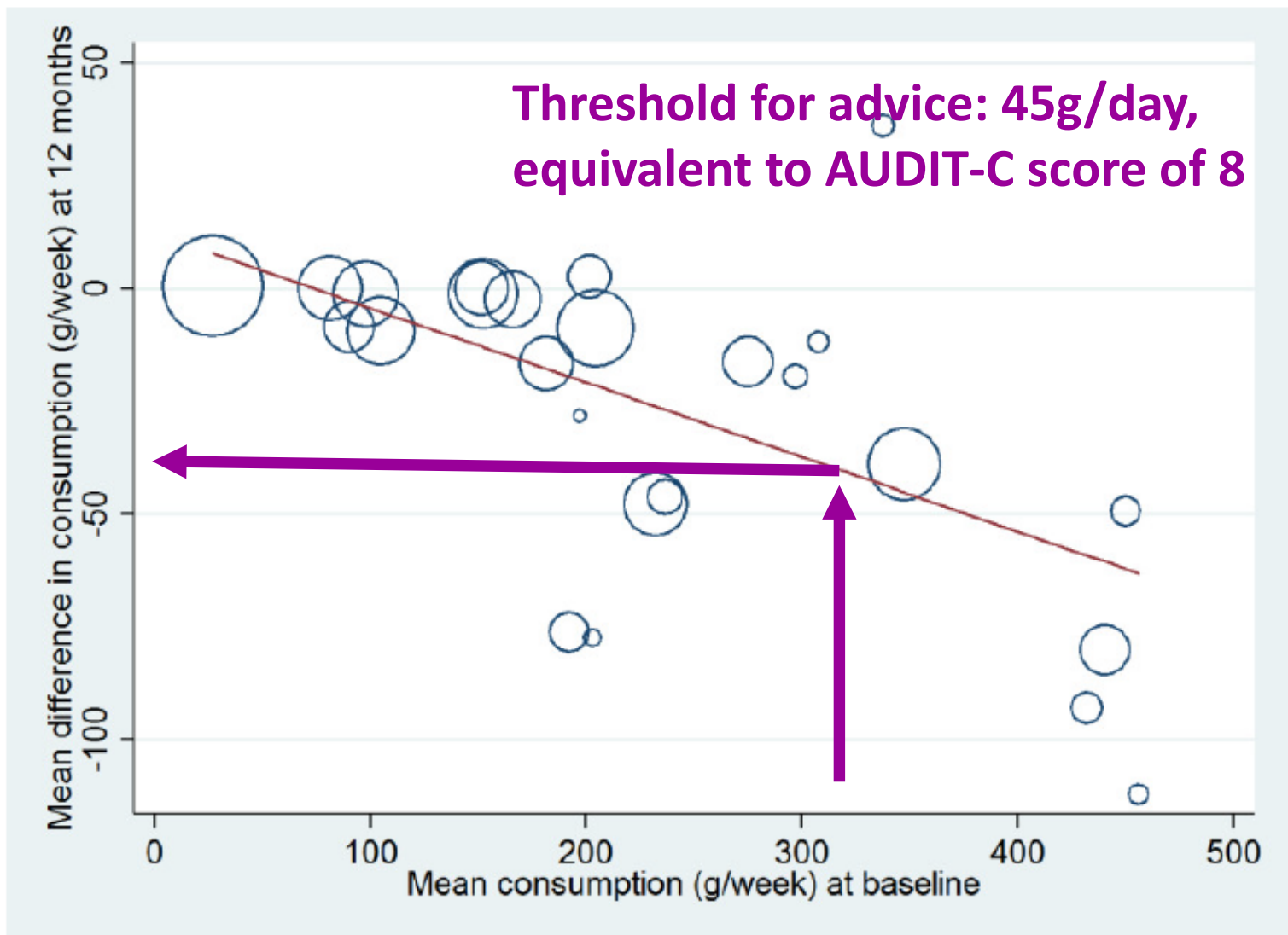
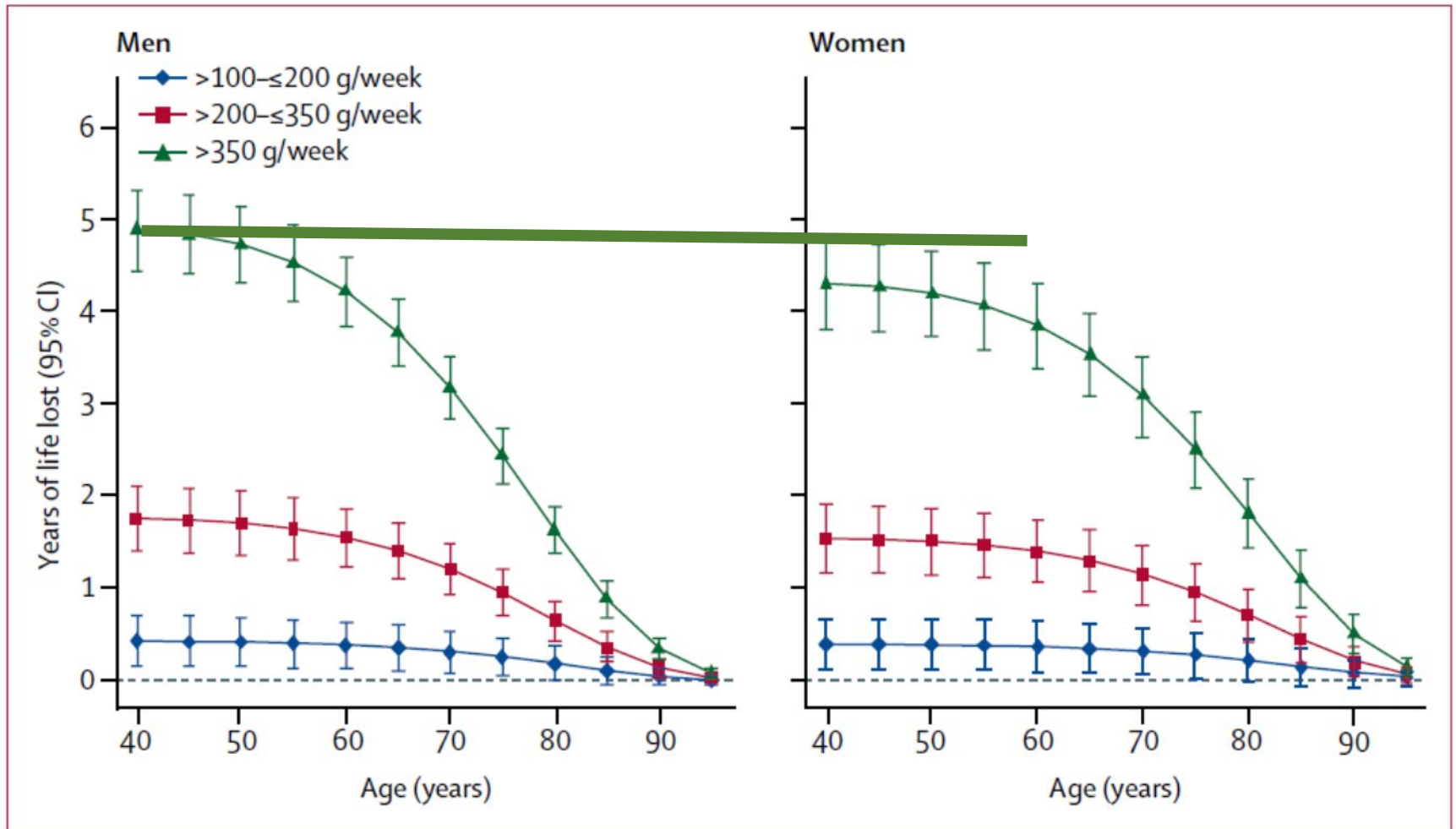


Figure 7. Meta-regression of quantity of drinking at 12 months on baseline consumption.



Same cut-off score for men and women





**Alcohol—
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Simplifying (3):

**We measure alcohol use;
AUDIT-C, being a useful
instrument**

**Threshold for brief advice,
based on RCT results,
AUDIT-C = 8,
same for men and women,
equivalent to about 45 grams
alcohol/day**



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4. Simplicity of advice to cut down drinking

SURNAME
Mr/Mrs/Miss

Age if under
12 years
yrs. | mths.

INITIALS AND ONE FULL FORENAME

Address

Pharmacy Stamp

Pharmacist's
pack & quantity
endorsement

No. of days treatment
NB Ensure dose is stated

NP

Pricing
Office
use only

Rx

Cut down
on your
drinking!

Date

Signature of Doctor

For
phar-
macist
No. of
Prescns.
on form

Form FP10
(Rev. 82)

IMPORTANT: Read notes overleaf before going to the pharmacy.

Figure 8. Meta-regression of quantity of drinking at 12 months on treatment exposure (mean duration intervention for the participants in the trial), for trials comparing brief intervention with control.

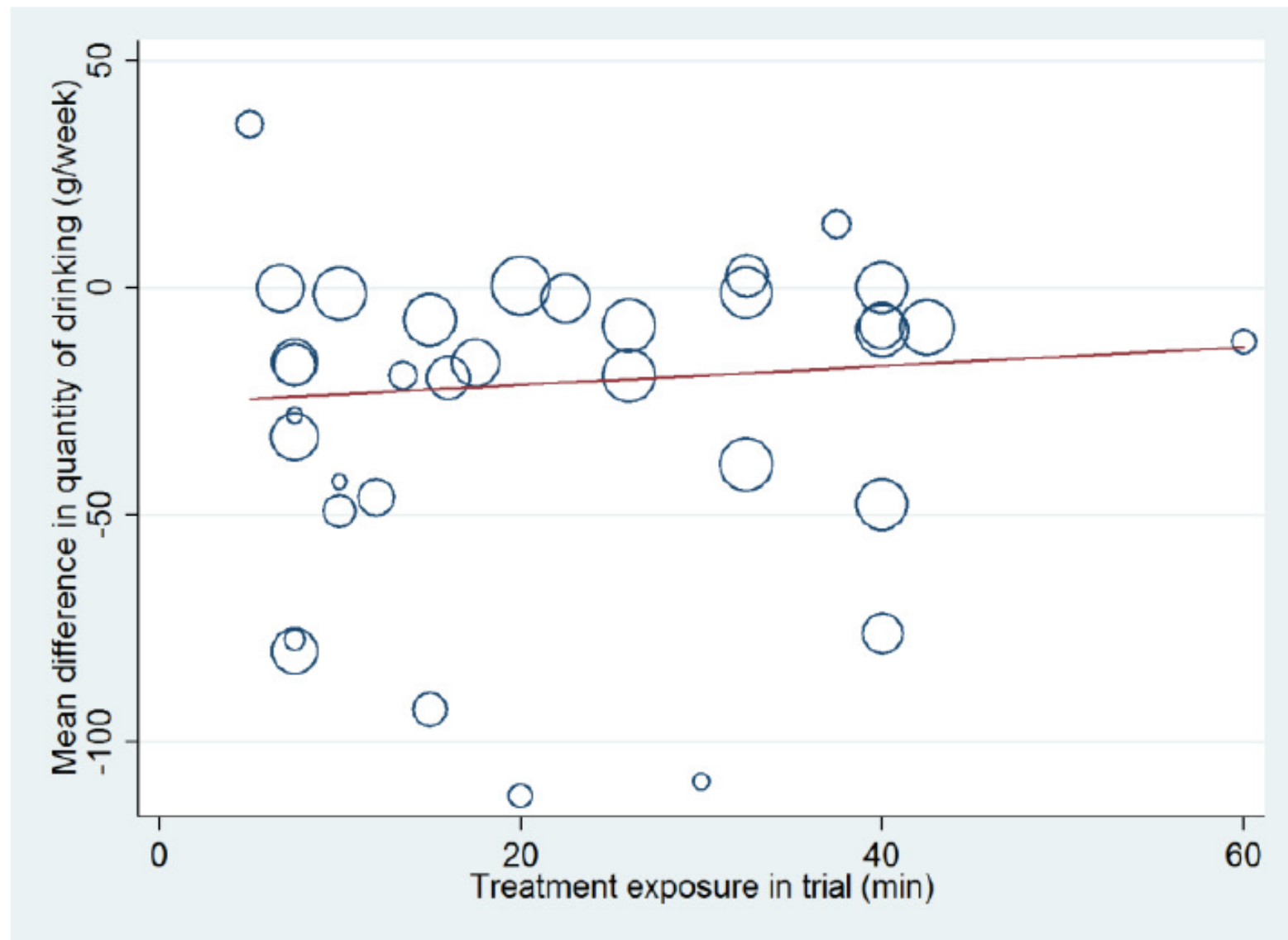
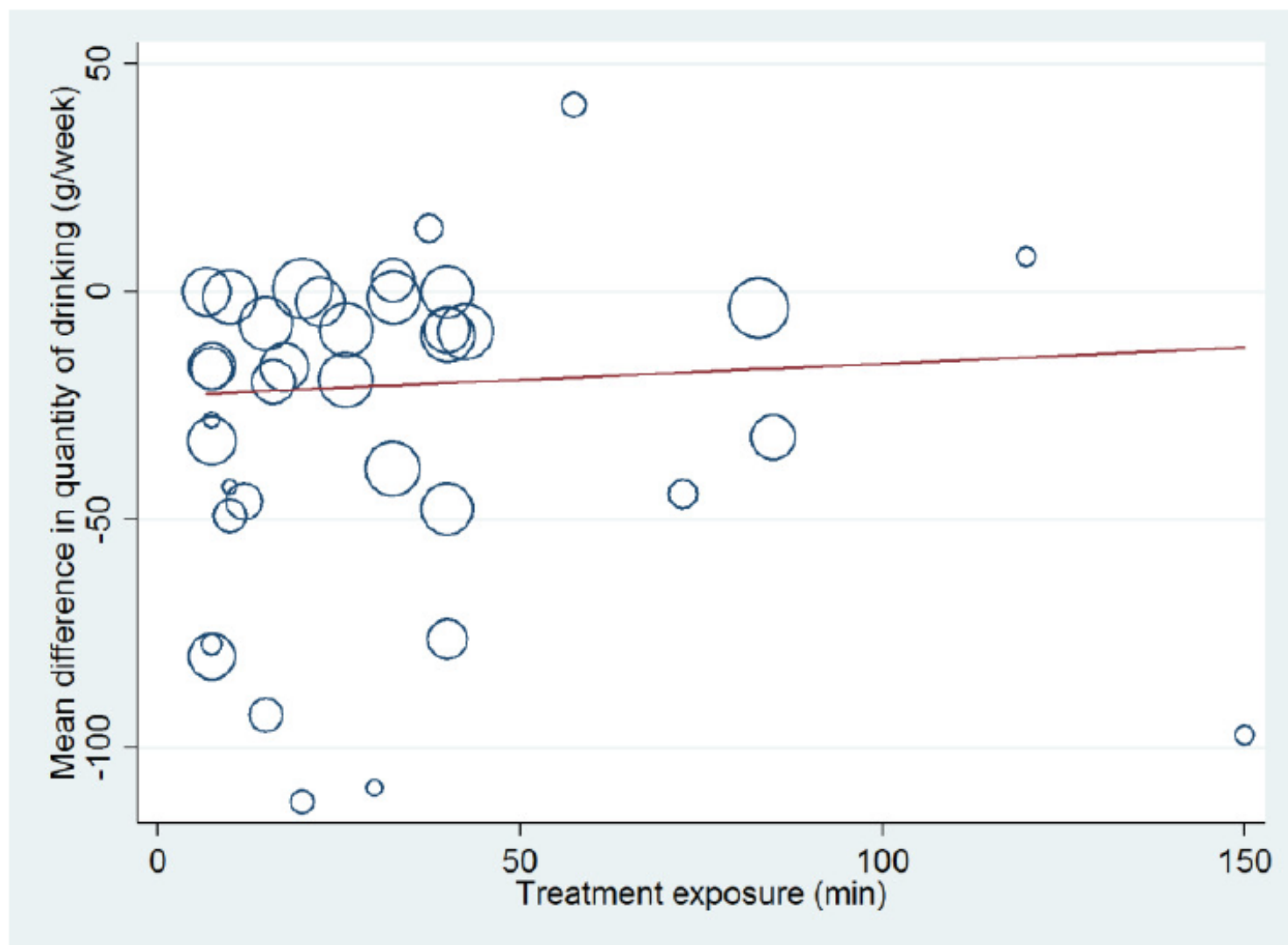


Figure 10. Meta-regression of quantity of drinking at 12 months on treatment exposure (mean duration of counselling for the participants in the trial), for trials comparing brief or extended intervention with control.



Counsellor

- Butler 2009
- Carey 2006
- Crawford 2014
- Curry 2003.1
- Daepfen 2007
- Daepfen 2011 (bingers)
- Daepfen 2011 (non-bingers)
- Drummond 2014
- Field 2010 (Blacks)
- Field 2010 (Hispanics)
- Field 2010 (Whites)
- Gaume 2011 (heavy users)
- Gaume 2011 (nonheavy users)
- Gentilello 1999 (intentional injury)
- Gentilello 1999 (unintentional injury)
- Juarez 2006
- Kulesza 2010
- Kulesza 2013
- Larimer 2000 (counsellor)
- Liu 2011
- Maisto 2001
- Murphy 2001
- Saitz 2007
- Senft 1997.1
- Wagener 2012
- Walters 2009
- Watt 2008

-0.76	[-1.31, -0.20]
-0.27	[-0.46, -0.08]
-0.14	[-0.30, 0.02]
-0.04	[-0.27, 0.18]
0.01	[-0.17, 0.18]
-0.19	[-0.44, 0.07]
0.07	[-0.27, 0.42]
-0.17	[-0.31, -0.03]
-0.06	[-0.33, 0.21]
0.02	[-0.18, 0.23]
0.04	[-0.13, 0.22]
-0.07	[-0.27, 0.13]
-0.30	[-0.69, 0.09]
0.32	[0.02, 0.62]
-0.19	[-0.39, 0.01]
-0.11	[-0.63, 0.41]
-0.39	[-0.78, 0.00]
-0.43	[-0.68, -0.17]
-0.35	[-0.84, 0.15]
-0.17	[-0.33, -0.01]
-0.12	[-0.39, 0.15]
-0.05	[-0.49, 0.40]
-0.05	[-0.29, 0.18]
-0.17	[-0.36, 0.02]
-0.14	[-0.53, 0.26]
0.04	[-0.25, 0.32]
0.11	[-0.14, 0.37]

RE Model for Subgroup

-0.11 [-0.17, -0.04]

Different providers

- Freyer-Adam 2008 (different)
- Gaume 2014
- Gottlieb-Hansen 2012 (men)
- Gottlieb-Hansen 2012 (women)

-0.05	[-0.32, 0.21]
-0.03	[-0.23, 0.18]
-0.06	[-0.26, 0.14]
-0.10	[-0.30, 0.10]
-0.12	[-0.37, 0.12]

RE Model for Subgroup

-0.07 [-0.12, -0.03]

Physician

- Aalto 2000 (GP)
- Aalto 2000 (combination).1
- Aalto 2001 (combination).1
- Anderson 1992
- Beich 2007
- Cordoba 1998
- Curry 2003
- Fleming 1997.1
- Fleming 1999.1
- Fleming 2009
- Freyer-Adam 2008 (GP)
- Heather 1987
- Richmond 1995
- Rubio 2010
- Schaus 2009
- Senft 1997

0.32	[-0.23, 0.87]
-0.08	[-0.62, 0.46]
-0.16	[-0.52, 0.21]
-0.20	[-0.56, 0.16]
-0.32	[-0.65, 0.00]
-0.01	[-0.14, 0.12]
-0.54	[-0.81, -0.28]
-0.04	[-0.27, 0.18]
-0.31	[-0.46, -0.16]
-0.68	[-1.01, -0.34]
-0.10	[-0.23, 0.02]
-0.02	[-0.34, 0.29]
-0.44	[-0.87, 0.00]
0.03	[-0.20, 0.27]
-0.33	[-0.48, -0.19]
-0.27	[-0.51, -0.03]
-0.17	[-0.36, 0.02]

RE Model for Subgroup

-0.20 [-0.31, -0.09]

Nurse

- Aalto 2000 (combination)
- Aalto 2001 (combination)
- Antti-Poika 1988
- Chen 2003
- Crawford 2004
- Fleming 1997
- Fleming 1999
- Holloway 2007
- Lock 2006
- Noknoy 2010
- Shiles 2013
- Smith 2003

-0.08	[-0.62, 0.46]
-0.20	[-0.56, 0.16]
-0.64	[-1.06, -0.21]
-0.08	[-0.42, 0.26]
-0.29	[-0.50, -0.08]
-0.31	[-0.46, -0.16]
-0.68	[-1.01, -0.34]
-0.17	[-0.56, 0.22]
-0.32	[-0.79, 0.15]
-0.42	[-0.82, -0.02]
0.03	[-0.34, 0.40]
-0.42	[-0.75, -0.08]

RE Model for Subgroup

-0.30 [-0.41, -0.20]

Peer

- Bernstein 2010
- Larimer 2000 (peer)

0.08	[-0.09, 0.24]
-0.50	[-1.00, 0.00]

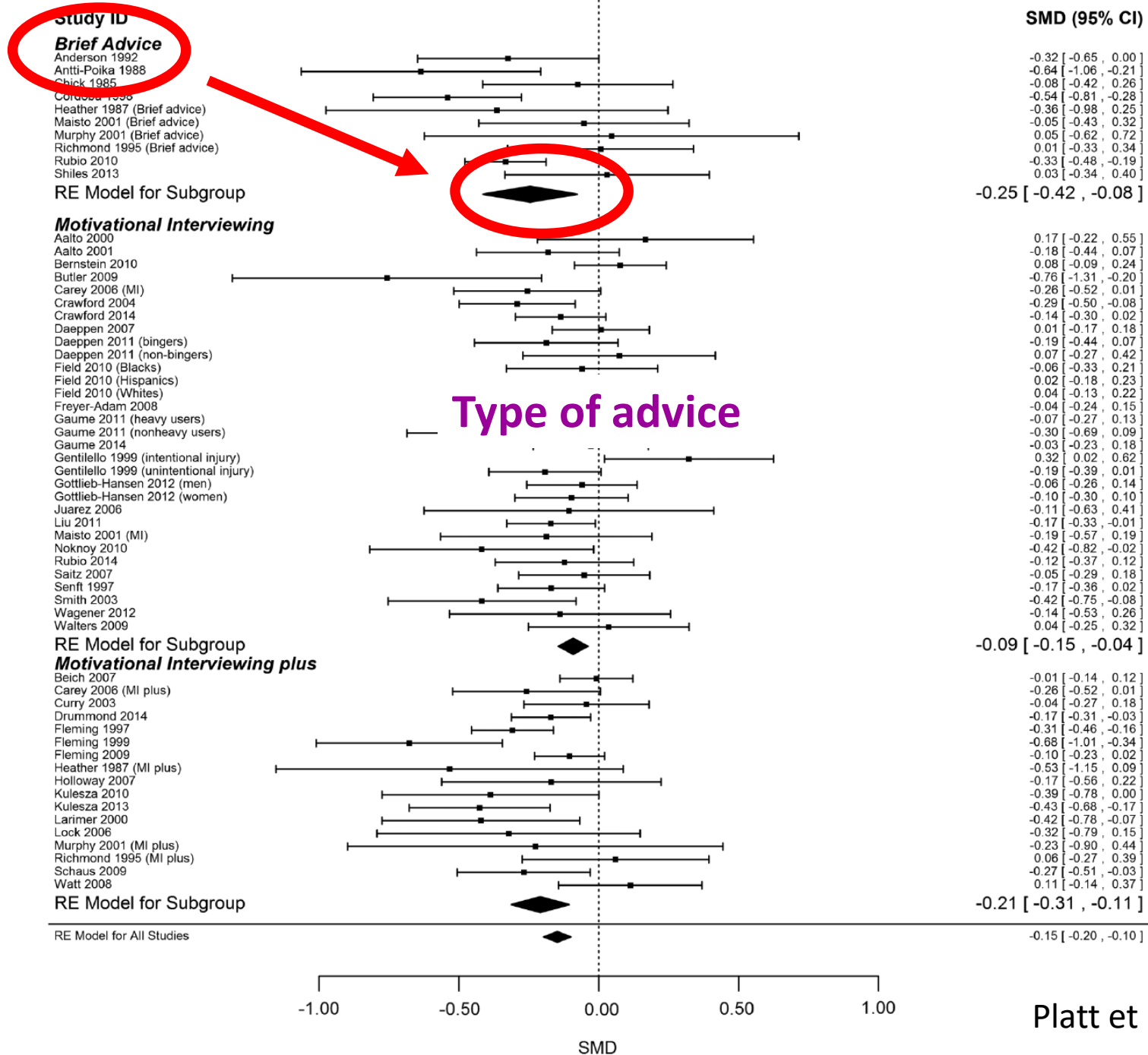
RE Model for Subgroup

-0.16 [-0.72, 0.40]

Profession of provider

-1.00 -0.50 0.00 0.50 1.00

SMD



Study ID

SMD (95% CI)

A&E

Antti-Poika 1988
 Bernstein 2010
 Chick 1985
 Crawford 2004
 Daeppen 2007
 Drummond 2014
 Field 2010 (Blacks)
 Field 2010 (Hispanics)
 Field 2010 (Whites)
 Gentilello 1999 (intentional injury)
 Gentilello 1999 (unintentional injury)
 Liu 2011

-0.64 [-1.06, -0.21]
 0.08 [-0.09, 0.24]
 -0.08 [-0.42, 0.26]
 -0.29 [-0.50, -0.08]
 0.01 [-0.17, 0.18]
 -0.17 [-0.31, -0.03]
 -0.06 [-0.33, 0.21]
 0.02 [-0.18, 0.23]
 0.04 [-0.13, 0.22]
 0.32 [0.02, 0.62]
 -0.19 [-0.39, 0.01]
 -0.17 [-0.33, -0.01]

Setting

RE Model for Subgroup

-0.08 [-0.20, 0.05]

Ambulatory or primary care

Aaito 2000
 Aaito 2001
 Anderson 1992
 Beich 2007
 Cordoba 1998
 Crawford 2014
 Curry 2003
 Fleming 1997
 Fleming 1999
 Fleming 2009
 Heather 1987
 Lock 2006
 Maisto 2001
 Noknoy 2010
 Richmond 1995
 Rubio 2010
 Rubio 2014
 Schaus 2009
 Senft 1997

0.17 [-0.22, 0.55]
 -0.18 [-0.44, 0.07]
 -0.32 [-0.65, 0.00]
 -0.01 [-0.14, 0.12]
 -0.54 [-0.81, -0.28]
 -0.14 [-0.30, 0.02]
 -0.04 [-0.27, 0.18]
 -0.31 [-0.46, -0.16]
 -0.68 [-1.01, -0.34]
 -0.10 [-0.23, 0.02]
 -0.44 [-0.87, 0.00]
 -0.32 [-0.79, 0.15]
 -0.12 [-0.39, 0.15]
 -0.42 [-0.82, -0.02]
 0.03 [-0.20, 0.27]
 -0.33 [-0.48, -0.19]
 -0.12 [-0.37, 0.12]
 -0.27 [-0.51, -0.03]
 -0.17 [-0.36, 0.02]

RE Model for Subgroup

-0.21 [-0.30, -0.11]

Hospital

Freyer-Adam 2008
 Holloway 2007
 Saitz 2007
 Shiles 2013
 Smith 2003

-0.04 [-0.24, 0.15]
 -0.17 [-0.56, 0.22]
 -0.05 [-0.29, 0.18]
 0.03 [-0.34, 0.40]
 -0.42 [-0.75, -0.08]

RE Model for Subgroup

-0.10 [-0.29, 0.08]

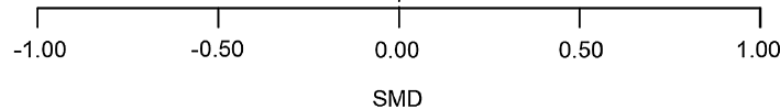
Non-health settings

Daeppen 2011 (bingers)
 Daeppen 2011 (non-bingers)
 Gaume 2011 (heavy users)
 Gaume 2011 (nonheavy users)
 Gaume 2014
 Gottlieb-Hansen 2012 (men)
 Gottlieb-Hansen 2012 (women)
 Watt 2008

-0.19 [-0.44, 0.07]
 0.07 [-0.27, 0.42]
 -0.07 [-0.27, 0.13]
 -0.30 [-0.69, 0.09]
 -0.03 [-0.23, 0.18]
 -0.06 [-0.26, 0.14]
 -0.10 [-0.30, 0.10]
 0.11 [-0.14, 0.37]

RE Model for Subgroup

-0.06 [-0.14, 0.02]



Effectiveness of brief alcohol interventions in primary care populations (Review)

Kaner EFS, Beyer FR, Muirhead C, Campbell F, Pienaar ED, Bertholet N, Daeppen JB, Saunders JB, Burnand B

Personalised digital interventions for reducing hazardous and harmful alcohol consumption in community-dwelling populations (Review)

Kaner EFS, Beyer FR, Garnett C, Crane D, Brown J, Muirhead C, Redmore J, O'Donnell A, Newham JJ, de Vocht F, Hickman M, Brown H, Maniatopoulos G, Michie S

GP settings: 26g/week

Digital interventions: 23g/week

Kaner EFS, Beyer FR, Muirhead C, Campbell F, Pienaar ED, Bertholet N, Daeppen JB, Saunders JB, Burnand B.
Effectiveness of brief alcohol interventions in primary care populations.
Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2018, Issue 2. Art. No.: CD004148.
DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD004148.pub4.

www.cochranelibrary.com

Kaner EFS, Beyer FR, Garnett C, Crane D, Brown J, Muirhead C, Redmore J, O'Donnell A, Newham JJ, de Vocht F, Hickman M, Brown H, Maniatopoulos G, Michie S.
Personalised digital interventions for reducing hazardous and harmful alcohol consumption in community-dwelling populations.
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DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD011479.pub2.

How do we marry these two together?

Personalised digital interventions for reducing hazardous and harmful alcohol consumption in community-dwelling populations (Review)
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WILEY



Getting rid of the RT in MBART

Alcohol— A Balanced View

ROYAL COLLEGE OF
GENERAL PRACTITIONERS

WHO/MSD/MSB/01.6a
Original: English
Distribution: General

Thomas F. Babor
John C. Higgins-Biddle
John B. Saunders
Maristela G. Monteiro

AUDIT

The Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test

Guidelines for Use in Primary Care

Second Edition

World Health Organization
Department of Mental Health and Substance Dependence



Box 6

Risk Level

Intervention

AUDIT score*

Zone I

Alcohol Education

0-7

Zone II

Simple Advice

8-15

Zone III

Simple Advice plus Brief Counseling
and Continued Monitoring

16-19

Zone IV

Referral to Specialist for Diagnostic
Evaluation and Treatment

20-40

Box 6

Risk Level

Intervention

AUDIT score*

Zone I

Alcohol Education

0-7

Zone II

Simple Advice

8-15

Zone III

Simple Advice plus Brief Counseling
and Continued Monitoring

16-19

Zone IV

Referral to Specialist for Diagnostic
Evaluation and Treatment

20-40

WHY?



Alcohol—
A Balanced View

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“Establish a plan or protocol for finding out about every patient’s alcohol consumption, for recording and assessing that information and for acting upon it so as to reduce the health risk for as many patients as is practicable”



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“The majority of heavy drinkers and patients with alcohol problems can be helped by support from members of the primary care team. However, there are some patients whose care will need to be shared:

- **Severe medical and psychological problems**
- **Lack supportive family**
- **Care has previously failed”**



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A Balanced View**

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**“Not everyone can be helped
adequately in general practice:**

- **Severe intoxication and
detoxification that cannot be
safely done at home**
- **Liver disease**
- **Suicide risk”**



**Alcohol—
A Balanced View**

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GENERAL PRACTITIONERS

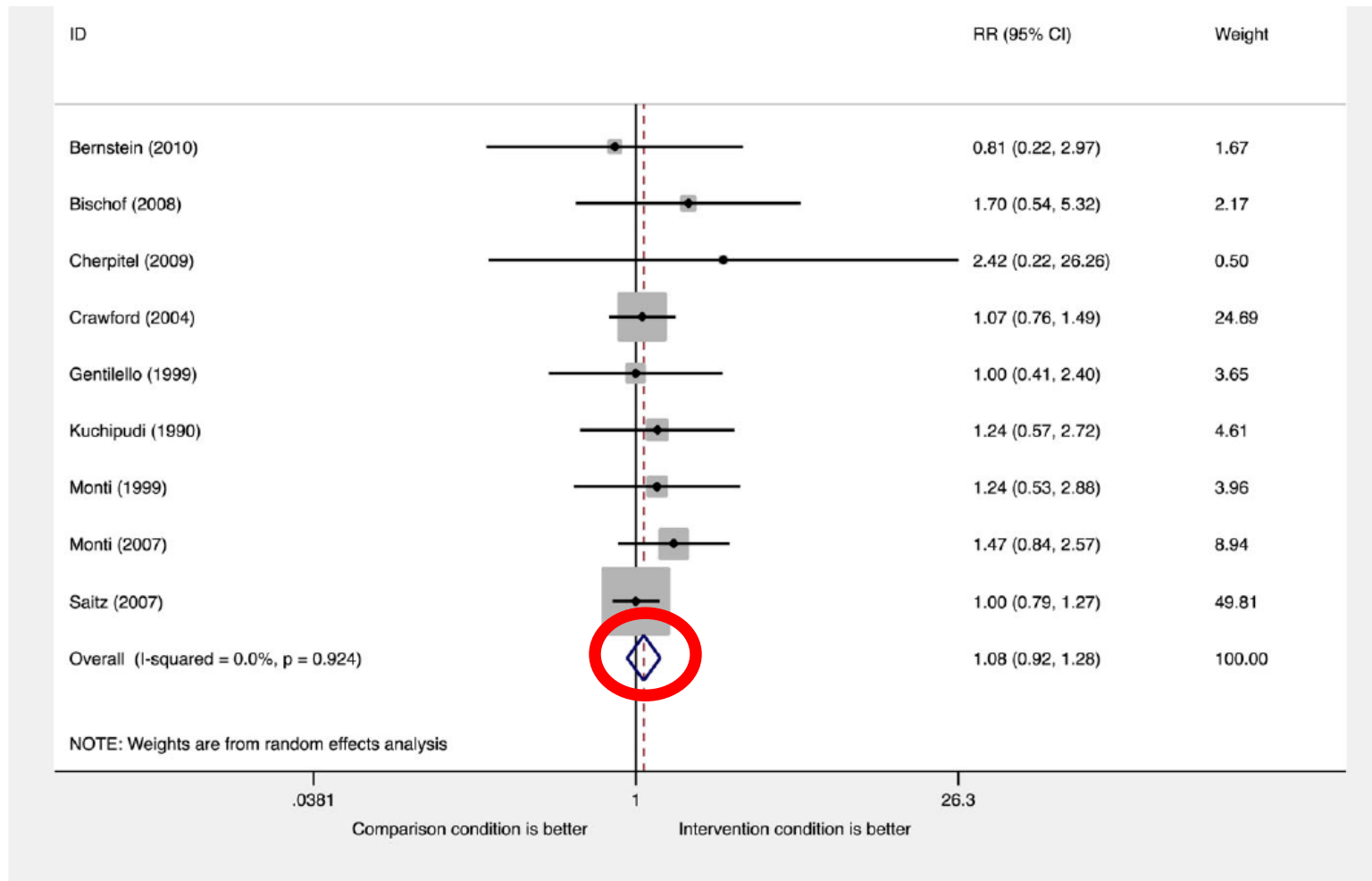
**Thus, RT is the exception,
rather than the rule, and
is not a dichotomous
entity.**

**So, we only need
MBA**

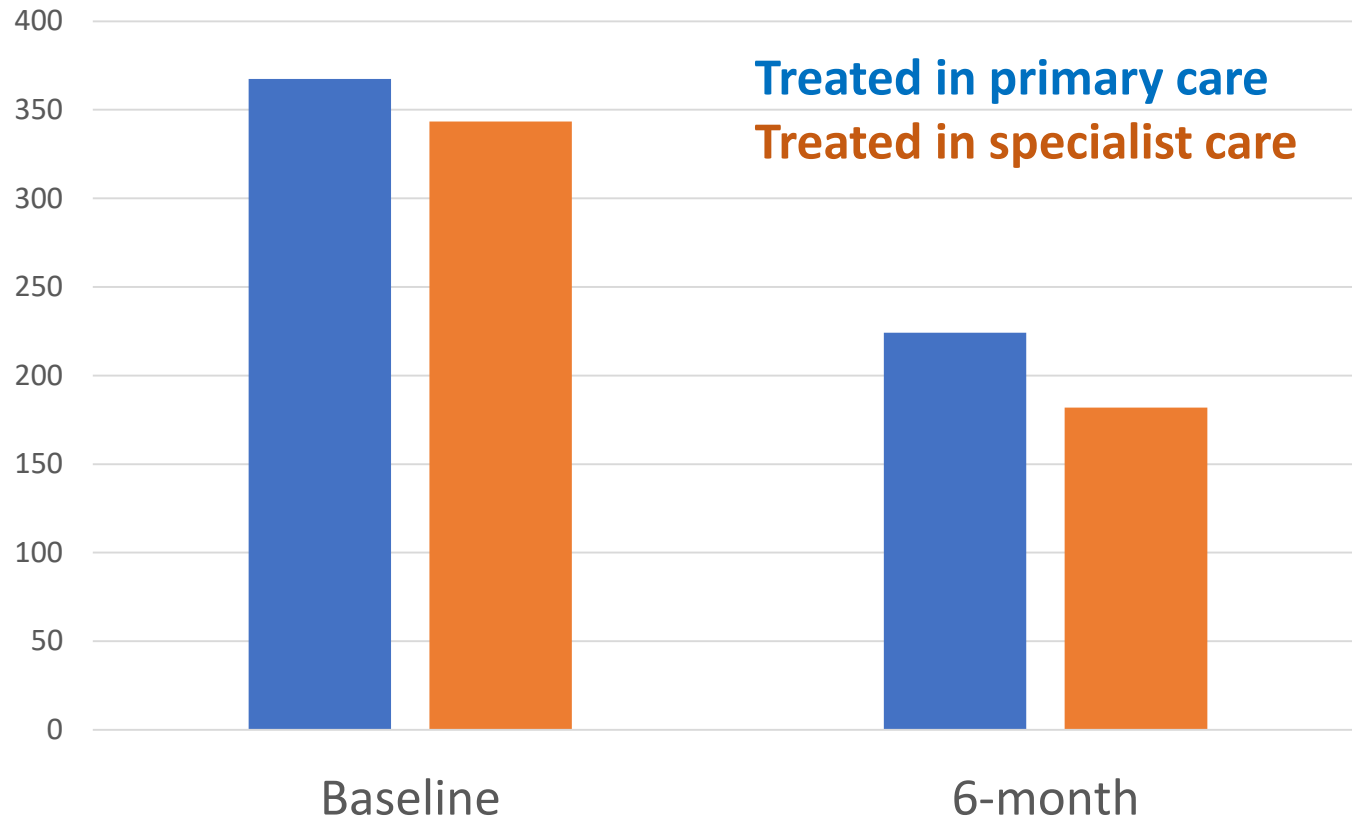
**Measurement
and Brief Advice**

In any case, the R does not work

Meta-analysis of studies of the efficacy of brief alcohol interventions in referring people to higher levels of alcohol related care

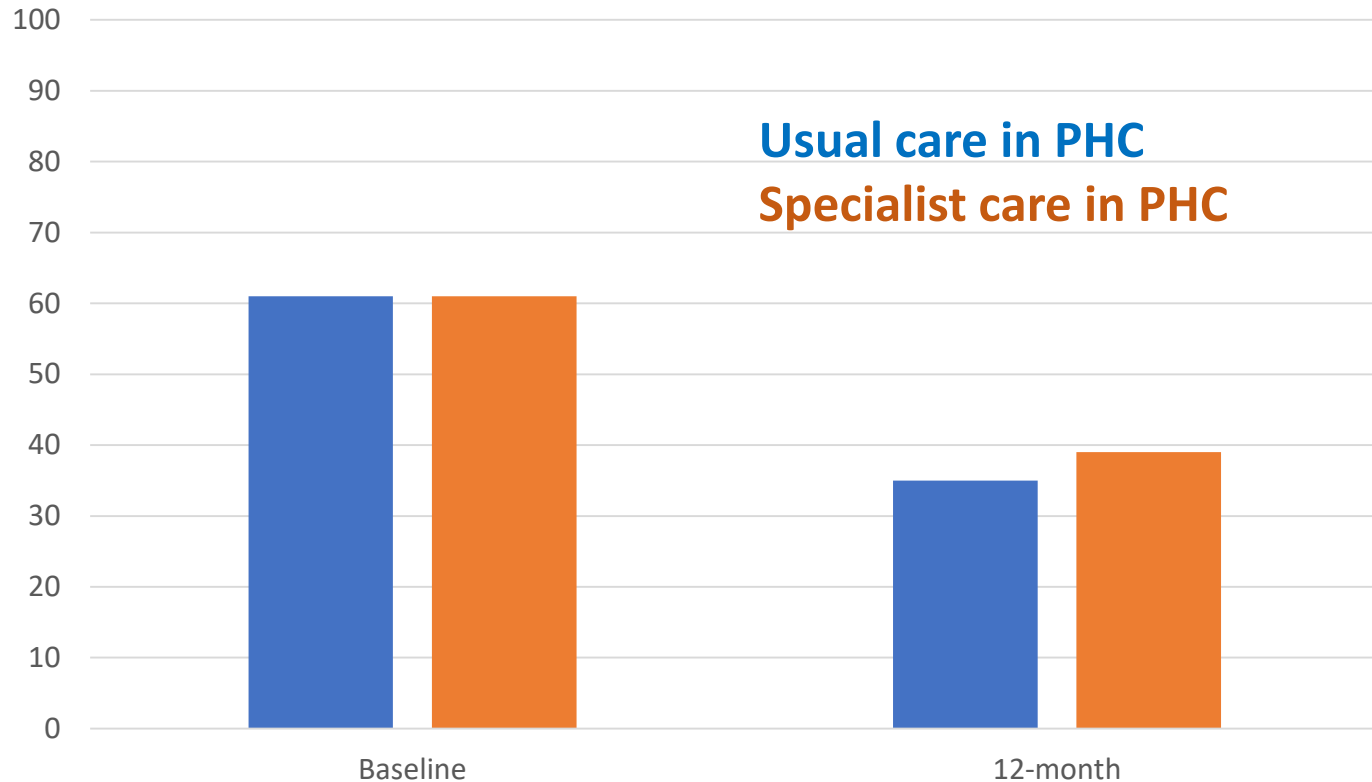


For the same type of patient, treatment in specialist care is no better than treatment in primary care



Weekly alcohol consumption (grams) for 288 Swedish adults fulfilling ICD-10 criteria for alcohol dependence, randomly allocated to treatment in primary care or specialist care

For the same type of patient, specialist care in PHC is no better than usual care in PHC



Per cent previous 28 days that were heavy drinking days for 304 US Veterans with AUDIT-C score ≥ 5 for men and ≥ 4 for women randomly allocated to usual or specialist care in PHC

Bradley et al. 2018



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A Balanced View**

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Simplifying (4):

Only short simple advice is needed, preferably delivered by a nurse or physician, preferably in primary health care

Sharing care with specialist services is the exception, rather than the norm, and not determined by dichotomous decision making



Alcohol— A Balanced View

**ROYAL COLLEGE OF
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Published by
The Royal College of General Practitioners

5. Community support to community agents

RESPONDING TO DRINKING PROBLEMS

**STAN SHAW, ALAN CARTWRIGHT,
TERRY SPRATLEY
AND JUDITH HARWIN**

RESPONDING TO DRINKING PROBLEMS

STAN SHAW, ALAN CARTWRIGHT,
TERRY SPRATLEY
AND JUDITH HARVIN

**Coined the term:
Community Agents**

- Primary health care physicians
- Primary health care nurses
- Social workers

RESPONDING TO DRINKING PROBLEMS

STAN SHAW, ALAN CARTWRIGHT,
TERRY SPRATLEY
AND JUDITH HARVIN

Developed and
demonstrated the model:

Training

- ⇒ Improved role security and therapeutic commitment
- ⇒ More patients managed for drinking
- ⇒ Improved role security and therapeutic commitment
- ⇒ More patients managed for drinking

Confirmed by
ODHIN project



RESPONDING TO DRINKING PROBLEMS

STAN SHAW, ALAN CARTWRIGHT,
TERRY SPRATLEY
AND JUDITH HARWIN

Stressed need for
community-based
role support



REPORT FROM GENERAL PRACTICE 24

Alcohol—
A Balanced View

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**As did
RCGP
report**

Published by
The Royal College of General Practitioners

**WHO COLLABORATIVE PROJECT ON IDENTIFICATION AND
MANAGEMENT OF ALCOHOL-RELATED PROBLEMS IN PRIMARY
HEALTH CARE**

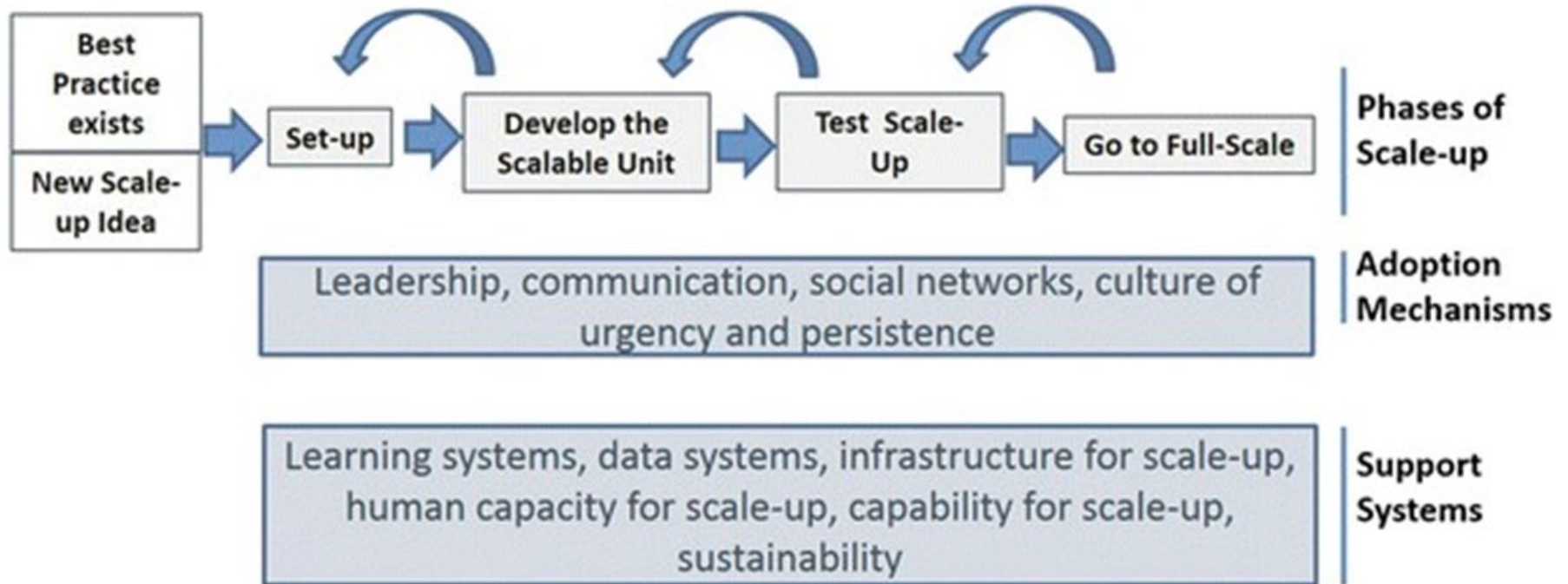
Report on Phase IV

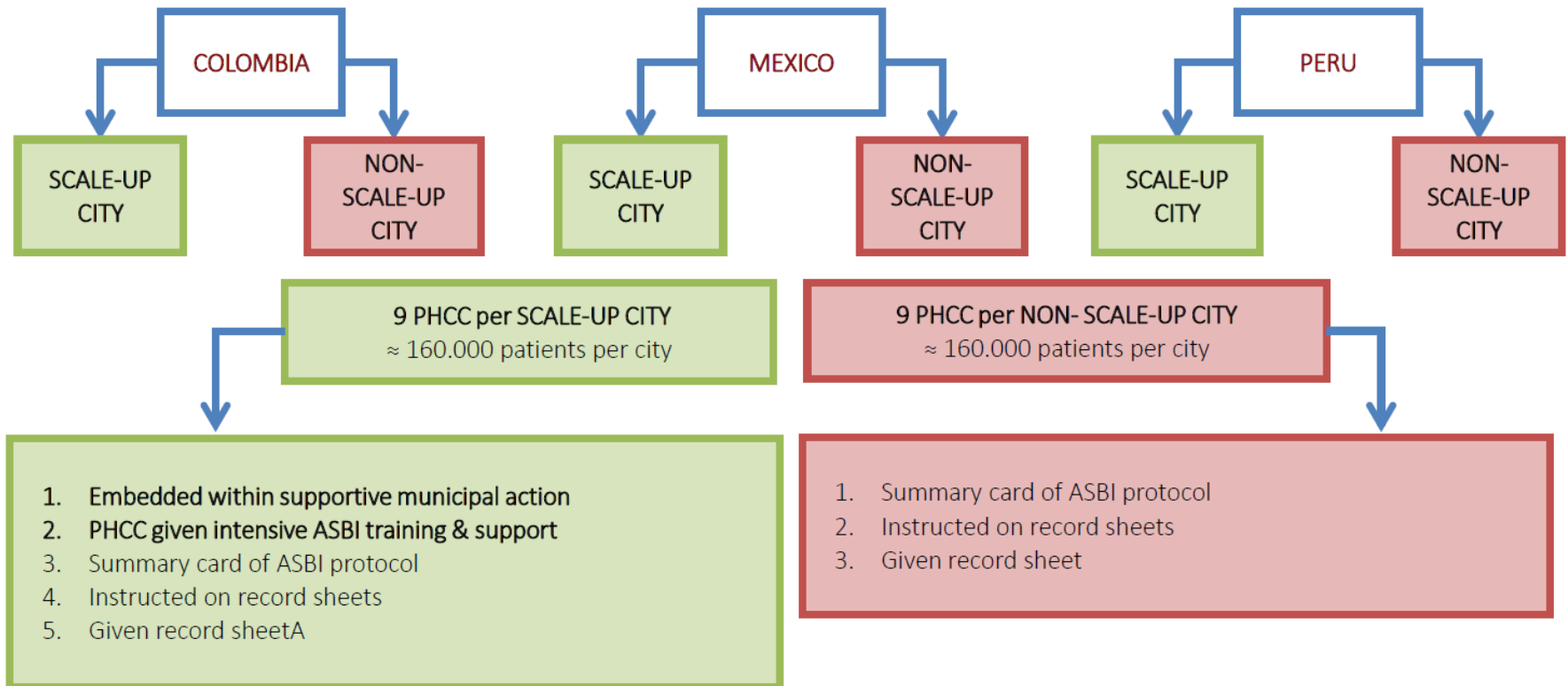
**Development of Country-Wide Strategies for Implementing Early
Identification and Brief Intervention
in Primary Health Care**



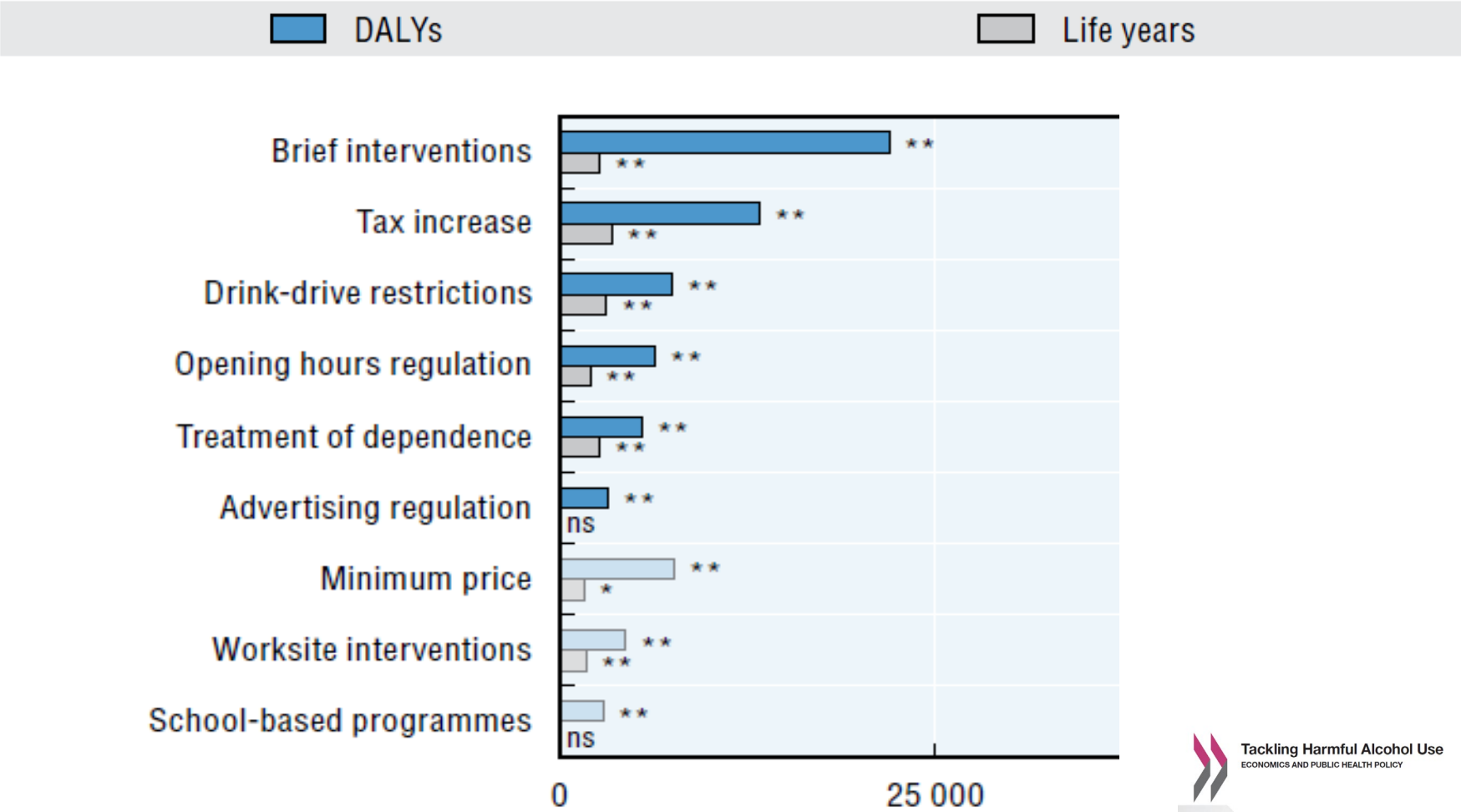
**World Health
Organization**

- **reframing views about alcohol away from a view of ‘alcoholism’ to a broader understanding of alcohol problems is essential for both professionals (through training) and the public (through mass media campaigns)**
- **the establishment of a lead organization is essential, gathering endorsements from a range of organisations and individuals that are highly relevant to the aims of the work**

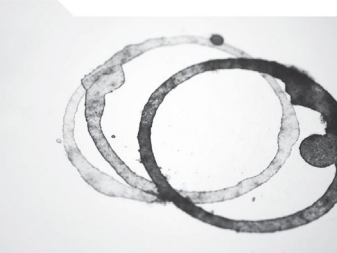




Health outcomes at the population level, average number per year



Example of Canada



Scale-up city (Leuven)
N≈12 PHCU per city
(≈ 90,000 patients per city)

Training only city (Kortrijk)
N≈12 PHCU per city
(≈ 90,000 patients per city)

Control city (Hasselt)
N≈12 PHCU per city
(≈ 90,000 patients per city)

4-week Baseline assessment

**Electronic health record (EHR) measurement of PHCU activity (screening, advice & treatment)
Measurement of patient alcohol health literacy, alcohol consumption, social norms**

1. PHCU given intensive training
2. Given in-practice support, with instruction
3. EHR monitoring and feedback
4. Advice on organizational procedures
5. City-based communication and social norm campaigns
6. Coordinated care pathways across primary care services
7. Other city-based adoption and support mechanisms

1. PHCU given intensive training
2. Given in-practice support, with instruction
3. EHR monitoring, with automated but no personal feedback

1. Given in-practice support, with NO instruction
2. EHR monitoring, with automated, but no personal feedback

18 month Scale-up City period

4.5 months

Measurement of provider attitudes and alcohol health literacy

4-week 9 month assessment

**Electronic health record measurement of PHCU activity (screening, advice & treatment)
Measurement of patient alcohol health literacy, alcohol consumption, social norms**

13.5 months

Measurement of provider attitudes and alcohol health literacy

4-week 18 month assessment

**Electronic health record measurement of PHCU activity (screening, advice & treatment)
Measurement of patient alcohol health literacy, alcohol consumption, social norms**





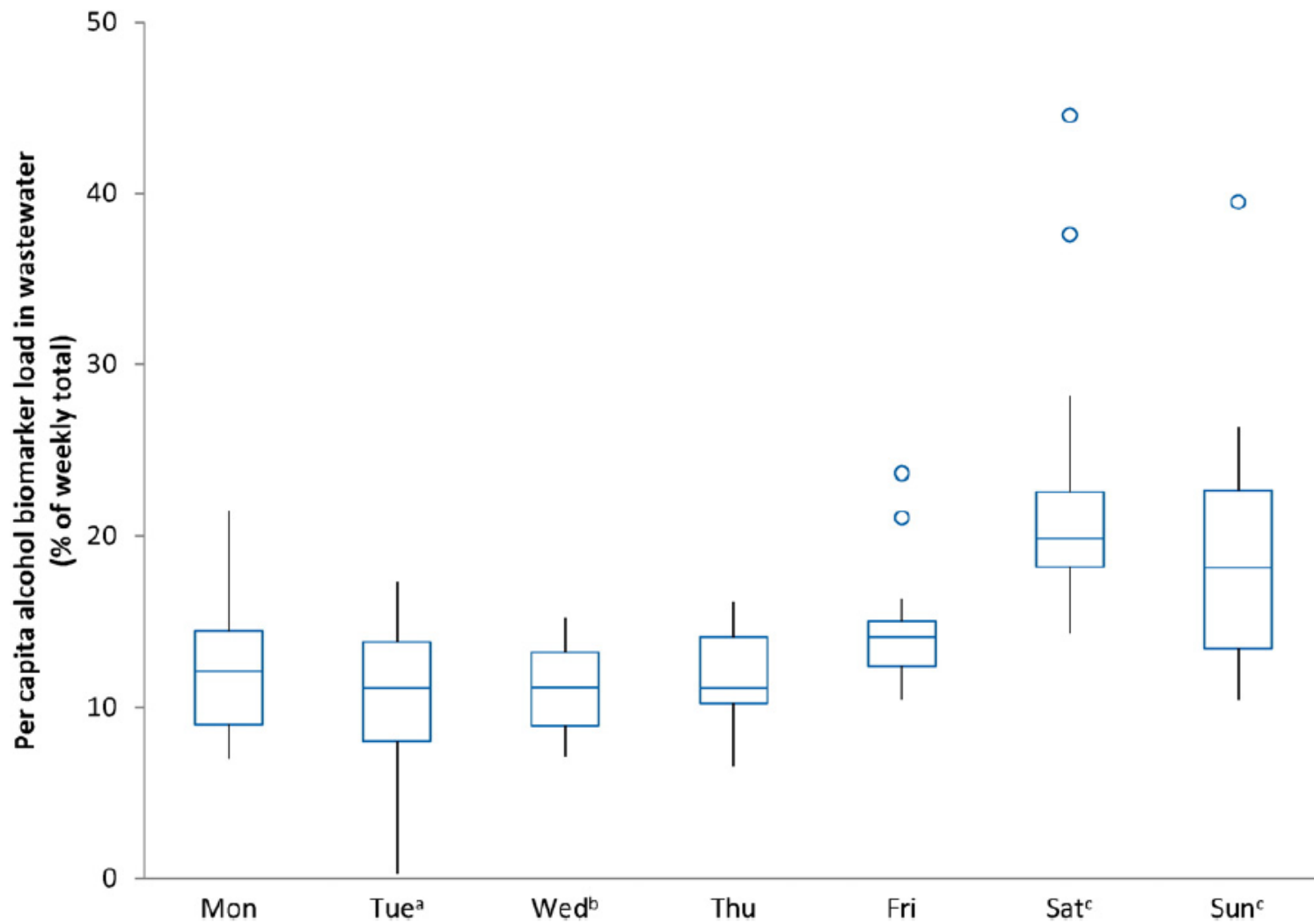






A photograph of a weathered metal bucket filled with a greyish, opaque liquid. The bucket is placed on a surface of dry, cracked, brown soil. The text 'ethyl sulphate (EtS)' is overlaid in white on the liquid. The bucket has a handle on the left side and shows signs of use and rust.

ethyl sulphate (EtS)



Ryu et al. 2016.



**Alcohol—
A Balanced View**

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GENERAL PRACTITIONERS

Adding one thing (5):

**Community support for
community agents**

**Evaluate community
outcomes, with a bucket of
wastewater**



In summary:

Alcohol— A Balanced View

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**Alcohol—
A Balanced View**

**ROYAL COLLEGE OF
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- 1. There are no dichotomies, no disorders, no diseases – only continua of alcohol use and continua of the harm done by alcohol use**



**Alcohol—
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- 2. Alcohol is the risk factor, not harmful use of alcohol or unhealthy use of alcohol; there is no level of consumption that is risk-free; beyond 50g alcohol/day, nearly 5 years of life are lost**



Alcohol—
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- 3. We measure consumption of alcohol; we are not screening. Based on evidence from RCTs, an appropriate threshold for advice is an AUDIT-C score of 8 for both men and women, equivalent to about 45g alcohol/day**



**Alcohol—
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- 4. Simple short advice to cut down drinking is all that is needed to have an impact; the care of some patients will need to be shared; referral for treatment is not the norm and is not a dichotomous decision based on a score.**

**The acronym is MBA:
Measure and Brief Advice**



Alcohol—
A Balanced View

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**5. Community agents undertake MBA;
they need community support**

**Research needs to study the impact
of MBA at the community level; there
are opportunities to do this;
wastewater analyses of ethyl sulphite
provide an objective outcome
measure**



Examine report:

What does it say for us today?

**Alcohol—
A Balanced View**

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A Balanced View**

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Examine report:

What does it say for us today?

Still many lessons!



**Alcohol—
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Thank you for your attention