

Research Priorities for the Intersection of Alcohol and HIV/AIDS in Low and Middle Income Countries: A Priority Setting Exercise

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For which topic were research priorities identified?

alcohol and HIV/AIDS

In which location was the research priority setting conducted?

international

Why was it conducted at all?

The harmful use of alcohol is a component cause for more than 200 diseases. The association between alcohol consumption, risk taking behavior and a range of infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS is well established. The prevalence of HIV/AIDS as well as harmful alcohol use in low and middle income countries is high. Alcohol has been identified as a modifiable risk factor in the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS.

What was the objective?

to define research priorities for the interaction of alcohol and HIV/AIDS in low and middle income countries

What was the outcome?

a ranking list of 50 research questions

How long did the research prioritization take?

3 months

Which methods were used to identify research priorities?

CHNRI approach

How were the priorities for research identified exactly?

Step 1: generating systematic list of research options: experts invited to generate five research questions, 204 initial research questions submitted. Step 2: data processing: similar questions combined, duplicate questions and those not related to HIV/alcohol deleted, final list of 50 research options, agreement on five scoring criteria. Step 3: experts were asked to score each of the 50 research options along five criteria, prior to scoring all criteria were weighted equally

Which stakeholders took part?

Researchers/scientists, public health professionals and non-government organizations. 59 participants: 41 researchers/scientists, 15 from the field of public health and 3 individuals the non-governmental organizations.

How were stakeholders recruited?

37 global experts were invited to attend a meeting on the intersection of alcohol and HIV/AIDS in Durban, South Africa.

Were stakeholders actively involved or did they just participate?

Stakeholders were mere participants of the research prioritization process; they were not actively involved in the process.