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Alcohol And Society Today

By MalaMaal.com

Alcohol And Society Today

There has been a lot of discussion in the last few years about the continuing problem of alcohol and the effect it has on society. Should we treat alcohol as if it were an illicit drug?

Some of the promoters of harsh restrictions on the sale and marketing of certain alcoholic beverages (restrictions such as advertising bans and higher taxes) have justified their proposals with the erroneous assertion that alcohol is no different than illegal drugs. There have even been stories in some of the media attempting to equate alcohol with the use and/or abuse of illegal substances such as marijuana, crack, cocaine and heroin.

We will first mention as a matter of information that alcoholic beverages have been a part of western civilization for more than 25 centuries. Now we know there will always be people among us who drink. America has already tried prohibition and learned conclusively that it does not work. The simple fact is that many Americans like to drink and the vast majority of those who do, drink responsibly, thus, the public policy challenge we face today is not to stigmatize all drinking as bad but to maximize the probability that those who choose to drink will do so in a responsible manner.

It's a fact that excessive drinking can seriously damage one's health. Those who claim that "alcohol is a drug" want that word to carry a particular, threatening connotation. In reality, however, "drug" is an ethically, legally and physiologically neutral term that encompasses a wide spectrum of substances.

According to a well-known medical textbook of pharmacology, a drug is any chemical agency that affects living processes. A drug can be as menacing as cocaine, as benign as sucrose or as helpful as vitamin C. In a societal sense, some drugs relieve pain and assist in the healing process. Others are safely and legally enjoyed by millions of people very day, even though overuse can result in undesirable side effects. And Some drugs are so terribly addictive that simply experimenting with them carries substantial risk.

Recent studies show that excess alcohol consumption can lead to a number of serious health problems, and of course there is the problem of addiction which must be taken into consideration.

## Alcohol And Society Today

Who among us hasn't been exposed to a friend or relative with a severe drinking problem. Many of societies' problems today such as spouse abuse, child abuse and dysfunctional family relationships can be traced to drinking problems.

Alcohol may lead to liver problems, a variety of cancers as well as forms of osteoporosis and depression, and studies are showing, too, that women are more susceptible to the ill effects of alcohol than are men. From this information, it is safe to conclude that anything which has this type of effect on one's general health, is going to affect the entire system. And research has shown that alcohol depletes the body of it's necessary vitamins and minerals.

"Social drinking" seems to be an accepted practice these days and the arguments both pro and con will always be with us. It is our hope that as you read and consider this information you will become more aware of the effect that alcohol has on society today.

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**Drinking Alcohol – The Good, The Bad And The Ugly Aspects**

**By James Dyson**

An online medical dictionary defines alcohol as organic chemical in which one or more hydroxyl (OH) groups are attached to carbon (C) atoms in place of hydrogen (H) atoms. Well known alcohol includes ethyl alcohol or ethanol, methyl alcohol and propyl alcohol. Everyone, however, understood alcohol (ethanol) as wine, beer, and liquor. It has strong ability to alter people's pattern of attitude, behavior, especially those that are addicted to it. And, this is the focus of this article – the good, bad and ugly of alcohol drinking. In other words, we shall state the benefits of alcohol, if any – its terrible problems and major concerns for drinkers and the society at large.

Does alcoholic drinking has any benefit?

Maybe yes, maybe no! But let's consider some laboratory and medical tests and analyses about this controversial issue, before exposing any downside. According to the NIAAA – National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, it concluded, after much scientific reviews that moderate drinkers do have lowest death rate compare to heavy drinkers and some fellows who don't drink. That conclusion was hinged on scientific findings that moderate drinkers do have stable heart condition, therefore improve their longevity. But, it seriously warns women of possible risk of breast cancer. Let's now consider some problems of alcohol drinking in more detail.

The problems of under-age drinking

The news is always awash with negative incidents of young boys (and sometimes girls) involving in wide parties and violent-prone fraternities, which under-cover police investigations have discovered to be highly-induced by alcohol drinking. Colleges across the United States and most countries of the world have been bombarded by this hydra-headed menace. Right now, parents are extremely worried and confused, while governments at all levels are spending large sums of money on rehabilitation, education, orientation and new police training and gadgets to curb alcohol drinking problems associated with under-age population.

Impact on the larger society

Deeper levels of alcohol drinking are various crimes and human behavioral disorders being unleashed to the larger society. We have various offences, ranging from minor to more aggravated crimes, such as traffic offences, little or grave assaults, battery and even murder. In the US, it is widely reported that from the year 2002, alcohol-related crimes were on the increase and potentially reduce the quality of life for both victims and their loved ones.

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