

## THE PREVALENCE OF ALCOHOL DRINKING BEHAVIOR IN PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES: A CASE OF ETHIOPIA

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**Background:** Alcohol drinking behavior is increased in alarming rate in public universities of Ethiopia. However, their prevalence is not well described. This study was conducted to describe the prevalence of alcohol drinking behavior in public universities of Ethiopia.

**Methods:** A probabilistic sample of 861 students was selected and interviewed using the CAGE questionnaire regarding their alcohol drinking behavior.

**Results:** Eighty-one per cent of the respondents admitted that they currently drank alcohol. The prevalence of alcohol drinking was 19.4 % for females and 47 % for men. Among those who drank, 24.6 % met the criterion for problem drinking as defined by two or more positive responses to the CAGE. The overall prevalence for problem drinking was found to be 5.5%.

**Conclusion:** The prevalence of alcohol drinking behavior in Public Universities of Ethiopia is high.