

Draft 10/21/14

Defined terms

Term	Reference	Definition
Lower risk drinking	NIAAA	Men, ≤ 2 drinks/day; women, ≤ 1 drink/d; ≥ 65 y, ≤ 1 drink/d
At-risk drinking	NIAAA	Men, > 14 drinks/week or > 4 drinks/occasion; women, > 7 drinks/wk or > 3 drinks/occasion, ≥ 65 years old, > 7 drinks/wk or > 3 drinks/occasion
Hazardous drinking	WHO	Quantity or pattern of alcohol use that places the person at risk for adverse consequences from alcohol
Harmful Drinking	WHO	Clear evidence that alcohol is causing physical or psychological harm; the nature of that harm is clearly identifiable; alcohol use has persisted at least 1 month or has occurred repeatedly over the past 12 month period; subject does not meet criteria for alcohol dependence
Heavy drinking		Quantity or pattern of use that exceeds a defined threshold
Heavy episodic drinking		Consumption that exceeds a specified limit per occasion
Alcohol abuse	APA, DSM-IV	> 1 of the following events in a year; recurrent use resulting in failure to fulfill major role obligations; recurrent use in hazardous situations; recurrent alcohol-related legal problems (eg, DUI); continued use despite social or interpersonal problems caused or exacerbated by alcohol
Alcohol Dependence	APA, DSM-IV	> 3 of the following events in a year: tolerance; increased amounts to achieve effect; diminished effect from same

amount; withdrawal; a great deal of time spent obtaining alcohol, using it, or recovering from its effect; important activities given up or reduced because of alcohol; drinking more or longer than intended; persistent desire or unsuccessful efforts to cut down or control alcohol use; use continued despite knowledge of having a psychological problem caused or exacerbated by alcohol

Alcohol-related diagnoses

ICD-9 dx

Alcohol Use Disorder APA, DSM-5

Replaces Alcohol Abuse and Alcohol Dependence. Requires 2 or more of the criteria in a 12 month period. Adds criteria for craving and removes criteria related to legal problems. Can be specified as mild, moderate, severe based on number of criteria met.

Unhealthy Alcohol Use

Saitz, NEJM

Includes spectrum from at-risk to alcohol dependence (alcohol use disorder)

Undefined, ambiguous or loose terms

Term

Problem drinking
Risky drinking
Binge drinking

Problem

Definition varies substantially
Preferred term is at-risk drinking
Preferred term is heavy episodic drinking which refers to consumption that exceeds a specified limit per occasion
No agreed upon definition, stigmatizing
No agreed upon definition

Alcoholic, Alcoholism
Alcohol Addiction