

The cost of no action on the alcohol bill

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The alcoholics control bill of 2023: Aims

- ▶ Regulate the manufacture, Importation, sale, consumption and advertisement of alcoholic drinks;
- ▶ to prohibit the sale of alcoholic drinks to persons below eighteen years of age;
- ▶ to amend the Industrial Licensing Act, Cap. 91 (enacted in 1969 with an objective of controlling the establishment of **industries** and for other purpose)
- ▶ to repeal the Potable Spirits Act, Cap. 97 (prohibits compounding of any **spirits** for profit or sale without a licence) and for related matters.

Critical statistics


- ▶ Butabika Rehab for alcohol and drugs is full (At least as of end of November).
- ▶ Alcohol consumption is a greatest contributor to rehabilitation admissions (>52%) (Tumwesigye et al 2022)
- ▶ A Lancet Psychiatry paper reported that approximately 14 million people out of a population of 43.7 million, or about 32.0% have a mental illness. A previous study found it at [24.2%](#). (Kagwa et al 2022). Alcohol is a major contributor to poor mental health
- ▶

Effects of uncontrolled alcohol advertisement

- ▶ Do our adverts meet the standards?
- ▶ A survey among adolescent boys and young men (ABYM) in 2020 showed the odds of taking alcohol among those with items that had an alcohol brand were twice as high as those who didn't have them [AOR 2.00, 95 %CI 1.33–3.01] (Kabwama Et al 2021)
- ▶ In a study of young adults aged 13–20 years in USA, the amount of the exposure to alcohol advertising, on a brand-specific basis, was associated with the quantity of alcohol consumed of those brands (Naimi et al 2016)



Cost of no action on alcohol bill: rehab costs

- ▶ \$810 for rehabilitation a month (Namara, 2020)
- ▶ According to WHO 7.1% of all aged 15+ have alcohol use disorders- affecting productivity/sick/causing injuries/death
- ▶ Among men it is 12.4% affected
- ▶ Estimated Popn at 45.5 million(UBOS) with 56% aged 15+ (25.48m) (UNFPA).
- ▶  7.1% of 25.48m=1,831,800
- ▶ Suppose one takes 2 months (normal 1-3 Months). $1,831,800 \times \$810 = \$1,483,758,000$
Almost 1.5 Billion



Costs of inaction- Alcohol with domestic violence

- ▶ Uganda Police Force (2016-2021) crime reports document 272,737 GBV cases between 2016 and 2021 (Av 45,456 per year), including 2,278 homicides attributed to intimate partners.
- ▶ Domestic violence cases account for 33% of the female homicide caseload.
- ▶ 48% of women have ever experienced physical violence and 49.4% reported their husbands got drunk sometimes – Tumwesigye et al 2012
- ▶ Odds of physical partner violence 6 times higher with alcohol consumption (Tumwesigye et al 2012)
- ▶ It is estimated that GBV incidents cost the Ugandan economy about UGX 77 billion (appr. \$20,000,000) annually (UNFPA, 2019)



Costs of inaction- Road traffic Injuries and others

- ▶ 8,275 alcohol attributable deaths annually. Of these 3900 are related to road traffic injuries
- ▶ Average Life expectancy in Uganda is 64 years
- ▶ Suppose alcohol related death occurs at age 30 we loose 34 years X \$964.4 (per capita GDP-World bank) X 8275= \$271,333,940 (31% of all coffee exported in 2021/22 .
- ▶ For road traffic injuries-
 $34 \times 964.4 \times 3900 = \$127,879,440$
- ▶ The alcohol attributable fraction for road traffic injuries =37.0%/24.3% for Men/Women respectively

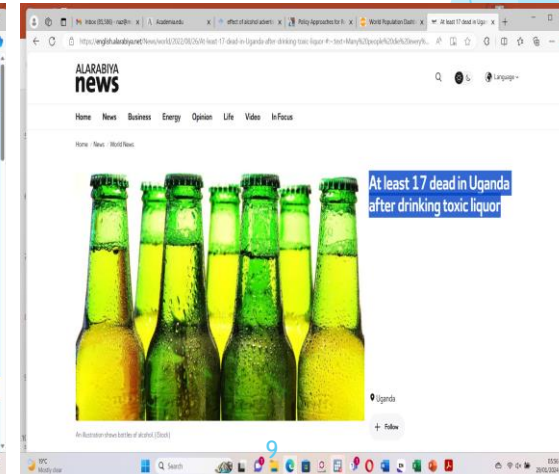
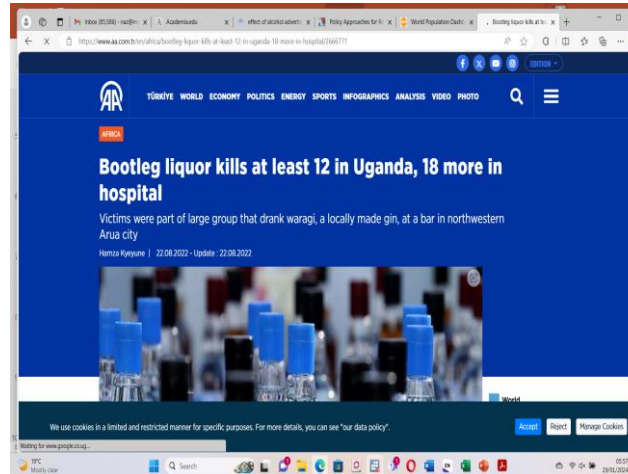
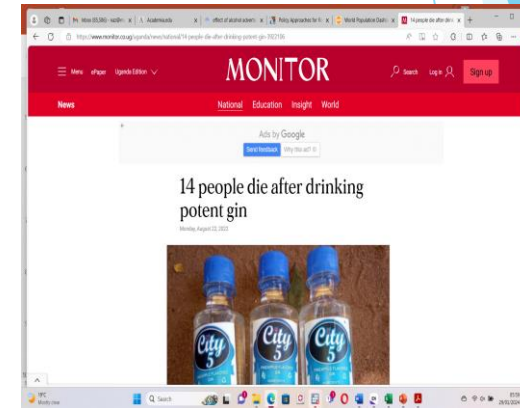


Other costs

- ▶ Injury to others- violence
- ▶ Crime

Why control manufacture?

- ▶ Check on quality of production and content



Why control sale?

- ▶ Limiting access of alcohol to under age is one of the most effective measures
- ▶ Raising the age of taking alcohol will reduce alcohol related harm among young people
- ▶ Don't alcohol companies control sale or consumption of alcohol in their compounds?



Conclusions

- ▶ The cost of no action on the control bill is very high
- ▶ A strong need for support of the bill

References

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