

Epidemiology of alcoholism in the USSR

Summary

In the years 1986-87 due to new administrative regulations there has been an over 50 percent drop in sale of alcohol beverages sold on the USSR territory. However, the measures taken have not resulted in a decrease either in the demand or in the actual consumption level, maintained by home-brewed alcohol. The consequences of the anti-alcohol campaign are multifold. Firstly, it was followed by losses of about 150 thousand million roubles (which amounts to 1/4 of the yearly income of the budget of the USSR). Moreover, there was a sharp rise in the rate of crime connected with illicit distillation of liquor. The drop in alcoholism rates noted after 1985 may be probably regarded as a positive consequence of the campaign.

Tłumaczyła Barbara Mroziak