

ALCOHOL DRINKING AND ALCOHOL EXPECTANCIES AMONG MARRIED WOMEN AND MEN

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ABSTRACT – Aim of the study was to analyse relationship between alcohol expectancies and alcohol use by men and women. Review of literature indicated some gaps in this area, which concerned relationship between: (1) alcohol use and configuration of alcohol expectancies related to various aspects of self-functioning, (2) alcohol expectancies and drinking style expressed in beverage preferences, frequency and quantity of use, (3) husbands and wives alcohol use and expectancies.

Data was obtained by mail questionnaires from couples (N=339), with at least one adolescent child. Majority of respondents was 41-50 years old and completed university degree. Husbands and wives had similar questionnaires with items concerning frequency and quantity of beer, wine and vodka use in the past 12 months and alcohol expectancies related to social, motor-cognitive and sexual functioning and assertiveness.

Results indicate that expectancies of both impairment and improvement of functioning while drinking are positively correlated to alcohol use. Husbands' and wives' expectancies and drinking style are significantly related to each other. Moreover, wives have more positive alcohol expectancies when their husbands drink more alcohol. Cluster analysis results were similar for men and women. Four clusters were differentiated according to configuration of various alcohol expectancies and five various drinking styles were identified. Interpretation of further analysis suggests that expecting strong negative consequences of alcohol use does not prevent alcohol use more than having low expectancies (both positive and negative). Women's alcohol expectancies and drinking style are related to husband's educational degree.

Explorative type of the present study and respondents specificity, makes formulation of hypotheses for future research possible, but further conclusions rather unlawful.

Key words: alcohol, drinking style, alcohol expectancies, adults.