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Epidemiology: According to WHO estimates 3.3 million deaths every year result from harmful use of alcohol, this represents 5.9 % of all deaths. Alcohol consumption causes death and disability relatively early in life. In the age group 20 – 39 years approximately 25 % of the total deaths are alcohol attributable fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS), alcohol use is also associated with an increased risk of acute such as injuries, including from traffic accidents.

However, it's also known that alcohol consumption especially in excess is linked to a number of negative outcomes: as a risk