

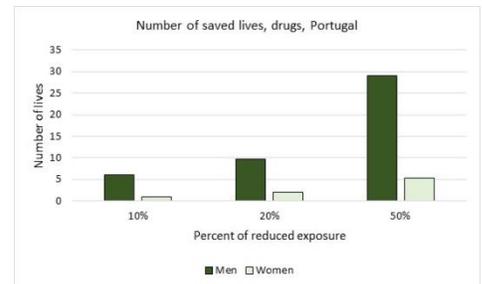
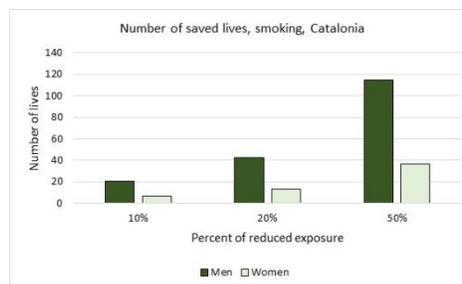
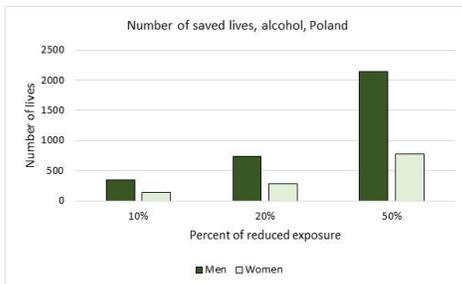
Reduced exposure to three addictive substances (alcohol, cigarettes, illegal drugs) could save a lot of lives in Catalonia, Poland and Portugal

mortality burden
avoidable cost
drugs
productivity loss

As the resources which can be assigned by country authorities for dealing with negative consequences of substance abuse are limited, it is very important to have the information about where these resources could be best allocated. In addition to the information on the social costs, valuable indicators can give an estimation of the avoidable part of the costs of substance abuse.

The avoidable costs are defined as the costs of using addictive substances (here: alcohol, cigarettes and illegal drugs) which can be reduced by the appropriate social policy of the country.

In the ALICE-RAP project, the estimation of avoidable costs was performed for three jurisdictions using two of the most applied approaches: *the Feasible Minimum* and *the Arcadian Normal*. We estimated which consequences would occur, given hypothetical reductions (by 10%, 20% or 50%) in the level of use of each of the three addictive substances, in the mortality, the number of years of lives lost, and the productivity loss in Catalonia, Poland and Portugal.



In all cases, significant gains could be obtained by reducing current levels of exposure. Exemplary results are presented in the figures; illustrating the theoretical gain in the number of lives of the population's members, were the current exposure of alcohol (Poland), smoking (Catalonia) or drugs (Portugal) to be reduced (by 10%, 20% or 50%).

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