

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION WOMEN PHYSICIANS SECTION

Resolution: (Assigned by HOD)
(A-25)

Introduced by: Sham Manoranjithan, Elizabeth Connor

Subject: Alcohol & Breast Cancer Risk

Referred to: Reference Committee (Assigned by HOD)

1 Whereas, the largest burden of alcohol-related cancer as well as cancer-related deaths in the
2 U.S. is breast cancer¹; and
3

4 Whereas, for cancers like breast, mouth, and throat, the risk increases with one or less drinks
5 per day¹; and
6

7 Whereas, women who drink three alcoholic drinks per week are 15% more likely to develop
8 breast cancer than those that do not²; and
9

10 Whereas, analysis of a CDC survey from 2020 demonstrated that only one in four women were
11 aware that alcohol is a risk factor for breast cancer²; and
12

13 Whereas, organizations including the American Society of Clinical Oncology released
14 statements detailing the importance of alcohol control strategies to comprehensive cancer
15 treatment plans³; and
16

17 Whereas, “pinkwashing”, a marketing strategy used by companies to display superficial
18 promotion of a cause despite the organization often contributing to the issue, has been a
19 marketing technique for alcoholic beverages⁴; therefore be it
20

21 RESOLVED, that our American Medical Association work with relevant parties to (1) promote
22 public education about the risks between alcohol use and cancer, especially breast cancer; and
23 (2) educate clinicians regarding the influence of alcohol use and breast cancer as well as other
24 cancer risks and treatment complications;
25

26 RESOLVED, that our AMA supports evidence-based efforts to prevent excessive alcohol use,
27 including eliminating the use of “pinkwashing” to market alcohol products and supporting
28 warning labels on the ingredients and products

Fiscal Note: Modest

Date Received: XX/XX/2025

REFERENCES

1. Alcohol and Cancer Risk 2024.pdf. <https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/oash-alcohol-cancer-risk.pdf>
2. Alcohol is the breast cancer risk no one wants to talk about. *Epidemiology & Biostatistics*. <https://epibiostat.ucsf.edu/news/alcohol-breast-cancer-risk-no-one-wants-talk-about>
3. World Cancer Research Fund International- Alcohol and cancer risk policy position. <https://www.wcrf.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Policy-position-alcohol-cancer-risk-0924.pdf>
4. Hall MG, Lee CJY, Jernigan DH, et al. The impact of “pinkwashed” alcohol advertisements on attitudes and beliefs: A randomized experiment with US adults. *Addict Behav.* 2024;152:107960. doi:10.1016/j.addbeh.2024.107960

RELEVANT AMA POLICY

Alcohol Consumption and Health H-30.934

Our AMA recognizes that alcohol consumption at any level, not just heavy alcohol use or addictive alcohol use, is a modifiable risk factor for cancer.

[Res. 516, A-19]

Setting Domestic and International Public Health Prevention Targets for Per Capita Alcohol Consumption as a Means of Reducing the Burden on Non-Communicable Diseases on Health Status H-30.937

Our AMA will: (1) continue to address the role of alcohol use on health status and the impact of behaviorally-associated chronic illnesses (including obesity, diabetes, heart disease, chronic respiratory diseases, and many cancers) on the overall burden of disease and the costs of health care services in America; (2) encourage federal health services planning agencies and public health authorities to address the role of alcohol and tobacco consumption on health and to promote environmental interventions including evidence based tobacco control and alcohol control policies to improve the health status of Americans; and (3) encourage the World Health Organization to continue its work on the impact of Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs) on health status and to include targets for reduced per capita alcohol consumption among its major proposed interventions in developed and developing nations to reduce the incidence of, prevalence of, and rates of disability and premature deaths attributable to chronic non-communicable diseases.

[Res. 413, A-12 Reaffirmation: A-18]