Tobacco & Alcohol Use what's the link?

CAMH Nicotine Dependence Services Fact Sheets

How are my tobacco and alcohol use connected?

Tobacco and alcohol are often used together.

Individuals who are dependent on one substance are more likely to use the other compared to those who aren't dependent on either substance.

Using both at the same time

- Liver
- **Throat**

- may lead to cancers of the:
- Mouth
- **Esophagus**

Several factors contribute to the use of alcohol and tobacco at the same time.



Mutual craving



Biology



Genetics



Cross-tolerance





How many drinks is too much?

Binge-drinking (in one sitting)

FOR MEN:



FOR WOMEN:



At-risk drinking (weekly)

FOR MEN:



FOR WOMEN:



Any drinking while pregnant



If you choose to drink, do so in moderation:

FOR MEN:



- ilv

weekly FOR WOMEN:

OR



daily

#####

weekly

Standard Drink Sizes (13.6g of alcohol)



Beer 12 oz. (5% alcohol content)



Malt Liquor 8-9 oz. (7% alcohol content)



Wine 5 oz. (12% alcohol content)



Spirits 1.5 oz. (40% alcohol content)



Why should I quit/reduce my tobacco and alcohol use?

Quitting tobacco

Lowers risk of:

- Cancer
- Heart disease
- Lung disease
- Type 2 diabetes
- Vitamin deficiencies

Improves:

- Exercise performance
 - Oral health
 - Eye health
 - Sleep

Avoid alcohol-related injuries and violence

Improves mental health

Doesn't risk success of quitting other substance

Lower likelihood of relapse

Lowers risk of:

- Liver disease
- Heart disease
- Cancer
- **Epilepsy**
- Infectious disease
- Learning and memory problems

Improves productivity

Drinking in moderation

How can I quit/reduce my tobacco and alcohol use?

When you are ready, here are a few ways to get started:



Talk to a health professional.



Join a support group.



Eat well.



Stay active.

Resources

- Smoker's Helpline (1 877 513-5333)
- Ontario Drug & Alcohol Helpline (1-800-565-8603)
- Tobacco Atlas (tobaccoatlas.org)
- Rethinking Drinking booklet (http://pubs.niaaa.nih.gov/publications/RethinkingDrinking/ Rethinking_Drinking.pdf)



