

Test of an online brief alcohol intervention aimed at drinkers in early adolescence and young adulthood

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Registration date 06/04/2010	Overall study status Completed	<input type="checkbox"/> Protocol
Last Edited 29/12/2020	Condition category Mental and Behavioural Disorders	<input type="checkbox"/> Statistical analysis plan
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Results
		<input type="checkbox"/> Individual participant data

Plain English summary of protocol

Not provided at time of registration

Contact information

Type(s)

Scientific

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Additional identifiers

Protocol serial number

ZonMw: 50-50130-98-101/2008

Study information

Scientific Title

The effectiveness of a web-based brief alcohol intervention in reducing underage drinking and the added value of normative feedback: a three-arm randomised controlled trial

Acronym

Jongeren drinktest (adolescent online drinktest)

Study objectives

Two hypotheses are tested:

1. An online multi-component brief alcohol intervention will encourage abstinence and moderate drinking rates in 15 to 20 year-old binge drinkers
2. The inclusion of normative feedback will enhance the effectiveness of this web-based brief alcohol intervention

Ethics approval required

Old ethics approval format

Ethics approval(s)

Not provided at time of registration

Study design

Three-arm randomised controlled trial

Primary study design

Interventional

Study type(s)

Prevention

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied

Alcohol abuse

Interventions

The web-based brief alcohol intervention, referred to as www.watdrinkjij.nl, was developed by professionals of the Netherlands Institute of Mental Health and Addiction (Trimbos Instituut). The trial testing its effectiveness was financed by The Netherlands Organisation for Health Research (ZonMw), the Netherlands Institute of Mental Health and Addiction (Trimbos Instituut) and Radboud University Nijmegen.

Participants are randomly assigned to one of the two intervention conditions or a control condition (no intervention). In the intervention conditions, participants receive one of two versions of this web-based brief alcohol intervention, namely a version that does not include normative feedback or a version that does. Both versions of the web-based brief alcohol intervention contain two parts, i.e. a questionnaire with items addressing participants' drinking patterns, drinking motives, and health risk status, and personalised feedback based on participants answers to the earlier posed questions of the questionnaire including advice about moderate drinking.

The advice for young adults aged 18 - 20 years is in line with the guidelines of the Dutch National Health Council recommending that men should not drink more than 2 glasses alcohol per day and women 1 glass alcohol per day (Dutch National Health Council, 2009). Adolescents under the age of 16 receive advice to abstain from alcohol. Adolescents aged 16 - 17 years are advised to abstain from alcohol and if they drink alcohol, they are recommended to drink moderately (not more than 1 or 2 glasses per occasion). The intervention duration is approximately 10 minutes.

The feedback is tailored to participants age (under 16, 16 - 17 years of age, and 18+) and gender, and organised along four topics for the intervention-without normative feedback group, and five for the intervention-with normative feedback group.

The following topics are addressed:

1. Personal drinking behaviour and related health risks
2. Drinking motives and suggestions to reduce alcohol use instigated by risk-conducive motives, such as drinking to forget problems, or to conform to peer pressure
3. Risk to develop problematic alcohol use or alcohol dependence
4. Personal perceptions about own alcohol use and related risks
5. Normative feedback

The drink test with normative feedback provides additionally an overview of how much participants think their age-mates will drink, how much their age-mates actually drink and how much the participants drink themselves. This information is presented in a bar chart showing participants' own weekly alcohol use, the actual prevalence rates of Dutch adolescents' weekly alcohol use (matched according to participants' sex and age), and the prevalence rates of Dutch adolescents weekly alcohol use as estimated by participants. The data on peers' actual alcohol consumption levels are retrieved from alcohol prevalence estimates among same age-groups found in a nationally representative sample of high-school students (included in feedback for adolescents aged 15 - 17 years) and the general population (included in feedback for young adults aged 18 - 20 years). Only participants who overestimate their peers' alcohol consumption receive prevalence rates about their peers' actual alcohol use. If estimations are correct or lower than the actual prevalence rates, participants are informed that they provided the correct estimation.

Intervention Type

Other

Phase

Not Applicable

Primary outcome(s)

1. Weekly alcohol consumption (number of glasses per week). This measure is assessed using the Dutch version of Weekly Recall. Participants are asked to indicate retrospectively for all past 7 days, how many standard units they consumed. For example: "Yesterday it was (fill out the name of the day) and I consumed standard units". To ensure standardised responses, we provide for various beverages an overview of standard units.
2. Moderate drinking (0 = moderate drinking, 1 = no moderate drinking). Participants aged 15 - 17 years are labeled 'moderate drinkers' if they consumed no alcohol in the past week. Boys in the ages between 18 to 20 years are regarded as moderate drinkers if they consumed less than 14 alcoholic drinks in the past week and same-aged girls are regarded as moderate drinkers if they consumed less than 7 alcoholic drinks in the past week.

Key secondary outcome(s))

No secondary outcome measures.

Completion date

01/03/2009

Eligibility

Key inclusion criteria

1. Participants are members of an online access panel
2. In the ages between 15 and 20 years, either sex
3. Participants have to fulfill criteria regarding binge drinking. For 15 to 16 year-olds this means that they have to engage in binge drinking at least once a month. For 17 to 20 year-olds, it means engaging in binge drinking at least once a week.

Participant type(s)

Patient

Healthy volunteers allowed

No

Age group

Child

Lower age limit

15 years

Upper age limit

20 years

Sex

All

Total final enrolment

575

Key exclusion criteria

1. Online panel members who are younger than 15 or older than 20 years old
2. Online panel members who do not meet our criteria for binge drinking

Date of first enrolment

01/09/2008

Date of final enrolment

01/03/2009

Locations**Countries of recruitment**

Netherlands

Study participating centre

Montessorilaan 3

Nijmegen

Netherlands

6500 HE

Sponsor information

Organisation

The Netherlands Organisation for Health Research and Development (ZonMw) (Netherlands)

ROR

<https://ror.org/01yaj9a77>

Funder(s)

Funder type

Research organisation

Funder Name

The Netherlands Organisation for Health Research and Development (ZonMw) (Netherlands)

Results and Publications

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

IPD sharing plan summary

Not provided at time of registration

Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
Results article	results	19/12/2010	29/12/2020	Yes	No
Participant information sheet	Participant information sheet	11/11/2025	11/11/2025	No	Yes
Study website	Study website	11/11/2025	11/11/2025	No	Yes