

Association of alcohol control policies with adolescent alcohol consumption and with social inequality in adolescent alcohol consumption: a multilevel study in 33 countries and regions

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ABSTRACT

Background: Previous research found inconsistent associations between alcohol control policies and socioeconomic inequality with adolescent drinking outcomes. This study expands the focus beyond individual associations to examine whether a combination of policies is related to socioeconomic inequality in adolescent drinking outcomes and whether this relationship varies across survey years.

Methods: Multilevel modelling of 4 waves of repeat cross-sectional survey data (2001/02, 2005/06, 2009/10, and 2013/14) from the Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) study was carried out. The sample was composed of 671,084 adolescents (51% girls) aged 11, 13, and 15 (mean age=13.58; SD=1.65) from 33 European and North American countries/regions. The dependent variables were lifetime alcohol consumption, weekly alcohol consumption, and lifetime drunkenness. Independent variables were of three types: individual-level variables (age, sex, Family Affluence Scale, and the Perceived Family Wealth), time-level variable (survey year), and context-level variables (minimum legal drinking age, physical availability, advertising restrictions, a total alcohol policy index, and affordability of alcohol).

Results: The total alcohol policy index showed a negative relationship with both lifetime and weekly consumption. Higher affordability of alcohol was related to higher lifetime and weekly consumption and higher lifetime drunkenness. Family Affluence Scale was positively related to all three alcohol measures and Perceived Family Wealth

was negatively related to lifetime drunkenness, with these associations increasing across survey years. The total alcohol policy index buffered the associations of Family Affluence Scale and Perceived Family Wealth with adolescent drinking outcomes.

Conclusion: A combination of alcohol control policies is more effective in reducing adolescent drinking outcomes than single policy measures. Reducing the affordability of alcohol stood out as the most successful single measure. Socioeconomic inequalities (i.e. higher alcohol consumption and drunkenness in adolescents with higher family affluence and higher drunkenness in adolescents perceiving their families to be poor) have persisted and even increased across survey years. A combined alcohol control policy can help in tackling them.

Keywords: drinking, policy, social inequality, young people, cross-national, trends.

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1 The harmful use of alcohol is one of the most important risk factors for population
2 health worldwide, causing more than 200 disease and injury conditions, and being
3 responsible for 3 million deaths every year (5.3 % of all deaths) (World Health
4 Organization, 2018). Special attention needs to be paid to adolescent drinking. First,
5 consuming alcohol in adolescence has been shown to be related to significant
6 differences in brain structure and functioning (Feldstein-Ewing, Sakhardande, &
7 Blakemore, 2014) as well as to different physical and mental health problems, and other
8 risk behaviours such as delinquency and sexual risk-taking behaviour (Lavikainen,
9 Salmi, Aaltonen, & Lintonen, 2011; Newbury-Birch et al., 2009). Second, an
10 association between early initiation and alcohol use disorders in adulthood has been
11 found (Waller, Murray, Shaw, Forbes, & Hyde, 2018).

12 Marked decreases in adolescent alcohol consumption have been observed across
13 many countries in recent years, including Europe (Inchley et al., 2018, with HBSC data)
14 and the USA (Miech et al., 2018). However, prevalence still remains higher than
15 desired owing to its adverse impact on adolescent development and future health. Given
16 the severity of the situation, a decrease of 10% in the volume of alcohol use by 2025
17 was established by the World Health Organization (WHO) as one of nine voluntary
18 targets for non-communicable diseases. However, there is no international public health
19 treaty on alcohol, and policy initiatives are recommended only in general terms. In an
20 attempt to address the problem, a number of policy measures have been implemented by
21 national governments. These policy initiatives can be divided into three major groups:

22 restricting alcohol availability, regulating alcohol advertising, and controlling alcohol
23 pricing.

24 The most commonly used measure to restrict alcohol availability is to impose a
25 minimum legal drinking age (MLDA). Evidence suggests this can have a positive
26 impact on public health outcomes such as a decrease in alcohol-related traffic accidents
27 (Wagenaar & Toomey, 2002) and reduced mortality and morbidity rates in young
28 people (Zhang & Caine, 2011). However, mixed results have been found regarding
29 alcohol consumption. While most studies concluded that MLDA was related to
30 decreases in adolescent drinking (Subbaraman & Kerr, 2013; Wagenaar & Toomey,
31 2002), some reported only a temporary effect (Miron & Tetelbaum, 2009) or an impact
32 on only a specific drinking behaviour such as binge drinking (Plunk, Cavazaos-Rehg,
33 Bierut, & Grucza, 2013). Other policies targeting alcohol availability include
34 restrictions on outlet density, retail monopoly, and the hours and days of alcohol sales.
35 These three measures are usually cited as being effective at reducing alcohol
36 consumption and related harms (Burton et al., 2017; Holm, Veerman, Cobiac, Ekholm,
37 & Diderichsen, 2014; World Health Organization, 2018). The second group of
38 initiatives includes policies regulating alcohol advertising. Some studies indicate that
39 these are an effective way of reducing alcohol consumption (Holm et al., 2014), while
40 others found a lack of robust evidence for or against such measures (Siegfried et al.,
41 2014). The third group of initiatives refers to policies controlling the price of alcohol.
42 An overall negative relationship has been observed between price and alcohol
43 consumption (Wagenaar, Salois, & Komro, 2009) although mixed results have been
44 found regarding adolescent alcohol use, especially binge drinking (Nelson, 2015).

45 Inequalities in alcohol consumption should be considered when developing
46 policy interventions. Alcohol consumption is typically influenced by socioeconomic

47 status (SES) in the sense that rates of drinking are related to higher income, both at an
48 individual and at a population level (Collins, 2016; World Health Organization, 2018).
49 However, with respect to adolescent drinking, evidence is inconsistent. Possible
50 explanations are that the association is dependent on the alcohol measure used or that it
51 differs according to the indicator employed to assess socioeconomic position. For this
52 reason, we use three different measures of adolescent drinking and two different
53 measures of socioeconomic status to provide a more comprehensive analyses of
54 inequalities in adolescent alcohol use. The family affluence scale (FAS) is one of the
55 most commonly used indicators of socioeconomic status among adolescents. This scale
56 is used to evaluate material assets within the home (e.g., the number of cars and
57 computers). Results on the association between FAS and alcohol consumption are
58 mixed, with some studies showing higher alcohol use related to higher FAS, others to
59 lower FAS, while other studies concluded that there was no association (Hanson &
60 Chen, 2007). Furthermore, there is growing evidence suggesting that relative
61 deprivation –measured by indicators such as perceived family wealth (PFW)– is
62 strongly related to adolescent health and lifestyles, even after taking into account the
63 effect of other socioeconomic indicators (Goodman, Huang, Schafer-Kalkhoff, & Adler,
64 2007). In line with FAS, results are inconsistent. Some studies found that a higher PFW
65 was a protective factor for alcohol consumption (Liu et al., 2018), whereas others found
66 the opposite (Zaborskis, Sumskas, Maser, & Pudule, 2006).

67 Finally, differences have also been reported in relation to socioeconomic trends
68 in alcohol use. Whereas some studies have reported an overall decrease in adolescent
69 drinking in all SES groups – for example, in Australia (Livingston, 2014), Germany
70 (Richter, Kuntsche, de Looze, & Pfoertner, 2013), and the United States (Twenge &
71 Park, 2017) – others found that the decrease was not the same for all SES groups, with

72 higher levels of drinking being maintained among adolescents from lower SES groups,
73 for example, in Finland (Liu et al., 2018) and New Zealand (Jackson et al., 2017).
74 Policies and interventions aimed at promoting healthy habits and reducing risk
75 behaviours such as alcohol consumption might have different effect on adolescents from
76 different socioeconomic backgrounds, and interventions can narrow, widen, or have no
77 effect in the existing socioeconomic inequalities (Moore, McDonald, Carlon, &
78 O'Rourke, 2015). In fact, there is a concern about universal public health interventions
79 having the potential to increase social inequality in the population (Babones, 2009). To
80 the best of our knowledge, there is no international study investigating the association
81 between alcohol control policies and social inequality and trends in social inequality in
82 adolescent alcohol consumption.

83 The present study aims to analyse the association between (i) alcohol control
84 policies and adolescent drinking outcomes (ii) socioeconomic inequality and adolescent
85 drinking outcomes and (iii) a combination of policies and trends in socioeconomic
86 inequality in adolescent drinking outcomes.

87 **METHODS**

88 **Participants**

89 The study sample comprised 671,084 adolescents (51% girls) aged 11, 13, and 15
90 (mean age=13.58; SD=1.65) from the 33 European and North American countries and
91 regions which participated in the 2001/02, 2005/06, 2009/10, and 2013/14 surveys of
92 the Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) study. The HBSC study is a
93 WHO collaborative cross-national study conducted every four years to investigate
94 health, health-related behaviours, and social contexts of adolescents in a growing
95 number of countries in Europe and North America.

96 **Procedure**

97 Data collection was carried out through a school-based survey using classroom self-
98 administered questionnaires. Each participant country followed a standardized
99 international research protocol. All procedures were in accordance with the ethical
100 standards of the institutional and/or national research committee of every country and
101 with the 1964 Helsinki declaration and its later amendments or comparable ethical
102 standards. Further information about the study can be found elsewhere (Roberts et al.,
103 2007).

104 **Measures**

105 Detailed information on the measures used in the present study are shown in Table 1.
106 The data consisted of three types of variables: individual-level variables, a time-level
107 variable, and context-level variables. At the individual level, both dependent and
108 independent variables can be distinguished. Dependent variables were: (i) ‘Lifetime
109 alcohol consumption’; (ii) ‘Weekly alcohol consumption’; and (iii) ‘Lifetime
110 drunkenness’. Independent variables were age, sex, and to measure adolescents’
111 socioeconomic position, Family Affluence (FAS) and Perceived Family Wealth (PFW).
112 Given that FAS and PFW show low correlations and seem to represent different
113 constructs (Elgar, McKinnon, Torsheim, Schnohr, Mazur, Cavallo, & Currie, 2016;
114 Moreno-Maldonado, Moreno, Ramos, & Rivera, 2018), both indicators were included in
115 this study.

116 The time-level variable was the year of data collection (2002, 2006, 2010, and
117 2014). On the context-level we can distinguish between school- and country-level.
118 School-level variables were not included but the model accounts for school-level
119 clustering in standard errors and variance partitioning, i.e. we take into account the

120 school level variance via the random intercept model, but no explanatory independent
121 variables were introduced at the school-level because we did not aim to distinguish the
122 effect of school characteristics within this study. At country-level, physical availability,
123 advertising restrictions, and affordability of alcohol were added. In addition, minimum
124 legal drinking age (MLDA) was also examined as this is the most popular measure in
125 the physical availability category. In order to assess the effect of a combination of
126 alcohol control policy initiatives, a total alcohol policy index (Total-API), as the sum of
127 availability and advertising, was included. Data on individual-level variables and time-
128 level variable were collected from HBSC study. Context-level information was
129 collected from different sources (see Table 1).

130 [insert Table 1 about here]

131 **Data analyses**

132 Multilevel modelling was performed using MLwiN 2.32 software. Four-level
133 hierarchical models were estimated including students (level 1), school (level 2),
134 country-years (level 3), and countries (level 4). A stepwise approach was followed to
135 investigate the study aims. In order to confirm the four-level structure of the data, we
136 first estimated an intercept-only model. Then, sociodemographic variables (age and sex)
137 were incorporated (model 1). In order to evaluate whether national level alcohol control
138 policies were associated with changes in adolescent alcohol consumption (aim i), the
139 time variable (model 2), MLDA (model 3), the Availability Index (model 4a), the
140 Advertising Index (model 4b), Total-API (model 4c), and the Affordability Index
141 (model 5), were sequentially included. Note that MLDA, Availability and Advertising
142 closely reflect policy decisions, whereas Affordability is a pricing index that is mainly
143 an economic result of market processes. However, pricing policy as an instrument of
144 alcohol control policies can have a potential impact on alcohol consumption via

145 Affordability. Therefore, Affordability was not included in the Total-API as this
146 variable measures the market price and not the pricing policy of a specific country.

147 To analyse socioeconomic inequality in adolescent drinking outcomes (aim ii),
148 FAS (model 6a), PFW (model 6b), and both FAS and PFW simultaneously (model 6c)
149 were incorporated to test whether SES was related to adolescent alcohol drinking
150 outcomes. Finally, to test the third aim, the interaction between Total-API and SES
151 (model 7a), the interaction between time and SES (model 7b), and the interaction
152 between time, SES, and Total-API (model 7c) were added to examine whether this
153 combined alcohol control policy index was related to trends in socioeconomic
154 inequality in adolescent alcohol consumption. In the last three models, SES
155 corresponded to FAS, PWF, or both considering whether they were significant or not in
156 models 6a and 6b. All models were estimated using the maximum likelihood procedure,
157 using the (Restricted) Iterative Generalized Least Squares algorithm. The variance
158 partition coefficient (VPC) indicates the proportion of variance in a measure of alcohol
159 that is attributable to differences between specific analytical levels (e.g. schools)
160 (Snijders & Bosker, 2012).

161 **RESULTS**

162 Descriptive statistics of the sample are shown in Table 2.

163 [insert Table 2 about here]

164 Results of the regression analyses are presented in tables 3, 4, and 5. In order to justify
165 the four-level structure, an intercept-only model was first estimated for each outcome
166 measure. In all cases, the model fit improved (in comparison with the single-level model)
167 when the random intercepts were added. Regarding the VPC, results for lifetime alcohol
168 consumption indicated that 18.63% of the total variance was at the school-level, 6.45%
169 at the country-year level, and 5.13% at the country-level. For weekly consumption,

170 16.60% of the total variance was at the school-level, 6.45% at the country-year level, and
171 6.90% at the country-level. For lifetime drunkenness, 14.72% was at the school-level,
172 4.53% at the country-year level, and 6.13% at the country-level. In model 1, both age and
173 sex were significant, revealing that older adolescents and males were more likely to have
174 ever consumed alcohol, to drink weekly, and to have been drunk at least twice in their
175 lives. In model 2, time showed a downward trend in all three alcohol drinking outcomes
176 between 2002 and 2014. At this point, context-level variables related to alcohol control
177 policy and SES variables were incorporated in the following models. Results for each
178 outcome measure are described below.

179 **Lifetime alcohol consumption**

180 *Alcohol policies and lifetime alcohol consumption*

181 Table 3 presents regression models for lifetime alcohol consumption. In model 3, the
182 variable included was MLDA. The estimate was not significant, showing a lack of
183 association between the MLDA and lifetime alcohol consumption. In models 4a and 4b,
184 the Availability Index and the Advertising Index, were sequentially added. Model 4c was
185 performed with Total-API. Results were not significant, and the models fit decreased in
186 comparison with the simple model with sociodemographic covariates and time. After that,
187 the Affordability Index was incorporated in model 5. Results showed that affordability
188 was significant and positively related to lifetime alcohol consumption ($\beta = 0.889$,
189 $p < .001$), showing that greater affordability is associated with higher lifetime
190 consumption. Total-API showed a significant negative relationship in model 5, after
191 controlling for affordability ($\beta = -0.023$, $p < .05$), which means that having a combination
192 of policies in place can reduce adolescent lifetime consumption independently of
193 affordability.

194

195 *Social inequality in lifetime alcohol consumption*

196 The next two models (6a and 6b) examined SES. Whereas FAS was found to be
197 significantly and positively related to lifetime alcohol consumption ($\beta = 0.483, p < .001$),
198 meaning higher lifetime consumption among adolescents pertaining to families with
199 higher material affluence, PFW was not significant and the model fit was worse.
200 Therefore, model 6c, including both socioeconomic indicators, is not included in Table
201 3.

202 *Alcohol policies and trends in social inequalities in lifetime consumption*

203 Finally, the interactions between Total-API and FAS (model 7a), time and FAS
204 (model 7b), and time, FAS, and Total-API (model 7c) were added. Model 7a showed a
205 significant interaction between Total-API and FAS ($\beta = -0.015, p < .001$), indicating that
206 the combination of alcohol control policies partially mitigated the detrimental effect of
207 higher family affluence on lifetime alcohol consumption. However, model 7b and 7c
208 yielded non-significant results, showing the absence of interaction between time and
209 FAS, as well as, between time, FAS, and Total-API.

210 [insert Table 3 about here]

211 **Weekly alcohol consumption**

212 *Alcohol policies and weekly alcohol consumption*

213 Table 4 shows regression models for weekly alcohol consumption. In Model 3, MLDA
214 was not significantly related to weekly drinking. In contrast, the Availability Index
215 yielded a significant result in model 4a ($\beta = -0.031, p < .01$), indicating that countries with
216 stricter regulations concerning the physical availability of alcohol had a lower proportion
217 of adolescents reporting weekly alcohol consumption. The Advertising Index (model 4b)
218 however did not result in a better model, nor was the estimate significant. The model fit
219 of the model 4c (Total-API) was better than the model fit of model 4a ($\beta = -0.032, p < .01$)

220 and Total-API was significantly related to weekly alcohol consumption, indicating that a
221 combination of measures targeting both availability and advertising can be effective in
222 reducing weekly drinking. The Affordability Index (model 5) was also significantly
223 related to weekly alcohol consumption ($\beta = 0.822, p < .001$) such that increased
224 affordability was associated with a higher level of weekly alcohol consumption.

225 *Social inequality in weekly alcohol consumption*

226 In models 6a and 6b, both FAS ($\beta = 0.351, p < .001$) and PFW ($\beta = 0.027, p < .001$)
227 were significantly and positively related to weekly consumption. However, the
228 combination of both, tested in model 6c, showed that only FAS was related to weekly
229 drinking (the effect of PFW was not significant when FAS was included), revealing that
230 adolescents with higher family affluence reported higher weekly drinking.

231 *Alcohol policies and trends in social inequalities in weekly consumption*

232 The last steps analysed the possible interactions between Total-API, FAS, and time
233 (Model 7a, b and c). The only significant interaction was found in model 7a, between
234 Total-API and FAS ($\beta = -0.011, p < .001$). In line with lifetime alcohol consumption,
235 more stringent policies reduced the detrimental effect of higher family affluence on
236 weekly drinking.

237 [insert Table 4 about here]

238 **Lifetime drunkenness**

239 *Alcohol policies and lifetime drunkenness*

240 Table 5 presents regression models for lifetime drunkenness. In this case, MLDA (model
241 3) showed a significant positive association ($\beta = 0.287, p < .01$), with higher rates of
242 adolescent lifetime drunkenness in countries with a higher minimum legal drinking age.
243 The Availability Index (model 4a), the Advertising Index (model 4b), and the Total-API
244 (model 4c) did not have a significant effect but the affordability of alcohol (model 5) was

245 positively related to lifetime drunkenness ($\beta = 0.688, p < .001$), showing that higher
246 affordability of alcohol was related to higher rates of lifetime drunkenness.

247 *Social inequality in lifetime drunkenness*

248 In models 6a and 6b, both FAS ($\beta = 0.311, p < .001$) and PFW ($\beta = -0.047, p < .001$) were
249 found to be significant and, unlike the preceding outcome measures, both indicators
250 remained significant when combined into a single model (model 6c) (FAS: $\beta = 0.387,$
251 $p < .001$; PFW: $\beta = -0.087, p < .001$). However, the estimates of FAS and PFW were
252 opposite such that higher lifetime drunkenness was associated with higher family
253 affluence and with lower perceived family wealth.

254 *Alcohol policies and trends in social inequalities in lifetime drunkenness*

255 Finally, interactions between Total-API, FAS/PFW, and time were incorporated in
256 models 7a, 7b, and 7c. Model 7a showed no relation between Total-API and FAS but a
257 significant interaction between Total-API and PFW was found ($\beta = -0.009, p < .001$), what
258 means that stricter regulations on alcohol reduced the detrimental effect of inequality (i.e.
259 higher rates of lifetime drunkenness among adolescents who perceive their families to be
260 poor) on lifetime drunkenness. In model 7b, interactions between time and both SES
261 measures were observed (FAS: $\beta = 0.106, p < .01$; PFW: $\beta = -0.039, p < .01$), showing that
262 social inequalities in adolescent drunkenness have increased across survey years.
263 Contrary to lifetime and weekly consumption, Model 7c yielded a significant three-way
264 interaction between time, PFW, and Total-API indicating that increasing inequalities
265 across survey years in lifetime drunkenness were reduced in countries with a higher Total-
266 API ($\beta = -0.008; p < .001$).

267 [insert Table 5 about here]

268 A summary of the significant associations between dependent and independent
269 variables is presented in Table 6.

270 [insert Table 6 about here]

271 **DISCUSSION**

272 The present study aimed to investigate the relationship between national alcohol control
273 policies and (socioeconomic inequality in) alcohol consumption among adolescents
274 aged 11-15 in 33 countries and regions across Europe and North America between
275 2002-2014. We explored associations between (i) alcohol control policies and
276 adolescent drinking outcomes (ii) socioeconomic inequality and adolescent drinking
277 outcomes and (iii) a combination of policies and trends in socioeconomic inequality in
278 adolescent drinking outcomes.

279 Firstly, we found that a combination of policy measures (i.e. restricting alcohol
280 availability in combination with regulating alcohol advertising) were associated with
281 lower lifetime and weekly alcohol consumption. In addition, a decrease in affordability
282 was related to a reduction in all three drinking outcomes. Similar results have been
283 found in previous research (Burton et al., 2017; Meier et al., 2016; Wagenaar et al.,
284 2009). It should be noted that the affordability of alcoholic beverages may decrease
285 because they become more expensive (e.g. increased price, additional taxes) or due to a
286 smaller budget (e.g. economic crisis, less pocket money). The latter has previously been
287 shown to be related to reduced alcohol consumption in adolescents (Kokkevi, Stavrou,
288 Kanavou, Fotiou, & Richardson, 2018; Obradors-Rial, Ariza, Rajmil, & Muntaner,
289 2018). On the contrary, other single policy measures such as imposing a minimum legal
290 drinking age, restricting alcohol availability, or regulating alcohol advertising, were in
291 general not related to adolescent alcohol consumption in the present study. The
292 exceptions were: the restriction of physical availability seems to reduce weekly
293 consumption and a higher minimum legal drinking age was associated with higher
294 lifetime drunkenness, although a reversed causality is possible here (i.e. that countries

295 which have a higher proportion of lifetime drunkenness set stricter MLDA's in an
296 attempt to tackle the problem).

297 Concerning the second objective, our findings showed that living in families
298 with higher material affluence represented a risk factor for both lifetime and weekly
299 alcohol consumption and having been drunk. This is in line with previous studies
300 showing that adolescents belonging to families with higher material affluence tend to
301 report a higher alcohol consumption (Richter et al., 2013) and drunkenness (Gomes de
302 Matos, Kraus, Hannemann, Soellner, & Piontek, 2017), besides other risk behaviours
303 such as smoking or other illegal drugs consumption (Luthar & Becker, 2002; Luthar &
304 D'Avanzo, 1999). This may be because adolescents from more affluent families have
305 more disposable money of their own with which they buy substances such as alcohol. In
306 fact, pocket money has been demonstrated to be a risk in previous research (Bellis et al.,
307 2007; Lintonen, Rimpela, Vikat, & Rimpela, 2000; Obradors-Rial et al., 2018).
308 Alternatively, studies have suggested that other factors such as excessive pressure to
309 achieve and isolation from parents (literal and emotional) might make high affluence
310 adolescents more vulnerable to substance use (Luthar & Latendresse, 2005).

311 In contrast to material affluence, perceived family wealth showed no association
312 with lifetime and weekly alcohol consumption, but adolescents who perceived their
313 families to be poor tended to report a higher frequency of lifetime drunkenness. It
314 should be highlighted that these results were independent of family affluence which
315 supports the finding that the correlation between them is low (Moor et al., 2019) and
316 that the two socioeconomic indicators assess different aspects and should not be
317 interchangeable (Hartley, Levin, & Currie, 2016; Koivusilta, Rimpela, & Kautiainen,
318 2006). Moreover, previous researchers have found that the perception of the subjective
319 socioeconomic status affects wellbeing through psychosocial mechanisms related to

320 anxiety and stress derived from a perception of a low living standard in comparisons
321 with others (Kawachi, 1999; Wilkinson & Pickett, 2006). Irrespective of the level of
322 material assets within the household, our findings expand the growing evidence that
323 alcohol consumption, as with other stress-related behaviours, are more common among
324 individuals who perceive themselves as disadvantaged compared to others (Elgar,
325 Canale, Wohl, Lenzi, & Vieno, 2018). In such cases, alcohol may be used as a coping
326 strategy to manage stress and getting drunk at this age may help adolescents to attain a
327 level of social status among their peers.

328 Regarding trends, the magnitude of social inequality in lifetime and weekly
329 alcohol consumption did not change across survey years, however the effect of family
330 affluence and perceived family wealth on lifetime drunkenness increased. Therefore,
331 despite the overall downward trend in adolescent alcohol consumption, attention should
332 be paid to persisting or even increasing social inequalities in alcohol consumption
333 across years in order to target sub-groups of adolescents who remain particularly
334 vulnerable to the negative effects of alcohol consumption. These findings are congruent
335 with Liu et al. (2018). At international level, previous studies examining trends in
336 socioeconomic inequalities in adolescent health did not include alcohol measures (Elgar
337 et al., 2015).

338 Finally, the present study findings confirm the results of previous studies in
339 Australia (Livingston, 2014), Germany (Richter et al., 2013), and USA (Twenge &
340 Park, 2017) which found that more stringent alcohol policies contributed to reducing
341 socioeconomic inequalities in alcohol consumption. Having combined policies
342 addressing alcohol availability and advertising were found to reduce the effect of family
343 affluence on lifetime and weekly alcohol consumption (i.e. reducing the frequency of
344 drinking relatively more in higher socioeconomic status groups which are characterized

345 by higher levels of consumption). In addition, having a combination of policies was also
346 found to reduce perceived family wealth inequalities in drunkenness as well as to
347 mitigate the increasing effect of perceived family wealth across survey years in lifetime
348 drunkenness. This suggests that stricter alcohol control and regulation might not only
349 reduce the frequency of drunkenness relatively more in groups who perceive themselves
350 as disadvantaged, but also reduce the differences in drunkenness between groups across
351 years.

352 The present study has some limitations. Firstly, data were self-reported which
353 may lead to underestimation due to biases such as non-response, under-reporting, recall,
354 and social desirability. However, all data sources included in this study followed
355 rigorous international protocols to ensure optimal validity and comparability and to
356 minimize potential sources of bias (Roberts et al., 2007). Another important caveat is
357 the failure to incorporate enforcement of policies into the regression analysis.
358 Unfortunately, such information was not systematically available for the complete
359 international sample. Future studies should also examine possible different effects of
360 alcohol legislation according to other sociodemographic variables such as sex or age, as
361 other studies have found for tobacco control policies (Pfortner, Rathmann, Moor, Kunst
362 and Richter, 2016) and marijuana laws (Hasin, et al., 2015).

363 Nevertheless, this study has some major strengths. First, the large sample size
364 representative for 33 countries/regions in Europe and North America across a 12-year
365 period. Second, a comprehensive set of alcohol control policies and three different
366 adolescent alcohol measures have been considered in the analyses. Finally, to the best of
367 our knowledge, this is the first international study to examine the association of alcohol
368 control policies with social inequality (measured by family affluence and perceived

369 family wealth) and with trends in social inequality (for each socioeconomic indicator
370 separately) in adolescent alcohol drinking outcomes.

371 **CONCLUSION**

372 This study provides an overview of the relationship between national alcohol control
373 policies, material and perceived socioeconomic inequalities, and alcohol consumption in
374 adolescents over a 12-year period. Generally, single policy measures seem to have no or
375 only limited effect, but a combination of policies seems to be more effective in reducing
376 adolescent drinking. Alcohol pricing policy appeared to be the most successful single
377 measure, which should be taken into account in discussions on alcohol taxation and
378 minimum price per unit. Although socioeconomic inequalities in adolescent alcohol
379 consumption have persisted and even increased across survey years, this study showed
380 that combined alcohol control policy can help in reducing them.

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Table 1. Measures used in the present study.

Dependent variables	
Lifetime alcohol consumption	'On how many days (if any) have you drunk alcohol?' Answer categories were: 'Never', '1-2 days', '3-5 days', '6-9 days', '10-19 days', '20-29 days', and '30 days (or more)'. Responses were coded as abstinence (0) and at least once (1).
Weekly alcohol consumption	Students were asked if they had ever consumed alcohol and if so, how often they consumed different types of alcoholic beverages. Beverages included were beer, wine, spirits, alcopops, aperitifs, cider, cocktail and other. Answer categories were: 'never', 'exceptionally', 'monthly', 'weekly' and 'daily' alcohol consumption regardless the type of beverage. Responses were coded as less than weekly (0) and weekly or more frequently (1).
Lifetime drunkenness	'Have you ever had so much alcohol that you were really drunk?' Answer categories were: 'No, never', 'Yes, once', 'Yes, 2-3 times', 'Yes, 4-10 times', and 'Yes, more than 10 times'. Responses were coded as never or once (0) and two or more (1).
Independent variables	
Sociodemographic variables	Sex (<i>boy and girl</i>) and age (<i>11, 13, and 15</i>).
Year of data collection	<i>2002, 2006, 2010, and 2014</i> .
Socioeconomic status (SES)	The Family Affluence Scale (FAS) was composed of four items until 2012 (Currie et al., 2008): 'During the past 12 months, how many times did you travel away on holiday with your family?' (0 = <i>not at all</i> , 1 = <i>once</i> , 2 = <i>twice</i> , 3 = <i>more than twice</i>); 'Do you have your own bedroom for yourself?' (0 = <i>no</i> ; 1 = <i>yes</i>); 'How many computers does your family own?' (0 = <i>none</i> , 1 = <i>one</i> , 2 = <i>two</i> , 3 = <i>more than two</i>); 'Does your family own a car, van or truck?' (0 = <i>no</i> ; 1 = <i>yes one</i> ; 2 = <i>yes two or more</i>). From 2012 onwards, two new items were added: 'How many bathrooms does your house have?' (1 = <i>none</i> , 2 = <i>one</i> , 3 = <i>two</i> , 4 = <i>more than two</i>) and 'Do you have a dishwasher at home?' (1 = <i>no</i> , 2 = <i>yes</i>). Responses to all items were summed and ranked from low to high. Higher scores indicated greater family affluence. Then, in order to create a meaningful hierarchy of material wealth, all values were transformed to country- and time-specific ridit scores, which have a consistent normal distribution and a range from 0 to 1 (Donaldson, 1998).
	Perceived Family Wealth (PFW) was measured by asking the following question 'How well-off is your family compared to others?' Answer categories were: 1 = ' <i>not at all well-off</i> ', 2 = ' <i>not very well off</i> ', 3 = ' <i>average</i> ', 4 = ' <i>quite well-off</i> ' and 5 = ' <i>very well-off</i> '.
Minimum Drinking Legal Age (MLDA)	The MLDA was used with two categories: 0 = ' <i>Lower than 18</i> ' and 1 = ' <i>18 years old</i> '
Physical availability	The 'Availability Index' evaluates the stringency of national policies implemented to restrict the access to alcohol. It was based on the index used by Brand, Saisana, Rynn, Pennoni, & Lowenfels (2007) and comprised of four measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National minimum legal drinking age (MLDA) (3 stars): '<i>no</i>' and '<i>yes</i>'. - Government monopoly (2 stars): '<i>no</i>', '<i>partial</i>', and '<i>full</i>'. - Outlet density restriction (2 stars): '<i>no</i>', '<i>wine only</i>', '<i>wine and spirits</i>', and '<i>all beverages</i>'. - Restrictions on sales time (2 stars): '<i>none</i>', '<i>on hours or days</i>', and '<i>on both hours and days</i>'. <p>Each measure was rated with stars according to their effectiveness (as shown by previous research). Higher ratings corresponded with higher weight in the overall index (3-star: 7.9 points, 2-star: 5.3 points, 1-star: 2.6 points). Categories were</p>

	awarded proportionate scores, with the least stringent category earning no points and the highest stringency category earning full points. The ‘Availability Index’ has a range from 0 to 23.80.								
Alcohol advertising restrictions	The advertising Index was based on the Brand et al. (2007) but adapted according to the method proposed by Carragher, Byrnes, Doran, & Shakeshaft (2014). Media included in this study were: print, broadcast, billboards, as well as sport sponsorship and the internet. Within each category, proportionate points were given based on whether there was a complete ban, partial statutory restrictions, a voluntary self-regulated code or no restrictions at all. Moreover, within each media, regulatory differences between types of alcoholic beverage were accounted for. The ‘Advertising Index’ has a range from 0 to 2.60.								
Alcohol affordability	<p>The ‘Affordability Index’ was added in accordance to Rabinovich et al. (Rabinovich et al., 2009). This measure represents an index of gross disposable household income per capita over an index of relative alcohol price (i.e. alcohol price index over general consumer price index). Disposable household income is a measure representing the amount of money households retain for spending and saving after income taxes have been accounted for. Adjusted disposable income gives a broader picture by including social transfers that households receive free of charge from the government and/or other institutions (Eurostat, 2016). Note that all indices were constructed with the base year set at 2015. Equations for each variable were:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Alcohol price index</td> <td style="text-align: center;">$\text{Index}_{\text{year, country}} = \frac{\text{Alcohol price}_{\text{year, country}}}{\text{Alcohol price}_{2015, \text{country}}} \times 100$</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Relative alcohol price index</td> <td style="text-align: center;">$\begin{aligned} \text{Index}_{\text{year, country}} &= \frac{\text{Alcohol price}_{\text{year, country}}}{\text{Alcohol price}_{2015, \text{country}}} \times 100 \\ &= \frac{\text{Alcohol price}_{\text{year, country}}}{\frac{\text{General consumer price index}_{\text{year, country}}}{\text{General consumer price index}_{2015, \text{country}}}} \times 100 \end{aligned}$</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Gross disposable income index</td> <td style="text-align: center;">$\begin{aligned} \text{Index}_{\text{year, country}} &= \frac{\text{Gross disposable income per capita}_{\text{year, country}}}{\text{Gross disposable income per capita}_{2015, \text{country}}} \times 100 \end{aligned}$</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Alcohol affordability index</td> <td style="text-align: center;">$\text{Index}_{\text{year, country}} = \frac{\text{Gross disposable income index}_{\text{year, country}}}{\text{Relative alcohol price index}_{\text{year, country}}}$</td> </tr> </table> <p>The ‘Affordability Index’ has a range from -0.34 to 1.04.</p>	Alcohol price index	$\text{Index}_{\text{year, country}} = \frac{\text{Alcohol price}_{\text{year, country}}}{\text{Alcohol price}_{2015, \text{country}}} \times 100$	Relative alcohol price index	$\begin{aligned} \text{Index}_{\text{year, country}} &= \frac{\text{Alcohol price}_{\text{year, country}}}{\text{Alcohol price}_{2015, \text{country}}} \times 100 \\ &= \frac{\text{Alcohol price}_{\text{year, country}}}{\frac{\text{General consumer price index}_{\text{year, country}}}{\text{General consumer price index}_{2015, \text{country}}}} \times 100 \end{aligned}$	Gross disposable income index	$\begin{aligned} \text{Index}_{\text{year, country}} &= \frac{\text{Gross disposable income per capita}_{\text{year, country}}}{\text{Gross disposable income per capita}_{2015, \text{country}}} \times 100 \end{aligned}$	Alcohol affordability index	$\text{Index}_{\text{year, country}} = \frac{\text{Gross disposable income index}_{\text{year, country}}}{\text{Relative alcohol price index}_{\text{year, country}}}$
Alcohol price index	$\text{Index}_{\text{year, country}} = \frac{\text{Alcohol price}_{\text{year, country}}}{\text{Alcohol price}_{2015, \text{country}}} \times 100$								
Relative alcohol price index	$\begin{aligned} \text{Index}_{\text{year, country}} &= \frac{\text{Alcohol price}_{\text{year, country}}}{\text{Alcohol price}_{2015, \text{country}}} \times 100 \\ &= \frac{\text{Alcohol price}_{\text{year, country}}}{\frac{\text{General consumer price index}_{\text{year, country}}}{\text{General consumer price index}_{2015, \text{country}}}} \times 100 \end{aligned}$								
Gross disposable income index	$\begin{aligned} \text{Index}_{\text{year, country}} &= \frac{\text{Gross disposable income per capita}_{\text{year, country}}}{\text{Gross disposable income per capita}_{2015, \text{country}}} \times 100 \end{aligned}$								
Alcohol affordability index	$\text{Index}_{\text{year, country}} = \frac{\text{Gross disposable income index}_{\text{year, country}}}{\text{Relative alcohol price index}_{\text{year, country}}}$								
Total Alcohol Policy Index (Total-API)	The Total-API was computed as the sum of the Availability Index and the Advertising Index. The Total-API index has a range from 0 to 26.11.								
Sources of data collection about national alcohol control policies	Cross-referencing published reports (World Health Organization, 2018; Amphora Project, 2010; Mulder & de Greef, 2013), the WHO’s Global Information System on Alcohol and Health (World Health Organization, 2016a), the European Centre for Monitoring Alcohol Marketing (European Centre for Monitoring Alcohol Marketing, 2016), and the Alcohol Policy Timeline Database (World Health Organization, 2016b). Information regarding demographics, harmonized indices of consumer prices, and price level indicators were collected through the Statistical Office of the European Union (Eurostat, 2016), except for Canada, Israel, North Macedonia, Russia, and Ukraine which were collected through the website of their respective national bureau of statistics because they were not present in Eurostat (CBS, 2016; MAKStat, 2016; Rosstat, 2016; Statcan, 2016, Ukrstat, 2016).								

Table 2. Descriptive statistics of the characteristics of the sample.

		Survey year								TOTAL	
		2002		2006		2010		2014		N (%)	Mean (SD)
		N (%)	Mean (SD)								
Sex	Boy	75709 (48.8)		82205 (49.0)		84803 (49.1)		86242 (49.2)		328959 (49.0)	
	Girl	79591 (51.2)		85451 (51.0)		87926 (50.9)		89157 (50.8)		342125 (51.0)	
	Missing	0 (0)		0 (0)		0 (0)		0 (0)		0 (0)	
Age category	11	52773 (34.3)		53433 (32.1)		55477 (32.4)		56048 (32.2)		217731 (32.7)	
	13	52937 (34.4)		56445 (33.9)		57532 (33.6)		60333 (34.6)		227247 (33.9)	
	15	48296 (31.4)		56631 (34.0)		58107 (34.0)		57771 (33.2)		220805 (32.9)	
	Missing	1294 (0.8)		1147 (0.7)		1613 (0.9)		1247 (0.7)		5304 (0.8)	
Family Affluence Scale (FAS)			0.41 (0.273)		0.47 (0.281)		0.56 (0.281)		0.55 (0.279)		0.50 (0.285)
	Missing	3494 (2.3)		6008 (3.7)		8351 (5.1)		13533 (8.4)		31386 (4.7)	
Perceived Family Wealth (PFW)			3.58 (0.880)		3.65 (0.892)		3.63 (0.895)		3.59 (0.890)		3.61 (0.890)
	Missing	2517 (1.6)		4249 (2.5)		6379 (3.7)		7668 (4.4)		20813 (3.1)	
Lifetime alcohol consumption	Never	110183 (70.9)		111512 (66.5)		126282 (73.1)		139430 (79.5)		487407 (72.6)	
	At least once	35026 (22.6)		41838 (25.0)		38640 (22.4)		24648 (14.1)		140152 (20.9)	
	Missing	10091 (6.5)		14306 (8.5)		7807 (4.5)		11321 (6.5)		43528 (6.5)	
Frequency of alcohol consumption	Less than weekly	126080 (81.2)		131558 (78.5)		146046 (84.6)		153419 (87.5)		557103 (83.0)	
	At least weekly	19129 (12.3)		21792 (13.0)		18876 (10.9)		10659 (6.1)		70456 (10.5)	
	Missing	10091		14306		7807		11321		43528	

		(6.5)	(8.5)	(4.5)	(6.5)	(6.5)
Lifetime drunkenness	Never or once	128696 (82.9)	130070 (77.6)	142059 (82.2)	150174 (85.6)	550999 (82.1)
	At least twice	25367 (16.3)	25606 (15.3)	25016 (14.5)	16568 (9.4)	92557 (13.8)
	Missing	1237 (0.8)	11980 (7.1)	5654 (3.3)	8657 (4.9)	27531 (4.1)

Table 3. Regression results for lifetime consumption

	Nullmodel		Model 1		Model 2		Model 3		Model 4						Model 5		Model 6				Model 7					
									a		b		c				a		b		a		b		c	
	β	S.E.	β	S.E.	β	S.E.	β	S.E.	β	S.E.	β	S.E.	β	S.E.	β	S.E.	β	S.E.	β	S.E.	β	S.E.	β	S.E.	β	S.E.
Constant	-1.50***	0.086	-1.43***	0.076	-1.19***	0.084	-1.29***	0.108	-1.21***	0.083	-1.23***	0.083	-1.22***	0.083	-1.30***	0.097	-1.29***	0.098	-1.30***	0.098	-1.29***	0.098	-1.29***	0.098	-1.29***	0.098
Age			0.61***	0.003	0.61***	0.003	0.61***	0.003	0.61***	0.003	0.61***	0.003	0.61***	0.003	0.61***	0.003	0.62***	0.004	0.61***	0.004	0.62***	0.004	0.62***	0.004	0.62***	0.004
Sex			-0.39***	0.007	-0.39***	0.007	-0.39***	0.007	-0.39***	0.007	-0.39***	0.007	-0.39***	0.007	-0.33***	0.008	-0.33***	0.008	-0.33***	0.008	-0.33***	0.008	-0.33***	0.008	-0.33***	0.008
Time					-0.49***	0.074	-0.53***	0.076	-0.46***	0.077	-0.43***	0.082	-0.45***	0.078	-0.33***	0.101	-0.38***	0.104	-0.33***	0.103	-0.38***	0.104	-0.38***	0.104	-0.38***	0.104
MLDA							0.20	0.127																		
Availability									-0.02	0.011	-0.02	0.011														
Advertising											-0.11	0.096														
Total-API													-0.02	0.010	-0.02*	0.011	-0.02*	0.011	-0.02*	0.011	-0.02*	0.011	-0.02*	0.011	-0.02*	0.011
Affordability															0.89***	0.218	0.89***	0.222	0.91***	0.221	0.89***	0.222	0.89***	0.222	0.89***	0.222
FAS																	0.48***	0.015			0.49***	0.015	0.50***	0.023	0.49***	0.024
PFW																			-0.003	0.005						
Total-API*FAS																					-0.02***	0.002			-0.02***	0.004
Time*FAS																							-0.03	0.030	-0.004	0.030
Time*FAS*Total-API																									0.003	0.005
Random effects																										
	σ	S.E.	σ	S.E.	σ	S.E.	σ	S.E.	σ	S.E.	σ	S.E.	σ	S.E.	σ	S.E.	σ	S.E.	σ	S.E.	σ	S.E.	σ	S.E.	σ	S.E.
Country	0.178	0.061	0.127	0.048	0.145	0.047	0.154	0.049	0.132	0.044	0.122	0.042	0.129	0.043	0.111	0.042	0.108	0.042	0.108	0.042	0.107	0.042	0.107	0.042	0.107	0.042
Country-year	0.227	0.037	0.241	0.036	0.164	0.025	0.159	0.025	0.165	0.026	0.168	0.026	0.165	0.026	0.149	0.028	0.157	0.030	0.155	0.029	0.158	0.030	0.158	0.030	0.158	0.030
School	0.753	0.015	0.186	0.006	0.192	0.006	0.191	0.006	0.192	0.006	0.192	0.006	0.192	0.006	0.172	0.007	0.171	0.007	0.172	0.007	0.170	0.007	0.171	0.007	0.170	0.007
Model Evaluation																										
-2 Loglikelihood	527332		396953		394898		395353		395015		394967		394938		300883		286273		286011		284634		284569		284620	

MLDA: Minimum Legal Age Drinking; Total-API: Total Alcohol Policy Index; FAS: Family Affluence Scale; PFW: Perceived Family Wealth.
 Significance codes: '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05

Table 4. Regression results for weekly alcohol consumption

	Null model		Model 1		Model 2		Model 3		Model 4				Model 5		Model 6				Model 7												
									a		b		c				a		b		c		a		b		c				
	β	S.E.	β	S.E.	β	S.E.	β	S.E.	β	S.E.	β	S.E.	β	S.E.	β	S.E.	β	S.E.	β	S.E.	β	S.E.	β	S.E.	β	S.E.	β	S.E.			
Constant	-2.44***	0.096	-2.27***	0.089	-2.00***	0.095	-2.04***	0.120	-2.05***	0.088	-2.07***	0.085	-2.05***	0.087	-2.15***	0.104	-2.15***	0.106	-2.17***	0.105	-2.15***	0.106	-2.15***	0.105	-2.15***	0.105	-2.15***	0.106	-2.15***	0.105	
Age			0.54***	0.004	0.54***	0.004	0.54***	0.004	0.54***	0.004	0.54***	0.004	0.54***	0.004	0.53***	0.004	0.53***	0.004	0.53***	0.004	0.53***	0.004	0.53***	0.004	0.53***	0.004	0.53***	0.004	0.53***	0.004	
Sex			-0.59***	0.009	-0.59***	0.009	-0.60***	0.009	-0.60***	0.009	-0.60***	0.009	-0.60***	0.009	-0.55***	0.010	-0.54***	0.011	-0.54***	0.011	-0.54***	0.011	-0.54***	0.011	-0.54***	0.011	-0.54***	0.011	-0.54***	0.011	
Time					-0.55***	0.071	-0.57***	0.074	-0.50***	0.075	-0.44***	0.080	-0.48***	0.076	-0.32***	0.103	-0.37***	0.106	-0.33***	0.105	-0.37***	0.106	-0.37***	0.106	-0.37***	0.106	-0.37***	0.106	-0.37***	0.106	
MLDA							0.08	0.135																							
Availability									-0.03**	0.011	-0.03**	0.011																			
Advertising											-0.17	0.096																			
Total-API													-0.03**	0.011	-0.04***	0.012	-0.04***	0.013	-0.04***	0.012	-0.04***	0.013	-0.04***	0.012	-0.04***	0.013	-0.04***	0.012	-0.04***	0.012	
Affordability															0.82***	0.227	0.82***	0.232	0.83***	0.230	0.82***	0.232	0.82***	0.231	0.82***	0.232	0.82***	0.231	0.82***	0.231	
FAS																	0.35***	0.019			0.36***	0.020	0.35***	0.019	0.35***	0.019	0.35***	0.029	0.33***	0.030	
PFW																			0.03***	0.006	-0.01	0.007									
Total-API*FAS																															
Time*FAS																															
Time*FAS*Total-API																															
Random effects																															
	σ	S.E.	σ	S.E.	σ	S.E.	σ	S.E.	σ	S.E.	σ	S.E.	σ	S.E.	σ	S.E.	σ	S.E.	σ	S.E.	σ	S.E.	σ	S.E.	σ	S.E.	σ	S.E.	σ	S.E.	
Country	0.244	0.077	0.196	0.065	0.219	0.065	0.228	0.066	0.164	0.051	0.137	0.045	0.156	0.049	0.154	0.052	0.152	0.053	0.151	0.052	0.152	0.053	0.151	0.053	0.152	0.053	0.151	0.053	0.151	0.053	
Country-year	0.227	0.038	0.249	0.038	0.149	0.024	0.149	0.024	0.152	0.024	0.156	0.025	0.152	0.024	0.149	0.029	0.158	0.030	0.156	0.030	0.158	0.030	0.157	0.030	0.158	0.030	0.157	0.030	0.157	0.030	
School	0.655	0.017	0.181	0.008	0.183	0.008	0.185	0.008	0.187	0.008	0.188	0.008	0.187	0.008	0.171	0.009	0.171	0.009	0.170	0.009	0.171	0.009	0.171	0.009	0.171	0.009	0.171	0.009	0.170	0.009	
Model Evaluation																															
-2 Loglikelihood	630912		626278		659175		900718		-402876		-266009		-849433		-151657		-113257		-105893		-113523		-114552		-113182		-114076				

MLDA: Minimum Legal Age Drinking; Total-API: Total Alcohol Policy Index; FAS: Family Affluence Scale; PFW: Perceived Family Wealth.
 Significance codes: '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05

Table 5. Regression results for lifetime drunkenness

	Null Model		Model 1		Model 2		Model 3		Model 4						Model 5		Model 6						Model 7					
									a		b		c				a		b		c		a		b		c	
	β	S.E.	β	S.E.	β	S.E.	β	S.E.	β	S.E.	β	S.E.	β	S.E.	β	S.E.	β	S.E.	β	S.E.	β	S.E.	β	S.E.	β	S.E.	β	S.E.
Constant	-1.62***	0.089	-1.57***	0.085	-1.37***	0.089	-1.52***	0.104	-1.37***	0.091	-1.37***	0.092	-1.37***	0.091	-1.52***	0.095	-1.52***	0.096	-1.52***	0.095	-1.52***	0.095	-1.51***	0.095	-1.52***	0.095	-1.52***	0.095
Age			0.78***	0.005	0.78***	0.005	0.78***	0.005	0.78***	0.005	0.78***	0.005	0.78***	0.005	0.80***	0.006	0.80***	0.006	0.80***	0.006	0.80***	0.006	0.80***	0.006	0.80***	0.006	0.80***	0.006
Sex			-0.27***	0.008	-0.27***	0.008	-0.27***	0.008	-0.27***	0.008	-0.27***	0.008	-0.27***	0.008	-0.23***	0.010	-0.23***	0.010	-0.23***	0.010	-0.23***	0.010	-0.23***	0.010	-0.23***	0.010	-0.23***	0.010
Time					-0.41***	0.058	-0.45***	0.060	-0.41***	0.062	-0.40***	0.066	-0.41***	0.062	-0.23**	0.085	-0.26**	0.086	-0.23**	0.085	-0.27***	0.087	-0.27**	0.087	-0.27**	0.087	-0.27**	0.087
MLDA							0.29***	0.114																				
Availability									-0.002	0.010	-0.001	0.010																
Advertising											-0.04	0.087																
Total-API													-0.002	0.010	0.01	0.011	0.01	0.011	0.01	0.011	0.01	0.011	0.01	0.011	0.01	0.011	0.01	0.011
Affordability															0.69***	0.191	0.69***	0.194	0.70***	0.192	0.69***	0.195	0.69***	0.194	0.69***	0.194	0.69***	0.194
FAS																0.31***	0.018			0.39***	0.019	0.38***	0.019	0.32***	0.030	0.32***	0.030	
PFW																		-0.05***	0.006	-0.09***	0.006	-0.07***	0.006	-0.06***	0.011	-0.06***	0.011	
Total-API*FAS																												
Total-API*PFW																												
Time*FAS																												
Time*PFW																												
Time*FAS*Total-API																												
Time*PFW*Total-API																												
Random effects																												
	σ	S.E.	σ	S.E.	σ	S.E.	σ	S.E.	σ	S.E.	σ	S.E.	σ	S.E.	σ	S.E.	σ	S.E.	σ	S.E.	σ	S.E.	σ	S.E.	σ	S.E.	σ	S.E.
Country	0.215	0.065	0.201	0.060	0.212	0.059	0.190	0.053	0.216	0.060	0.217	0.060	0.217	0.060	0.166	0.050	0.165	0.050	0.163	0.049	0.159	0.049	0.159	0.049	0.158	0.049	0.158	0.048
Country-year	0.156	0.027	0.148	0.023	0.094	0.016	0.092	0.015	0.095	0.016	0.095	0.016	0.094	0.016	0.092	0.018	0.096	0.019	0.094	0.019	0.098	0.019	0.097	0.019	0.097	0.019	0.097	0.019
School	0.568	0.015	0.161	0.007	0.162	0.007	0.162	0.007	0.162	0.007	0.161	0.007	0.161	0.007	0.145	0.007	0.143	0.007	0.141	0.007	0.141	0.007	0.140	0.007	0.141	0.007	0.140	0.007
Model Evaluation																												
-2 Loglikelihood	346191		275298		274873		274869		274932		274989		274963		198059		188604		187429		186257		186227		185807		185672	

MLDA: Minimum Legal Age Drinking; Total-API: Total Alcohol Policy Index; FAS: Family Affluence Scale; PFW: Perceived Family Wealth.
 Significance codes: '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05

Table 6. Summary of significant associations between dependent and independent variables.

	Lifetime consumption	Weekly consumption	Lifetime drunkenness
Age	$\beta = 0.61, SE = 0.003^{***}$	$\beta = 0.54, SE = 0.004^{***}$	$\beta = 0.78, SE = 0.005^{***}$
Sex	$\beta = -0.39, SE = 0.007^{***}$	$\beta = -0.60, SE = 0.009^{***}$	$\beta = -0.27, SE = 0.008^{***}$
Time	$\beta = -0.49, SE = 0.074^{***}$	$\beta = -0.56, SE = 0.071^{***}$	$\beta = -0.41, SE = 0.058^{***}$
MLDA			$\beta = 0.29, SE = 0.114^{**}$
Availability		$\beta = -0.03, SE = 0.011^{**}$	
Advertising			
Total-API	$\beta = -0.02, SE = 0.011^*$	$\beta = -0.03, SE = 0.011^{**}$	
Affordability	$\beta = 0.89, SE = 0.218^{***}$	$\beta = 0.82, SE = 0.227^{***}$	$\beta = 0.69, SE = 0.191^{***}$
FAS	$\beta = 0.48, SE = 0.015^{***}$	$\beta = 0.36, SE = 0.020^{***}$	$\beta = 0.39, SE = 0.019^{***}$
PFW			$\beta = -0.09, SE = 0.006^{***}$
Total-API*FAS	$\beta = -0.02, SE = 0.002^{***}$	$\beta = -0.01, SE = 0.003^{***}$	
Total-API*PFW			$\beta = -0.01, SE = 0.001^{***}$
Time*FAS			$\beta = 0.11, SE = 0.039^{**}$
Time*PFW			$\beta = -0.04, SE = 0.001^{**}$
Time*FAS*Total-API			
Time*PFW*Total-API			$\beta = -0.01, SE = 0.002^{***}$

MLDA: Minimum Legal Age Drinking; Total-API: Total Alcohol Policy Index; FAS: Family Affluence Scale; PFW: Perceived Family Wealth.
 Significance codes: '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05