

## Research reveals alcohol's burden

*A Turning Point project has revealed for the first time, data on differences in alcohol consumption and alcohol-related harms across all Australian states and territories.*

The *Burden of Disease* study found alcohol caused 5554 deaths and 157,132 hospitalisations in 2010, with the number of deaths increasing by 62 per cent since the study was last undertaken a decade ago.

For men, injuries accounted for more than one in three (36 per cent) alcohol-related deaths, while cancer and digestive diseases caused 25 and 16 per cent respectively. For women, one in three alcohol-related deaths were due to heart disease (34 per cent), followed by cancers (31 per cent) and injuries (12 per cent).

Senior researcher Dr Belinda Lloyd said *Burden of Disease* estimates based on current health and alcohol consumption data were integral to conceptualising the impact of alcohol on the Australian community.

"Such estimates are needed to assess changing trends in harm in the community related to drinking and enable comparison of the burden of alcohol across different diseases and injuries," Dr Lloyd said.

This project provides evidence of the burden of disease and injury on Australia in 2010. Future research plans include assessing how funding is allocated to tackle alcohol-related burden on the Australian healthcare system.

**To read the full report, visit [www.turningpoint.org.au](http://www.turningpoint.org.au)**