

General effects

Alcohol has low potency --> large doses required for desired effect --> side effects and toxicity

Usual serving volume = one standard drink e.g. grams of alcohol per 100ml of blood

Guidelines: 14 SD per week, no more than 4 per day.

The CNS effects of alcohol depend on it's concentration in blood.

Variable duration of effects dependent on: dose, drinking rate body weight etc.

Blood alcohol concentration

Usually expressed as grams of alcohol per 100ml of blood

For example: 50mg of alcohol per 100ml of blood is a BAC of 0.05%

Profound intoxication can occur at BAC's about 0.25%

Due to tolerance and individual variability in response - effects of a given BAC may vary



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