

## The role of alcohol in the spread of the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) in Côte d'Ivoire: Case Abidjan

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**Abstract:**

This study aimed to assess a proportion of Abidjan population that had unprotected sex while under the influence of alcohol. A survey of alcohol consumption in relation to the unprotected sex had been conducted on 6235 subjects with 3429 men and 2806 women in the ten municipalities of the city of Abidjan. The results indicated that among the non-drinkers, men have more possibilities for unprotected sex than women; it is the same in mild alcohol consumers and among moderate alcohol consumers. But in heavy consumers, women and men were exposed to the same risk of contamination. The most affected age group through unprotected sexual intercourse in connection with alcohol is between 19-25 years and 36-45 years. Excessive alcohol consumption increases the risk of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV in the analysed subjects. For these reasons, awareness campaigns on HIV must consider the limits of alcohol that impose alertness in the body. Strong instruction should be framed so that people should not drink beyond the recommended levels.

**Keywords:**

Alcohol, Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, Sex, AIDS, Human Immunodeficiency Virus.