Alcohol and substance use in healthcare settings

NordAN 2026 conference | AlcoTail, SUScreen and AlcoScreen

The projects

AlcoTail. Studies alcohol and substance use among patients in Norwegian hospitals, including approaches to screening and tailored follow-up.

SUScreen. Investigates alcohol and other substance use among patients in Greenland and Arctic Norway, including links with childhood experiences, health and healthcare use.

AlcoScreen. Examines risky alcohol use among hospital patients in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, using questionnaires and the alcohol biomarker PEth.

Conference presenters

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Session moderator: Stig Tore Bogstrand | Head of Section and Research Group Leader, Section for Drug Abuse Research, Oslo University Hospital, Norway

Take-home messages

1. The SUScreen project investigates alcohol and substance use among patients in Greenland and Arctic Norway, and how this affects healthcare utilization.
2. The SUScreen project explores how adverse childhood experiences are associated with alcohol and substance use, well-being, and health outcomes in adulthood.
3. Risky alcohol use is common among hospital patients in both Norway and the Baltic countries, as shown by the AlcoScreen and AlcoTail projects.
4. Harmful alcohol use is often not identified through routine clinical practice, highlighting the need for systematic screening in hospital settings.
5. Self-reported alcohol use and the biomarker PEth generally show good agreement, but each method captures different aspects of alcohol consumption.
6. Combining self-report measures with objective biomarkers may improve identification of patients at risk of alcohol-related harm.
7. Risky alcohol use is more common among men and middle-aged adults, but is not confined to easily identifiable high-risk groups.
8. Broad alcohol screening in hospitals may therefore be more effective than targeting selected patient groups only.