

**SUICIDE RISK AND ALCOHOL ABUSE
IN TRAINING CONSCRIPTS OF
THE HELLENIC NAVY**

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SAMPLE

- 660 training conscripts of the Hellenic Navy.
- Age ranges from 18 to 37 (Mn = 22.0, St. Dev. = 2.8).
About 80 % are younger than 25 years old.
- 63.8 % live in big urban centers,
25.6 % live in the country side.
- 8.0 % have received primary education only,
17.3 % secondary education,
39.1 % technical/professional education, and
7.6 university education.
- 2.7 % are married.
- 7.6 % come from divorced families.
- Participants can all be considered as generally healthy.
Conscripts go through medical screening before enlistment
in the Service. Thus, men suffering from serious physical or
mental conditions are deferred or discharged.

MEASURES

- A. A questionnaire measuring alcohol use (frequency and quantity) for adolescents (Madianos et al, 1994).
- B. A questionnaire measuring alcohol use (frequency and quantity) for adults (Madianos et al, 1994).
- C. A questionnaire assessing psychosocial complications related to alcohol use (Madianos et al, 1994).
- D. The Cage test that traces hidden alcoholism (Ewing and Rouse, 1970; Mayfield et al, 1974).
- E. The Suicide Risk Scale (SR-S) (Plutchik et al, 1989).

Demographic information about the participants were also taken.

PROCEDURE

- Collection of data took place in the Training Campus of the Hellenic Navy in the island of Poros during the second and third week of training.
- Groups of 20 – 30 completed the questionnaires in the presence of one civilian psychiatrist and two conscript psychologists who gave the instructions. Training officers were not present.
- The conscripts answered voluntarily after they were informed about the general purpose of the study.

RESULTS FOR PROBLEMATIC DRINKING

1. Frequency of Problematic Drinking by Means of Adolescent Criteria

I.e. participants scoring 1 or higher in the Adolescents' Frequency/Quantity questionnaire plus scoring 1 or higher in the Psychosocial variables questionnaire.

	f	Valid %
Normal use	440	68.2
Problematic rinking	205	31.8
Total	645	100.0

Missing cases: 15 (2.3 %)

2. Frequency of Problematic Drinking by Means of Adult Criteria

I.e. participants scoring 2 or higher in the Adults' Frequency/Quantity questionnaire plus scoring 2 or higher in the Psychosocial variables questionnaire.

	f	Valid %
Normal use	584	91.1
Problematic drinking	57	8.9
Total	641	100.0

Missing cases: 19 (2.9 %)

RESULTS FOR HIDDEN ALCOHOLISM

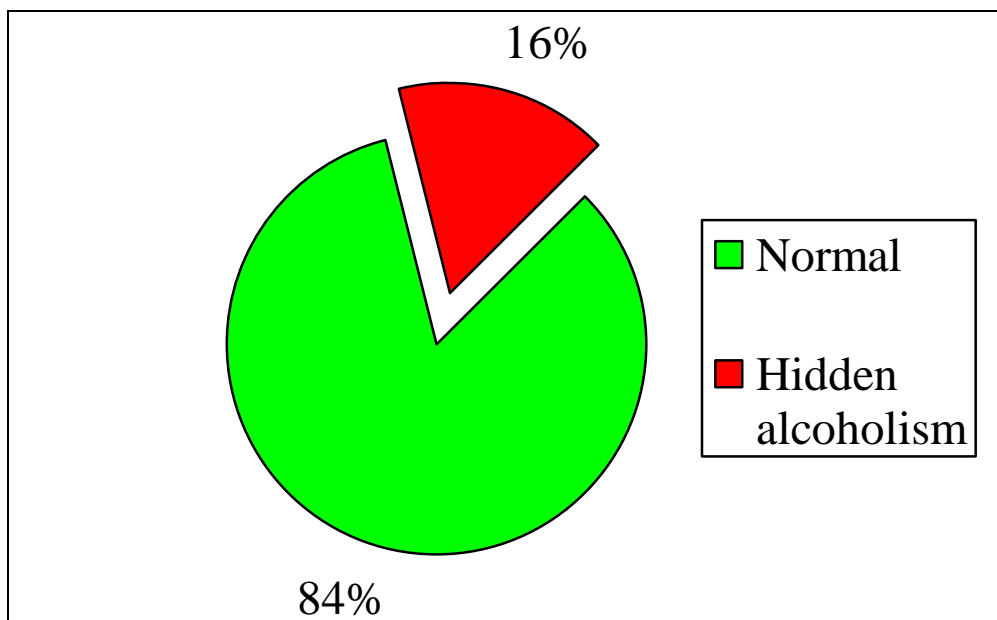
Frequency of Hidden Alcoholism

Negative: Participants scoring 0 or 1 in the Cage Test.

Positive: Participants scoring 2 or higher in the Cage Test .

	f	Valid %
Negative	514	83.6
Positive	101	16.4
Total	615	100.0

Missing cases: 45 (6.8%)



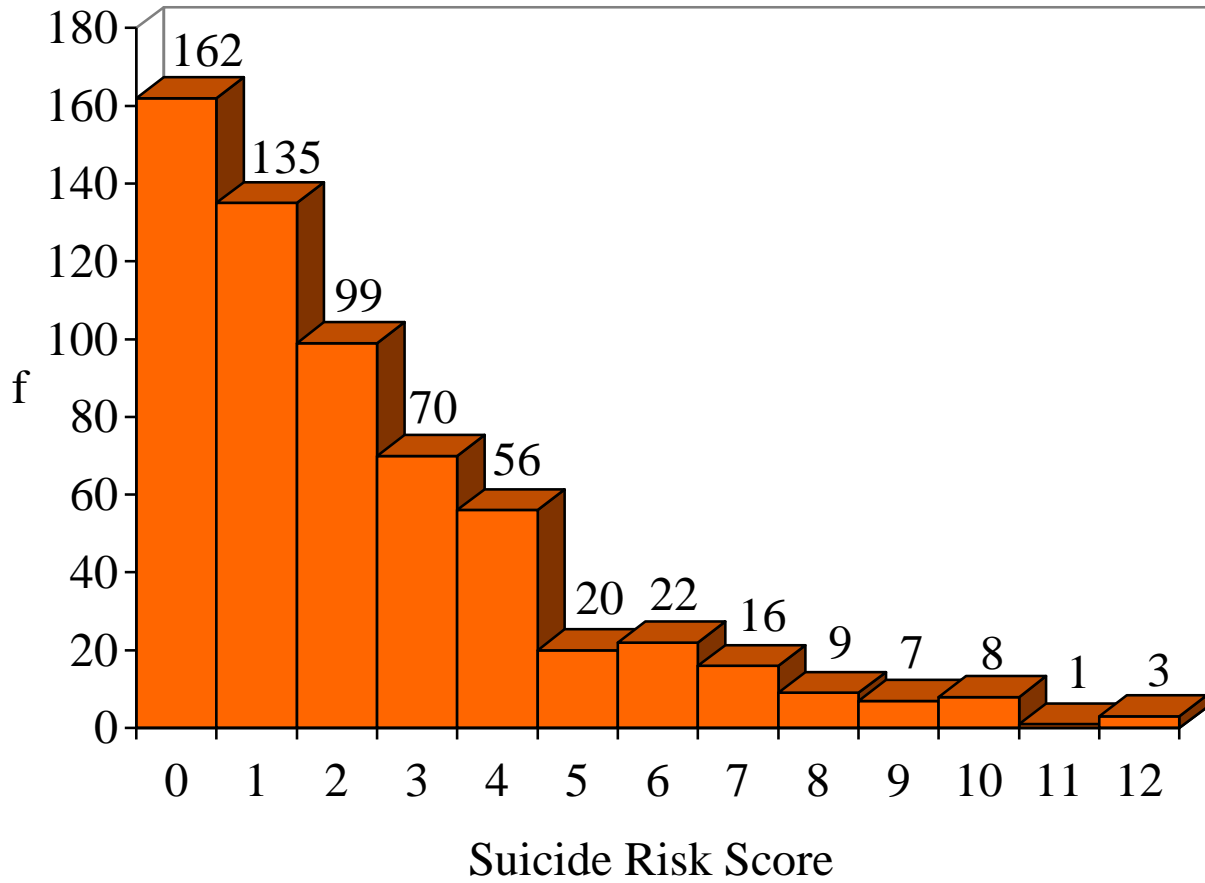
PSYCHOSOCIAL COMPLICATIONS
RELATED TO HIDDEN ALCOHOLISM

- Psychosocial complications score is found to have a positive correlation with score in the Cage Test (Pearson's $r = 0.35$, $p < 0.01$).
- Participants who are found positive in hidden alcoholism give significantly more positive responses in 7 out of the 8 items of the psychosocial complications questionnaire.

Psychosocial complications	Hidden alcoholism			
	Negative		Positive	
	f	Valid %	f	Valid %
Drink when in bad mood	121	23.6**	50	49.5**
Alcohol use depresses me	48	9.4*	17	16.8*
Accident after alcohol use	39	7.6**	21	20.8**
Strong need for alcohol	36	7.0**	15	14.9**
Work problems	31	6.0*	12	11.9*
Family problems	12	2.3**	16	15.8**
Study/school problems	6	1.2**	11	10.9**
Drink alone or first thing	10	1.9	5	5.0

* $p < .05$; ** $p < .01$

RESULTS FOR THE SUICIDE RISK SCALE



Mean	2.15
St.D.	2.37
Valid N	608
Missing cases	52

SUICIDE RISK AND ALCOHOL USE

1. Suicide Risk Scores by Problematic Drinking (Adolescent Criteria)

	N	Mean SR-S Scores	Std. Dev.
Non-problematic drinkers	407	1.77	2.00
Problematic drinkers	189	3.32	2.85
Total	596		

Analysis of Variance shows the difference between the means to be statistically significant ($p < 0.001$).

2. Suicide Risk Scores by Problematic Drinking (Adult Criteria)

	N	Mean SR-S Scores	Std. Dev.
Non-problematic drinkers	545	2.07	2.27
Problematic drinkers	50	4.26	3.00
Total	595		

Analysis of Variance shows the difference between the means to be statistically significant ($p < 0.001$).

3. Suicide Risk Scores by Hidden Alcoholism (Cage Test)

	N	Mean SR-S Scores	Std. Dev.
Negative	485	2.13	2.27
Positive	91	3.16	2.73
Total	576		

Analysis of Variance shows the difference between the means to be statistically significant ($p < 0.001$).