

# **Policy making in alcohol abuse and violence prevention in the Russian Federation**

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# In accordance with state statistics, the number of persons put on files in the RF as of 2006 is as follows:

**Alcoholism** - 1618,73 per 100 000

(2 310 792 patients - 1,7% of the population)

Use of alcohol with harmful consequences - 1989,49 per 100 000  
population (2 840 063 persons)

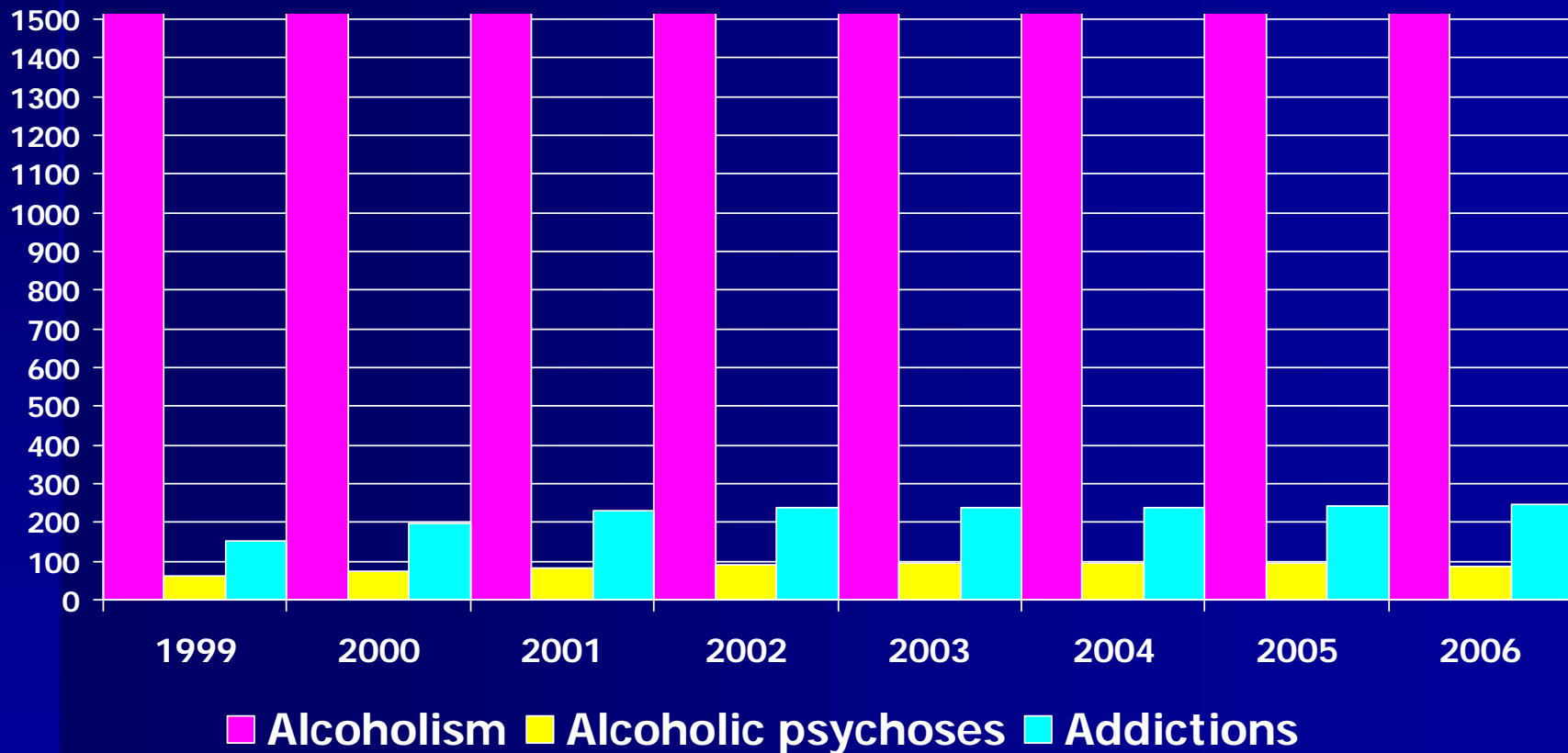
## **For reference:**

**Addictions** - 245,36 per 100 000

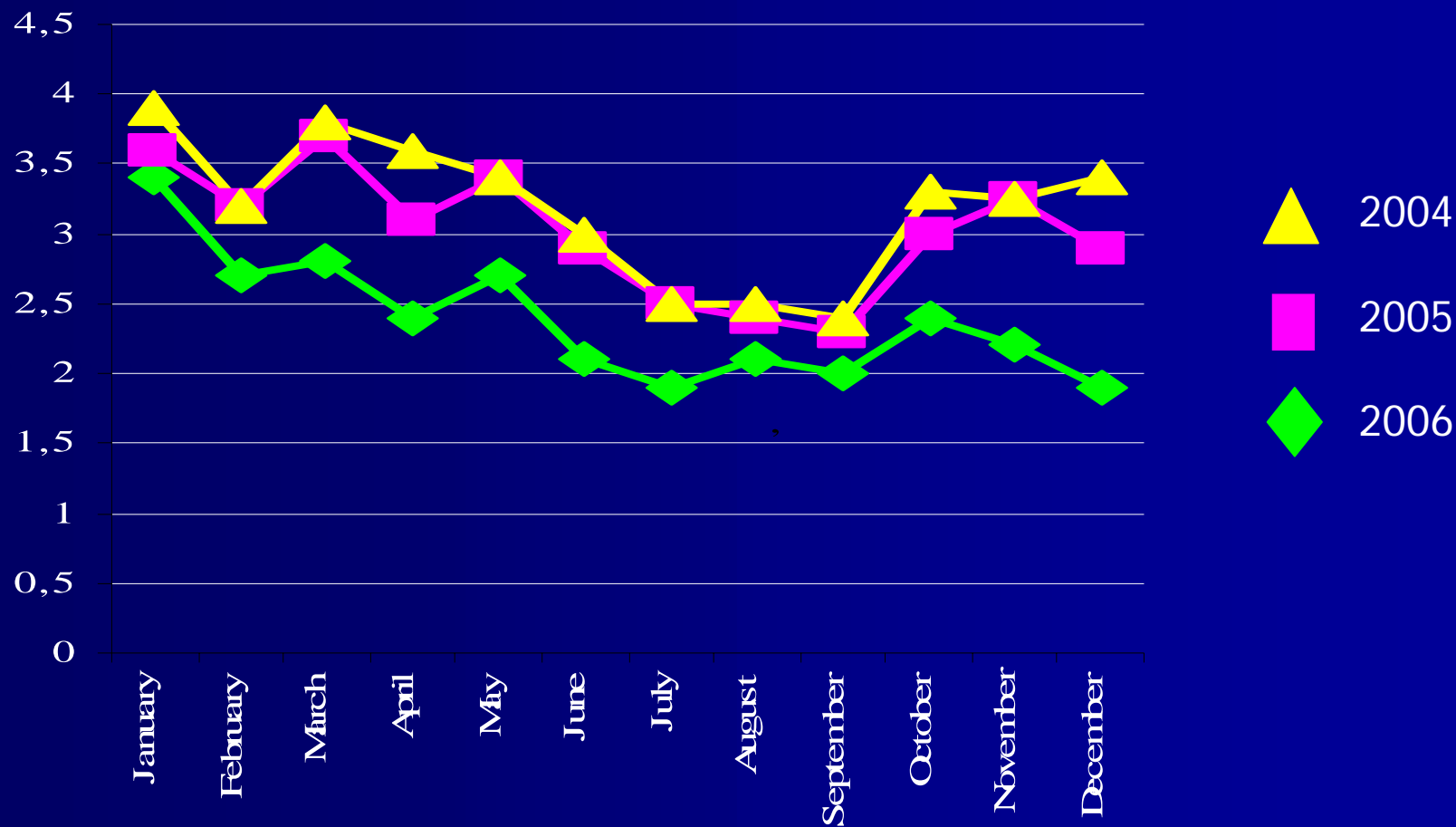
(350 267 patients - 0,2% of the population)

Use of narcotic and nonnarcotic psychoactive substances with harmful  
consequences - 394,21 per 100 000 population  
(562 752 persons)

# Dynamics of the number of patients registered as suffering from alcoholism, alcoholic psychoses and addictions in the RF (per 100 000 population)



# Number of deaths caused by accidental alcohol poisoning during 2004-2006 by month (Rosstat, 2007)



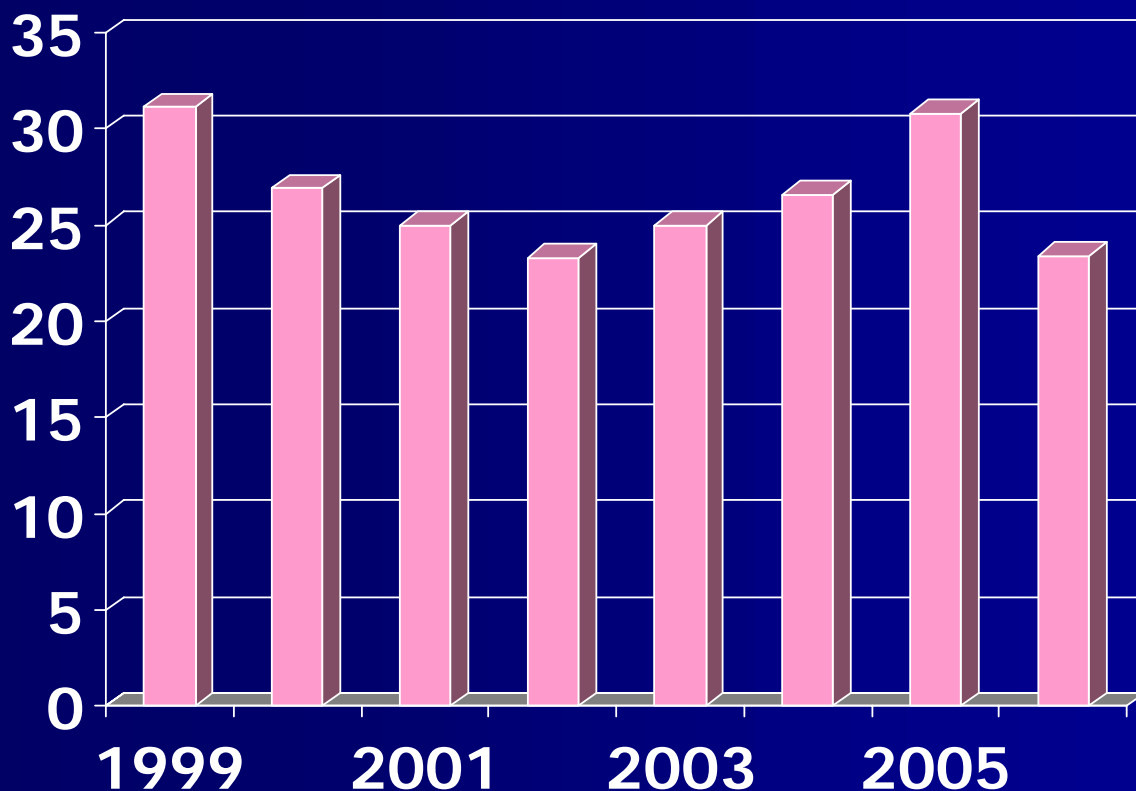
- Alcohol incidence rates and alcohol consumption levels in the community correlate with the level of violence
- Use of alcohol happens to be a significant factor in committing acts of aggression

# Violence and alcohol

- Alcohol is the main cause of a high crime wave in the RF (U.V. Andrienko, 2001)
- Up to 80% of intrafamilial aggression takes place under the influence of alcohol (U.M. Antonian, 2004)
- 72,2% of homicides (2006) are committed under the influence of alcohol (Crime and Law Violations, 2006)
- 67,7% of road traffic injuries are inflicted under the influence of alcohol (40,9% – 1964; 35,8% – 1985)

# Number of individuals put on trial for committing offences against person in the RF (All-Russia Research Institute of the Ministry of Interior, 2006)

Thousand people



# Ecological model for interpreting violence

## Hierarchical number of factors conditioning violence:

- **Level 1** – factors of biological and personal history (socio-demographic characteristics, personality and psychological disorders, abuse of psychoactive substances, etc.)
- **Level 2** – intragroup interrelations
- **Level 3** – interrelations within social (organized) groups
- **Level 4** – social consciousness and public policy



# Targets of preventive interventions

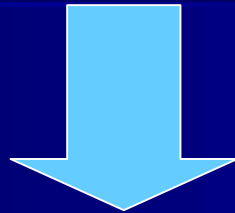
(in line with the ecological model of violence)

- **Individual risk factors** – elimination and mitigation of exposure to risk factors, provision of properly-oriented upbringing system.  
**Impact options:** programmes providing education and social development (cultivation of occupational and social capabilities, emotional training), therapeutic interventions (support groups and behavioral therapy), treatment programmes
- **Interpersonal relationships** – increased level of psychohygienic education for developing good family relations  
**Impact options:** parental training courses, tutorial programmes, family therapy programmes, social and emotional training activities
- **Prevention of violence within organized groups, provision of help and support for the victims of violence**  
**Impact options:** public educational campaigns, improvement of living conditions (safety, clean environment), out-of-school youth activities (sports, art, creativity)
- **Public consciousness development**  
**Impact options:** legislative and judicial protection, international treaties and agreements, programmes addressing main social problems (poverty, creation of jobs, youth employment, maternity and childhood, affordable housing, alcohol policy)

# Major thrusts of prevention of violence related to alcohol abuse

- Lower level of alcohol consumption in the community
- Lower level of aggressiveness in the community (primary prevention)
- Accessible and effective treatment of patients with alcoholism (secondary prevention)
- Social rehabilitation and psychological adjustment (tertiary prevention)

- «Paradox of Prevention» (Krietman, 1986; Cherpitel, 1993) – even minor impact aimed at lower use of alcohol in the community as a whole turns out to be more effective than much greater impact exclusively oriented at patients with alcoholism



- No matter how important and indispensable both secondary and tertiary prevention of alcohol abuse can be, **primary prevention should be given priority**
- General reduction of alcohol consumption in the community – this is what many governments are currently striving for (lognormal model). In the RF, main efforts and resources are directed at the problem part of society (patients) with a minimal preventive impact on the general public (disease model)

- **Alcohol policy in the RF** – the national strategy which in accord with national interests is aimed at lowering alcohol use in the community and decreasing negative consequences of alcohol consumption

### **Embraces a host of measures:**

1. Control of production of alcoholic beverages
2. Control of offer of alcoholic beverages
3. Influence on consumer demand for alcoholic beverages
4. Health education aimed at changing socio-psychological attitudes in the community
5. Medical and psychological care of patients with alcoholism and their family members
6. Informal societal control

# Population factors influencing alcohol policy

- **Political situation**  
*(political stability level, ideological priorities)*
- **Economic situation**  
*(labor activity and population employment, degree of economic stability)*
- **Social situation**  
*(educational level of the population, moral values and priorities, national culture subtleties)*
- **Demographic situation**  
*(sex and age structure of the population, family situation, level of migration)*
- **Medical situation**  
*(population health indicators, health care development)*
- **Ecological situation**  
*(climatic conditions, product quality, environmental pollution)*

# Main trends of the alcohol policy

- Population-oriented measures – taxation regulation; advertising; alcohol availability, including imposition of bans; state sales monopoly; promotion of low alcoholic and soft drinks; regulation of outlets, hours and weekdays of sales; health support programmes; schooling; employment programmes; recreational organizations (general population as target audience)
- Problem-oriented measures – risk group management – testing, brief intervention practices (risk groups as target audience)
- Direct interventions – aimed at individual consumers and encompass treatment and rehabilitation programmes (patients with mental and behavioral disorders related to alcohol use as target audience)

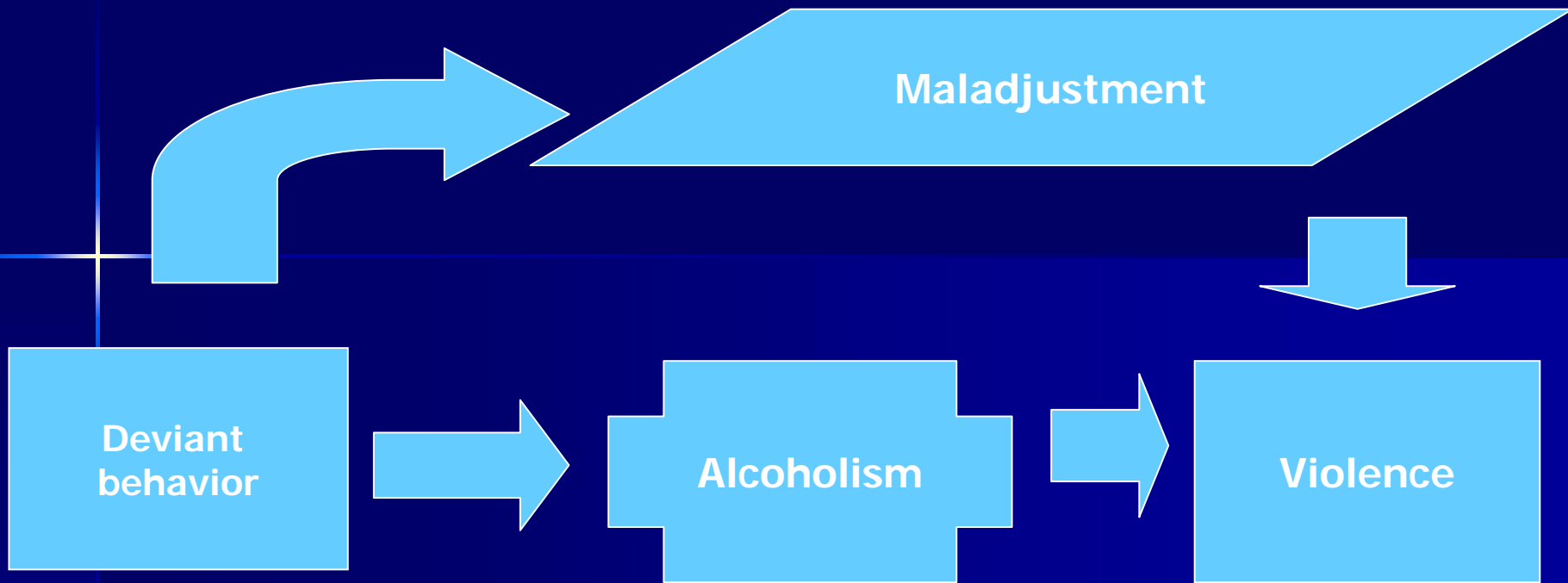
# Principles of regional alcohol policy

- Regional prevention (or rehabilitation) area is created within public alcohol policy area
- Inter-departmental commissions are unable to provide for the coordination of all structural units, therefore it is necessary to establish, for example, the Center (Division) of Antialcoholic Policy reporting to a Governor (Mayor).
- Inter-departmental target comprehensive alcohol misuse prevention programmes approved by the local government should form the basis for the regional antialcoholic policy to be conducted by the Federation entities.
- Creation of a system of preventive detection of individuals from alcohol abuse risk groups and provision of the needed psychological help and social support to them.
- Setting up of a multilevel system of treatment and rehabilitation services for persons from risk groups and patients with alcoholism, including the development of such components as prevention (social adaptation centers) and rehabilitation (rehabilitation centers).

# Social Adaptation Centers in the system of violence prevention

- **Form of organization** – primary level of medical, psychological and social care
- **Objectives** – medical, psychological and social care of persons from the following social risk groups:
  - freed from prisons,
  - exposed to emergencies (man-made accidents and natural calamities, hostilities),
  - subjected to violence (intrafamilial aggression, victims of offenders, etc.),
  - internally displaced persons and migrants,
  - subjects with various addictions, including patients with alcoholism
- **Ideology** - the main method of overcoming any form of social maladjustment consists in early detection, diagnosis, deviant behavior correction





## A system of legal restrictions for alcohol abusers in preventing violence:

- *Legal incapacity*
- *Deprivation of paternal rights*
- *Need for compulsory treatment*

# Prevention of criminal aggression in the RF

- The existing national system of violence prevention is mainly based upon a repressive ideology, i.e. ensuring unavoidable punishment for committed wrongdoings
- More promising preventive approach is now evolving and directed at violence prevention. This implies **a novel type of interrelation** between different public and non-governmental organizations, whose goal is boiled down to the prevention of wrongdoings in terms of social rehabilitation rather than to crime control and punitive treatment

- *Thank you for your attention!*