

# European Research on Alcohol Policy

**AMPHORA Expert meeting & WHO meeting of National  
Counterparts for Alcohol Policy in the European  
Region**

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## Introduction

- The EU is one of the most developed regions of the world.
- Compared to other powerful economies such as the USA, Europe gives high priority to social protection and the delivery of health care, including prevention and health promotion.
- Alcohol is the second cause of the loss of DALYs in high-income countries
- Alcohol-related public health research in Europe should be abundant but seems to be scarce, with the notable exception of Nordic countries.

## Methods

- Search strategy:
  - Medline, PsycINFO, and Cochrane Library from 1990 to September 2009.
  - Availability and the marketing of alcohol in 2 separate searches.
  - Only articles published in English were included.
  
- Classification process: Major / minor topic
  
- Data analysis: Statistical Package for Social Science SPSS®v.16

# Availability and marketing searches

	AVAILABILITY	MARKETING
<b>Relevant (1)</b>	214	249
<i>Major topic</i>	103	143
<i>Minor topic</i>	111	106
<b>Non relevant (2)</b>	759	533
Abstract not available (3)	11	37
Insufficient information in abstract (4)	6	9
<b>TOTAL (1+2+3+4)</b>	<b>990</b>	<b>828</b>

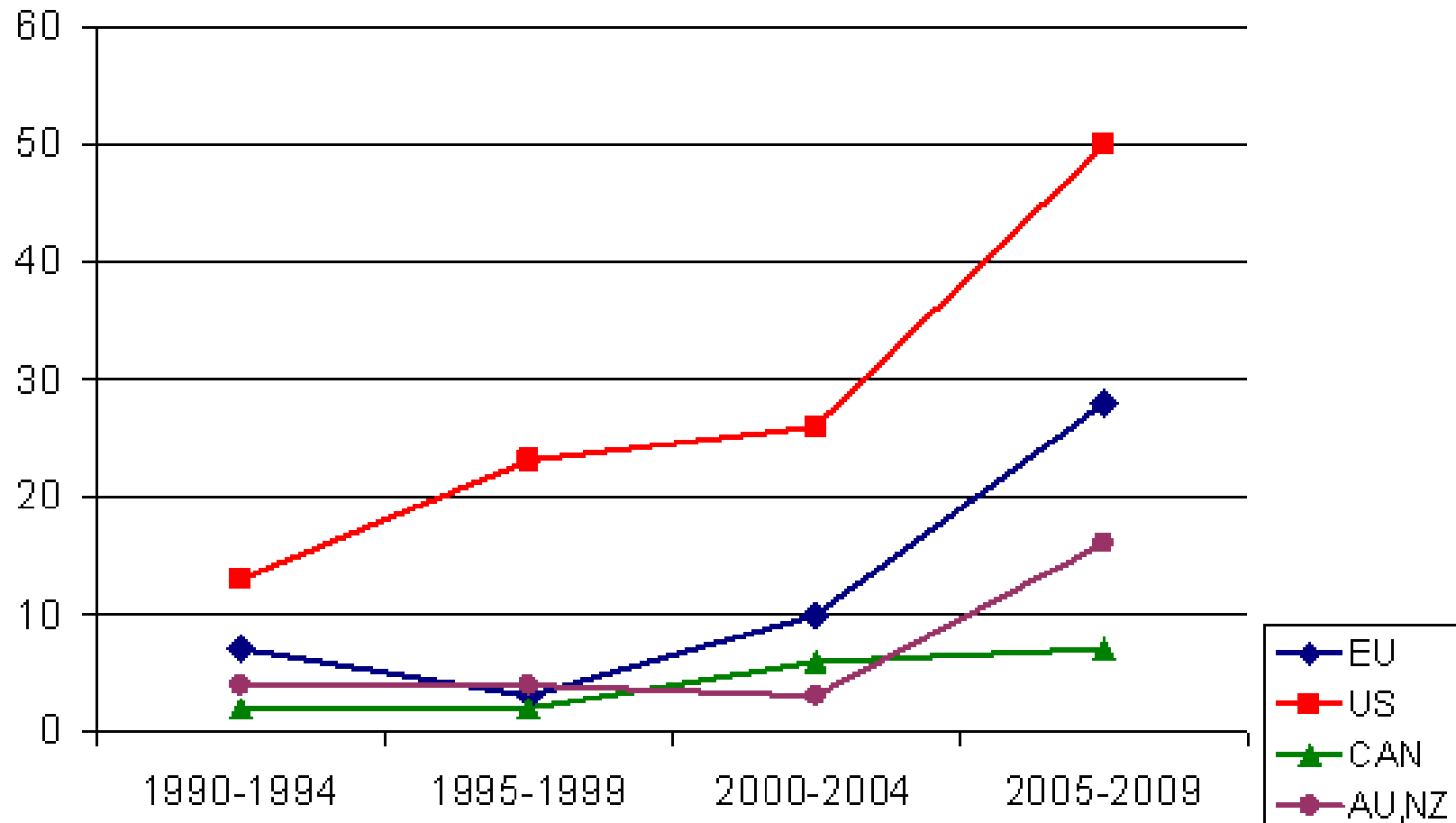
## Results of the alcohol availability and marketing search strategies

## European research

Availability	1990-2009	%
Sweden	13	27%
UK	13	27%
Netherlands	4	8%
Denmark	3	6%
Finland	3	6%
Germany	2	4%
Iceland	2	4%
Spain	2	4%
Switzerland	2	4%
Estonia	1	2%
France	1	2%
Poland	1	2%
Slovenia	1	2%
<b>EUROPA</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>100%</b>

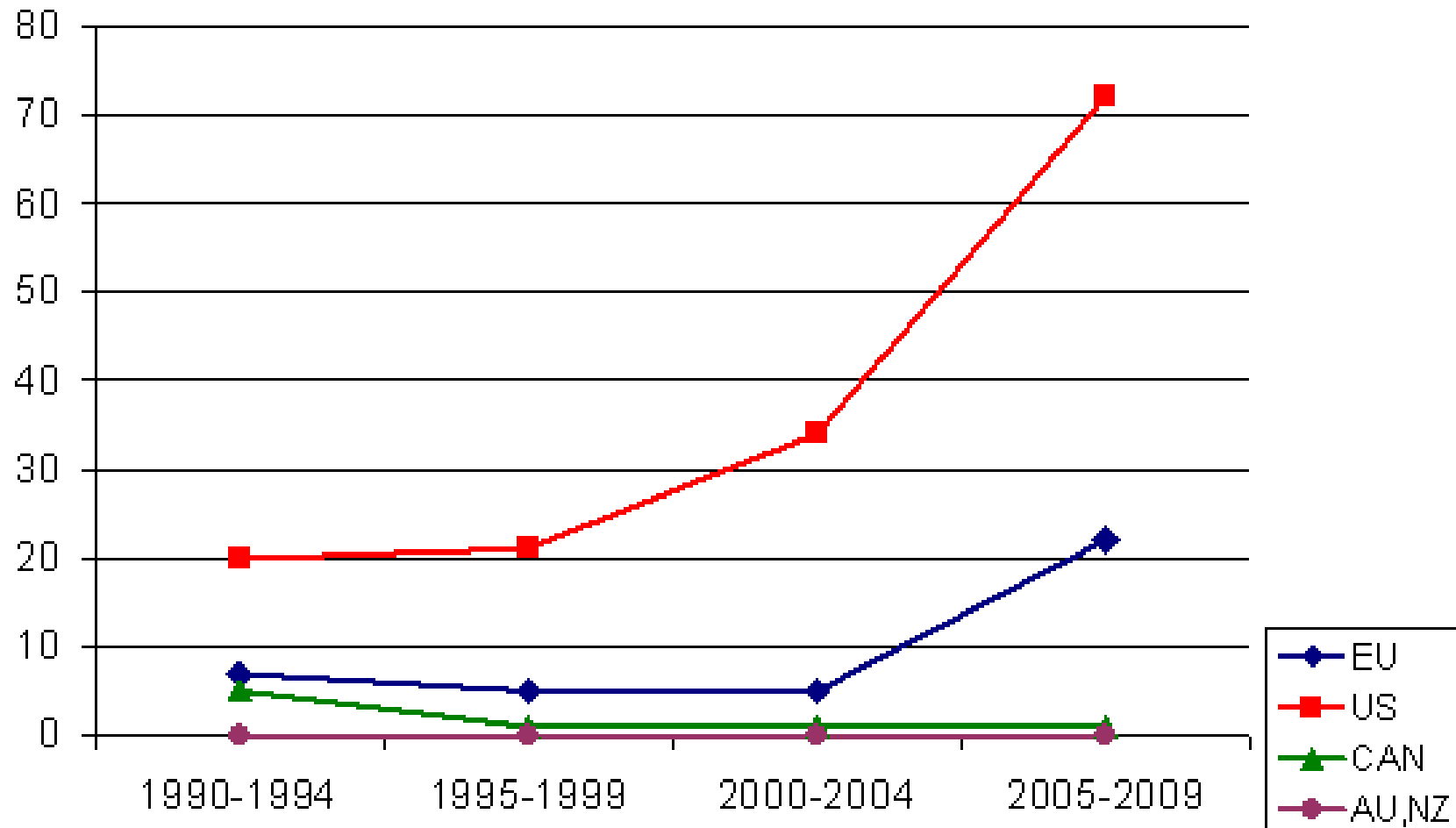
Marketing	1990-2009	%
UK	19	49%
Netherlands	7	18%
Switzerland	3	8%
Belgium	2	5%
Denmark	2	5%
Estonia	2	5%
Spain	2	5%
Germany	1	3%
Poland	1	3%
<b>EUROPA</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>100%</b>

## European research vs rest of the world



Number of publications on alcohol **availability** from 1990 to 2009

## European research vs rest of the world



Number of publications on alcohol **marketing** from 1990 to 2009

# Conclusions

## Health research on alcohol in Europe faces two challenges:

- A need to catch up with developed regions where alcohol produces less harm than in Europe, while investment in research is higher.
- Alcohol-related research seems to be very unequal among European countries. Therefore:
  - at the level of European public health research, alcohol should be placed higher in the agenda
  - at the level of researchers, Western and Nordic European researchers should be encouraged to include in their teams scientists from countries where alcohol research is almost non-existent.