



HEALTH WARNING AND LABELLING

THE FRENCH PERSPECTIVE

Dr Dominique Martin

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Alcohol and Pregnancy

- FAS : major cause of disability
- Incidence: 0.5 à 3 for 1000 birth (few studies)
- 700 to 3000 children for 750 000 births in France each year
- evaluated about 60 000 to 180 000 persons
- very few data on pregnant women consumption

- Dehaene 1995
- Boussiron 2003



Alcohol and pregnancy

- teratogenic effect : for an only toxic consumption or chronicle intoxication
- on neurologic system : negative effect at any period of the pregnancy
- several degrees of severity but no level known for safety
- the safest option is « no alcohol during pregnancy »

- INSERM 2001
 - SFA 2003



Hypothesis

- The population is generally poorly informed on this issue
- The recommendation « zero alcohol »: has to be broadly spread out not only for pregnant women
- The whole population is concerned
- The message has to be accompanied and needs explanations



French situation :

- Conference of the minister of health in 2004 (August 5th)
- >>> a global strategy : laws of 8th August 2004 and 11th February 2005 and six targets



French situation :

- Information for students in school
- communication in women magazines and specific clinics
- information for pregnant women in their « pregnancy book »
- epidemiological survey (InVS)
- best training for professionals
- labelling on alcoholic beverages units



Discussion

Loi de santé publique 9 août 2004

- national media campaigns
- information in high schools
- training for medical students and practitioners



Discussion

Loi du 11 février 2005

- Labelling on alcohol containants :

« toutes les unités de conditionnement des boissons alcoolisées doivent porter un message à caractère sanitaire préconisant l'absence de consommation par les femmes enceintes »



Discussion

■ Impact of the labels ?

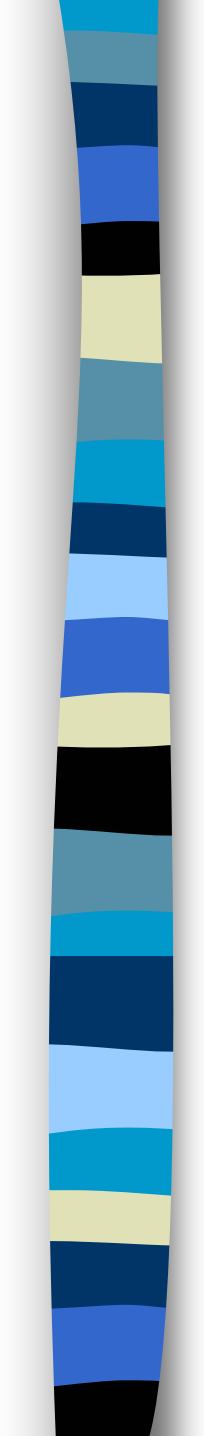
- USA: awareness of the public but light impact on behaviours
- risk with the labelling: let people think that the problem is completely solved with prevention
- raise the mother's feeling that they are guilty when there is a problem



Discussion

- For a better prevention :
 - **The message must be very clear and unique: abstinence during pregnancy**
 - **and the information must open a dialog**

 - **wide information**
 - **For pregnant women**
 - **For the general population**
 - **For young women and men who want to be parents**
 - **For young people**

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- Some women: have risky consumption or very difficult situations and need a special help
 - >>>new working group for guidelines to enforce this help (net) and the large collaboration of different professionals around these persons (*REUNISAF*)



■ Thank you

