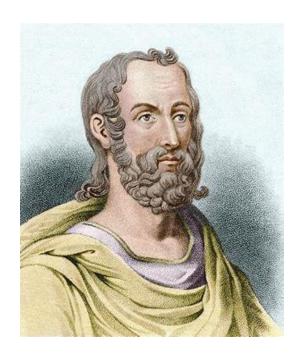


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Pliny the Elder, 1st C., Rome

"It is hard to say whether wine does good to more people than it harms... medical opinion is very divided"





Bottom Line

There are many reasons why people drink

On balance, alcohol an unhealthy substance

 For most, low-volume alcohol can be used with low risk; but risk of death increases above 1 drink/d

Final Recommendations: U.S. DG Advisory Committee

- Do not drink alcohol because you think it will make you healthier (adopted/retained)
- If you drink alcohol, drinking less is better for health than drinking more (adopted)
- For those who drink, recommended limits are 1 drink per day for women and men on days when alcohol is consumed (not adopted, 2/1 limits retained)

What Changed?

- All-cause mortality: higher risk at 2 than 1
- Limitations of existing studies
- Still no randomized trials ...
- Mendelian randomization: no protection of 'moderate' drinking against heart attacks, strokes
- Alcohol and cancer, even at low doses
- 1-2 drinks/day: similar risks for men and women

The Precautionary Principle



Alcohol

- Leading cause of death, costs
- Second hand effects, social problems
- Carcinogen
- No nutritional value ... except calories
- Minimal labelling requirements ??

Turkey Chili, Flavored Water





Tequila



Drink Size, # Drinks per Bottle, # Calories per Drink, Health Info

