



Centre for Addiction and Mental Health  
Centre de toxicomanie et de santé mentale

## Senior Alcohol Misuse Indicator (SAMI) Tool

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The Senior Alcohol Misuse Indicator (SAMI) is a brief, senior-specific screening tool with questions that are designed to detect existing or potential alcohol problems in older adults without eliciting negative reactions, such as denial and defensiveness, from those being screened.

The SAMI is administered by a health care professional. It has been validated in a community setting. A score of 1 or above suggests that the respondent is a problem drinker or an at-risk drinker (i.e., is at-risk for negative consequences related to their alcohol consumption).

### References

Lum, B. (2005). *The development and validation of the Senior Alcohol Misuse Indicator (SAMI)*. Poster session presented at the annual meeting of the Canadian Association on Gerontology, Halifax, N.S.

Purcell, B. & Olmstead, M.C. (2014). The performance and feasibility of three brief alcohol screening tools in a senior population. *Canadian Psychology*, 55 (2a), 19.

# Senior Alcohol Misuse Indicator (SAMI) Tool

**1a. Have you recently (in the last few months) experienced problems with any of the following (if yes, please check box):**

- Changes in sleep?                       Changes in appetite or weight?                       Dizziness?  
 Drowsiness?                               Difficulty remembering things?                       Poor balance?  
 Falls?

**1b. Have you recently (in the last few months) experienced problems with any of the following (if yes, please check box):**

- Feelings of sadness?                       Lack of interest in daily activities?                       Feelings of worthlessness?  
 Loneliness?                               Feelings of anxiety?

**2. Do you enjoy wine/beer/spirits? Which do you prefer?**

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**3. As your life has changed, how has your use of [selected] wine/beer/spirits changed**

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**4. Do you find you enjoy [selected] wine/beer/spirits as much as you used to?**  Yes  No  
(For clinical use. Not included in scoring.)

**5. You mentioned that you have difficulties with \_\_\_\_\_ (from answers to questions 1a and b). I am wondering if you think that [selected] wine/beer/spirits might be connected?**  Yes  No

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## SCORING KEY

### Single responses (a score of 1 for each response):

Question 2

I enjoy **all three** of wine/beer/spirits OR

I enjoy **a combination of any two** from wine/beer/spirits

Question 3

I have **increased** alcohol consumption from when I was younger

Question 5:

**Yes**, there **may be** a connection between my alcohol use and health

**SUBTOTAL 1 = \_\_\_\_\_/3**

### Multiple responses (a score of 1 for each combination of responses):

Question 2 & 3:

**Yes**, I do enjoy alcohol

There has been **no change** in alcohol consumption

=> If both responses provided, check box =>

Question 1, 2 & 3:

**Yes**, I have experienced **5 or more** symptoms

**Yes**, I do enjoy alcohol

**Indicates any** current alcohol consumption (regardless of any change in pattern

=> If all three responses provided, check box =>

**SUBTOTAL 2 = \_\_\_\_\_/2**

**TOTAL SCORE = SUBTOTAL 1 + SUBTOTAL 2 = \_\_\_\_\_**