

Key word search performed in MEDLINE and PUBMED, complementary search performed in ERIC and CINAHL

Studies included for abstract review:
 $n=44$

Excluded; the study was not published in English:
 $n=4$

Excluded; the study was not performed on humans:
 $n=2$

Excluded; the study was not designed to capture data on alcohol cessation (ex-drinkers) or did not distinguish between lifetime abstainers and former drinkers and/or did not investigate cancer of the liver:
 $n=23$

Studies read in full:
 $n=15$

Excluded; the study did not meet the search criteria:
 $n=8$

Included; manual search of reference lists from studies read in full:
 $n=4$

Included; complementary search performed using first 30 hits of Google Scholar and Google:
 $n=0$

Studies included for review:
 $n=11$