Getting your Research Project Started

1. Dataset: gapminder.csv

2 + 4. Topic of Interest and secondary topic

I am interested to find out if there are correlation between political system and alcohol consumption: namely is the consumption in democrat states higher or lower than in non-democratic countries or not. At the same time, I will also look at the income per person and alcohol consumption. If the income in democratic countries is higher than in non-democratic countries, and alcohol consumption is also higher, then it is entirely possible that democracy is not related to alcohol consumption, but the higher income.

3 + 5. Code Book

Here are the variables from the GapMinder

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Variable Name | Description | Main Source |
| Incomeperperson | 2009 Democracy score (Polity)  Overall polity score from the Polity IV dataset, calculated by  subtracting an autocracy score from a democracy score. The summary  measure of a country's democratic and free nature. -10 is the lowest  value, 10 the highest | World Bank Work Development  Indicators |
| Alcconsumption | 2008 alcohol consumption per adult (age 15+), litres Recorded and estimated average alcohol consumption, adult (15+) per capita consumption in litres pure alcohol | WHO |
| polityscore | 2009 Democracy score (Polity)  Overall polity score from the Polity IV dataset, calculated by  subtracting an autocracy score from a democracy score. The summary  measure of a country's democratic and free nature. -10 is the lowest  value, 10 the highest. | Polity IV Project |

6. Literature review

# Lifetime income patterns and alcohol consumption: Investigating the association between long- and short-term income trajectories and drinking <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3185179/>

# Communism’s Alcohol Problem

# <http://www.csmonitor.com/1981/0303/030313.html>

# Research Reveals widespread alcoholism in Communist East Germany

# <http://www.dw.com/en/research-reveals-widespread-alcoholism-in-communist-east-germany/a-15033014>

# Substance use problems in Developing Countries

# <http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/82/9/editorial20904html/en/>

# Drinking highest among Educated, upper income Americans

# <http://www.gallup.com/poll/184358/drinking-highest-among-educated-upper-income-americans.aspx>

# 7. My initial research seems to indicate that there is a relationship between communist countries and alcohol consumption and income and alcohol consumption. However, the alcohol consumption in non-democracies was more pronounced in East European communist countries and there are many countries that are not democracies, but they are not communist states either. More of the alcohol consumption and income is readily available for Western democratic countries, and there appears to be a relationship between higher incomes and frequent alcohol consumption and low incomes and alcohol consumption.