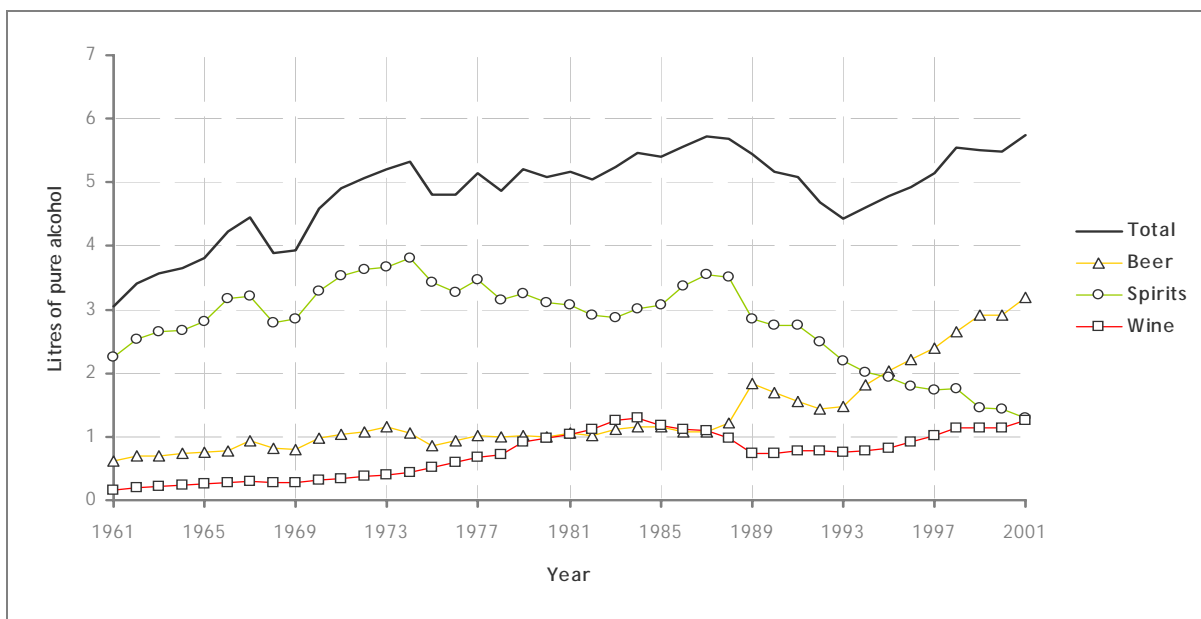


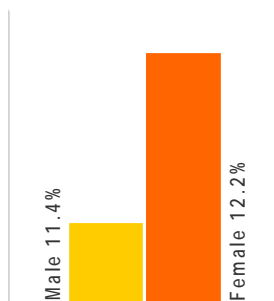
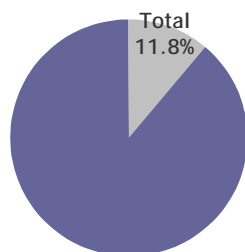
ICELAND

Recorded adult per capita consumption (age 15+)



Sources: FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations), World Drink Trends 2003

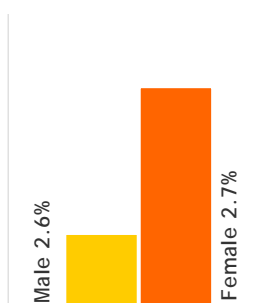
Last year abstainers



Data from the WHO GENACIS study. National survey conducted in 2003 (age group 20 to 64 years). Total sample size $n = 928$; males $n = 367$ and females $n = 561$.¹

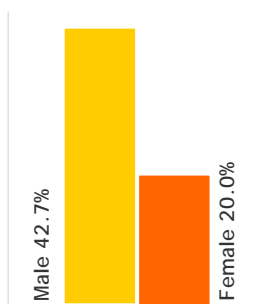
Estimates from key alcohol experts show that the proportion of adult males and females who had been abstaining (last year before the survey) was 9% (males) and 13% (females). Data is for after year 1995.²

Heavy and hazardous drinkers (among drinkers)



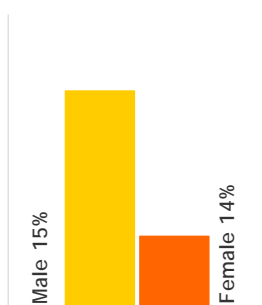
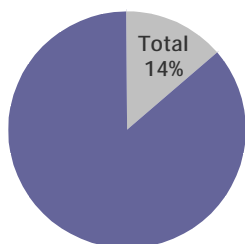
Data from the 2001 WHO GENACIS study. National survey (age group 20 to 64 years). Total sample size $n = 2056$; males $n = 970$ and females $n = 1086$. Definition used: average consumption of 40 g or more of pure alcohol a day for males and 20 g or more of pure alcohol a day for females.¹

Heavy episodic drinkers (last year among drinkers)



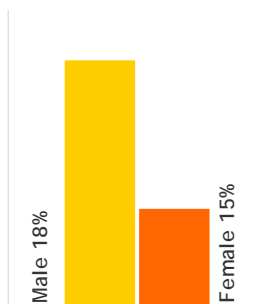
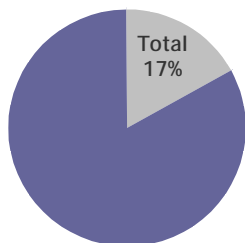
Data from the WHO GENACIS study. National survey conducted in 2001 (age group 20 to 64 years). Total sample size $n = 2056$; males $n = 970$ and females $n = 1086$. Definition used: consumption of five or more drinks in one sitting at least once a month in the last year (among drinkers only).¹

Youth drinking (alcohol consumers)



Data from the 1999 ESPAD survey. Total sample size $n = 3524$, males $n = 1758$ and females $n = 1766$; age group 15 to 16 years. Alcohol consumer was defined as lifetime use of 40 times or more.³

Youth drinking (binge drinkers)

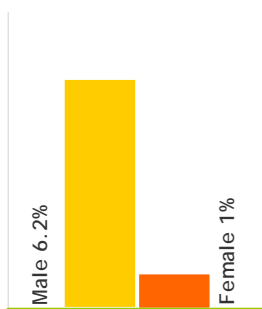
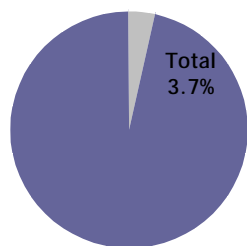


Data from the 1999 ESPAD survey. Total sample size $n = 3524$, males $n = 1758$ and females $n = 1766$; age group 15 to 16 years. Binge drinking was defined as consuming five or more drinks in a row three times or more in the last 30 days.³

Youth drinking (drunkenness)

In the 1999 ESPAD study of subjects 15 to 16 years old (total sample size $n = 3524$; males $n = 1758$ and females $n = 1766$) the proportion of subjects who reported being drunk three times or more in the last 30 days was 12% (total), 12% (males) and 12% (females).³

Alcohol dependence among 56-year-olds



The lifetime prevalence rates are presented for mental disorders in a random sample of people born in Iceland in 1931, interviewed at the age of 55–57 years. The diagnoses are made according to DSM-III.⁴

Traditional alcoholic beverages

Brennivín is a traditional Icelandic drink. It is a strong schnapps (40% alcohol by volume) with cummin flavor, and is often drunk with rotten shark meat.⁵

Unrecorded alcohol consumption

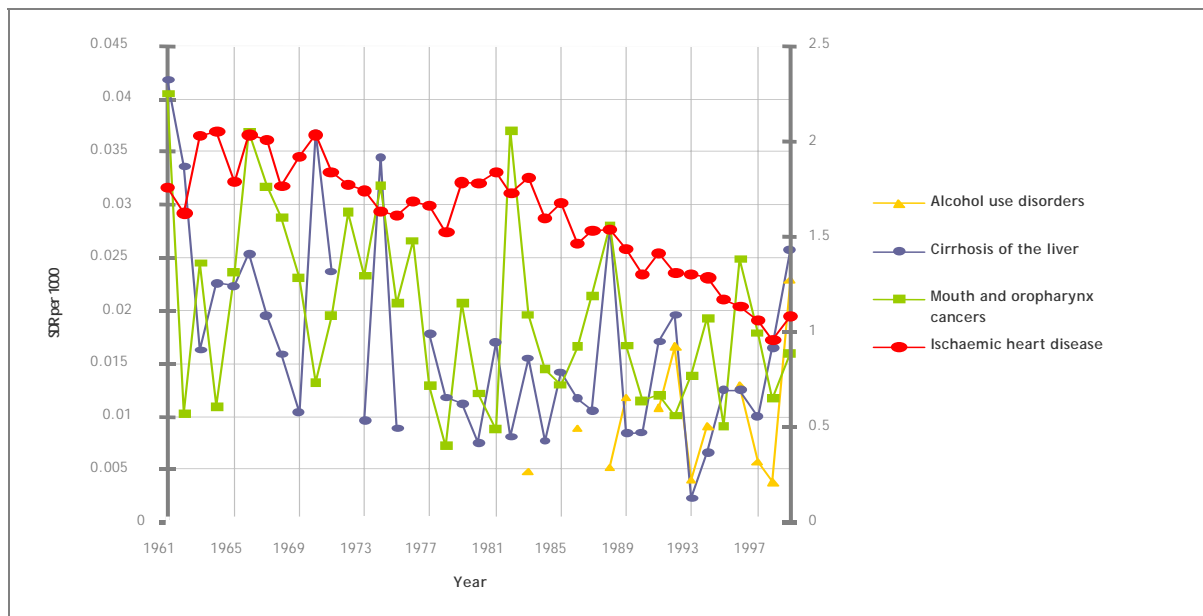
The unrecorded alcohol consumption in Iceland is estimated to be 1.0 litre pure alcohol per capita for population older than 15 for the years after 1995 (estimated by a group of key alcohol experts).²

The Statistical Bureau of Iceland estimates a recorded adult per capita consumption of 6.32 litres of pure alcohol in 2001.⁶

Mortality rates from selected death causes where alcohol is one of the underlying risk factors

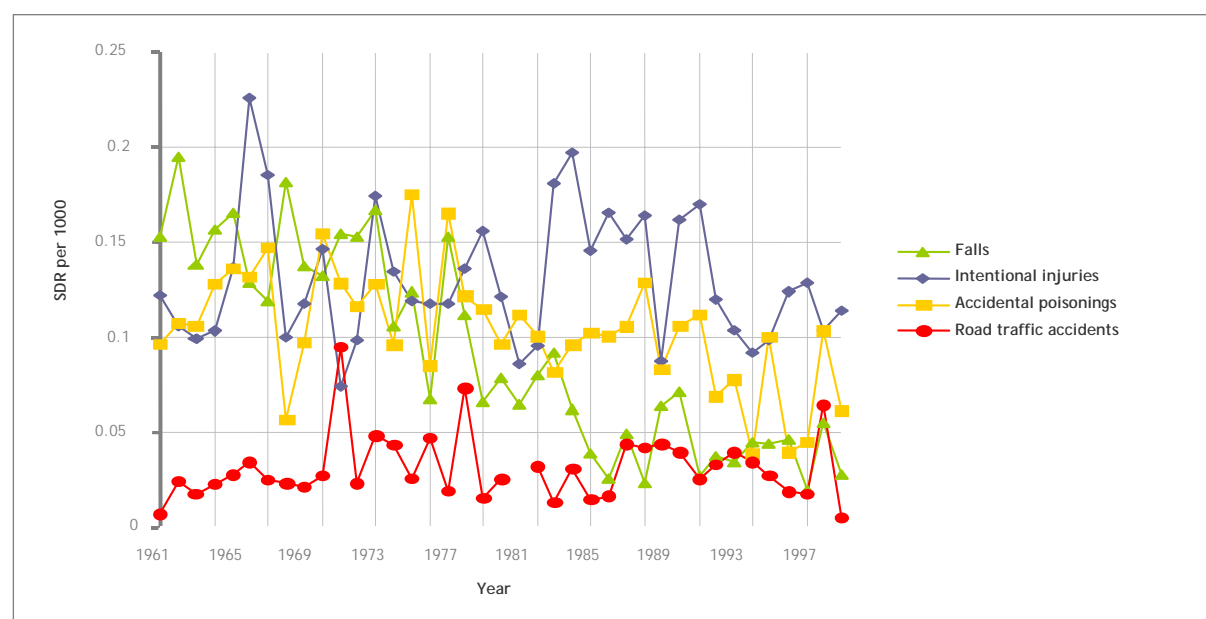
The data represent all the deaths occurring in a country irrespective of whether alcohol was a direct or indirect contributor.

Chronic mortality



Note: Chronic mortality time-series measured on two axes, ischaemic heart disease on right axis and the other causes on the left.

Acute mortality



Source: WHO Mortality Database

Morbidity, health and social problems from alcohol use

From 1997 to 2000, on average, over 62 per 10 000 in the entire country were arrested on suspicion of drunken driving versus 96 per 10 000 in the capital Reykjavik. Of those arrested on suspicion of drunken driving for the period 1998–2000, more than 40% were measured with over 3.01‰ of alcohol in their blood. A driver with such a high quantity of alcohol in his or her blood is deemed to be dead drunk and completely incapable of controlling a motor vehicle.⁶

In 1999, the Iceland Traffic Council reported that there were 224 accidents attributable to intoxication and 77 traffic injuries where intoxication was involved. From the period of 1993 to 1999, an average of 12.4% of fatal accidents occurred because of drunken driving. According to the latest information from the Icelandic Road Accident Analysis Group, drunken drivers caused 16% of the fatal accidents in 2000.⁶

In the period 1999 to 2000, there were on average 100 admissions each year to the emergency ward for rape. Over this period, one third of victims were in an alcoholic coma when the rape occurred.⁶

The SDR per 100 000 population for chronic liver disease and cirrhosis was 2.20 in 1998 and 3.31 in 1999.⁷

The number of alcohol-related road traffic accidents per 100 000 population was 24.17 in 1996 and 16.07 in 1998.⁷

Country background information

Total population 2003	290 000	Life expectancy at birth (2002)	Male	78.4
Adult (15+)	223 300		Female	81.8
% under 15	23	Probability of dying under age 5 per 1000 (2002)	Male	4
Population distribution 2001 (%)			Female	3
Urban	93	Gross National Income per capita 2002	US\$	27 970
Rural	7			

Sources: Population and Statistics Division of the United Nations Secretariat, World Bank World Development Indicators database, The World Health Report 2004

References

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2. Alcohol per capita consumption, patterns of drinking and abstention worldwide after 1995. Appendix 2. *European Addiction Research*, 2001, 7(3):155–157.
3. Hibell B et al. *The 1999 ESPAD Report. The European School Survey on Alcohol and Other Drugs: Alcohol and Other Drug Use Among Students in 30 European Countries*. Stockholm, Council of Europe, 2000.
4. Stefánsson JG et al. Lifetime prevalence of specific mental disorders among people born in Iceland in 1931. *Acta Psychiatrica Scandinavica*, 1991, 84(2):142–149.
5. Oskarsson T. Personal communication. 24 April 2004.
6. Steindórsdóttir T. *Alcohol and other drugs: statistical information*. Reykjavik, The Alcohol and Drug Abuse Preventions Council, 2002.
7. European health for all database. World Health Organization, Regional Office for Europe (<http://hfadb.who.dk/hfa>, accessed 26 February 2004).