

Alcohol Control Policy and Harm Done by Alcohol in Lithuania

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CONTENT:

- Consumption and sales of Alcoholic Beverages
- Harm Done by Alcohol
- Alcohol Policy in Lithuania





Republic of Lithuania (2004)



- Territory: 65 303 km²
- Population: ~3.43 mln.
- Urban population: 69%
- Life expectancy at birth among males: 67,6
- Life expectancy at birth among females: 77,9
- Infant mortality per 1000 live births: 7.9

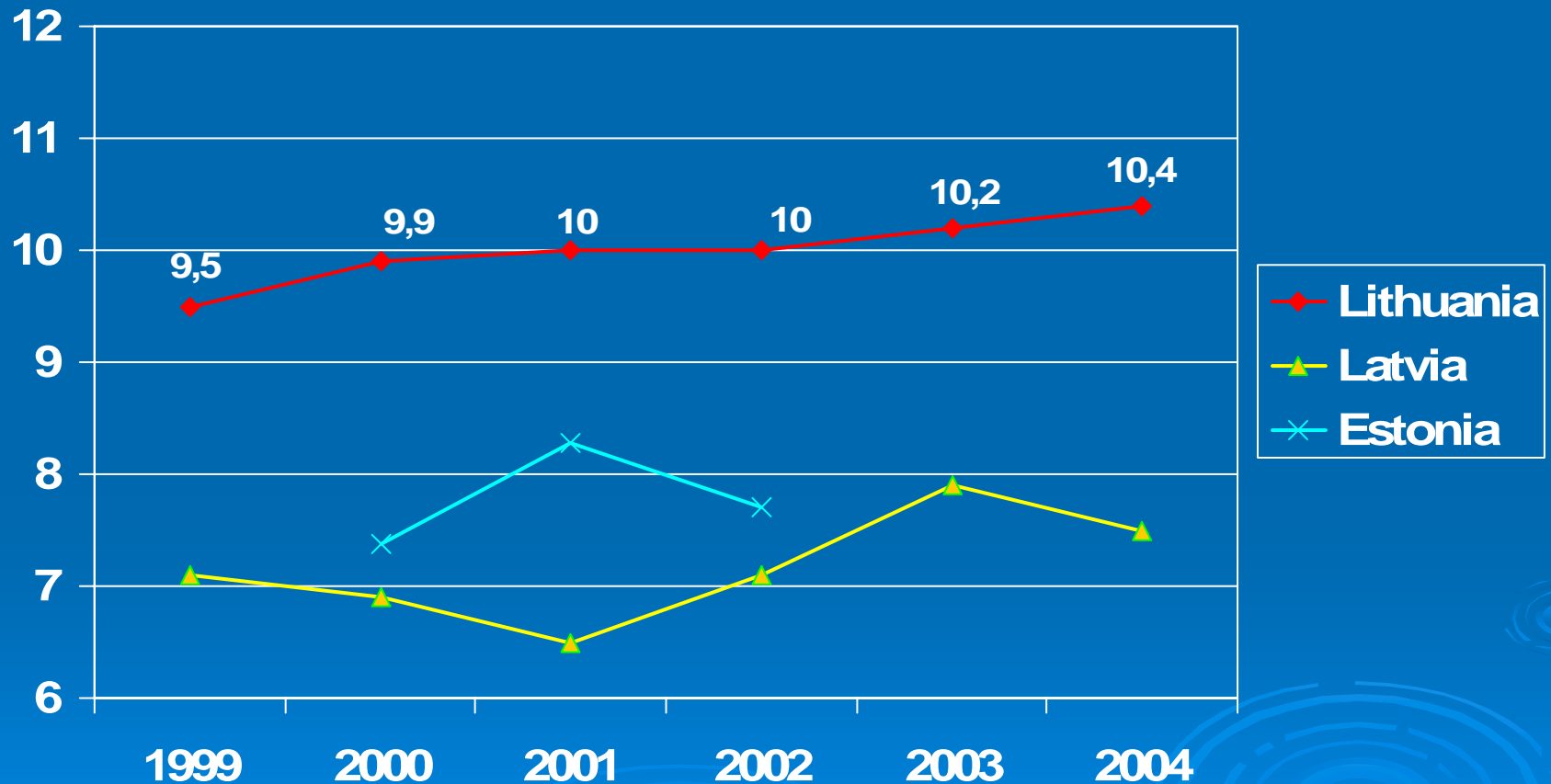


Structure of the main causes of death in Lithuania and European Union countries (%; 2003)

Causes of death	Lithuania	EU-10	EU-15
Cardiovascular diseases	<u>54.4</u>	49.7	40.0
Malignant neoplasms	19.1	23.9	25.9
External death causes	<u>12.8</u>	7.4	5.0
Diseases of the respiratory system	4.0	4.4	8.2
Infectious and parasitic diseases	1.2	0.6	1.2
Other causes	8.5	14.0	19.7

Pure Alcohol Consumption

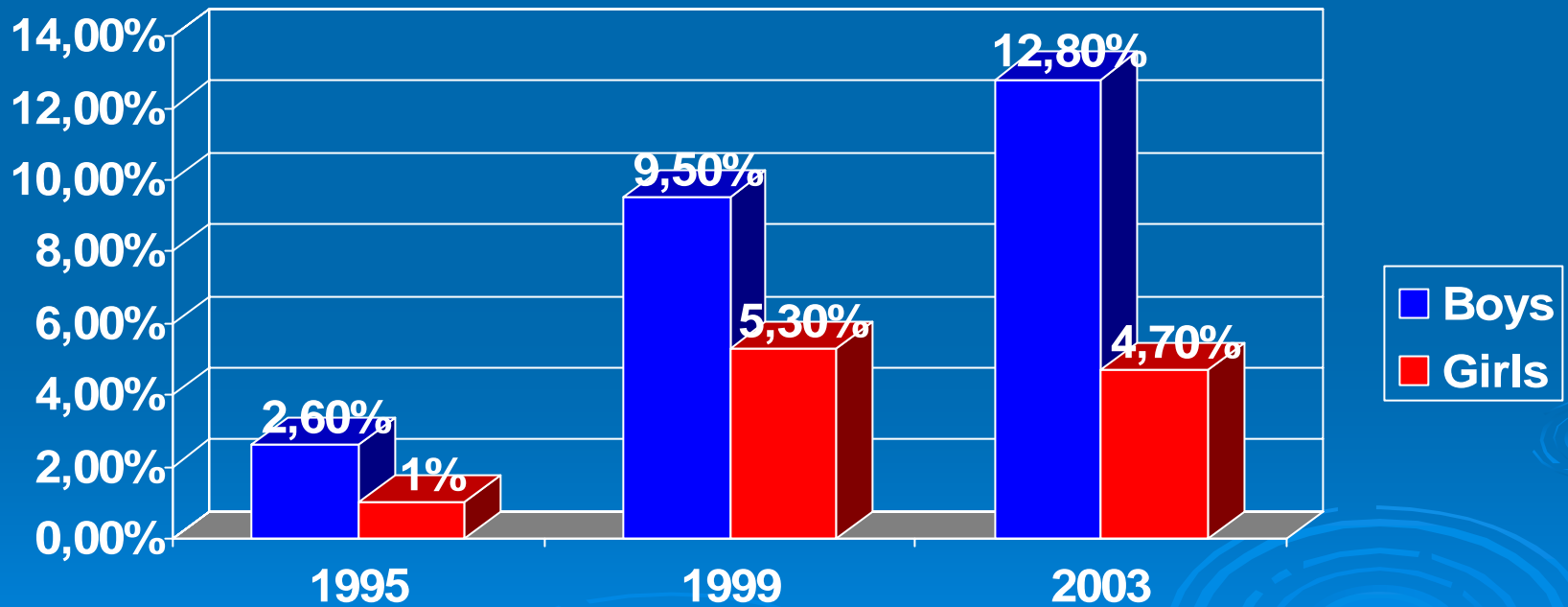
Litres per capita



Source: Department of Statistics to the Government of the Republic of Lithuania;
WHO/Europe/European HFA Database

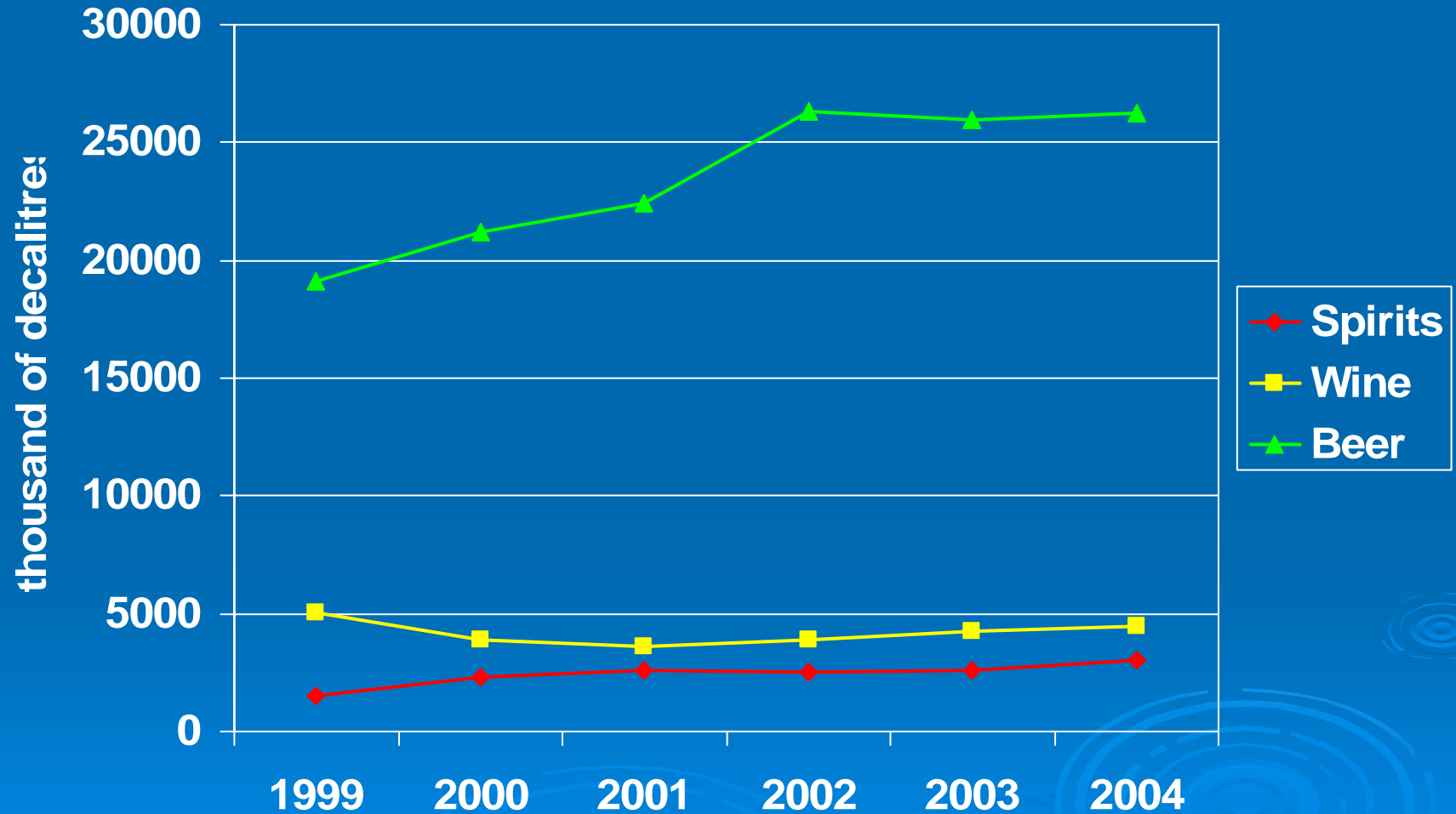
Alcohol Consumption Among Schoolchildren

15 - 16 Years Old Schoolboys Who Have Consumed Alcohol 10 or More Times in Latter 30 Days



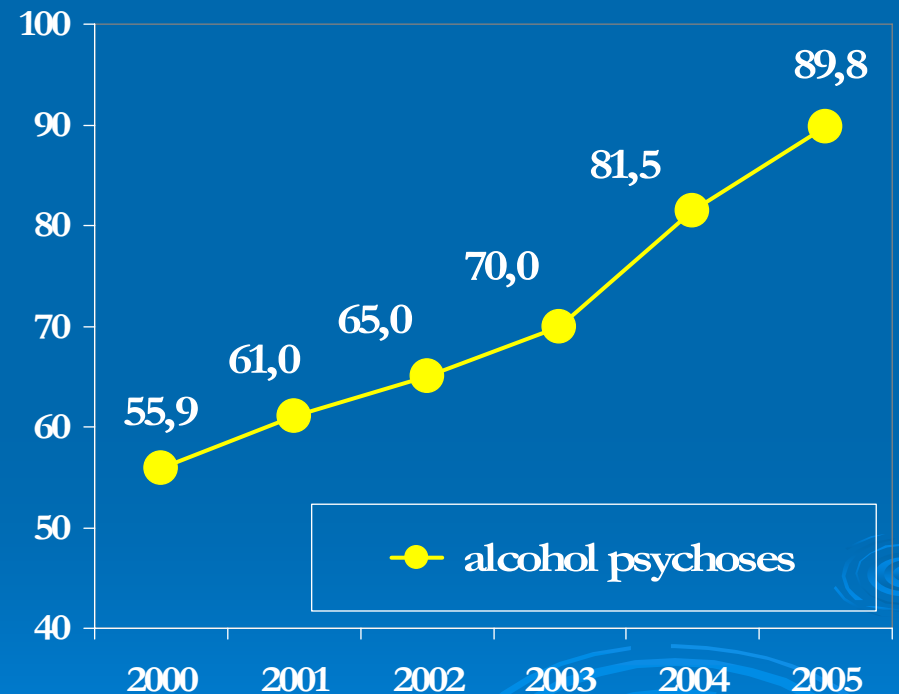
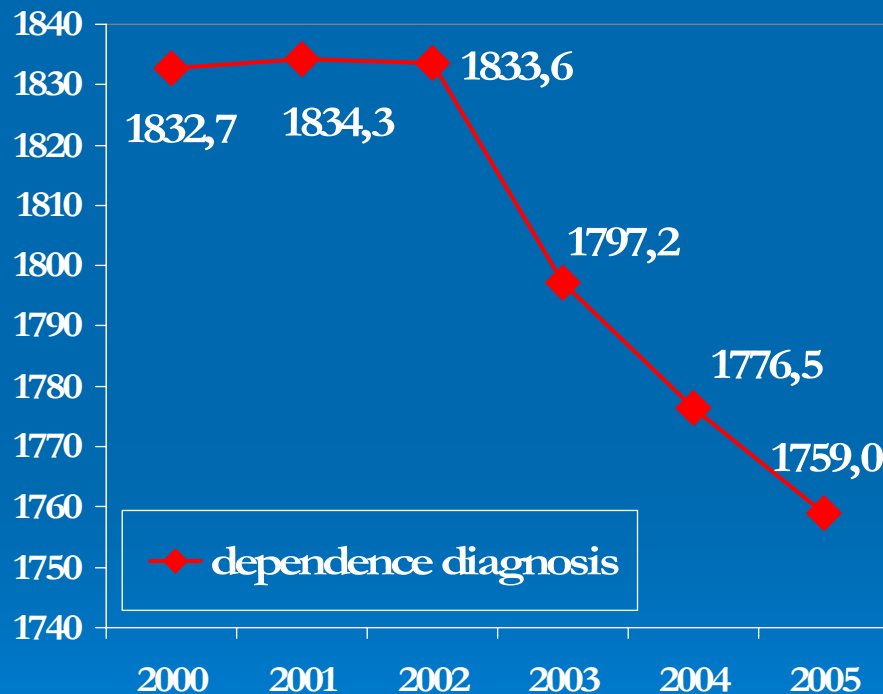
Source: ESPAD research data

Sales of Alcoholic Drinks



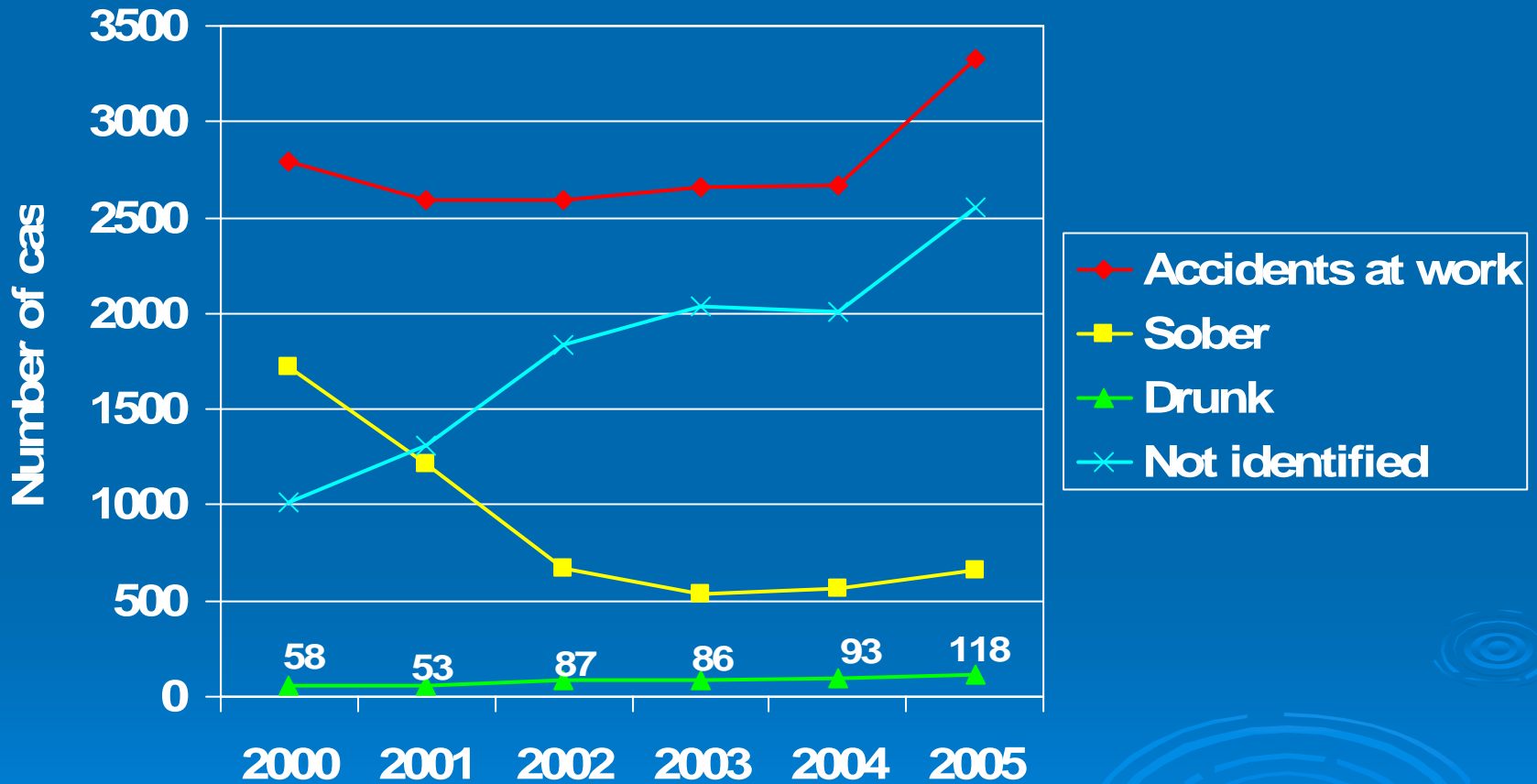
Source: Department of Statistics to the Government of the Republic of Lithuania

Mental and Behavioral Disorders Due to Use of Alcohol for 100 000 of Population



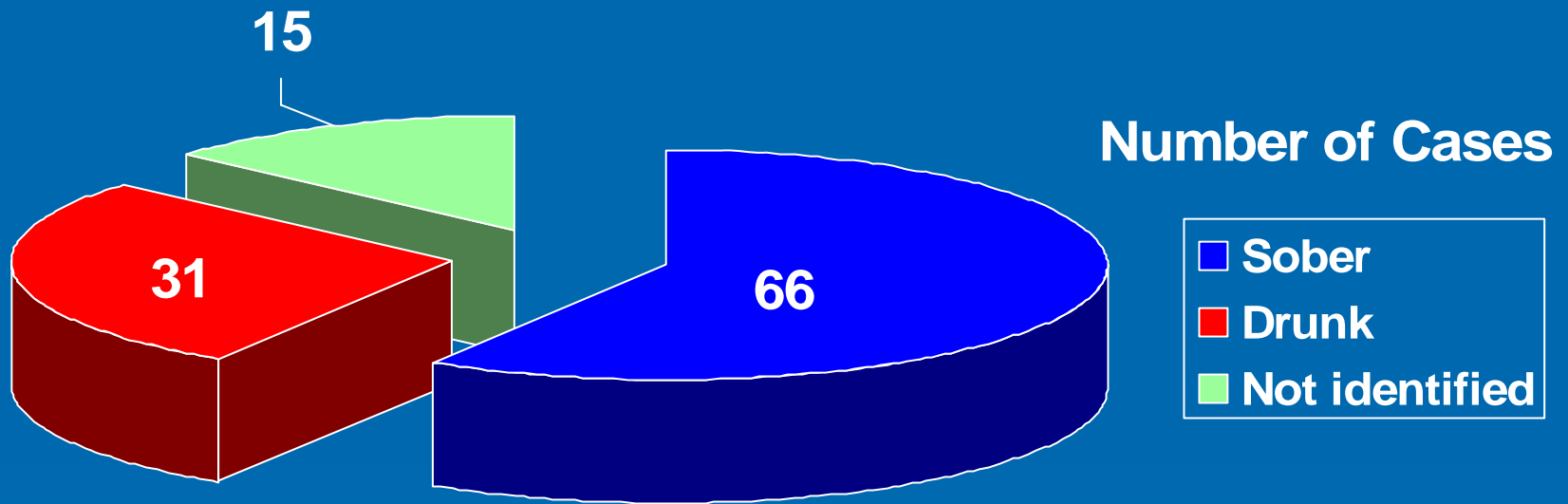
Source: State mental health centre

Accidents at Work



Source: State Labour Inspectorate

Fatal Injuries at Work in 2005

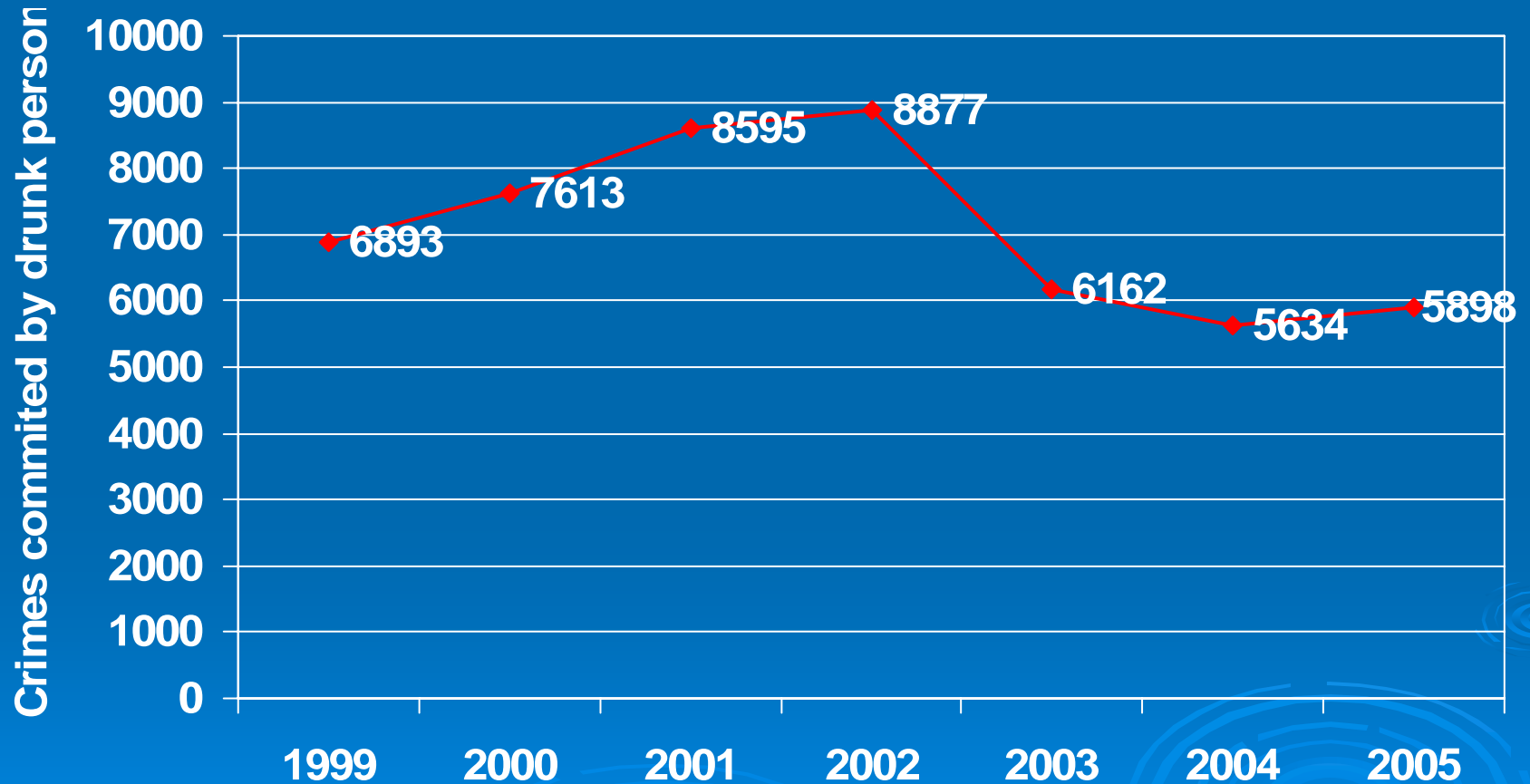


Source: State Labour Inspectorate

Road Accidents Caused by Drunk Drivers

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total (number of accidents)	5972	6091	5963	6360	6790
Drunk drivers (number of accidents)	770	766	649	752	850
Deaths caused by drunk drivers (number of persons)	101	78	68	84	90
Injured persons by drunk drivers (number of persons)	1071	1112	918	1094	1257

Crimes Related to Alcohol



Source: Ministry of Interior

The Main Purpose and Strategy Related to Alcohol Control Stated in Lithuanian Health Programme 1998

Main target:

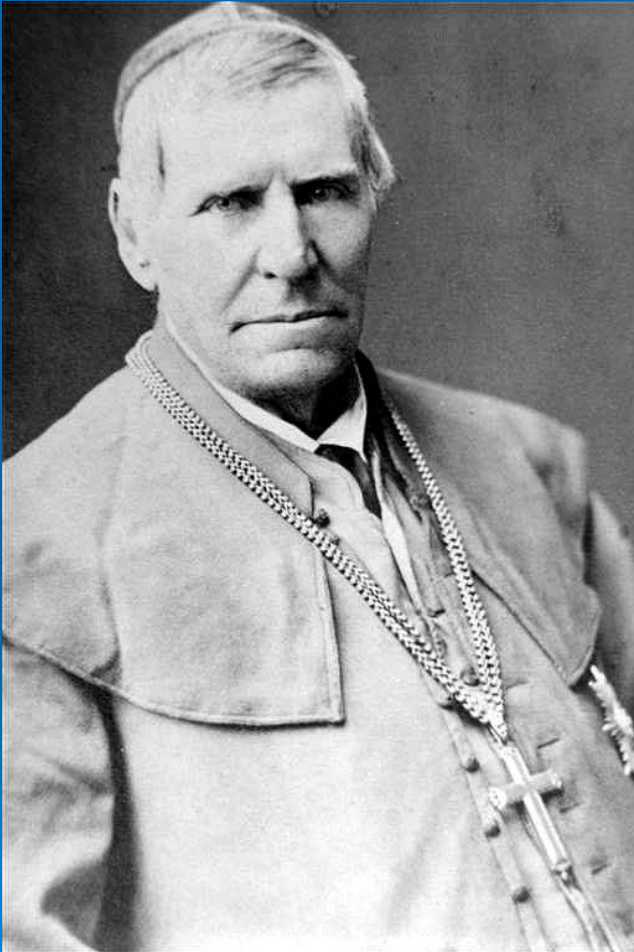
by the year 2010 to reduce alcohol consumption by 25 %

- To decrease annual alcohol production by 2 %
- To increase alcohol costs depending on the overall economic situation
- To increase proportion of people not using strong alcoholic beverages
- To develop a system for the quantitative monitoring of alcohol use

State Programme of Alcohol Control 1999 – 2011 as Long Term Target

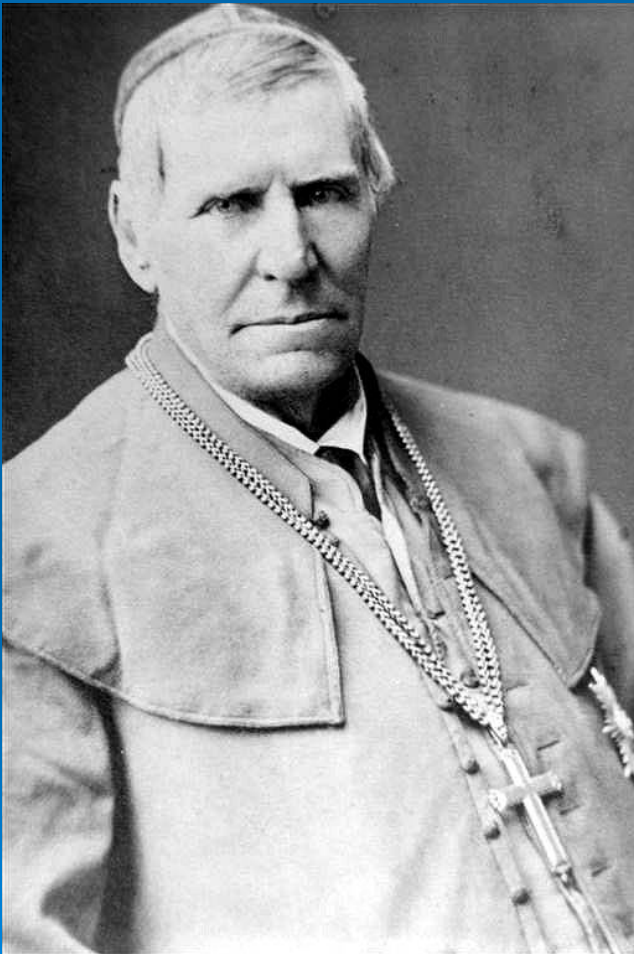
- To decreased alcohol consumption by 25 % until 2009
- To drop of mortality from cirrhosis by 15 %, from accidents related to consumption of alcohol by 25%
- Reduced number of crimes committed in connection with alcohol
- Reduced number of drunk drivers

Tackle a Problem of Alcohol Consumption (Historical Facts)



- Bishop M. Valančius in 19th century declared ideas of temperance and established temperance brotherhood
- In 1860 in parishes of Žemaitija there were 408096 inhabitants and 388458 of them were abstainers (95% of all catholic inhabitants)

Tackle a Problem of Alcohol Consumption (Historical Facts)



- In 1858 the treasury got 934475 roubles from consumed vodka and in 1859 – only 304170 roubles.
- After 4 and a half years the successful activity, temperance was forbidden by governor of Vilnius M. Muravjov as political activity.

Obstacles for Implementation of Alcohol Control Policy

- Liberalization of alcohol production and market
- Frequent amendments of the Law on Alcohol Control
- Prices of alcoholic beverages fell down while disposable cash income edged up;
- Weak NGOs

Proposals done by the Ministry of Health in 2005-2006

- Limit free distribution of alcohol beverages for promotional purposes
- Reduce blood alcohol concentration (BAC) level from 0.4 mg % to 0.2 mg % for all vehicles drivers and to 0.00 mg % for 'young' drivers
- Ban advertising of all kinds of alcohol beverages (spirits, beer, cider etc.) on television, radio stations, cable radio and cable television stations registered in Lithuania from 8 a.m to 10.30 p.m
- To increase excise for alcopops

Proposals done by the Parliament and the Ministry of Economy in 2005-2006

- To reorganize State Tobacco and Alcohol control institution by passing over its functions to other institutions under different ministries
- To allow sales of alcohol beverages via the Internet
- To allow home made strong alcohol production
- To allow sales of alcohol beverages during sport and cultural events

Thank You for Your Attention

