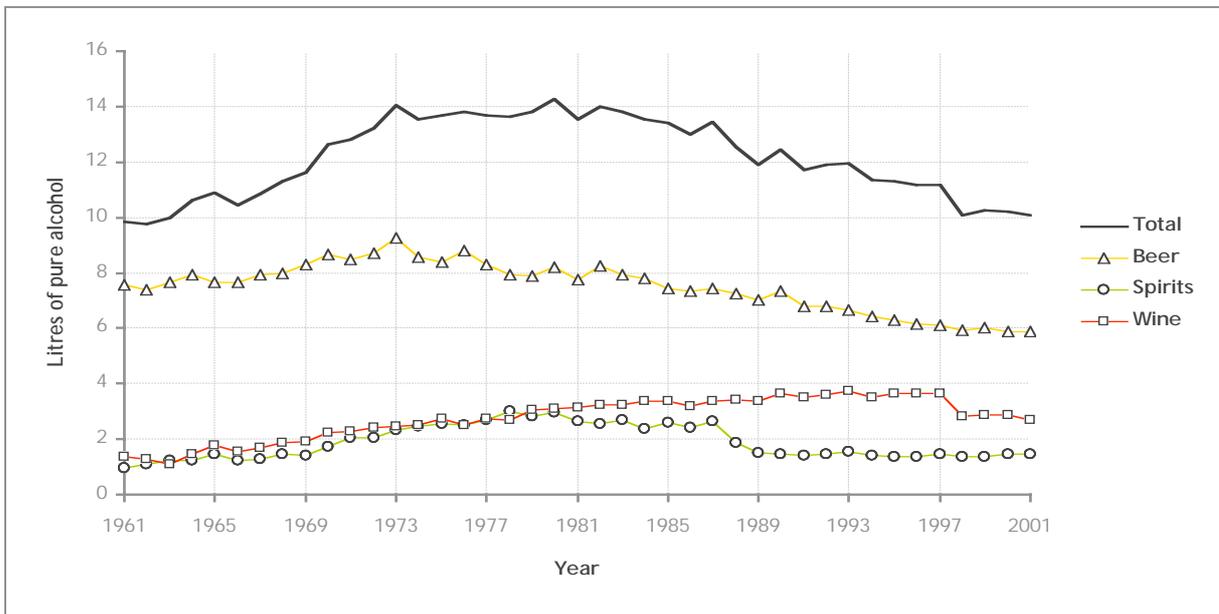


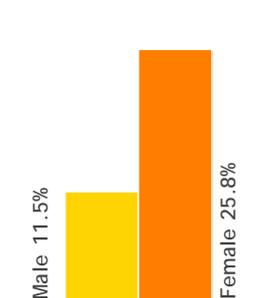
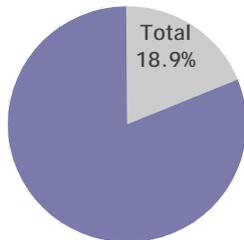
# BELGIUM

Recorded adult per capita consumption (age 15+)



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

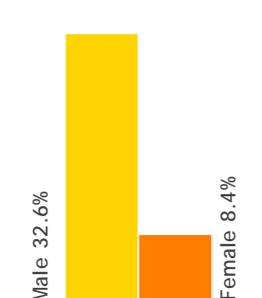
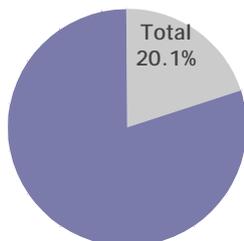
Last year abstainers



2001 national survey of subjects 15 years and above. Subsample males  $n = 4483$  and females  $n = 4807$ .<sup>1</sup>

Estimates from key alcohol experts show that the proportion of adult males and females who had been abstaining (last year before the survey) was 14% (males) and 27% (females). Data is for after year 1995.<sup>2</sup>

Heavy episodic drinkers (at least monthly)

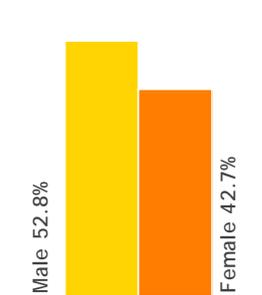
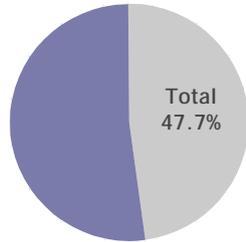


2001 national survey of subjects 15 years and above. Subsample  $n = 9148$ ; males  $n = 4414$  and females  $n = 4734$ . Data shows percentage of population who has consumed at least once a month six or more drinks on the same day.<sup>1</sup>

The same survey also found that 8% of the sample drank once or twice monthly and that 12% (15% of males and 9% of females) were daily drinkers.<sup>1</sup>

According to a national survey conducted in 2003 (total sample size  $n = 1073$ ; aged 15 years and over), the average number of times that respondents had consumed the equivalent of one bottle of wine, five pints/bottles of beer or five measures of spirits on one drinking occasion in the past month was 2.14.<sup>3</sup>

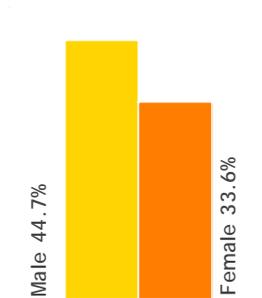
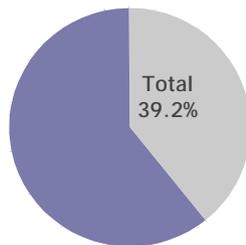
#### Youth drinking in Brussels (have drunk alcohol)



A survey on the use of alcohol and drugs among 2103 young people aged 12 to 22 years in Brussels.<sup>4</sup>

A separate survey in the Flemish Brabant (2150 respondents) has found that 83.3% of 12-22 year olds have drunk alcohol (83.8% boys, 83.2% girls). Alcohol use in the last year was 74.1% (73.2% boys, 75.3% girls) and in the last week was 45.3% (47.7% boys, 43.4% girls).<sup>13</sup>

#### Youth drinking in the Flemish region (drink at least weekly)

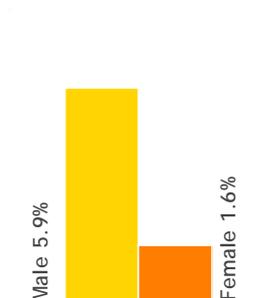
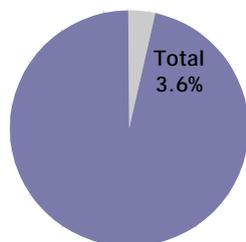


HBSC survey 2001/2002. Data shows proportion of 15-year-olds in the Belgium Flemish region who report drinking beer, wine or spirits at least weekly. Total sample size  $n = 2030$ .<sup>5</sup>

Corresponding numbers for the French region of Belgium (total sample size  $n = 1381$ ) were 28.4% (total), 35.6% (boys) and 22.4% (girls).<sup>5</sup>

According to the VAD-survey (2002/2003) in the Flemish-speaking region of Belgium, 29.3% of students in secondary schools drink alcohol at least once a week (36.6% of the boys and 21.9% of the girls).<sup>14</sup>

#### Youth drinking among university students (alcohol dependent)

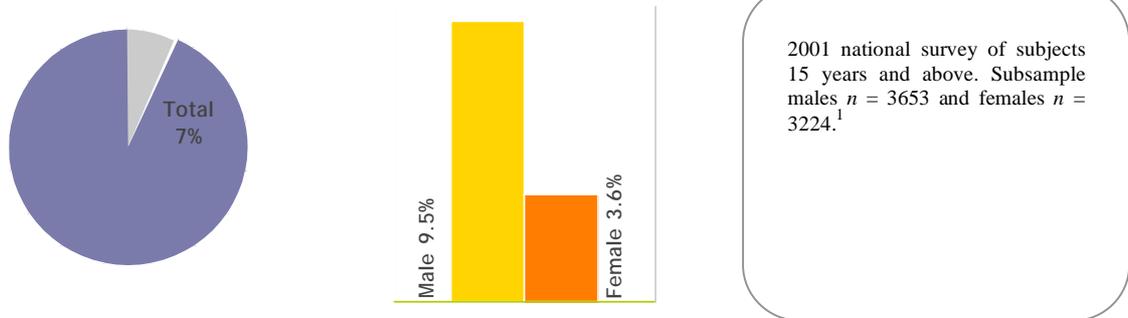


A 1995/1996 survey studying the prevalence of alcohol abuse and dependence according to DSM-IV criteria in first year university students (total sample size  $n = 3564$ ). The same survey also found that the rate of alcohol abuse was 10.5% (total), 18.5% (males) and 3.7% (females).<sup>7</sup>

### Youth drinking (drunkenness)

According to the 2001/2002 HBSC survey (total sample size  $n = 2030$ ), the proportion of 15-year-olds in the Flemish region who reported ever having been drunk two or more times was 37.1% for boys and 26.4% for girls. In the French region (total sample size  $n = 1381$ ), the rates were 32% for boys and 23.8% for girls.<sup>5</sup>

### Alcohol dependence (among drinkers)



In a recent survey of 2316 randomly selected patients in an adult primary care population (18 years or older) probable alcohol abuse/dependence was detected in 10.1% of the sample population (18.6% males, 4.1% females).<sup>8</sup>

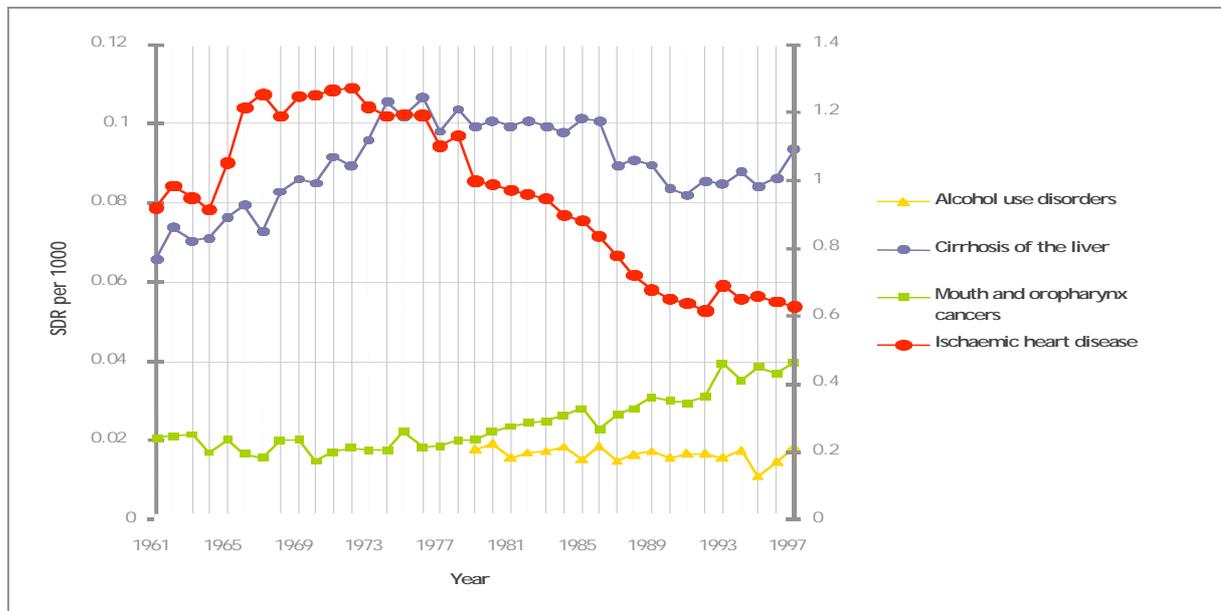
### Unrecorded alcohol consumption

The unrecorded alcohol consumption in Belgium is estimated to be 0.5 litres pure alcohol per capita for population older than 15 for the years after 1995 (estimated by a group of key alcohol experts).<sup>2</sup>

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

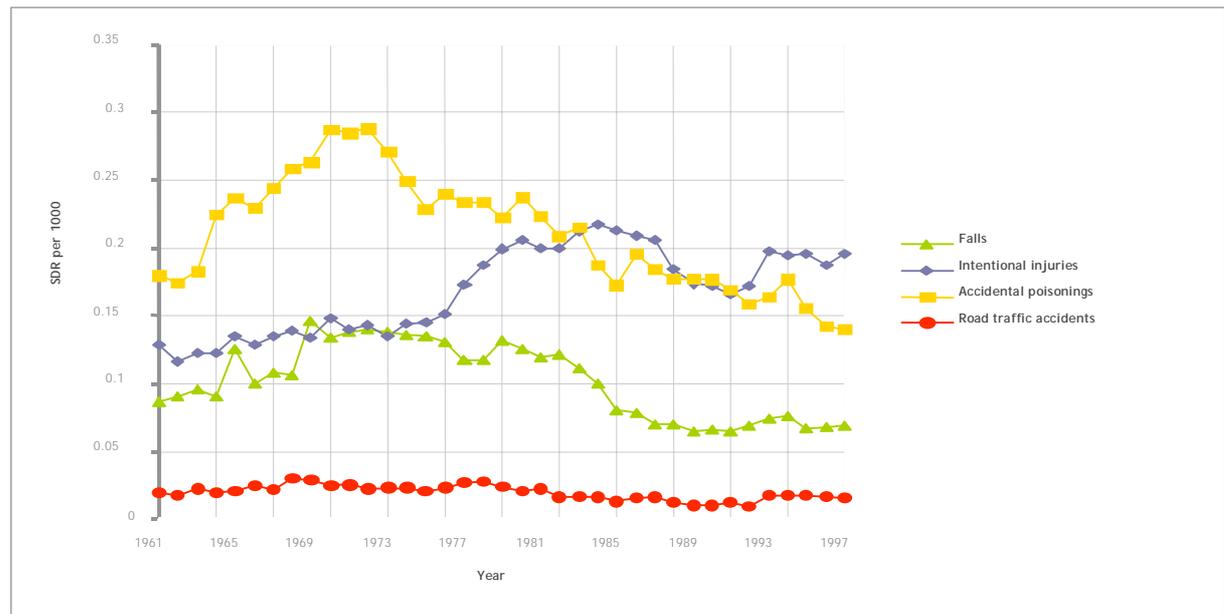
The data represent all the deaths occurring in a country irrespective of whether alcohol was a direct or indirect contributor.

### 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

In a survey of 211 weekend drivers injured in car crashes, 35.5% had positive test results in screening for alcohol. For the majority of those with positive findings for alcohol (72%), hospitalization in a general hospital unit or intensive care unit was necessary. There seems to be a consistent association between the consequences of the weekend crashes and the use of alcohol.<sup>9</sup>

According to official statistics for the year 2001, 8.4% (4002) of all injury accidents were alcohol-related, whereas 10.0% (870) of all accidents causing death or serious injury were alcohol-related.<sup>10</sup>

In a large-scale study ( $n = 3518$ ) designed to assess the academic performance of college freshmen in relation to alcohol abuse or dependence, of the 501 students who met criteria of alcohol dependence, 62.5% failed in their first year, compared to 50% among students who did not report these drinking problems.<sup>11</sup>

The SDR per 100 000 population for chronic liver disease and cirrhosis was 10.81 in 1996 and 11.83 in 1997.<sup>12</sup>

The number of alcohol-related road traffic accidents per 100 000 population was 44.02 in 1998 and 41.28 in 1999.<sup>12</sup>

<b>Total population 2003</b>	10 318 000	<b>Life expectancy at birth (2002)</b>	Male	75.2
<b>Adult (15+)</b>	8 563 940		Female	81.5
<b>% under 15</b>	17	<b>Probability of dying under age 5 per 1000 (2002)</b>	Male	6
<b>Population distribution 2001 (%)</b>			Female	5
Urban	97	<b>Gross National Income per capita 2002</b>	US\$	23 250
Rural	3			

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

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