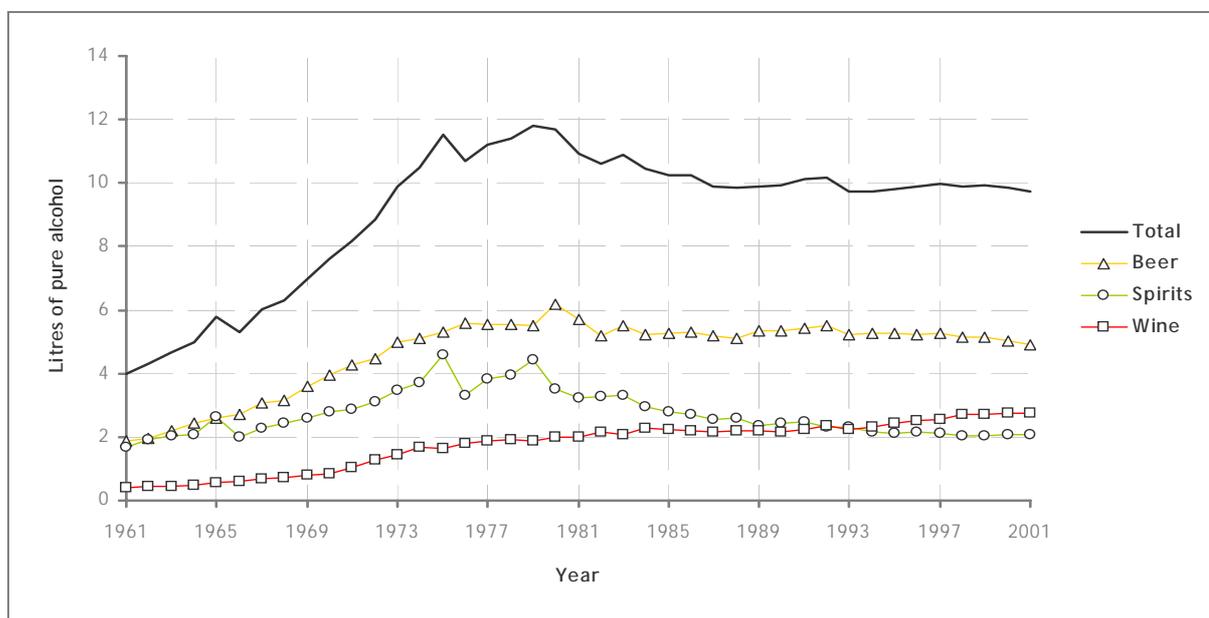


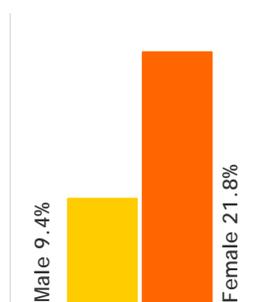
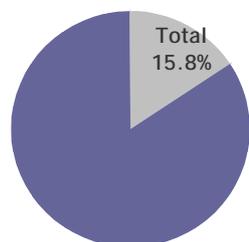
NETHERLANDS (THE)

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 both urban and rural populations (males $n = 2910$ and females $n = 3095$; aged 15 years and above).¹

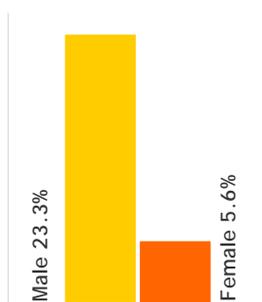
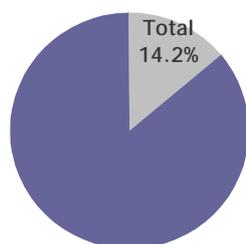
According to the WHO GENACIS study (regional survey conducted in 1999; total sample size $n = 3634$, males $n = 1723$ and females $n = 1911$; age group 20 to 64 years) the rate of last year abstainers was 23.1% (total), 14.4% (males) and 31% (females).²

A cross-sectional general population survey carried out in Rotterdam in 1994 (total sample size $n = 3537$; age group 16 to 69 years) found that the rate of abstainers was 17.9% (total), 11.6% (men) and 23.7% (women).³

According to data from Statistics Netherlands, in 2002, 17.7% of persons aged 12 and above reportedly do not drink alcohol at all. In 2001, the figure was 18.2% and in 2000, it was 16.2%.⁴

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 1995.⁵

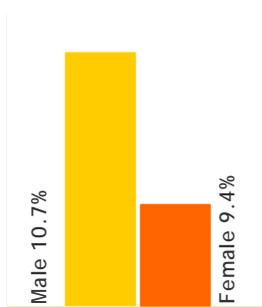
Heavy drinkers



2001 national survey of both urban and rural populations. Males $n = 2894$ and females $n = 3079$; ages 15 years and above. Definition used: persons who drink at least once a week six or more glasses of alcoholic drinks in one day.¹

According to data from Statistics Netherlands, in 2002, 17.7% of persons aged 12 and above were reportedly heavy drinkers. The corresponding figures for 2001 and 2000 were 13.6% and 11.7% respectively. Heavy drinking was defined as consuming at least six glasses of alcohol within 24 hours at least once a week.⁴

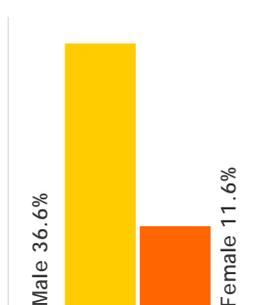
Heavy and hazardous drinkers (among drinkers, regional survey)



Data from the WHO GENACIS study. Regional survey conducted in 1999 (age group 20 to 64 years). Total sample size $n = 3634$; males $n = 1723$ and females $n = 1911$. 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.²

A cross-sectional general population survey carried out in Rotterdam in 1994 (total sample size $n = 3537$; age group 16 to 69 years) found the rate of excessive drinkers to be 8.2% (total), 14.2% (men) and 2.6% (women). The same survey also found the rate of problem drinkers to be 8.9% (total), 15.4% (men) and 2.9% (women). A respondent was defined as an excessive drinker when he or she drank four glasses or more on at least 21 days per month or six glasses or more on at least nine days per month. To be classified as a problem drinker, a respondent had to report at least moderate problems in one of the five problem areas mentioned (score of one or more on the problem index) and he or she had to drink excessively. As drinking a lot on a few days (e.g. at the weekend) can also cause problems, for the categorization of problem drinkers, the definition of excessive drinking was extended with the category 'six or more glasses once or twice a week'.³

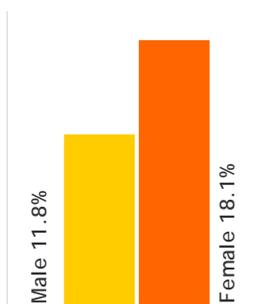
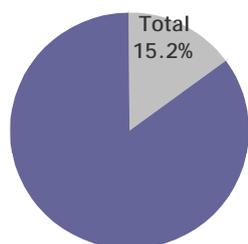
Heavy episodic drinkers (among drinkers, regional survey)



Data from the WHO GENACIS study. Regional survey conducted in 1999 (age group 20 to 64 years). Total sample size $n = 3634$; males $n = 1723$ and females $n = 1911$. Definition used: consumption of six or more drinks in one sitting at least once a month in the past year.²

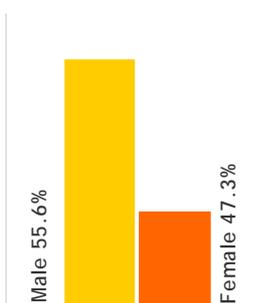
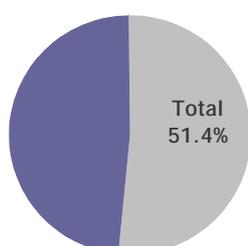
A 1985 national survey of 665 men and 559 women aged 16 to 70 years old found that 51.5% of males and 19.2% of females (among current drinkers) were heavy episodic drinkers. Heavy episodic drinking was defined as consuming six or more drinks in one drinking occasion. Data shows total percentage of binge drinkers in the past six months.⁶

Youth drinking (lifetime abstainers)



2001 national survey of subjects 15 to 19 years old. Subsample size males $n = 175$ and females $n = 193$.¹

Youth drinking (drink at least weekly)



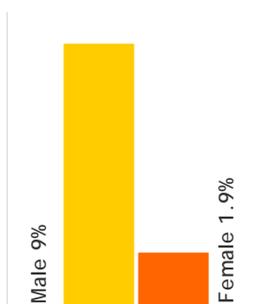
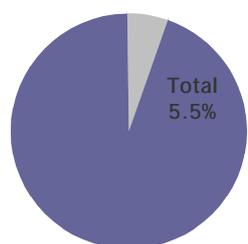
HBSC survey 2001/2002. Data shows proportion of 15-year-olds who report drinking beer, wine or spirits at least weekly. Total sample size $n = 1273$.⁷

Youth drinking (drunkenness)

According to the 2001/2002 HBSC survey (total sample size $n = 1273$), the proportion of 15-year-olds who reported ever having been drunk two or more times was 35.3% for boys and 21.5% for girls.⁷

In the 1999 ESPAD study of subjects 15 to 16 years old (total sample size $n = 2615$; males $n = 1256$ and females $n = 1359$) the proportion of subjects who reported being drunk three times or more in the last 30 days was 11% (total), 13% (males) and 7% (females).⁸

Alcohol dependence (lifetime prevalence)



1996 national survey of subjects aged 18 to 64 years old. Total sample size $n = 7076$. Alcohol dependence was measured using DSM-III-R criteria by means of the CIDI.⁹

The same survey also found the rate of last year alcohol dependence to be 3.7% (total), 6.1% (males) and 1.1% (females). The rate of lifetime alcohol abuse was 11.7% (total), 19.3% (males) and 3.9% (females) and the rate of last year alcohol abuse was 4.6% (total), 7.3% (males) and 1.8% (females).⁹

In a follow-up study of the 1996 Netherlands Mental Health Survey and Incidence Study (NEMESIS) conducted in 1997 based on a representative sample ($n = 5618$) of the Dutch population aged 18 to 64 years, the 12-month first incidence rate per 100 persons-years at risk of alcohol dependence was 0.82 in men and 0.18 in women. Similarly, the incidence rate of alcohol abuse was 4.09 in men and 0.91 in women.¹⁰

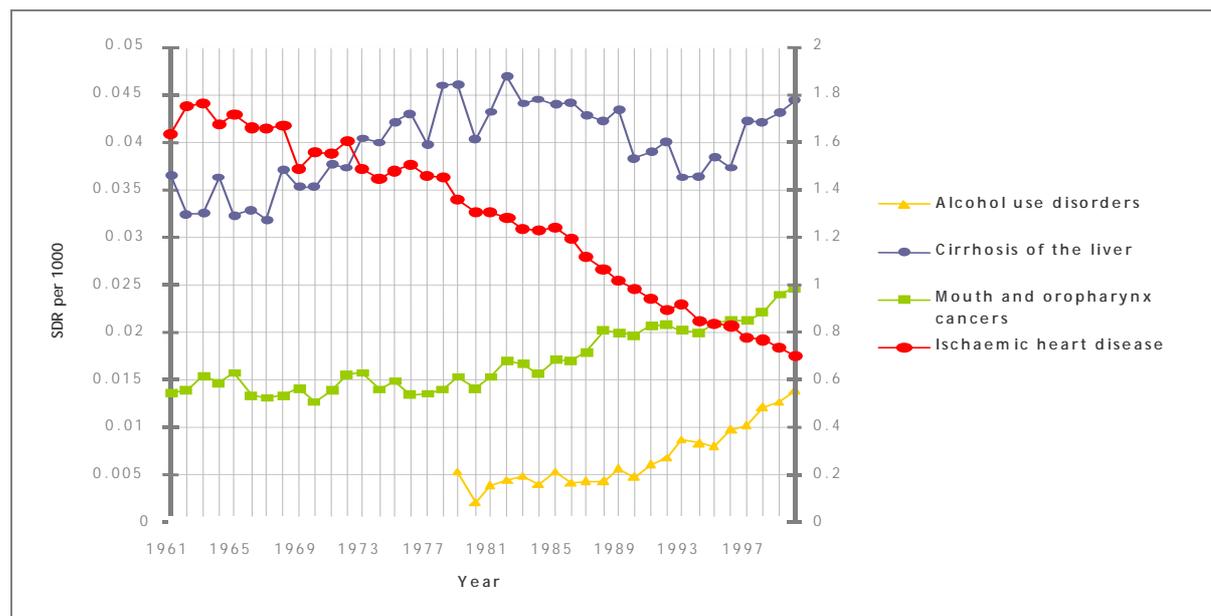
Unrecorded alcohol consumption

The unrecorded alcohol consumption in the Netherlands 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).⁵

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

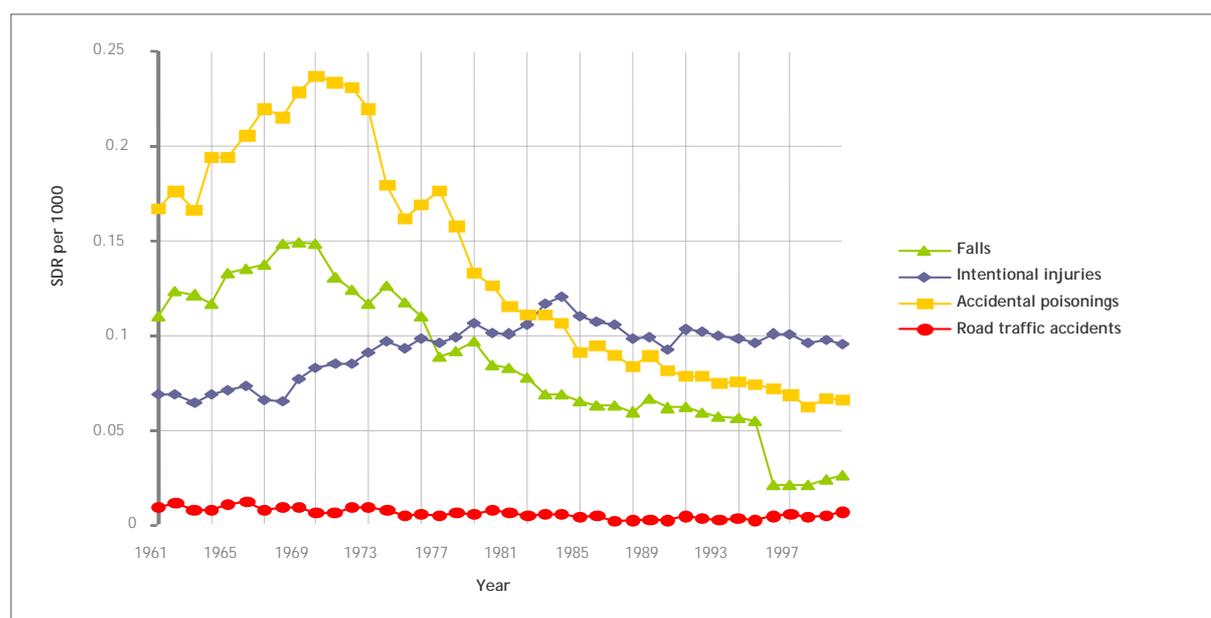
The data represent all the deaths occurring in a country irrespective of whether alcohol was a direct or indirect contributor.

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

The number of people killed in alcohol-related accidents was 97 in 2002 representing 9.8% of the total number of fatal accidents recorded that year.¹¹

A study done in a university hospital found that 25% of the 2124 patients treated for their injuries due to either suicide attempts or automutilation, had consumed alcohol before inflicting themselves with injury.¹²

In a 29-year retrospective study about alcohol consumption by victims of violence intentionally injured ($n = 13\ 048$) and general patients unintentionally injured ($n = 296\ 544$) who were treated for their injuries at the University Hospital Groningen during the period 1970–1998, it was found that the incidence rates for general patients with alcohol consumption was statistically significantly greater than the incidence rate of victims of violence with alcohol consumption. A long-term significant trend was observed for both types of patients during the 29-year period. However, the increase in incidence rate among the general patients with alcohol consumption was four times greater than the increase in incidence rate for the victims of violence with alcohol consumption.¹³

A cross-sectional general population survey carried out in Rotterdam in 1994 (total sample size $n = 3537$; age group 16 to 69 years) found the rate of problem drinkers with social problems to be 3.4% (total), 6.2% (men) and 0.8% (women). The rate of problem drinkers with problems regarding psychological dependence was 3.6% (total), 6.5% (men) and 1% (women). Problem drinking was defined as excessive alcohol consumption (drinking four glasses or more on at least 12 days per month or six glasses or more on at least nine days per month) which is connected with somatic psychological or social problems for the problem drinker or for others.³

Alcohol misuse, excluding accidents, contributes to 7% of the total burden of disease in the Netherlands.¹⁴

The SDR per 100 000 population for chronic liver disease and cirrhosis was 4.91 in 1999 and 5.07 in 2000.¹⁵

The number of alcohol-related road traffic accidents per 100 000 population was 15.25 in 2000 and 13.91 in 2001.¹⁵

Economic and social costs

The social costs of alcohol abuse in the Netherlands is estimated to be €2 577 000 000.¹⁶

Country background information

Total population 2003	16 149 000	Life expectancy at birth (2002)	Male	76.0
Adult (15+)	13 242 180		Female	81.1
% under 15	18	Probability of dying under age 5 per 1000 (2002)	Male	6
Population distribution 2001 (%)			Female	5
Urban	90	Gross National Income per capita 2002	US\$	23 960
Rural	10			

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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