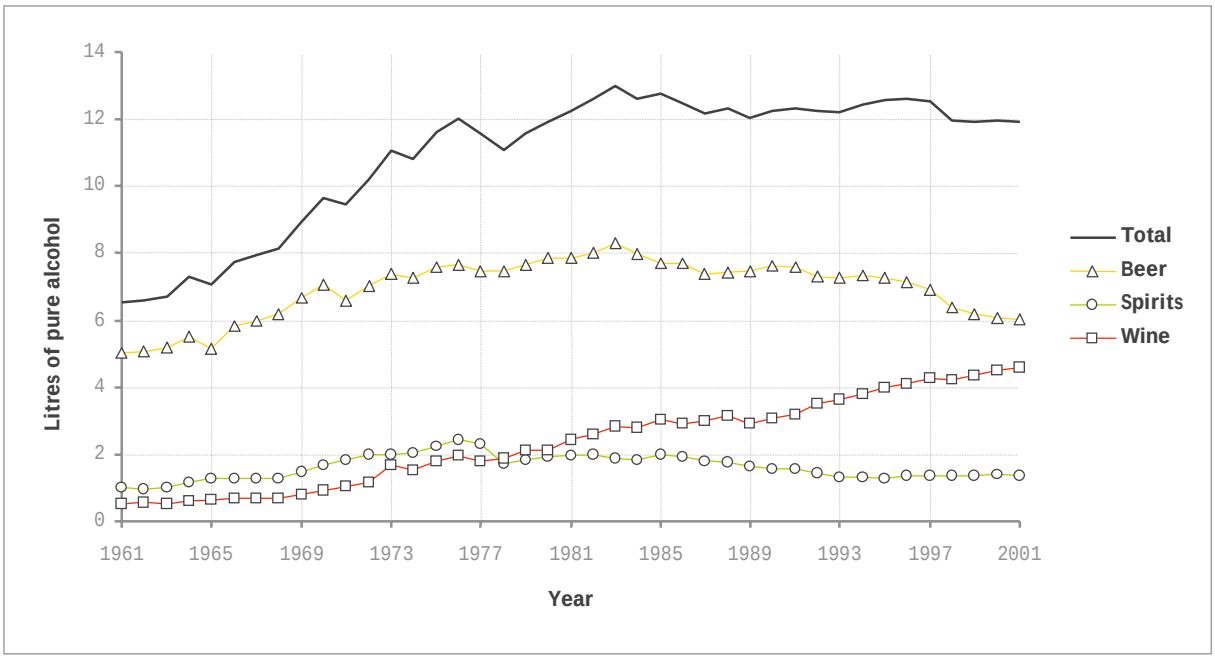
DENMARK

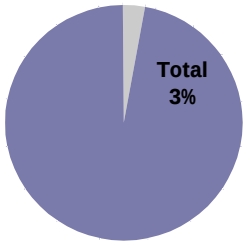
Recorded adult per capita consumption (age 15+)

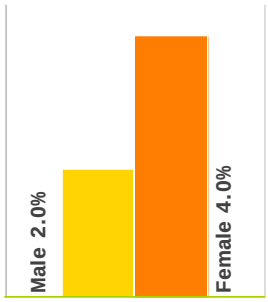


Sources: FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations), World Drink Trends 2003

In Greenland the adult per capita alcohol consumption was 12.8 litres in 1997 and in Faroe Islands 6.6 litres of pure alcohol per adult.[1]

Abstainers (do not drink alcohol)





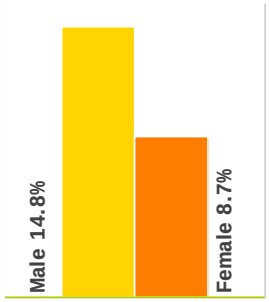
1997/1998 survey of a representative sample of subjects 19 to 71 years old (total sample size *n* = 2439).[2]

In the 1994 Danish Health and Morbidity Survey of subjects 16 years and over (males *n* = 2233 and females *n* = 2428), the rate of abstainers (do not drink alcohol) was 3.2% (total), 2.4% (males) and 4% (females).[3]

In the 2000 Danish Health Interview Survey (males *n* = 8170 and females *n* = 8480; aged 16 years and over), the rate of last week abstainers was 14.9% for men and 28.2% for women.[4]

According to a national survey conducted in 2003 (total sample size *n* = 1000; aged 15 years and over), the average number of drinks consumed per drinking day was 3.38.[5]

Heavy drinkers (last week)



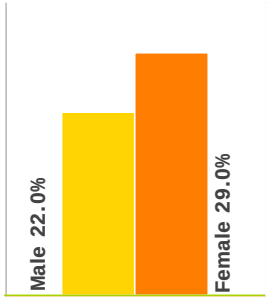
2000 national survey of subjects 16 years and above (total sample size *n* = 22 500). Heavy drinking was defined as consumption of more than 21 drinks for men and 14 drinks for women within the past seven days.[6]

In the 1994 Danish Health and Morbidity Survey of subjects 16 years and over (subsample size *n* = 3114; males *n* = 1495 and females *n* = 1619), the rate of heavy drinking was 10.7% (total), 13.6% (males) and 8% (females). Heavy drinking was defined as consumption of more than 21 drinks a week for men and 14 drinks a week for women.[3]

Heavy episodic drinking (annual frequency)

In a 1997/1998 survey of a representative sample of subjects 19 to 71 years old (total sample size *n* = 2439), the annual frequency of drinking six or more drinks in one drinking occasion (among all respondents) was 15.6 among males and 5.6 among females.[7]

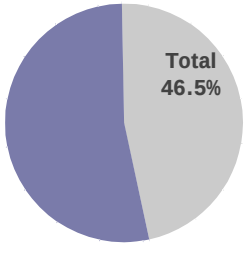
Youth drinking (last week abstainers)

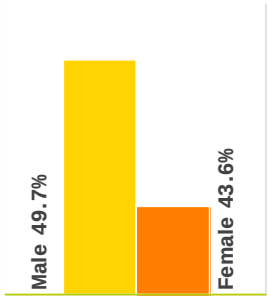


2001 survey of 3000 subjects 16 to 20 years old (sample was nationally representative).[8]

In a 2002 study of subjects aged 11 to 15 years old (total sample size *n* = 1400), the rate of lifetime prevalence of alcohol use among 15-year-olds is 87%(males) and 86% (females) while the rate of last month prevalence of alcohol use is 68% (males) and 72% (females). Note: this study has been conducted annually since 1997.[9]

Youth drinking (drink at least weekly)

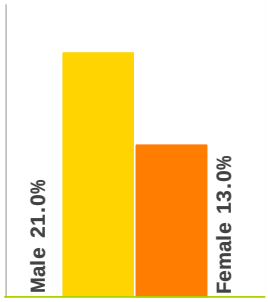




HBSC survey 2001/2002. Data shows proportion of 15-year-olds who report drinking beer, wine or spirits at least weekly. Total sample size *n* = 1380.[10]

According to the 1997/1998 HBSC survey (total sample size *n* = 1536), 46% of 15-year-old boys and 38% of 15-year-old girls reported drinking beer, wine or spirits at least weekly.[11]

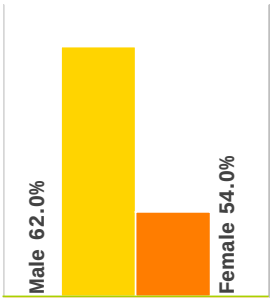
Youth drinking (last week prevalence of heavy drinkers)



2001 survey of 3000 subjects 16–20 years old. Sample was nationally representative. Heavy drinking was defined as consumption of more than 21 drinks a week for men and 14 drinks a week for women. The Danish drinking guidelines of 14/21 drinks per week are not intended for young people as their drinking patterns usually differ from those of adults.[8]

In a follow-up study of a random sample of 15-year-olds (baseline 1990, *n* = 847) with a first follow-up 4 years later (response rate 85%, *n* = 729), it was found that at 19 years of age at least 80% of the sample drank alcohol monthly, and 24% of the men and 11% of the women had an alcohol intake above the recommended national limits, i.e. 21 weekly units of alcohol for men and 14 for women.[12]

Youth drinking (last month heavy and episodic drinking)



In a 2002 study of 11- to 15-year-olds (total sample size *n* = 1400). Data shows rate of heavy episodic drinking among total sample population of 15-year-olds only. Definition of heavy episodic drinking used: consumption of five or more standard drinks in one day at least once in the last month.[9]

According to the 1999 ESPAD survey (total sample size *n* = 1790, males *n* = 875 and females *n* = 915; age group 15 to 16 years), the rate of binge drinking was 30% (total), 37% (males) and 22% (females). Binge drinking was defined as consuming five or more drinks in a row three times or more in the last 30 days.[13]

Youth drinking (drunkenness)

In a 2001 survey of 3000 subjects 16 to 20 years old (sample was nationally representative), the self-reported rates of having been drunk (intoxicated) at least six times in the last month (among drinkers only) was 14% for males and 7% for females.[8]

According to the 2001/2002 HBSC survey (total sample size *n* = 1380), the proportion of 15-year-olds who reported ever having been drunk two or more times was 67.7% for boys and 64.8% for girls. The corresponding rates for Greenland (total sample size *n* = 240) were 64.4% for boys and 53.3% for girls.[10]

In the 1999 ESPAD study of subjects 15 to 16 years old (total sample size *n* = 1790; males *n* = 875 and females *n* = 915) the proportion of subjects who reported being drunk three times or more in the last 30 days was 30% (total), 36% (males) and 26% (females).[13]

Alcohol dependence

Based on studies in the USA, the Danish estimate of alcohol dependence among adults 18 years or above is between 3.03 and 4.38% (between 125 000 to 180 000 persons).[14]

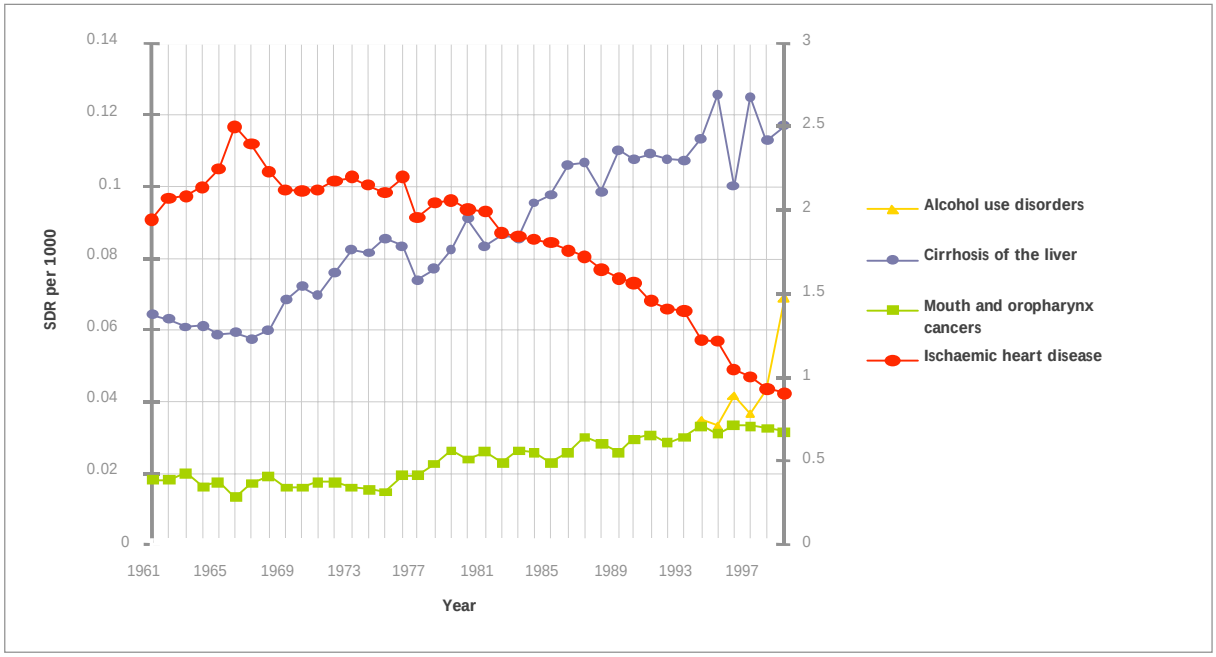
Unrecorded alcohol consumption

The unrecorded alcohol consumption in Denmark is estimated to be 2.0 litres pure alcohol per capita for population older than 15 for the years after 1995 (estimated by a group of key alcohol experts).[15]

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

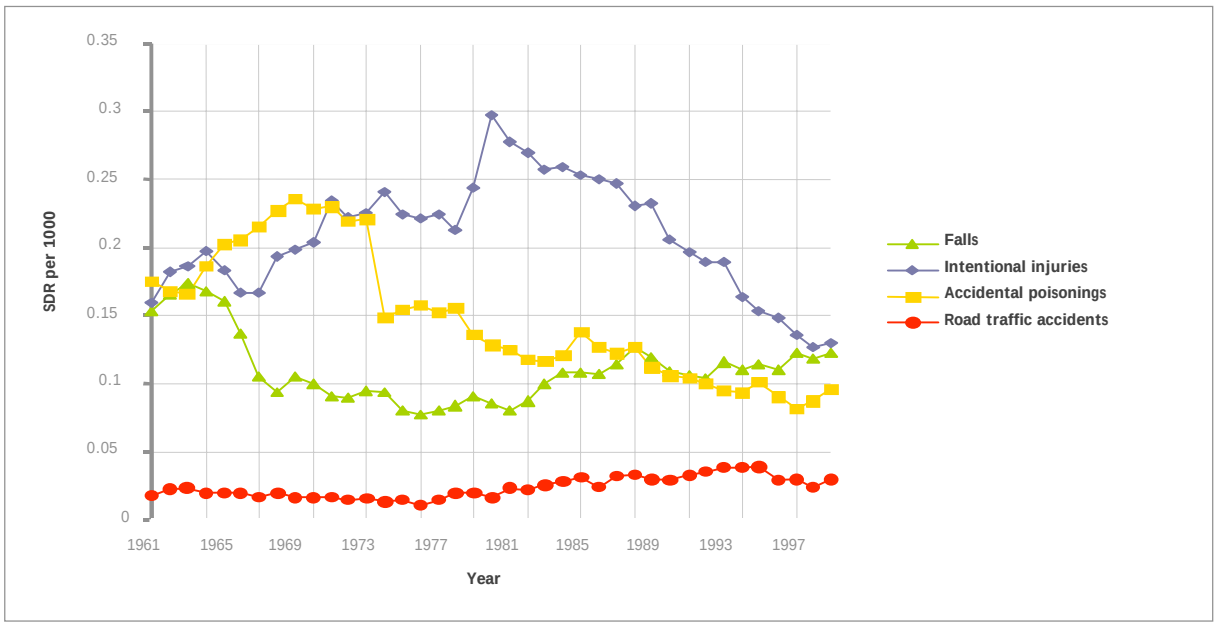
The data represent all the deaths occurring in a country irrespective of whether alcohol was a direct or indirect contributor.

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 study of 5439 patients who, following an occupational accident, attended the emergency departments of a large Danish provincial city, it was found that 3% were inebriated in the legal sense of the term (blood alcohol concentration above 0.8%) at the time of the accident.[16]

In 1998, 4.6% of total mortality in Denmark was attributed to alcohol-related diagnoses.[14]

In 2001, 16.1% of all traffic accidents were alcohol-related. 26.6% of all traffic accident fatalities were alcohol-related (115 recorded deaths).[14] According to the official statistics for the year 1995, 20.2% of all fatal traffic crashes were alcohol-related (higher than 50 mg/100 ml).[17] In one third of the fatal road accidents recorded during one year in the police district of Aarhus, alcohol was present and was considered as an important contributory factor.[18]

In 2003, 18% of all traffic accidents were alcohol-related. 24% of all traffic accident fatalities were alcohol-related (105 recorded deaths), a drop of 20% related to 2002 (132 recorded deaths).[23]

In a study of fatal road traffic accidents (RTA) in a Danish county between 1983 and 1987 it was found that alcohol was an important factor in 41% of all fatal RTAs.[19]

In a study of fatal motorcycle accidents from a 7-year period (1977–1983), of 41 operators of the motorcycle, 66% had measurable blood alcohol concentrations (BAC); 59% above 0.08%. In all cases where a pillion passenger was killed, the operator of the motorcycle had a BAC greater than 0.08%.[20]

In a longitudinal study looking at whether parental abuse of alcohol had an impact on children during their formative years, 84 765 children born in Denmark in 1966 and their parents were followed between 1979 and 1993. Results showed that the parental alcohol abuse may frame the childhood with parental violence, very high occurrence of family separations, and often foster care. The parental abuse of alcohol may influence several long-term consequences for their children such as increased mortality, self-destructive behaviours (e.g. attempted suicide or drug addiction). Hospitalization due to violence, an increased risk of teenage pregnancy and unemployment were also seen more frequently among cases where the parents were alcohol abusers.[21]

In a 2001 survey among 16–20 year olds, 39.5% of males and 39.4% of females have been involved in arguments due to alcohol at least twice in their lifetime. The corresponding rates for involvement in fights related to alcohol were 19.4% for males and 5.2% for females. Similarly, the rates for being involved in accidents related to alcohol were 6.7% for males and 2.7% for females. 4.7% of males and 5.3% of females reported having had unwanted sex due to drinking.[8]

The rate of alcoholic psychosis incidence per 100 000 population was 35.12 in 2001 and 35.03 in 2002.[22]

The SDR per 100 000 population for chronic liver disease and cirrhosis was 14.58 in 1998 and 15.21 in 1999.[22]

The number of alcohol-related road traffic accidents per 100 000 population was 24.03 in 2000, 21.27 in 2001[22] and 22.16 in 2003.[23]

Country background information

Total population 2004	5,397,640	**Life expectancy at birth (2002)**	Male	74.8
Adult (15+)	4,413,513		Female	79.5
% under 15	18	**Probability of dying under age 5 per 1000 (2002)**	Male	6
Population distribution 2003 (%)			Female	5
Urban	85	**Gross National Income per capita 2002**	US$	30 290
Rural	15			

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

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