Eastern Mediterranean Region

Afghanistan

Sociodemographic characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POPULATION</th>
<th>1980</th>
<th>1990</th>
<th>1995</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>16 063 000</td>
<td>15 045 000</td>
<td>20 141 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult (15+)</td>
<td>9 160 000</td>
<td>8 468 000</td>
<td>11 935 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Urban</td>
<td>15.6</td>
<td>18.3</td>
<td>20.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Rural</td>
<td>84.3</td>
<td>81.8</td>
<td>80.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Health status

Life expectancy at birth, 1990-1995: 43 (males), 44 (females)
Infant mortality rate in 1990-1995: 163 per 1000 live births

Socioeconomic situation

Average distribution of labour force by sector, 1990-1992: agriculture 61%; industry 14%; services 25%
Adult literacy rate (per cent), 1995: total 32; male 47; female 15

Alcohol consumption and prevalence

Consumption
Afghanistan reports no beer production after 1970, no spirits production and very low levels of spirits imports. Its wine consumption is low, and has likely fallen lower with the increasing national observance of Islamic law in recent years.
Bahrain

Sociodemographic characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POPULATION</th>
<th>1980</th>
<th>1990</th>
<th>1995</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>347 000</td>
<td>490 000</td>
<td>564 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult (15+)</td>
<td>227 000</td>
<td>334 000</td>
<td>381 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Urban</td>
<td>80.5</td>
<td>87.5</td>
<td>90.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Rural</td>
<td>19.5</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>9.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Health status

Life expectancy at birth, 1990-1995: 69.8 (males), 74.1 (females)
Infant mortality rate in 1990-1995: 18 per 1000 live births

Socioeconomic situation

GNP per capita (US$), 1995: 7840, PPP estimate of GNP per capita (current int’l $): 13 400
Average distribution of labour force by sector, 1990-1992: agriculture 3%; industry 14%; services 83%
Adult literacy rate (per cent), 1995: total 85; male 89; female 79

Alcohol consumption and prevalence

Consumption

Spirits are the primary type of alcoholic beverage consumed in Bahrain. The country reports no domestic production of alcoholic beverages, and there is no data available after 1988.

Alcohol policies

Alcohol data collection, research and treatment

The Ministry of Health reports that the Drug Rehabilitation Unit at the Psychiatric Hospital is designated as the only treatment centre for alcohol-related problems on the island. The Ministry also reports that any other hospital, health centre or private practitioner is prohibited from treating patients for problems pertaining to alcohol or other drugs. The majority of cases are treated as inpatients. If no vacant beds are available, the patient can be treated on an outpatient basis. The average duration of inpatient treatment is two to four weeks.
Cyprus

Sociodemographic characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POPULATION</th>
<th>1980</th>
<th>1990</th>
<th>1995</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>629 000</td>
<td>702 000</td>
<td>742 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult (15+)</td>
<td>475 000</td>
<td>520 000</td>
<td>545 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Urban</td>
<td>46.0</td>
<td>51.4</td>
<td>54.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Rural</td>
<td>54.0</td>
<td>48.6</td>
<td>45.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Health status

Life expectancy at birth, 1990-1995: 74.8 (males), 79.2 (females)
Infant mortality rate in 1990-1995: 9 per 1000 live births

Socioeconomic situation

GNP per capita (US$), 1994: 11 576
Average distribution of labour force by sector, 1995: agriculture 11%; industry 25%; services 64%
Adult literacy rate (per cent), 1992: total 94; male 98 female 90

Alcohol production, trade and industry

Cyprus is a significant exporter of both wine and spirits.

Alcohol consumption and prevalence

Consumption

The above graph, drawn from figures provided by the Ministry of Finance, shows that Cypriot consumption of alcoholic beverages has increased at a steady pace in all three categories since 1974.

Age patterns

A study of 632 adolescents between the ages of 15 to 16 was carried out in 1995. The response rate was 93 per cent. Eighty-five per cent of the respondents had drunk any alcoholic beverage in the last 12 months, and 27 per cent had been drunk in the last 12 months. Lifetime prevalence of alcohol use was 90 per cent (92 per cent for boys and 88 per cent for girls).

Economic impact of alcohol

In 1991, the percentage of annual household expenditure devoted to alcoholic beverages (for those over the age of 15) was 0.6 per cent. In 1995, 0.4 per cent of the total labour force was employed by the alcohol beverage industry.
Mortality, morbidity, health and social problems from alcohol use

Social Problems
The rate of convictions for driving under the influence of alcohol decreased from 2.6 to 2.2, per 100,000 population, between 1980 and 1990, then rose to 3.6 in 1994.

Alcohol policies

Alcohol data collection, research and treatment
Mental Health Services, the Ministry of Health and the National Committee for Prevention of Alcohol and Drug Abuse all are involved with coordination, application, formulation, monitoring and evaluation of national alcohol policies. The Ministry of Health and Mental Health Services organizes regular workshops for professionals, as well as seminars and lectures on education relating to treatment and rehabilitation. Mental health services are available in Nicosia, Limassol and Larnaca.

Djibouti

Sociodemographic characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POPULATION</th>
<th>1980</th>
<th>1990</th>
<th>1995</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>281,000</td>
<td>517,000</td>
<td>577,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult (15+)</td>
<td>158,000</td>
<td>294,000</td>
<td>335,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Urban</td>
<td>73.7</td>
<td>80.7</td>
<td>82.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Rural</td>
<td>26.3</td>
<td>19.3</td>
<td>17.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Health status
Life expectancy at birth, 1990-1995: 46.7 (males), 50.0 (females)
Infant mortality rate in 1990-1995: 115 per 1000 live births

Socioeconomic situation
Adult literacy rate (per cent), 1995: Total 46

Alcohol production, trade and industry
Djibouti produces no alcoholic beverages.

Alcohol consumption and prevalence

![Adult Per Capita Consumption (age 15+)](image-url)
Consumption
Since 1983, consumption of alcoholic beverages has fallen in all three categories, particularly spirits. There are no data available on the consumption of smuggled or informally- or home-produced alcoholic beverages.

Egypt

Sociodemographic characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POPULATION</th>
<th>1980</th>
<th>1990</th>
<th>1995</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>43,749,000</td>
<td>56,312,000</td>
<td>62,931,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult (15+)</td>
<td>26,459,000</td>
<td>33,934,000</td>
<td>39,007,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Urban</td>
<td>43.8</td>
<td>43.9</td>
<td>44.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Rural</td>
<td>56.2</td>
<td>56.1</td>
<td>55.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Health status
Life expectancy at birth, 1990-1995: 62.4 (males), 64.8 (females)
Infant mortality rate in 1990-1995: 67 per 1000 live births

Socioeconomic situation
GNP per capita (US$), 1995: 790, PPP estimates of GNP per capita (current int’l $), 1995: 3,820
Average distribution of labour force by sector, 1990-1992: agriculture 42%; industry 21%; services 37%
Adult literacy rate (per cent), 1995: total 51; male 64; female 39

Alcohol production, trade and industry
Egypt produces beer, distilled spirits, and wine.

Alcohol consumption and prevalence

Consumption
Distilled spirits is the alcoholic beverage of choice in Egypt and consumption has steadily increased since 1975. Beer consumption has remained steady since 1970 at a very low level (less than 0.1 litres of pure alcohol per adult).

Prevalence
A standardized questionnaire was administered to a representative sample of 3686 male technical school students in Greater Cairo. Results, published in 1982, showed that about 33 per cent had used alcohol at least once.
Alcohol policies

Control of alcohol products
The legal minimum drinking age is 21. Alcoholic beverages are not served in public places, with the exception of hotels and tourist establishments. No alcohol may be served before 11:00 hours or after midnight, although the hours can be adjusted by special decrees to suit the needs of travellers and hotel lodgers. Alcohol advertising was banned entirely in 1976.

Iraq

Sociodemographic characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POPULATION</th>
<th>1980</th>
<th>1990</th>
<th>1995</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>13 007 000</td>
<td>18 078 000</td>
<td>20 449 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult (15+)</td>
<td>7 022 000</td>
<td>10 085 000</td>
<td>11 539 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Urban</td>
<td>65.5</td>
<td>71.8</td>
<td>74.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Rural</td>
<td>34.5</td>
<td>28.2</td>
<td>25.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Health status
Life expectancy at birth, 1990-1995: 64.5 (males), 67.5 (females)
Infant mortality rate in 1990-1995: 58 per 1000 live births

Socioeconomic situation
Average distribution of labour force by sector, 1990-1992: agriculture 14%; industry 19%; services 67%
Adult literacy rate (percent), 1992: total 62; male 73; female 51

Alcohol production, trade and industry
Iraq produces beer and distilled spirits.

Alcohol consumption and prevalence

Consumption
The alcoholic beverage of choice is distilled spirits. There is no information available on wine consumption in Iraq after 1990.
Mortality, morbidity, health and social problems from alcohol use

*Alcohol dependence and related disorders*
The number of cases of alcohol dependence syndrome decreased from 100 in 1989 to 42 in 1992. The number of alcoholic psychosis cases rose from 195 to 207 during the same period.

*Morbidity*
The total number of alcoholic cardiomyopathy cases declined from 71 to 65 between 1989 and 1992. The total number of alcoholic polyneuropathy cases declined from four to one during the same period.

**Alcohol policies**

*Control of alcohol products*
In 1994, President Saddam Hussein ordered all discos and bars in Iraq to be closed, banned all sales of alcoholic beverages and prohibited any drinking of alcohol in public.

*Control of alcohol problems*
There is some general education about alcohol and alcohol problems conducted by the mass media, as well as school visits and meetings and university-based activities.

*Alcohol data collection, research and treatment*
The Iraqi National Committee for Prevention of Alcohol Dependence and Drug Abuse is responsible for national alcohol-related policies. Both this committee and the Department of Bio-Statistics in the Ministry of Health are involved in the collection of data about various alcohol-related health problems. There is a centre for the treatment of alcohol dependence at Ibn-Rushd Teaching Hospital for Psychiatric Diseases in Baghdad. It deals with the treatment and rehabilitation of persons with alcohol problems, support for families of high risk drinkers, and education and research on treatment and rehabilitation measures. The Social Work Department at Ibn-Rushd Hospital and other psychiatric units in general hospitals provide services in coordination with other related offices. There is also a Centre for Treatment of Alcohol Dependence in Baghdad.

**Jordan**

*Sociodemographic characteristics*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POPULATION</th>
<th>1980</th>
<th>1990</th>
<th>1995</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2,923,000</td>
<td>4,259,000</td>
<td>5,439,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult (15+)</td>
<td>1,478,000</td>
<td>2,370,000</td>
<td>3,084,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Urban</td>
<td>59.9</td>
<td>68.0</td>
<td>71.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Rural</td>
<td>40.1</td>
<td>32.0</td>
<td>28.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Health status**
Life expectancy at birth, 1990-1995: 66.2 (males), 69.8 (females)
Infant mortality rate in 1990-1995: 36 per 1000 live births

**Socioeconomic situation**
GNP per capita (US$), 1995: 1510, PPP estimates of GNP per capita (current int’l $), 1995: 4060
Average distribution of labour force by sector, 1990-1992: agriculture 10%; industry 26%; services 64%
Adult literacy rate (per cent), 1992: total 82; male 91; female 72

**Alcohol production, trade and industry**
Jordan produces beer and, beginning in 1991, reported domestic production of distilled spirits, apparently primarily for export.
Alcohol consumption and prevalence

Consumption
Alcohol consumption in Jordan is quite low, and mostly consists of beer and distilled spirits consumption.

Lebanon

Sociodemographic characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POPULATION</th>
<th>1980</th>
<th>1990</th>
<th>1995</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2,669,000</td>
<td>2,555,000</td>
<td>3,009,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult (15+)</td>
<td>1,598,000</td>
<td>1,662,000</td>
<td>1,983,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Urban</td>
<td>73.4</td>
<td>83.8</td>
<td>87.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Rural</td>
<td>26.6</td>
<td>16.2</td>
<td>12.8</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Health status
Life expectancy at birth, 1990-1995: 66.6 (males), 70.5 (females)
Infant mortality rate in 1990-1995: 34 per 1000 live births

Socioeconomic situation
Average distribution of labour force by sector, 1990-1992: agriculture 14%; industry 27%; services 59%
Adult literacy rate (per cent), 1995: total 92; male 95; female 90

Alcohol production, trade and industry
Lebanon produces beer, distilled spirits and wine.
Alcohol consumption and prevalence

Consumption
Consumption of wine and distilled spirits has been growing in Lebanon since the mid-1980s years. Domestic production of wine has tripled in the past decade, while spirits production has grown by 50 per cent.

Morocco

Sociodemographic characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POPULATION</th>
<th>1980</th>
<th>1990</th>
<th>1995</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>19 382 000</td>
<td>24 334 000</td>
<td>27 028 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult (15+)</td>
<td>11 010 000</td>
<td>14 864 000</td>
<td>17 274 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Urban</td>
<td>41.0</td>
<td>46.1</td>
<td>48.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Rural</td>
<td>59.0</td>
<td>53.9</td>
<td>51.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Health status
Life expectancy at birth, 1990-1995: 61.6 (males), 65.0 (females)
Infant mortality rate in 1990-1995: 68 per 1000 live births

Socioeconomic situation
Average distribution of labour force by sector, 1990-1992: agriculture 46%; industry 25%; services 29%
Adult literacy rate (per cent), 1995: total 44; male 57; female 37

Alcohol consumption and prevalence
Consumption
Wine is the alcoholic beverage of choice in Morocco, although recently beer has risen to almost the same level in recorded adult consumption.

Prevalence
In 1990 an open questionnaire was administered to 595 medical students, (64 per cent male, 36 per cent female) 79 per cent of whom were between the ages of 21 and 26. Approximately 25 per cent had tried alcohol, and 23 per cent were current users: 8 females and 125 males. The overall figures were less than in a similar 1985 study in which 27 per cent had reported using alcohol.

Mortality, morbidity, health and social problems from alcohol use

Morbidity
Alcohol-related hospital admissions fell in the mid-1980s from 89 in 1983 to 60 in 1986, after which data are not available.

Alcohol policies

Control of alcohol products
It is illegal to offer or sell alcohol to those under 16 years of age. An Act passed in 1967 regulates the sale of alcoholic beverages stipulating that liquor outlets shall be far from religious buildings and military establishments.

Control of alcohol problems
The penal code of Morocco states "drunkenness does not and should not diminish the civil responsibility. Drinking is not an excusable act, but can make things worse."

Oman

Sociodemographic characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POPULATION</th>
<th>1980</th>
<th>1990</th>
<th>1995</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1 101 000</td>
<td>1 751 000</td>
<td>2 163 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult (15+)</td>
<td>603 000</td>
<td>923 000</td>
<td>1 136 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Urban</td>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>11.0</td>
<td>13.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Rural</td>
<td>92.4</td>
<td>89.0</td>
<td>86.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Health status
Life expectancy at birth, 1990-1995 : 67.7 (males), 71.8 (females)
Infant mortality rate in 1990-1995 : 30 per 1000 live births

Socioeconomic situation
GNP per capita (US$), 1995: 4820 , PPP estimates of GNP per capita (current int’l $), 1995: 8820
Average distribution of labour force by sector, 1990-1992: agriculture 49%; industry 22%; services 29%
Alcohol consumption and prevalence

![Graph showing Adult Per Capita Consumption (age 15+) from 1987 to 1994](image)

**Consumption**
Oman only reported figures for domestic wine production for the years 1992 and 1993. Domestic production of wine is substantial, and so these two years give the most accurate picture of actual alcohol consumption, somewhere between 3.5 and 7.5 litres of absolute alcohol per adult.

**Pakistan**

**Sociodemographic characteristics**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POPULATION</th>
<th>1980</th>
<th>1990</th>
<th>1995</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>85,299,000</td>
<td>121,933,000</td>
<td>140,497,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult (15+)</td>
<td>47,451,000</td>
<td>68,130,000</td>
<td>78,275,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Urban</td>
<td>28.1</td>
<td>32.0</td>
<td>34.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Rural</td>
<td>71.9</td>
<td>68.0</td>
<td>65.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Health status**
Life expectancy at birth, 1990-1995: 60.6 (males), 62.6 (females)
Infant mortality rate in 1990-1995: 91 per 1000 live births

**Socioeconomic situation**
Average distribution of labour force by sector, 1990-1992: agriculture 47%; industry 20%; services 33%
Adult literacy rate (per cent), 1992: total 36; male 49; female 22

**Alcohol production, trade and industry**
Since 1977, Pakistan has been operating under a Prohibition Order that forbids the purchase of alcohol by Muslims, who form 97 per cent of the population. The nation’s largest brewer, Murree Brewery, reported net profits in 1993 of US$ 770,000, up from US$ 463,000 in 1992.
In a 1995 court case, Murree Brewery, which had a virtual monopoly over the market, was ordered to stop selling in Sindh province which opened up the market for the new Beach Brewery. Allegations of wrongdoing resulted in a Sindh High Court order preventing either company from selling in the province. This ban was later rescinded.
Alcohol consumption and prevalence

Consumption
The Finnish Foundation for Alcohol Studies reported Pakistani domestic consumption of spirits and imputed consumption at approximately 0.25 litres of absolute alcohol per adult in the early 1970s. However, there has been no reported domestic spirits production since 1971. Although 97 per cent of the population is forbidden to drink, alcohol industry sources report that alcohol consumption has been increasing steadily, and enforcement of the law has been erratic.

Alcohol policies

Control of alcohol products
Alcohol and alcohol advertising are officially banned, in deference to Islamic law. Only non-Muslims with a liquor permit may purchase liquor legally.

Alcohol data collection, research and treatment
It is reported that there are no specific legislative provisions pertaining to treatment and rehabilitation, although a draft mental health law is under active consideration. In addition, it is proposed to establish adequately equipped detoxification centres at the Federal and district headquarters hospitals.

Qatar

Sociodemographic characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POPULATION</th>
<th>1980</th>
<th>1990</th>
<th>1995</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>229,000</td>
<td>485,000</td>
<td>551,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult (15+)</td>
<td>156,000</td>
<td>352,000</td>
<td>399,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Urban</td>
<td>85.6</td>
<td>89.9</td>
<td>91.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Rural</td>
<td>14.4</td>
<td>10.1</td>
<td>8.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Health status
Life expectancy at birth, 1990-1995: 68.8 (males), 74.2 (females)
Infant mortality rate in 1990-1995: 20 per 1000 live births

Socioeconomic situation
GNP per capita (US$), 1995: 11,600, PPP estimates of GNP per capita (current int’l $), 1995: 17,690
Average distribution of labour force by sector, 1990-1992: agriculture 3%; industry 28%; services 69%
Adult literacy rate (per cent), 1995: total 79; male 79; female 80

Alcohol production, trade and industry
Qatar does not produce any alcoholic beverages.

Alcohol consumption and prevalence

Consumption
An Islamic nation with a large population of migrant workers from neighbouring nations, Qatar relies on imports for its supply of alcoholic beverages. From the figures available, per capita consumption is approximately one litre of absolute alcohol per adult per year, resulting primarily from consumption of imported spirits. There is no data on wine imports or consumption.
Saudi Arabia

Sociodemographic characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POPULATION</th>
<th>1980</th>
<th>1990</th>
<th>1995</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>9 604 000</td>
<td>16 048 000</td>
<td>17 880 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult (15+)</td>
<td>5 348 000</td>
<td>9 343 000</td>
<td>10 393 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Urban</td>
<td>66.8</td>
<td>77.3</td>
<td>80.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Rural</td>
<td>33.2</td>
<td>22.7</td>
<td>19.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Health status
Life expectancy at birth, 1990-1995: 68.4 (males), 71.4 (females)
Infant mortality rate in 1990-1995: 29 per 1000 live births

Socioeconomic situation
GNP per capita (US$), 1995: 7 040.
Average distribution of labour force by sector, 1990-1992: agriculture 48%; industry 14%; services 37%
Adult literacy rate (per cent), 1995: total 63; male 72; female 50

Alcohol production, trade and industry
Saudi Arabia does not produce alcoholic beverages.

Alcohol consumption and prevalence

Consumption
Based on import figures, Saudi Arabia records a low per capita consumption of alcohol, resulting primarily from beer consumption. There are no data available on wine use after 1975.

Alcohol use among population subgroups
Researchers surveyed 116 consecutive patients admitted to Al-Amal Hospital in the Dammam area, a specialized drug abuse centre in Eastern Saudi Arabia. Alcohol was the second most commonly abused substance (after heroin), with 11.2 per cent abusing it alone, and an additional 20 per cent abusing it in combination with other drugs. This finding (published in 1995) was comparable to other studies in Saudi Arabia, which have found as many as 71 per cent of other substance users also using alcohol.
Mortality, morbidity, health and social problems from alcohol use

Social problems
In 1977, 12 per cent of the total number of prisoners in Saudi Arabia were incarcerated for violations of laws against alcohol use or trade, and 65 per cent of these were foreign nationals.

Alcohol policies

Control of alcohol products
Alcohol use or smuggling is a crime in Saudi Arabia.

Control of alcohol problems
Physical punishment (whipping) is legislated as a penalty for intake of alcoholic beverages.

Sudan (the)

Sociodemographic characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POPULATION</th>
<th>1980</th>
<th>1990</th>
<th>1995</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>18 681 000</td>
<td>24 585 000</td>
<td>28 098 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult (15+)</td>
<td>10 298 000</td>
<td>13 560 000</td>
<td>15 789 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Urban</td>
<td>20.0</td>
<td>22.5</td>
<td>24.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Rural</td>
<td>80.0</td>
<td>77.4</td>
<td>75.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Health status
Life expectancy at birth, 1990-1995: 51.6 (males), 54.4 (females)
Infant mortality rate in 1990-1995: 78 per 1000 live births

Socioeconomic situation
Average distribution of labour force by sector, 1990-1992: agriculture 72%; industry 5%; services 23%
Adult literacy rate (per cent), 1995: total 46; male 58; female 35

Alcohol production, trade and industry
The Sudan produces distilled spirits, and reported production of beer until 1981.

Alcohol consumption and prevalence

Consumption
Recorded alcohol consumption in the Sudan is very low. There are no data available on beer or wine consumption after 1982.
Prevalence
Anecdotal reports mention “European influence” as the reason for the increase in problem drinking among young males whereas consumption among women is still very rare.

Mortality, morbidity, health and social problems from alcohol use

Social problems
Drinking, violence and marital strife are reported to be frequent among the Bari people of southern Sudan. Resolution of conflicts arising from alcohol abuse are considered the responsibility of old men as lineage heads, who bring the offending drinker closer to controlling social networks.

Alcohol policies

Control of alcohol problems
In 1972, a new provision was introduced into the Sudan Penal Code stating that individuals acting in a state of intoxication are assumed to have the same knowledge as they would have had if they had not been intoxicated. This means that intoxication is not a defence against a criminal charge.

Syrian Arab Republic (the)

Sociodemographic characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POPULATION</th>
<th>1980</th>
<th>1990</th>
<th>1995</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>8 704 000</td>
<td>12 348 000</td>
<td>14 661 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult (15+)</td>
<td>4 480 000</td>
<td>6 399 000</td>
<td>7 724 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Urban</td>
<td>46.7</td>
<td>50.2</td>
<td>52.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Rural</td>
<td>53.3</td>
<td>49.8</td>
<td>47.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Health status
Life expectancy at birth, 1990-1995: 65.2 (males), 69.2 (females)
Infant mortality rate in 1990-1995: 39 per 1000 live births

Socioeconomic situation
Average distribution of labour force by sector, 1990-1992: agriculture 23%; industry 29%; services 48%
Adult literacy rate (per cent), 1995: total 71; male 86; female 56

Alcohol production, trade and industry
The Syrian Arab Republic produces beer, wine and distilled spirits.
Alcohol consumption and prevalence

![Graph showing adult per capita consumption (age 15+) in the Eastern Mediterranean region from 1970 to 1996.](image)

**Consumption**
Alcohol consumption in the Syrian Arab Republic comes primarily from distilled spirits.

**Tunisia**

**Sociodemographic characteristics**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POPULATION</th>
<th>1980</th>
<th>1990</th>
<th>1995</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>6,384,000</td>
<td>8,080,000</td>
<td>8,896,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult (15+)</td>
<td>3,725,000</td>
<td>5,038,000</td>
<td>5,790,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Urban</td>
<td>51.4</td>
<td>54.9</td>
<td>57.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Rural</td>
<td>48.6</td>
<td>45.1</td>
<td>42.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Health status**
Life expectancy at birth, 1990-1995: 66.9 (males), 68.7 (females)
Infant mortality rate in 1990-1995: 43 per 1000 live births

**Socioeconomic situation**
Average distribution of labour force by sector, 1990-1992: agriculture 26%; industry 34%; services 40%
Adult literacy rate (per cent), 1995: total 67; male 79; female 55

**Alcohol production, trade and industry**
Tunisia produces beer, wine and spirits. There is no information available on the production of spirits after 1981. However, export figures indicate that spirits were still being produced through 1994. Much of the country’s wine production is exported.
Alcohol consumption and prevalence

*Consumption*
Wine is the alcoholic beverage of choice of Tunisians, and the major determinant of the country’s per capita alcohol consumption. Since 1977 there has been a decrease in overall wine consumption in the country, parallel to a decrease in production and maintenance of substantial exports.

**United Arab Emirates (the)**

**Sociodemographic characteristics**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POPULATION</th>
<th>1980</th>
<th>1990</th>
<th>1995</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1 015 000</td>
<td>1 671 000</td>
<td>1 904 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult (15+)</td>
<td>725 000</td>
<td>1 156 000</td>
<td>1 310 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Urban</td>
<td>71.5</td>
<td>81.0</td>
<td>84.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Rural</td>
<td>28.5</td>
<td>19.0</td>
<td>16.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Health status**
Life expectancy at birth, 1990-1995: 73.0 (males), 75.3 (females)
Infant mortality rate in 1990-1995: 19 per 1000 live births

**Socioeconomic situation**
GNP per capita (US$), 1995: 17 400, PPP estimates of GNP per capita (current int’l $), 1995: 16 470
Average distribution of labour force by sector, 1990-1992: agriculture 5%; industry 38%; services 57%
Adult literacy rate (per cent), 1995: total 79; male 79; female 80

**Alcohol production, trade and industry**
The United Arab Emirates do not produce alcoholic beverages.
Alcohol consumption and prevalence

![Adult Per Capita Consumption (age 15+)](chart)

**Consumption**
Alcohol consumption has fallen steadily since 1982, following a decrease in consumption of imported spirits, the most commonly used alcoholic beverage.

**Alcohol policies**

*Control of alcohol products*
Under Islamic law, alcohol is forbidden at all times, but alcoholic beverages are still available in Dubai’s bars and restaurants. In 1997, for the first time, alcohol was available throughout the day during Ramadan. Previously, it was illegal to serve alcohol before sundown.

**Yemen**

**Sociodemographic characteristics**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POPULATION</th>
<th>1980</th>
<th>1990</th>
<th>1995</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>8,219,000</td>
<td>11,311,000</td>
<td>14,501,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult (15+)</td>
<td>4,089,000</td>
<td>5,854,000</td>
<td>7,730,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Urban</td>
<td>20.2</td>
<td>28.9</td>
<td>33.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Rural</td>
<td>79.8</td>
<td>71.1</td>
<td>66.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Health status**
Life expectancy at birth, 1990-1995: 49.9 (males), 50.4 (females)
Infant mortality rate in 1990-1995: 120 per 1000 live births

**Socioeconomic situation**
Average distribution of labour force by sector, 1990-1992: agriculture 63%; industry 11%; services 26%
Adult literacy rate (per cent), 1992: total 41; male 56; female 28

**Alcohol production, trade and industry**
Yemen produces beer, and imports beer and distilled spirits.
Alcohol consumption and prevalence

Consumption
Recorded consumption comes primarily from beer produced locally. There are no data available regarding consumption of smuggled or informally- or home-produced alcoholic beverages.