ARGENTINA

Recorded adult per capita consumption (age 15+)

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

Last year abstainers in Buenos Aires

A national survey conducted in 1999 (total sample size \( n = 2699 \); age group 16–64 years) found the rate of lifetime prevalence of alcohol consumption to be 91.4% (total), 96.4% (males) and 86.6% (females). The prevalence rate of alcohol use in the last 30 days was 66.2% (total), 78.8% (males) and 54.4% (females).\(^2\)

Estimates from key alcohol experts show that the proportion of adult males and females who had been abstaining (last year before the survey) was 7% (males) and 21% (females). Data is for after year 1995.\(^3\)

In a 2001 study of 31 male sex workers in Córdoba, Argentina, it was found that about half of the sample (53.3%) reported drinking alcohol at least once a week.\(^4\)
Heavy drinkers

Data from the WHO GENACIS study (total sample size $n = 1000$) conducted in Buenos Aires and the province of Buenos Aires (urban population aged 18 to 65 years) show that the rates of infrequent heavy drinkers and frequent heavy drinkers were 31.3% and 2.4% respectively. Infrequent heavy drinking was defined as drinking less than weekly five or more drinks a day and frequent heavy drinking was defined as drinking weekly or more five or more drinks a day.\(^5\)

Heavy and hazardous drinkers (among drinkers) in Buenos Aires

Data from the WHO GENACIS study. Regional survey conducted in 2003 (age group 20 to 64 years) in Buenos Aires and Capital Federal. Total sample size $n = 928$; males $n = 367$ and females $n = 561$. 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 (among drinkers only).\(^1\)

Heavy episodic drinkers (among drinkers) in Buenos Aires

Data from the WHO GENACIS study. Regional survey conducted in 2003 (age group 20 to 64 years) in Buenos Aires and Capital Federal. Total sample size $n = 928$; males $n = 367$ and females $n = 561$. Definition used: consumption of five or more drinks in one sitting at least once a month in the last year (among drinkers only).\(^1\)

Youth drinking in Buenos Aires (last year alcohol use)

A survey of adolescent school children (956 boys and 303 girls) in Buenos Aires province.\(^5\)
Recently, there has been a trend toward alcohol use at younger ages; in the metropolitan Buenos Aires area, for instance, 70% of adolescents drank beer on a daily basis.  

**Alcohol dependence (last year)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Male 6.67%</th>
<th>Female 1.74%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4.31%</td>
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Studies on the prevalence of alcoholism do not provide full data, but they do indicate a high percentage of alcoholics among economically active males (between 30% and 50%).  

A national survey conducted in 1999 (total sample size $n = 2699$; age group 16–64 years) also found the rate of alcohol abuse within the past 30 days to be 6.6% (total), 11.9% (males) and 1.6% (females).  

**Unrecorded alcohol consumption**

The unrecorded alcohol consumption in Argentina is estimated to be 1.0 litre pure alcohol per capita for population older than 15 for the years after 1995 (estimated by a group of key alcohol experts).  

**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

![Acute mortality chart](chart.png)

Source: WHO Mortality Database

Morbidity, health and social problems from alcohol use

A study carried out in October 1993 in four hospitals in the province of Buenos Aires found that 7% of all the consultations in the Hospital Emergency Facility were associated with alcohol or drugs. Of these, 70.4% were associated with alcoholic beverages. The prevalence of those having taken absolute alcohol in excess of 40 cc (defined as risky intake) in the previous six hours before attendance at the emergency facility was 5.4%.  

A study carried out in 1994 in hospitals nationwide of both in-patients and patients who had been released within 30 days prior to the study found that the main cause of internment in the sample (n = 260) was associated with the consumption of alcohol and other drugs (42.3%), the main cause being directly or indirectly related to alcohol consumption.  

A study conducted in the Federal Capital in 1978 by the Institute of Biology and Experimental Medicine found that blood alcohol levels of drivers of between 0.03% and 0.07% represented 14.2% of the sample tested, and levels higher than 0.07% correspond to 9.1% of the sample.  

In a case-control study conducted in the city of Mar del Plata, Argentina in 1992–1993 with the purpose of investigating the incidence of and the risk factors associated with proximal femur fractures due to osteoporosis, alcohol consumption was one of the factors found associated with a statistically significant increased risk of fracture of the proximal femur.  

Country background information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total population 2003</th>
<th>38 428 000</th>
<th>Life expectancy at birth (2002)</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>70.8</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adult (15+)</td>
<td>28 052 440</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>78.1</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>% under 15</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>Probability of dying under age 5 per 1000 (2002)</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population distribution 2001 (%)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

References

1. Preliminary results from the Gender, Alcohol and Culture: An International Study (GENACIS Project). International Research Group on Gender and Alcohol (for more information please see http://www.med.und.nodak.edu/depts/irgga/GENACISProject.html).


