BELARUS

Recorded adult per capita consumption (age 15+)

Note: No beverage specific data available between 1980 and 1987.
Sources: FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations), World Drink Trends 2003

Last year abstainers

Unrecorded alcohol consumption

The unrecorded alcohol consumption in Belarus is estimated to be 4.9 litres pure alcohol per capita for population older than 15 for the years after 1995 (estimated by a group of key alcohol experts).¹

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

![Chronic mortality chart](image)

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](image)

Source: WHO Mortality Database

Morbidity, health and social problems from alcohol use

In 1995, of the 8611 minors who committed crimes in Belarus, 1761 of them committed the crimes while being drunk. Comparing with data from 1991, where 25.8% of crimes were committed in a drunken state, in 1995, this figure rose to 27.3%.²

The rate of alcoholic psychosis incidence per 100 000 population was 22.65 in 2001 and 27.78 in 2002.³

The SDR per 100 000 population for chronic liver disease and cirrhosis was 13.43 in 2000 and 14.94 in 2001.³

The number of alcohol-related road traffic accidents per 100 000 population was 7.37 in 2000 and 6.82 in 2001.³
The statistics on incidence of alcoholism and alcoholic psychosis, number of patients admitted to hospitals for alcoholism and alcoholic psychosis as well as a level of alcoholic beverage consumption per capita in Belarus from 1970 to 1999 were analysed. Using correlation, factor and cluster analyses, a strong positive correlation was found between the incidence of alcoholic psychoses and level of vodka consumption per capita. The incidence of alcoholism correlates positively with a total level of alcohol consumption.4

A study of trends observed in Belarus during 1970–1999 found a positive and statistically significant effect of per-capita vodka consumption on the cancer mortality rate. According to the analysis, a 1% increase in the per-capita vodka consumption entails a 0.58% growth in the breast cancer mortality rate and a 0.66% growth in the oesophagus cancer mortality rate. This study is proof to the fact that a substantial share of breast cancers and of oesophageal cancers are brought about by consumption of strong alcoholic beverages.5

A study of trends in the rate of suicides, as observed in Belarus in 1970–1999 found that the rate of suicides tends to be more responsive in the per-capita spirits consumption versus that of the total quantity of consumed alcohol. There was a statistically significant relationship found between the rate of suicides and the per-capita consumed vodka.6

Country background information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total population 2003</th>
<th>9 895 000</th>
<th>Life expectancy at birth (2002)</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>62.6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adult (15+)</td>
<td>8 311 800</td>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>74.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>% under 15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Probability of dying under age 5 per 1000 (2002)</td>
<td>Male</td>
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<tr>
<td>Population distribution 2001 (%)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
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<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
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<td>Gross National Income per capita 2002</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
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<td></td>
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References