BOLIVIA

Recorded adult per capita consumption (age 15+)

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

Last year abstainers

It is estimated that in 1998, 10.01% (approximately 800,785 persons) and 7.8% (approximately 626,247 persons) of the Bolivian population are heavy drinkers and alcohol dependents respectively.

Youth drinking (last year prevalence)

1999 survey of students aged between 12 and 21 years of age.
The same survey also found the rate of lifetime prevalence of alcohol use to be 60.8% and the rate of last month alcohol use to be 31.5%.3

Traditional alcoholic beverages

*Chicha* is a clear, yellowish, effervescent, alcoholic beverage prepared from maize. It has a flavour similar to that of cider. *Chicha* has been consumed by the Andean Indians for centuries. When prepared from pigmented maize varieties, its colour varies from red to purple. The alcoholic content of *chicha* varies between 2 and 12% (v/v). The traditional production of *chicha* is a somewhat unique fermentation process in which saliva serves as the source of amylase for converting starch to fermentable sugars. Malting (germination) of maize kernels to produce the amylase required for starch conversion is an alternative procedure which is widely used in modern day processing. Frequently, salivation is combined with malting to yield *chichi*.4

Unrecorded alcohol consumption

The unrecorded alcohol consumption in Bolivia is estimated to be 3.0 litres pure alcohol per capita for population older than 15 for the years after 1995 (estimated by a group of key alcohol experts).1

Morbidity, health and social problems from alcohol use

A study by the Department of Hygiene and Industrial Safety in three factories in La Paz found that 7.3% of absenteeism in the first two days of the work week and 1.2% of work-related accidents were directly related to the consumption of alcohol.5

According to statistics collected by the La Paz Traffic Department, in 1980, intoxication was the second most common cause of traffic accidents, being involved in 12.7% of the total number of traffic accidents. This figure increased to 18.6% in 1986.6

A study conducted in El Alto found that approximately one third of the women surveyed had been forced by their partner to have sexual intercourse, usually after the man had been drinking. The women claimed that one of the biggest problems at home is that the men drink too much. Alcohol abuse was identified by the women surveyed as being a major problem at home, linked to incidences of domestic violence and coercive sex.6

Country background information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total population 2003</th>
<th>8 808 000</th>
<th>Life expectancy at birth (2002)</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>61.8</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adult (15+)</td>
<td>5 372 880</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>64.7</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>% under 15</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>Probability of dying under age 5 per 1000 (2002)</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>78</td>
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<tr>
<td>Population distribution 2001 (%)</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>73</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Urban</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>Gross National Income per capita 2002</td>
<td>USS</td>
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</table>

References