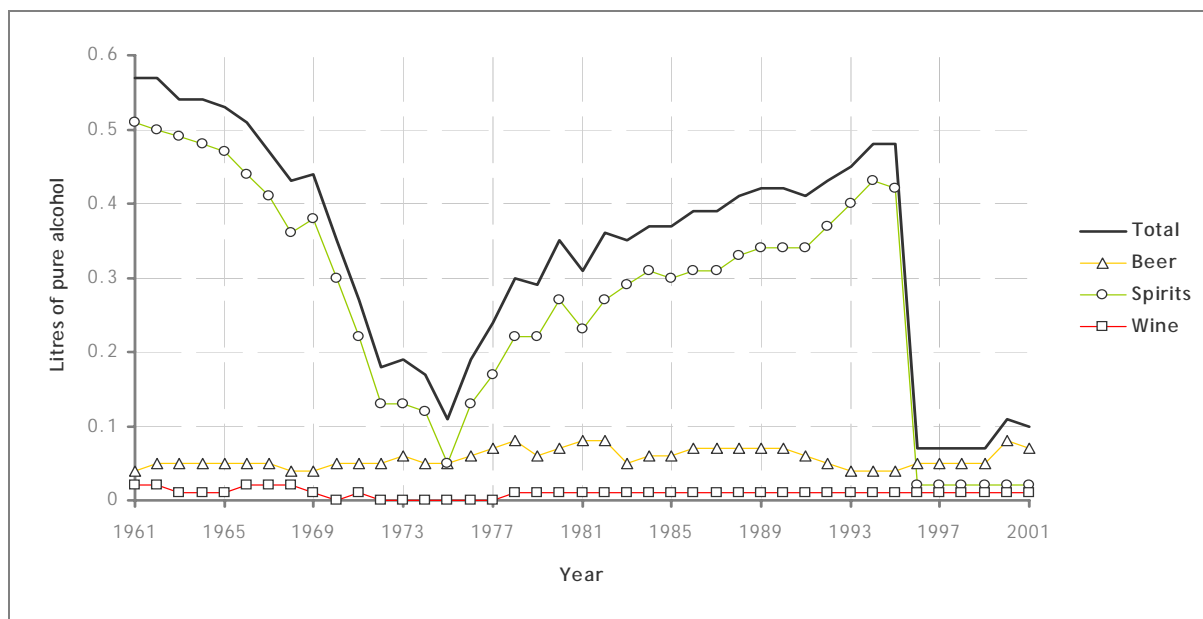


EGYPT

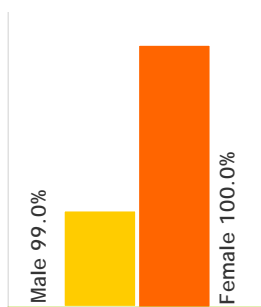
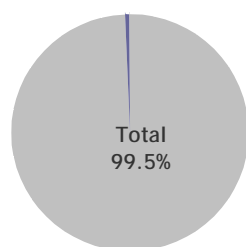
Recorded adult per capita consumption (age 15+)



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

Data collected by the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean in 2003 estimates that the extent of alcohol use in Egypt is moderate and that data from the last five years suggest a stable trend in the use of alcohol.¹

Last year abstainers

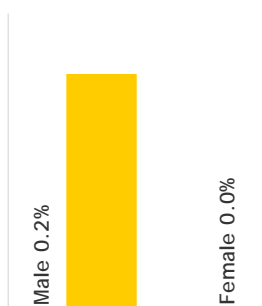
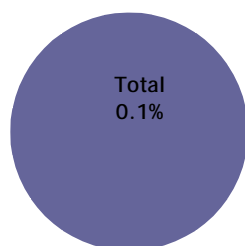


Data from the 2000–2001 Multi-Country Survey Study. Total sample size $n = 4471$; males $n = 1958$ and females $n = 2513$. Population aged 18 years and above.²

Estimates from key alcohol experts show that the proportion of adult males and females who had been abstaining (last year before the survey) was 70% (males) and 98% (females). Data is for after year 1995.³

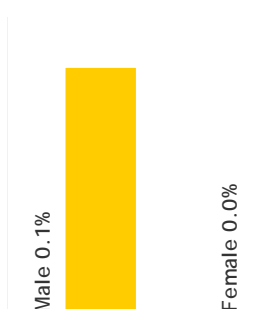
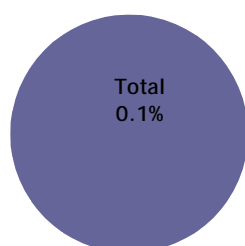
In a 1985–1986 survey of 5108 men working in the manufacturing industries (age range 14 to 59 years), it was found that 20.1% of the total sample admitted ever drinking alcohol. Most of the alcohol drinkers consumed beer (78.7%), and very few consumed wine (1.3%) or whiskey (0.9%) or any other beverage. In this sample of workers, the ages of onset for experimenting with alcohol was 23.81 (± 7.27) years.⁴

High risk drinkers



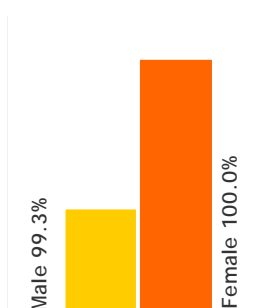
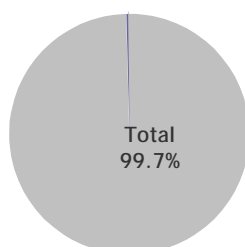
Data from the 2000–2001 Multi-Country Survey Study. Total sample size $n = 4471$; males $n = 1958$ and females $n = 2513$. Population aged 18 years and above. Definition used: consumption of five or more standard drinks for males and three or more standard drinks for females on a typical drinking day.²

Heavy episodic drinkers



Data from the 2000–2001 Multi-Country Survey Study. Total sample size $n = 4471$; males $n = 1958$ and females $n = 2513$. Population aged 18 years and above. Definition used: at least once a week consumption of six or more standard drinks in one sitting.²

Youth drinking (last year abstainers)

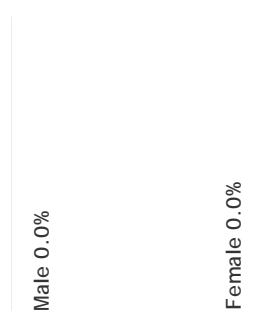
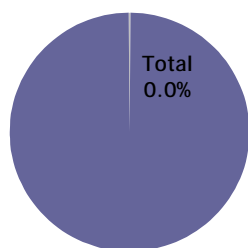


Data from the 2000–2001 Multi-Country Survey Study. Total sample size $n = 708$; males $n = 284$ and females $n = 424$. Population aged 18 to 24 years. For the age group 15 to 19 years (subsample $n = 208$), the rate of last year abstainers was 100% (total), 100% (males) and 100% (females).²

In a 1987 study of 14 656 male secondary school students constituting a 4% representative sample of the whole population of Egyptian secondary school boys (subjects ranged in age between slightly less than 15 and about 21 years of age with approximately 92% of them being Muslim and 8% Christian), it was found that 22.49% of the students admitted ever using alcohol. The majority (16.15%) went for beer. The study also found that just before reaching the age of 15 years about 62% of urban wine experimenters have had their first experience in contrast with only 41% of rural experimenters. For other distilled liquors, the corresponding percentages are somewhere around 45% versus 27%.⁵

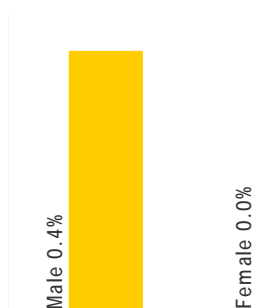
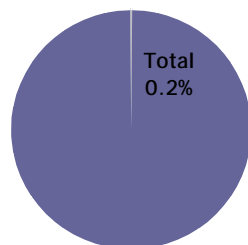
In a survey of 2366 female university students (age range 17 to 30 years) from the Greater Cairo region, it was found that 19.32% of the total sample admitted 'ever drinking alcohol'. Of the whole sample, 9.5% had tried beer, 1.52% wine, and 0.21% whiskey. The rest mentioned other beverages or combinations of beverages. When asked whether they have been going on with drinking until the present survey 38.51% of the 'ever tried' group said 'yes'.⁶

Youth drinking (heavy episodic drinkers)



Data from the 2000–2001 Multi-Country Survey Study. Total sample size $n = 708$; males $n = 284$ and females $n = 424$. Population aged 18 to 24 years old. For the age group 15 to 19 years (subsample $n = 208$), the rate of heavy episodic drinkers was 0.0% (total), 0.0% (males) and 0.0% (females). Definition used: at least once a week consumption of six standard drinks in one sitting.²

Alcohol dependence (last year)



Data from the 2000–2001 Multi-Country Survey Study. Total sample size $n = 4476$. Population aged 15 years and above. Alcohol dependence was measured using ICD-10 criteria.²

Note: These are preliminary, early-release, unpublished data from WHO's Multi-Country Survey Study made available exclusively for this report. Some estimates may change in the final analyses of these data.

Traditional alcoholic beverages

Bouza (traditional beer) is a fermented alcoholic beverage produced from wheat in Egypt, and has been known by the Egyptians since the days of the Pharaohs. It is a thick, pasty yellow beverage and produces a sensation of heat when consumed. Like other opaque beers, *bouza* has a very short shelf-life and is expected to be consumed within a day. It has an alcoholic content of between 3.8% to 4.2%.⁷

Unrecorded alcohol consumption

The unrecorded alcohol consumption in Egypt is estimated to be 0.5 litres pure alcohol per capita for population older than 15 for the years after 1995 (estimated by a group of key alcohol experts).³

Country background information

Total population 2003	71 931 000	Life expectancy at birth (2002)	Male	65.3
Adult (15+)	46 755 150		Female	69.0
% under 15	35	Probability of dying under age 5 per 1000 (2002)	Male	38
Population distribution 2001 (%)			Female	39
Urban	43	Gross National Income per capita 2002	US\$	1470
Rural	57	In Egypt, approximately 94% of the population are Muslim.		

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

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4. Soueif MI et al. The use of psychoactive substances among Egyptian males working in the manufacturing industries. *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*, 1988, 21(3):217–229.
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