JAMAICA

Recorded adult per capita consumption (age 15+)

![Graph showing recorded adult per capita consumption in Jamaica from 1961 to 2001.](image)

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

**Last year abstainers**

![Bar chart showing last year abstainers in Jamaica.](image)

Estimates from key alcohol experts show that the proportion of adult males and females who had been abstaining (last year before the survey) was 29% (males) and 70% (females). Data is for after year 1995.²

**Heavy drinkers (last month)**

![Bar chart showing heavy drinkers in Jamaica.](image)

National survey conducted in 2001 (total sample size \( n = 2380 \); aged 12 years and above).¹ Heavy drinking was defined as consuming five or more drinks on five or more occasions during the past month.³
Heavy episodic drinkers (last month)

A population-based probability sample of 958 (454 males and 504 females) persons aged 15 to 49 years surveyed in 1993 for lifestyle and behaviour risk factors. Heavy episodic drinking was defined as consuming five or more drinks on at least one occasion during the previous month.3

Youth drinking (last year prevalence of alcohol use)

National survey conducted in 2001 (original sample size $n = 2380$). Results shown for the age group 12 to 17 years old.1

According to the 1997 National Adolescent Students’ Drug Survey, 70.9% of students reported having ever had a drink. A little more than one in four students (28.8%) had used alcohol in the month preceding the survey.4

In a study of 2417 Jamaican urban and rural high school students (1063 boys and 1354 girls, aged 16–17 years old), the rate of prevalence of alcohol use was found to be 50.2%.5

In a study of 28 female adolescents (aged 16 to 19.9 years) diagnosed with more than one sexually transmitted disease in Kingston, Jamaica, it was found that 62% of the sample consumed alcoholic drinks.6

Youth drinking (last month heavy drinkers)

National survey conducted in 2001 (original sample size $n = 2380$). Results shown for the age group 12 to 17 years old.1

The same survey also found that last year prevalence rates of alcohol dependence or abuse among 12- to 17-year-olds were 1.3% for abuse and 0.9% for dependence.1
Alcohol dependence (last year)

The same survey also found that 5.8% of respondents had a problem of alcohol abuse or dependence and of which 4.3% were diagnosed with abuse without dependence (for abuse only, the male prevalence was 7.2% and female 1.9%). DSM-IV criteria was used to assess alcohol abuse and dependence.¹

Unrecorded alcohol consumption

According to the WHO Global Burden of Disease Study (2000) the unrecorded alcohol consumption in Jamaica is estimated to be 1.00 litre pure alcohol per adult capita.²

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

Source: WHO Mortality Database

Morbidity, health and social problems from alcohol use

A study identified that in blood samples of 31 motor vehicle fatalities, evidence of alcohol intake was found in 77.5% of the fatalities and 35.5% had alcohol levels above the legal acceptable limits.7

A recent study done by three doctors revealed that alcohol was found in the bodies of 43% of drivers involved in traffic accidents.8

Country background information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total population 2003</th>
<th>2 651 000</th>
<th>Life expectancy at birth (2002)</th>
<th>Male 71.1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adult (15+)</td>
<td>1 855 700</td>
<td>Female 74.6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% under 15</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Probability of dying under age 5 per 1000 (2002)</td>
<td>Male 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population distribution 2001 (%)</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>Gross National Income per capita 2002</td>
<td>USD 2820</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>57</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>43</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


References