MALAWI

Recorded adult per capita consumption (age 15+)

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

Lifetime abstainers

Heavy and hazardous drinkers

According to the 2003 World Health Survey (total sample size $n = 1035$; males $n = 823$ and females $n = 212$), the mean value (in grams) of pure alcohol consumed per day among drinkers was 7.3 (total), 8.3 (males) and 2.6 (females).\(^1\)
Heavy episodic drinkers

Data from the 2003 World Health Survey. Total sample size $n = 5225$; males $n = 2194$ and females $n = 3031$. Survey population aged 18 years and above. Definition used: at least once a week consumption of five or more standard drinks in one sitting.\(^1\)

Youth drinking (lifetime abstainers)

Data from the 2003 World Health Survey. Total sample size $n = 1548$; males $n = 595$ and females $n = 953$. Survey population aged 18 to 24 years old.\(^1\)

Youth drinking (heavy episodic drinkers)

Data from the 2003 World Health Survey. Total sample size $n = 1548$; males $n = 595$ and females $n = 953$. Survey population aged 18 to 24 years old. Definition used: at least once a week consumption of five or more standard drinks in one sitting.\(^1\)

Note: These are preliminary, early-release, unpublished data from the World Health Survey made available exclusively for this report. Some estimates may change in the final analyses of the World Health Survey.

Traditional alcoholic beverages

- **Kachasu** is a locally distilled gin with alcohol content of around 35%\(^2\).
- **Chibuku** is made of finger millet and maize and has an alcohol content of around 8%\(^2\).
- **Chikokeyani** is a locally brewed beer made from finger millet with an alcohol content of around 2.5%\(^2\).

Morbidity, health and social problems from alcohol use

According to data collected for the Southern African Development Community Epidemiology Network on Drug Use (SENDU) in 2003 from the Zomba Mental Hospital, the Lilongwe Psychiatric Unit, and the St. John of God treatment centre, alcohol is the second most common substance of abuse for patients seen at the psychiatric treatment facilities, accounting for 19.6% of patients treated for substance abuse disorders during January to June 2003. The most common form of alcohol used is traditionally brewed beer (*kachasu*, *maseene* and *kuchekuche*).\(^3\)
More than 15% of the total admissions \((n = 2189)\) at the Zomba Mental Hospital in 1984 were classified as ‘alcohol addicts’.\(^2\)

### Country background information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12 105 000</td>
<td>Male 39.8</td>
<td>Male 197</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult (15+)</td>
<td>Female 40.6</td>
<td>Female 190</td>
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<tr>
<td>% under 15</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>46</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Population distribution 2001 (%)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>Male 15</td>
<td>Male 190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>Female 85</td>
<td>Female 190</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

### References