SLOVAKIA

Recorded adult per capita consumption (age 15+)

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

Last year abstainers

According to the 2003 World Health Survey (total sample size $n = 1752$, males $n = 600$ and females $n = 1152$; population aged 18 years and over), the rate of lifetime abstainers was 7.7% (total), 5.2% (males) and 8.5% (females).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 5% (males) and 22% (females). Data is for after year 1995.³
High risk drinkers

According to the 2003 World Health Survey (total sample size $n = 1752$, males $n = 600$ and females $n = 1152$; population aged 18 years and over), the rate of heavy and hazardous drinking among the total population was 7% (total), 5.2% (males) and 7.9% (females). Heavy and hazardous drinking was defined as daily consumption of 40 g or more of pure alcohol for men and 20 g or more of pure alcohol for women.

Heavy episodic drinkers

According to the 2003 World Health Survey (total sample size $n = 1752$, males $n = 600$ and females $n = 1152$, population aged 18 years and over), the rate of heavy episodic drinking among the total population was 6.8% (total), 13.9% (males) and 2.8% (females). Heavy episodic drinking was defined as at least once a week consumption of five or more standard drinks in one sitting.

Youth drinking (last year abstainers)

According to the 2003 World Health Survey (total sample size $n = 449$, males $n = 203$ and females $n = 246$; sample population aged 18 to 24 years), the rate of lifetime abstainers was 7.1% (total), 7% (males) and 7.3% (females).
A 1998 survey of 2616 first grade students of 31 secondary schools located in Kosice (1370 males and 1246 females; mean age 14.86 years) found the rate of last month abstainers to be 32.7% (males) and 34.4% (females). In a follow-up of the same study conducted in 2002/2003 (total sample size $n = 844$; males $n = 361$ and females $n = 483$; mean age 19.6 years), the rate of last month abstainers was found to be 26.9% (males) and 44.4% (females).

In a 2002 study conducted among 1010 first grade students of secondary schools from the Kosice region (441 males and 569 females; mean age 15.95 years), the rate of last month abstainers was found to be 47.7% (males) and 51.6% (females). In a 2002 study of 982 third grade students of secondary schools in Kosice (486 males and 496 females; mean age 17.79 years), the rate of last month abstainers was found to be 24.3% (males) and 42.7% (females).

According to the 1999 ESPAD survey (total sample size $n = 2442$, males $n = 1149$ and females $n = 1293$; age group 15 to 16 years), the rate of alcohol consumers was 27% (total), 31% (males) and 23% (females). Alcohol consumer was defined as lifetime use of 40 times or more.

According to the 1997/1998 HBSC survey (total sample size $n = 843$), 32% of 15-year-old boys and 16% of 15-year-old girls reported drinking beer, wine or spirits at least weekly.

Youth drinking (heavy episodic drinkers)

According to the 2003 World Health Survey (total sample size $n = 449$, males $n = 203$ and females $n = 246$; sample population aged 18 to 24 years), the rate of heavy episodic drinking among the total population was 17.8% (total), 28.4% (males) and 9% (females). Heavy episodic drinking was defined as at least once a week consumption of five or more standard drinks in one sitting.

According to the 1999 ESPAD survey (total sample size $n = 2442$, males $n = 1149$ and females $n = 1293$; age group 15 to 16 years), the rate of binge drinking was 8% (total), 12% (males) and 7% (females). Binge drinking was defined as consuming five or more drinks in a row three times or more in the last 30 days.

Youth drinking (drunkenness)

In a 2002 study of 844 students from grammar schools, secondary schools and apprentice schools in Kosice (361 males and 483 females; mean age 19.6 years), 22.4% of boys and 13.7% of girls reported having being drunk 1–2 times during the last four weeks. 8.9% of boys and 1.7% of girls reported having been drunk three times or more during the last four weeks preceding the survey.

In a 2002 study conducted among 1010 first grade students of secondary schools from the Kosice region (441 males and 569 females; mean age 15.95 years), 21.3% of boys and 19.3% of girls reported having being drunk 1–2 times during the last four weeks. 7.0% of boys and 2.3% of girls reported having been drunk three times or more during the last four weeks preceding the survey.

In a 2002 study of 982 third grade students of secondary schools in Kosice (486 males and 496 females; mean age 17.79 years), 29.8% of boys and 23.8% of girls reported having been drunk 1–2 times during the last four weeks. 13.0% of boys and 2.4% of girls reported having been drunk three times or more during the last four weeks preceding the survey.

In the 1999 ESPAD study of subjects 15 to 16 years old (total sample size $n = 2442$; males $n = 1149$ and females $n = 1293$) the proportion of subjects who reported being drunk three times or more in the last 30 days was 9% (total), 10% (males) and 6% (females).
Alcohol dependence (last year)

[Diagram showing alcohol dependence rates: Total 4.8%, Male 9.4%, Female 1.1%]

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

Traditional alcoholic beverages

**Domáca** (home-made) hard alcohol is traditionally made and drunk by Slovaks. In autumn home-producers of domáca turn the summer’s plums, apples and cherries into fiery liquids with about 60% alcohol by volume. Types of domáca include slivovica (plum brandy), hruškovica (pear brandy), jablkovica (apple brandy), čerešňovica (cherry brandy) and marhul’ovica (apricot brandy).³

Unrecorded alcohol consumption

The unrecorded alcohol consumption in Slovakia is estimated to be 7.0 litres pure alcohol per capita for population older than 15 for the years after 1995 (estimated by a group of key alcohol experts).³

Morbidity, health and social problems from alcohol use

In a retrospective analysis of alcohol consumption and mortality due to hepatic cirrhosis from 1973 to 1994, it was found that mortality caused by hepatic cirrhosis had increased during the past 40 years 10-fold in men and 4-fold in women.¹⁰

It is estimated that in Slovakia every fourth woman is abused because the problem of domestic violence is strongly connected to alcoholism. Even though alcohol is usually not the primary cause, it creates tension and aggression, and contributes to a higher frequency of cases.¹¹

In a 1998 study of 2616 Slovak adolescents (mean age 14.9 years), it was found that alcohol consumers had significantly more health complaints than non-alcohol consumers.⁴

The rate of alcoholic psychosis incidence per 100 000 population was 123.95 in 2001 and 136.89 in 2002.¹²

The SDR per 100 000 population for chronic liver disease and cirrhosis was 27.85 in 2000 and 26.73 in 2001.¹²

The number of alcohol-related road traffic accidents per 100 000 population was 21.31 in 2000 and 22.35 in 2001.¹²

Country background information

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<th>Total population 2003</th>
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<td>Probability of dying under age 5 per 1000 (2002)</td>
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References