UNITED ARAB EMIRATES (THE)

Recorded adult per capita consumption (age 15+)

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

Lifetime abstainers

Data from the 2003 World Health Survey. Total sample size \( n = 1120 \); males \( n = 587 \) and females \( n = 533 \). Population aged 18 years and above.¹

Heavy and hazardous drinkers

Data from the 2003 World Health Survey. Total sample size \( n = 1120 \); males \( n = 587 \) and females \( n = 533 \). Population aged 18 years and above. Definition used: average consumption of 40 g or more of pure alcohol a day for men and 20 g or more of pure alcohol a day for women.¹

According to the 2003 World Health Survey (total sample size \( n = 99 \); males \( n = 72 \) and females \( n = 27 \)), the mean value (in grams) of pure alcohol consumed per day among drinkers was 12.0 (total), 11.3 (males) and 10.8 (females).¹
Heavy episodic drinkers

Data from the 2003 World Health Survey. Total sample size $n = 1120$; males $n = 587$ and females $n = 533$. 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 $n = 185$; males $n = 97$ and females $n = 88$. Population aged 18 to 24 years old.¹

Youth drinking (heavy episodic drinkers)

Data from the 2003 World Health Survey. Total sample size $n = 185$; males $n = 97$ and females $n = 88$. 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Note: These are preliminary, early-release, unpublished data from WHO's World Health Survey made available exclusively for this report. Some estimates may change in the final analyses of these data.

Unrecorded alcohol consumption

The unrecorded alcohol consumption in the United Arab Emirates is estimated to be 1.0 litre pure alcohol per capita for population older than 15 for the years after 1995 (estimated by a group of key alcohol experts).²

Morbidity, health and social problems from alcohol use

In a study conducted on family violence as well as its causes and how it leads to divorce, alcohol abuse was believed to be a major cause of domestic violence in this country.¹

Of 747 male patients admitted during a 2-year period (1990–1991) to the psychiatric ward in Al-Ain district hospital, 71 (9.5%) were admitted with alcohol and drug use disorders. Regarding the type of drug used, 16 (22.5%) used alcohol alone. Hospital statistics on alcohol and drug misuse do not necessarily represent the drug situation in a community but may give a true profile of the more severe cases of substance use disorders. The public attitude in Arab-Muslim societies is intolerant to alcohol drinking and drug use in general, but more so in the case of women, so the absence of females in this sample is a reflection of this fact. If alcohol and drug use
ever occurs among women it is very secretive and may not reach the extent of dependence or harmful use and hence will not come to medical attention.4

Country background information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total population 2003</th>
<th>Life expectancy at birth (2002)</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 995 000</td>
<td></td>
<td>71.3</td>
<td>75.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adult (15+)</td>
<td>2 246 250</td>
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<td>% under 15</td>
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<td>Population distribution 2001 (%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
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<tr>
<td>Probability of dying under age 5 per 1000 (2002)</td>
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<td>Male</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gross National Income per capita 2002</td>
<td>US$ *</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Estimated to be in the high income range ($9076 or less)

It is estimated that in the United Arab Emirates, approximately 96% of the population are Muslim.


References