KIRIBATI

Recorded adult per capita consumption (age 15+)

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

Data from the Customs Department show that in 1995 the total per capita consumption of absolute alcohol (for people aged 15 years and over) was approximately 1.0 litre. This included 0.9 litres of beer and 0.1 litres of spirits. The Customs Department report that nearly all imported alcohol (there is no local brewer) is consumed on Tarwara, the most populated group. Thus, the per capita calculations have been based on the Tarwara population only. Given that toddy (a home brew) is widely consumed in Kiribati, the calculations of per capita consumption given here are likely to be a large underestimate.1

Abstainers

The most recent data on the prevalence of alcohol use in Kiribati comes from the report of the 2000 census of population. 38% of households indicated that a member of the household had consumed alcohol.3
Heavy drinkers

Heavy drinking was defined as consuming 80 g or more of alcohol per day.²

Traditional alcoholic beverages

Toddy, or fermented coconut milk, is regularly produced and widely consumed in Kiribati and sold at markets. Although the strength of this home brew is reported to be highly variable, an analysis of the Fijian equivalent indicates the strength to be around 14% by volume.¹

Morbidity, health and social problems from alcohol use

In 1997 there were 36 hospital admissions attributable to alcohol – 8 were for noncommunicable diseases and 28 for other diseases. Alcohol was responsible for 2.6% of all noncommunicable diseases hospital admissions and 0.9% of total admissions.³

Economic and social costs

In 1997 it is estimated that the treatment costs for hospital admissions of all diseases attributable to alcohol amounted to AUD 60 184.³

Country background information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total population 2003</th>
<th>98 549</th>
<th>Life expectancy at birth (2002)</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>61.8</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>66.7</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adult (15+)</td>
<td>59 425</td>
<td>Probability of dying under age 5 per 1000 (2002)</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% under 15</td>
<td>39.7</td>
<td>Population distribution 2001 (%)</td>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>Gross National Income per capita 2002 (US$)</td>
<td>810</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


References