



Alcohol Consumption

Who consumes the most alcohol? How has consumption changed over time?
And what are the health impacts?

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Alcohol has historically, and continues to, hold an important role in social engagement and bonding for many. Social drinking or moderate alcohol consumption for many is pleasurable.

However, alcohol consumption – especially in excess – is linked to a number of negative outcomes: as a risk factor for diseases and health impacts, crime, road incidents, and, for some, alcohol dependence.

This topic page looks at the data on global patterns of alcohol consumption, patterns of drinking, beverage types, the prevalence of alcoholism, and consequences, including crime, mortality, and road incidents.

Related topics:

Data on other drug use can be found on our full topic page [here](#).

Drug use disorders are often classified within the same category as mental health disorders – research and data on mental health can be found on our topic page [here](#).

[Support for alcohol dependency](#)