

**Global Survey on Alcohol and Health**

**and**

**Global Information System on  
Alcohol and Health**



**World Health  
Organization**

# Management of Substance Abuse

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[www.who.int/substance\\_abuse/](http://www.who.int/substance_abuse/)

WHO Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse



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# The Context

1990s: Global Alcohol Database

1999: Global Status Report on Alcohol

2001: Global Status Report on Alcohol and Young People

2002: Global Alcohol Policy survey

2004: Global Status Report on Alcohol Policy, including Country Profiles

2004: Global Status Report on Alcohol, including Country Profiles

2006: Global Information System on Alcohol and Health (GISAH)

**2008: Global Survey on Alcohol and Health**

**2009: Global Status Report on Alcohol and Health (consumption, harm and policy integrated), including Country Profiles**

2010: Global Survey on Alcohol and Health

2012: Global Survey on Alcohol and Health (update)

2013: Global Status Report on Alcohol and Health, including Country Profiles



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# World Health Assembly resolutions addressing alcohol-related public health problems

- 1979: *Development of the WHO Programme on alcohol related problems*
- 1983: *Alcohol consumption and related problems*
- 1986: *Prevention of mental, neurological and psychosocial problems*
- 1989: *Prevention and control of drug and alcohol abuse*
- 2002: *Mental health*
- 2004: *Health promotion and healthy lifestyles*
- 2005 (58<sup>th</sup> WHA): *Public health problems caused by harmful use of alcohol*
- 2007 (60<sup>th</sup> WHA): *Reports of the Secretariat - no resolution*
- 2008 (61<sup>st</sup> WHA): *Strategies to reduce the harmful use of alcohol*
- 2010 (63<sup>rd</sup> WHA): *Global Strategy to reduce harmful use of alcohol*



# WHA61.4 Resolution "Strategies to reduce the harmful use of alcohol"

REQUESTS the Director-General:

(1) to prepare a draft global strategy to reduce harmful use of alcohol that is based on all available evidence and existing best practices and that addresses relevant policy options, taking into account different national, religious and cultural contexts, including national public health problems, needs and priorities, and differences in Member States' resources, capacities and capabilities;

...

(5) to submit to the Sixty-third World Health Assembly, through the Executive Board, a draft global strategy to reduce harmful use of alcohol.



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# WHA61.4 Resolution "Strategies to reduce the harmful use of alcohol"

URGES Member States:

(1) ...

(2) to develop, in interaction with relevant stakeholders, national systems for monitoring alcohol consumption, its health and social consequences and the policy responses, and to report regularly to WHO's regional and global information systems;

(3) ...



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# **Global Survey on Alcohol and Health**



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# GLOBAL SURVEYS

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2002: Global Alcohol Policy survey

2008: Global Survey on Alcohol and Health (consumption, harm and policy integrated)

2010: Global Survey on Alcohol and Health

2012: Global Survey on Alcohol and Health (update)



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## Section: Alcohol Supply and Consumption

- Sales, production, import, and export of beer, wine, spirits, and alcopops;
- Production of home- or informally produced alcoholic beverages;
- Surrogate alcohol;
- Recorded adult (15+ years) per capita consumption of alcohol;
- Alcohol consumption by type of alcoholic beverage (% of beer, wine, spirits);
- Estimated total unrecorded consumption;
- Estimated total consumption of alcoholic beverages by tourists;
- National surveys on alcohol consumers, abstainers, under-age drinkers, consumption of young adults (18-25 years)

*If possible statistics, otherwise assessment*



## Section: Alcohol and Health Indicators

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- Deaths from alcohol liver cirrhosis;
- Deaths from alcohol-related road traffic injuries;
- Alcohol-related recorded crime;
- Other mortality and morbidity indicators (e.g. ethanol poisoning, methanol poisoning, alcohol use disorders);
- System for monitoring harm;
- Per cent of people with alcohol use disorders receiving treatment
- Treatment policy for alcohol use disorders.



## Section: Alcohol Policy

- Written national alcohol policy;
- Legal definition of alcoholic beverages;
- Specific budget line for prevention and treatment;
- Monopoly and licensing;
- Price and tax measures;
- Awareness raising activities;
- Regulations;
- Drink driving legislation;
- Health warning labels, advertising and product placement;
- Sponsorship and sales promotion.



## EU questions

- Consumer information on alcohol's impact on health;
- Educational programmes;
- Counselling to children, pregnant women;
- Brief interventions and training of health professionals;
- Programmes at workplaces;
- Community-based projects actively involving stakeholders;
- Community-based projects actively involving young people and civil society;
- Server training;
- National surveys on drink driving;
- Publicly funded alcohol research and monitoring programmes.



## Key indicators: Consumption

1. Total (recorded+unrecorded) adult (15+) per capita consumption, average 3 years
2. Recorded adult (15+) per capita consumption in litres
3. Unrecorded adult (+15) per capita consumption in litres
4. Robust estimate of five-year change in recorded adult per capita consumption
5. Past year abstainers in per cent
6. Lifetime abstainers in per cent
7. Patterns of drinking score
8. Heavy episodic drinking (adult)
9. Heavy episodic drinking (15 - 29 years)



## Key indicators: Harm

10. SDR liver cirrhosis, rate per 100 000  
*If possible, alcohol-related liver cirrhosis*
11. SDR road traffic accidents, rate per 100 000  
*If possible, alcohol-related road traffic fatalities*
12. SDR poisoning, rate per 100 000  
*If possible, alcohol poisoning*
13. SDR violence (mostly assault, excluding war), rate per 100 000
14. 12-month prevalence, alcohol dependence (18 - 65 years) in per cent



## Key indicators: Policy

15. Ban of alcohol (total and partial - mostly Muslim countries)
16. Adopted written national policy on alcohol
17. Control of production and sale of alcohol at national level (including both monopoly and licensing system)
18. Annual excise duty tax revenues from alcoholic beverages at the national level
19. Nation-wide awareness raising activities targeting young people's drinking
20. Nation-wide awareness raising activities targeting drink-driving
21. Nation-wide awareness raising activities targeting alcohol and pregnancy
22. National legal minimum age for selling (off-premise) alcoholic beverages
23. National legal minimum age for serving (on-premise) alcoholic beverages



## Key indicators: Policy (continued)

24. National restrictions for on-/off-premise sales (hours and days)
25. National restrictions for on-/off-premise sales (places and density)
26. National restrictions for on-/off-premise sales (specific events)
27. National restrictions for on-/off-premise sales (intoxicated persons)
28. National restrictions for on-/off-premise sales (petrol stations)
29. National maximum legal blood alcohol concentration (BAC) when driving a vehicle
30. National legally binding regulations on alcohol advertising and alcohol product placement
31. National legally binding regulations on alcohol sponsorship and sales promotion
32. Availability of treatment services.



# COUNTRY PROFILES

Based on key indicators.

- Socioeconomic context
- Types of alcoholic beverages
- Consumption
- Patterns of drinking
- Health and social consequences
- Resources (ATLAS)
- Policy, including EU questions for EU countries
- and additional descriptive contextual information



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# The World Health Organization's

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## *Global Information System on Alcohol and Health*

# Steering Committee

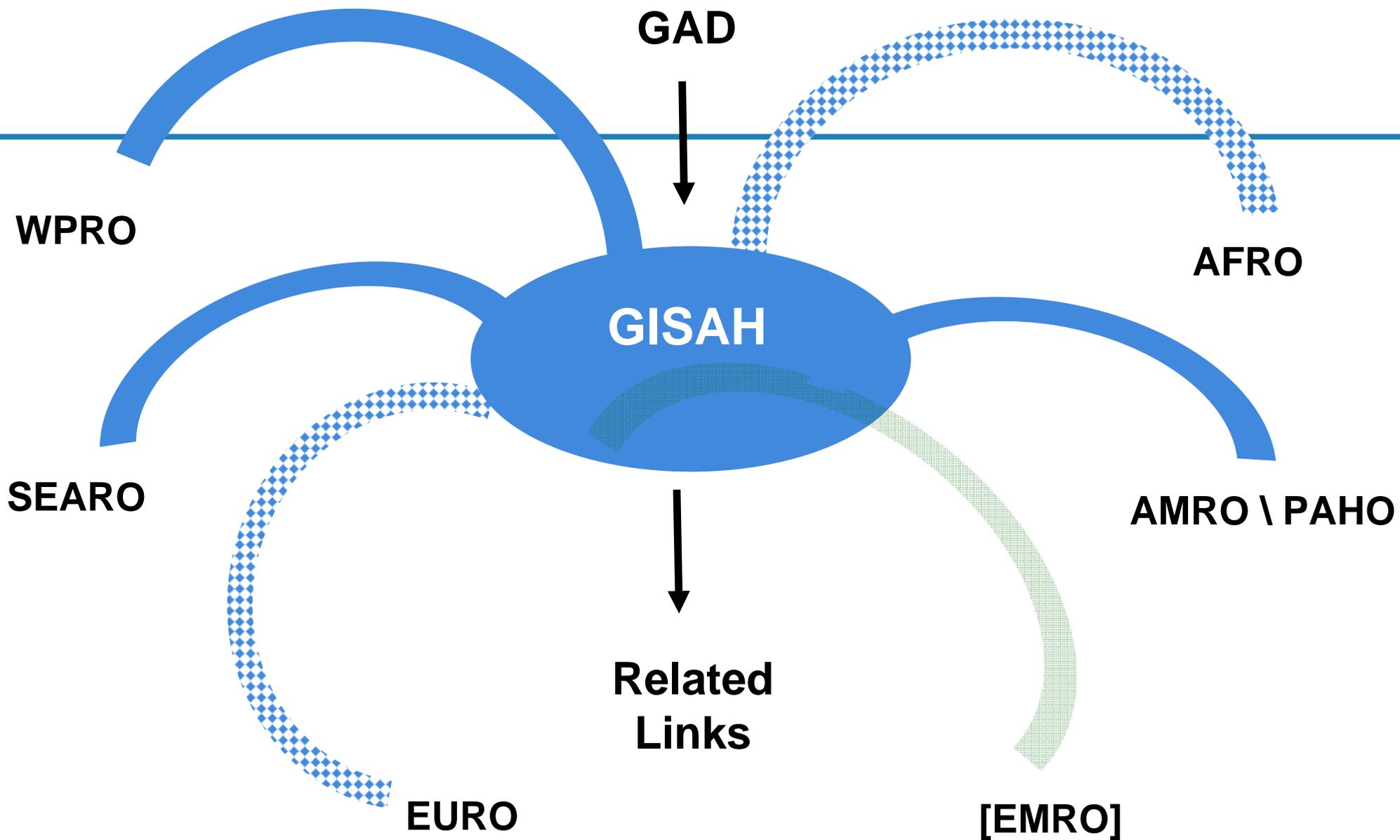
- Dr. Vladimir Poznyak
  - WHO Mental Health and Substance Abuse Department (Geneva)
- Dr. Louis Gliksman
  - Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (Toronto)
- Dr. Jurgen Rehm
  - ISGF/ Research Institute for Public Health and Addiction (Zurich)
  - Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (Toronto)



# The History

- In the late 1990s, passive surveillance and creation of the **Global Alcohol Database (GAD)** as the world's largest single database on alcohol
- The first *Global Status Report on Alcohol* was published in 1999, using information from the GAD
- In 2002, the first *Global Alcohol Policy survey* was conducted which added a considerable amount of policy information to the GAD
- In 2004, the first *Global Status Report on Alcohol Policy* was produced as well as the second *Global Status Report on Alcohol*, using the GAD
- In 2006, the web-based *Global Information System on Alcohol and Health* was created. It serves as the data repository for *regional information systems*
- 2008 and beyond, global surveys and passive surveillance feed into GISAH which will be used for subsequent Global Status Reports and Country Profiles





# **GISAH: sources**

**Government documents, national statistics**

**National and global surveys**

**WHO Global Survey on Alcohol and Health**

**FAO and other intergovernmental organizations**

**Industry data**

**Published scientific articles**

**Grey literature**



**World Health Organization**

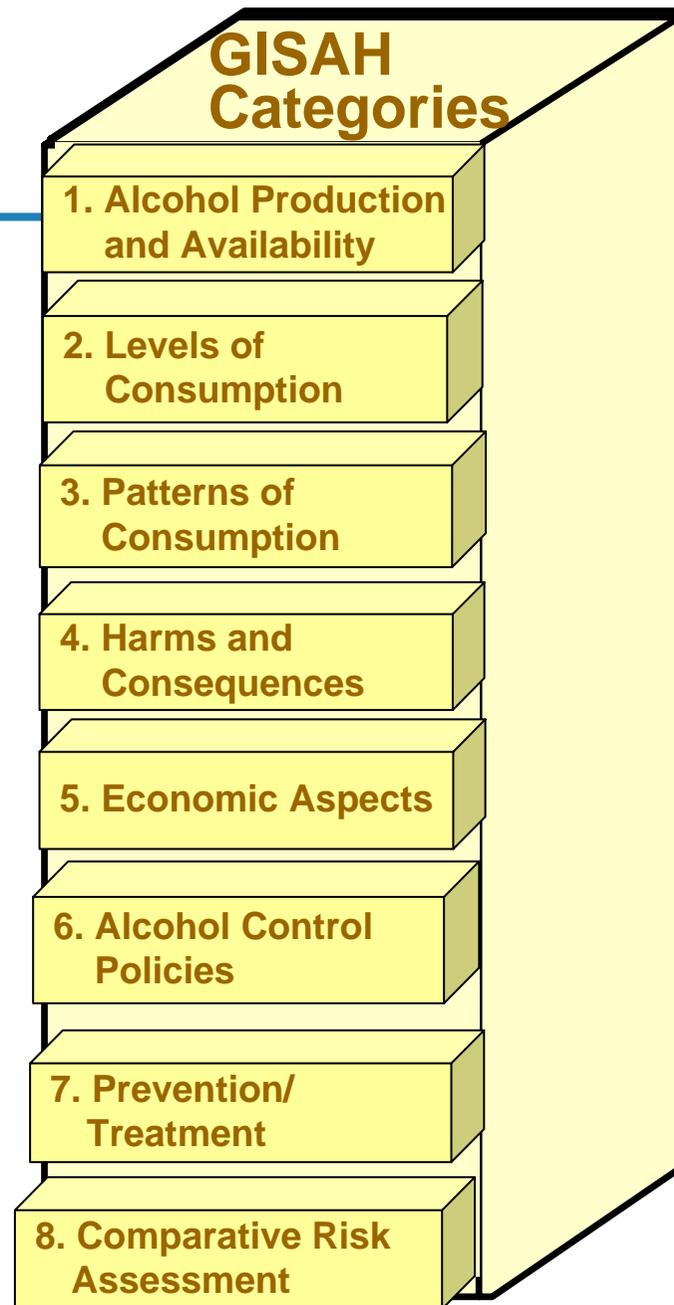
# GISAH

<http://www.who.int/globalatlas/alcohol>

- There are over 170 **numeric** indicators and over 50 **text** indicators on GISAH. Each indicator has information on +/- 100 countries that are **continually being updated**
- Numeric data can be **mapped and/or charted**. Both numeric and text files can be downloaded as **EXCEL files**.
- References are provided in separate “**Source**” files. Information relative to specific indicators is presented in separate “**About**” files.
- **Comparative Risk Assessment (CRA)** is a special category found on GISAH that displays the indicators and results of the impact of alcohol consumption on the burden of disease.



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# Indicator Overview

## 1. Production and Availability:

- Production & Imports
  - Sources for numeric data
  - Beer, Wine, Spirits production
  - Alcoholic beverages production
  - Beer, Wine, Spirits imports
  - Traditional beverages (text)
- Sales & Exports
  - Sources for numeric data
  - Beer, Wine, Spirits sales
  - Alcoholic beverage sales
  - Beer, Wine, Spirits exports



# Indicators (continued)

## 2. Levels of Consumption:

- About levels of consumption
- Sources for numeric data
- Recorded adult (15+) per capita consumption
- Unrecorded adult (15+) per capita consumption
- Robust estimates of change in adult per capita consumption (1999-2003)



# Indicators (continued)

## 3. Patterns of Consumption:

- About patterns of consumption
- About patterns of drinking score
- Sources for numeric data
- Past year abstainers
- Lifetime abstainers
- Heavy episodic drinkers (text)
- Patterns of drinking score
- Heavy episodic drinking (adult)
- Drinking contexts (text)



# Indicators (continued)

## 4. Harms and Consequences:

### Topics:

- Mental & behavioural disorders
- Other disorders related to alcohol
- Injuries
- Traffic
- Violence
- Legal aspects
- Mortality
- Workplace
- Psycho-social problems



# Indicators (continued)

## 5. Economic Aspects:

- **Sources for numeric data**
- **Consumer per capita expenditure on alcohol as % of household expenditure**
- **Annual household expenditure on alcohol as % of total expenditure**
- **Revenues from excise, customs, taxes (text)**
- **Economic cost of alcohol problems in the workplace (text)**
- **Economic cost of alcohol consumption (text)**
- **Economic cost of providing alcohol programmes (text)**



# Indicators (continued)

## 6. Alcohol Control Policies

- Sources for numeric data
- National alcohol policy status and priorities (text)
- Definition of alcoholic beverage (text)
- Minimum legal drinking age
- Legal limit for BAC in mgs%
- Use of Random Breath Testing (RBT)
- Health warning labels on alcohol containers
- Product labelling of alcohol content
- Restrictions on alcohol advertising to 1997



# Indicators (continued)

## 6. Alcohol Control Policies (continued)

- Beer, wine, spirits advertising restrictions
- Restrictions on alcohol industry sponsorship & sales promotions
- Restrictions on alcohol consumption in public places
- Restrictions on off-license hours, days, places, density for alcohol sales
- Alcohol taxation
- State monopolies and licensing requirements
- Age limit for on- and off premise purchase of alcohol



# Indicators (continued)

## 7. Prevention and Treatment:

- Treatment and prevention agencies (text)
- Social programmes (text)
- Public education and prevention activities (text)
- Treatment services (text)
- Support for families (text)



# Indicators (continued)

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## 8. Comparative Risk Assessment:

- Comparative Risk Assessment, Indicators
- Comparative Risk Assessment, Results



# Regional Information Systems

- ❖ AMRO: Regional Information System on Alcohol and Health of the Americas (AMRISAH)
- ❖ SEARO: South-East Asia Regional Information System on Alcohol and Health (SEARISAH)
- ❖ WPRO: Western Pacific Regional Information System on Alcohol and Health (WPRISAH)
- ❖ AFRO: African Regional Information System on Alcohol and health (AFRISAH)
- ❖ EURO: being discussed
- ❖ EMRO: potentially



# Related Links

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- [Global Status Report on Alcohol 2004](#)
- [Country Profiles: Alcohol](#)
- [Global Status Report on Alcohol Policy](#)
- [Country Profiles: Alcohol Policy](#)
- [Global Burden of Disease](#)
- [Comparative Risk Assessment](#)
- [WHO InfoBase](#)
- [Regional Office for the Americas: Alcohol](#)
- [Regional Office for South-East Asia: Alcohol and Substance Abuse](#)
- [Regional Office for the Western Pacific: Substance Abuse](#)



# GISAH Home Page



## Global Information System on Alcohol and Health

[About](#) | [Data query](#) | [Interactive maps](#) | [Map library](#) | [Reports](#) | [Login](#) | [Current user: Alcohol](#)

### Global Information System on Alcohol and Health (GISAH)

[Indicator Overview](#)

[How to use it](#)

[Data query to search the contents of the information system](#)

Given the significance of alcohol consumption to health, the World Health Organization (WHO) has prioritized continuous monitoring of alcohol consumption, alcohol-related harm and policy responses in its Member States over the last years. Since 1997, the [Management of Substance Abuse](#) team in the WHO Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse has been building the Global Alcohol Database and later the Global Information System on Alcohol and Health, providing a reference source of information for global epidemiological surveillance of alcohol use, alcohol-related problems and alcohol policies, based on passive epidemiological surveillance, and by gathering published and fugitive data and information about key aspects of the alcohol situation in WHO Member States. The Global Information System on Alcohol and Health is overseen by a Steering Committee comprised of representatives from the WHO Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse, the [Centre for Addiction and Mental Health](#) (Canada) and the Research Institute for Public Health and Addictions (Switzerland).

The information system brings together a large amount of information about key aspects of the alcohol situation and the consequences of alcohol consumption in individual countries and, wherever possible, includes trends in alcohol use and related mortality since 1961. Also, information on alcohol production as well as on national alcohol control measures and policies has been collected. In addition to large databases maintained by other international governmental or nongovernmental organizations, thousands of published sources have been identified and consulted. The information system is updated regularly.

If the information you are seeking is not available or for any other queries/comments/feedback, please send your request by e-mail and we will try to assist you ([gisah@who.int](mailto:gisah@who.int)). When citing from the information system, please acknowledge appropriately the WHO Global Information System on Alcohol and Health as the source of the data or information. For copyright information please refer to <http://www.who.int/about/copyright/en/>.

### Indicators

For the Global Information System on Alcohol and Health a set of indicators was chosen to assess the most important aspects of the alcohol situation in WHO Member States as they relate to public health. The indicators are grouped into broad categories. Under each broad category there are topics and a number of sub-topics. The broad categories are as follows:

# GISAH Home Page (continued)



1. Production and Availability
2. Levels of Consumption
3. Patterns of Consumption
4. Harms and Consequences
5. Economic Aspects
6. Alcohol Control Policies
7. Prevention and Treatment
8. Comparative Risk Assessment

## Regional information systems

The Global Information System on Alcohol and Health also serves as the global data repository for WHO regional information systems on alcohol and health. These can be accessed through the WHO regional offices websites, as follows:

- [Regional Office for the Americas: Alcohol](#)
- [Regional Office for South-East Asia: Alcohol and Substance Abuse](#)
- [Regional Office for the Western Pacific: Substance Abuse](#)

## Global Status Report on Alcohol and Health

The WHO global status reports on alcohol and health are largely based on information from GISAH. Previous reports are the following:

- [Global Status Report on Alcohol 2004](#)
- [Country Profiles: Alcohol 2004](#)
- [Global Status Report: Alcohol Policy 2004](#)
- [Country Profiles: Alcohol Policy 2004](#)
- [Global Status Report: Alcohol and Young People 2001](#)
- [Global Status Report on Alcohol 1999](#)

## Related Links

- [Global Burden of Disease](#)
- [Comparative Risk Assessment](#)
- [InfoBase](#)

# Performing a DATA QUERY

Address <http://www.who.int/globalatlas/dataQuery/default.asp> Go Links Datamanager Western Libraries WHO

About **Data query** Interactive maps Map library Reports Login Current user: Alcohol

**1. Choose from the available categories, topics, and/or sub-topics in order to search the available items**

Select a category

Select a topic  [Data summary](#)

Select sub-topics

Select items (one or more) Selected items

<b>Add all</b> Unrecorded adult per capita consumption in litres -> total	<input type="button" value="Add &gt;&gt;"/>	<b>Remove all</b> Unrecorded adult per capita consumption in litres -> total
	<input type="button" value="&lt;&lt; Remove"/>	

**2. Choose geographical area**

Select by	WHO Region	Available*		Selected*
World	EURO	All Countries of SEARO	<input type="button" value="Add &gt;&gt;"/>	Bangladesh
Continent	PAHO		<input type="button" value="&lt;&lt; Remove"/>	Bhutan
<b>WHO Region</b>	<b>SEARO</b>			Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Aggregate regions	WPRO			India

\*Countries, areas, and territories

**3. Choose administrative level**

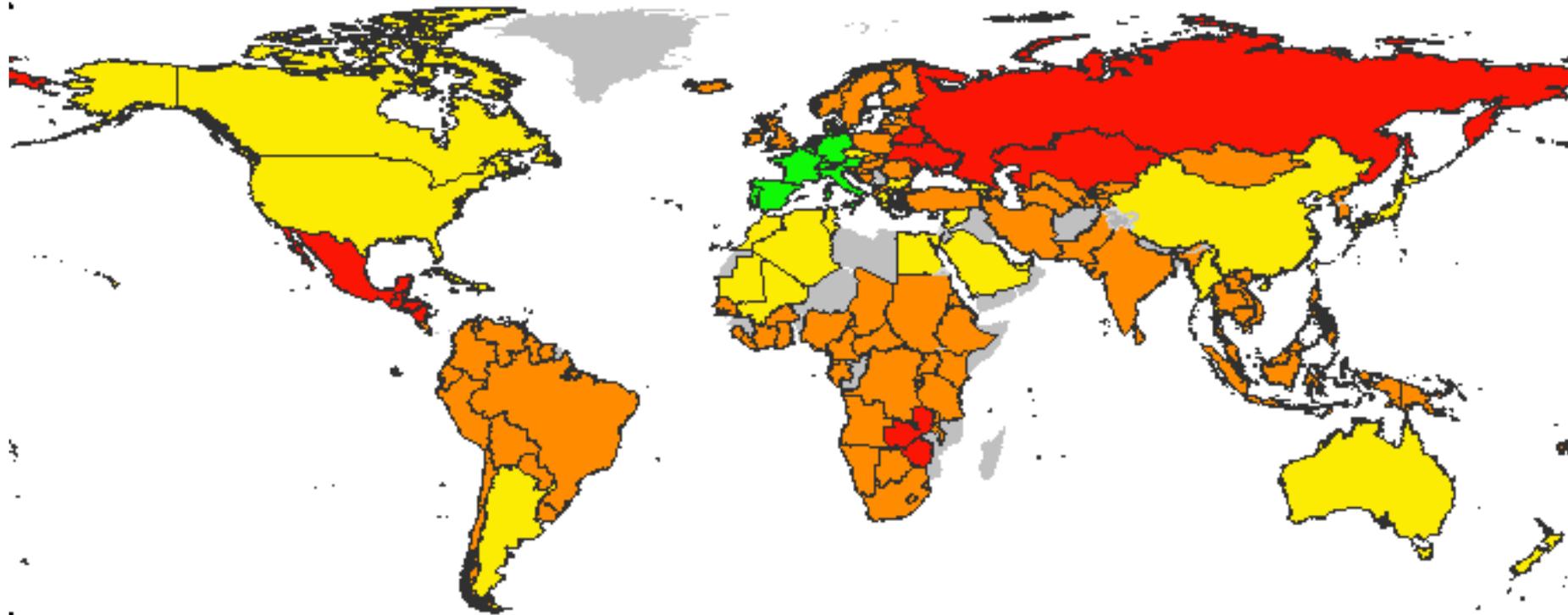
Please select from available administrative levels

**4. Choose time period**

Year

From:

# Patterns of Drinking Score

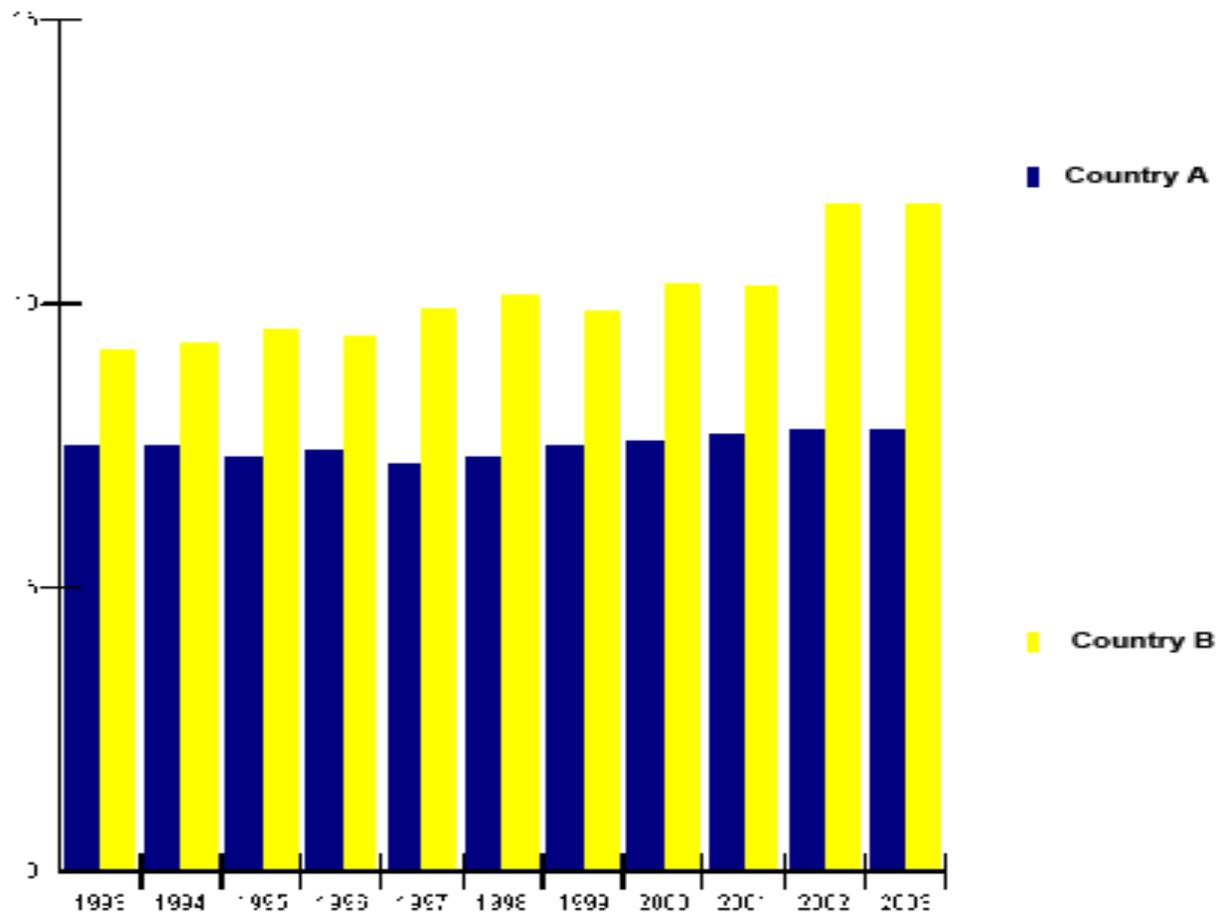


■ 4 most risky drinking pattern   ■ 3   ■ 2   ■ 1 least risky drinking pattern

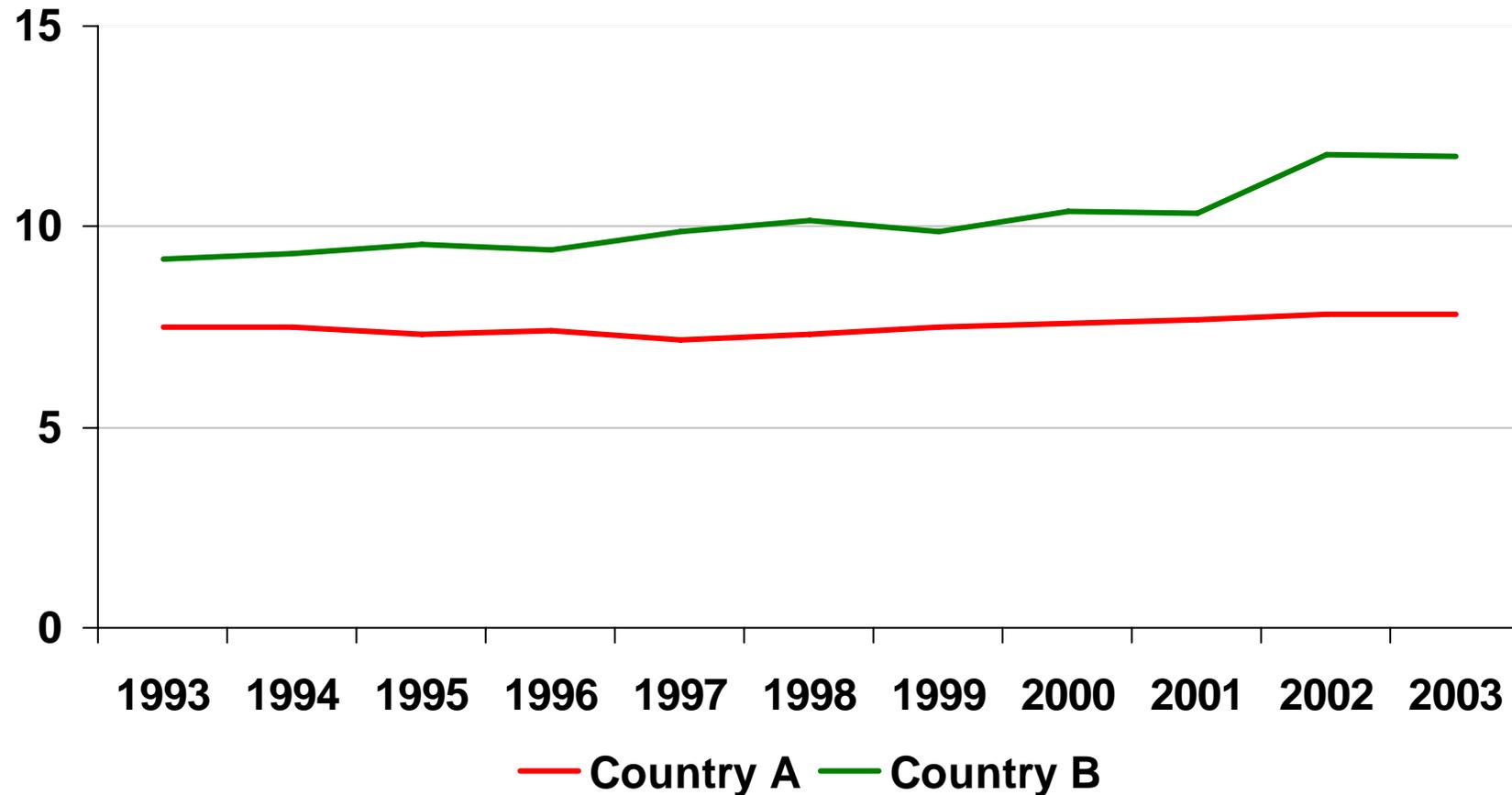


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# Recorded adult (15+) per capita in litres, 1993 To 2003



# Recorded adult (15+) per capita in litres, 1993 To 2003



# Future

In addition to data collection, GISAH evolution, and reporting:

- Work on definitions (global survey with definitions of indicators)
- Consistency of definitions and indicators across regions and EU
- Consistent definitions and indicators used by WHO Global Health Observatory, World Health Statistics, WHO-STEPS
- On-line data collection
- Improvement of coverage and data validity
- Network of national counterparts
- Monitoring progress on implementation of regional (and global) strategies



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