

Use and abuse of alcohol in Italy

2012

Main results

In 2012 the percentage of population aged 14 and over who consumed at least one alcoholic drink during the year was 66.6%. This rate is stable compared to the previous year, but it has been decreasing during the last 10 years.

From 2002 to 2012 the number of daily consumers has fallen (-24.6%), especially among women (-32.6%). The number of people consuming alcohol at least once outside mealtimes has been increasing (from 23.1% in 2002 to 26.9% in 2012) as well as the number of occasional consumers (from 35.8% in 2002 to 42.2% in 2012).

The types of alcoholic drinks consumed change: the number of people consuming wine and beer only has had a decrease, while the number of those who consume alcoholic aperitifs, digestive liqueurs, spirits or liqueurs is stable.

In 2012 the percentage of the population aged 11 and over who consumed at least one alcoholic drink during the year was 64.6%. 51.9% of people aged 11 and over drink wine, 45.8% drink beer, and 40.5% drink alcoholic aperitifs, digestive liqueurs, spirits or liqueurs. 21.5% drink wine every day, while 4.1% of the reference population drink beer.

Overall, risk behaviours in alcohol consumption (non-moderate daily consumption), binge drinking (i.e. to drink six or seven glasses of alcoholic beverages on a single occasion and alcohol consumption by young people aged 11 to 15) concern 7,464 million people.

This percentage decreases significantly compared with 2011, and this is due to the reduction of non-moderate daily consumption (from 8.4% to 7.5%) and binge drinking (from 7.5% to 6.9%).

Groups of population most at risk of non-moderate consumption are: the elderly (40.7% of males and 10.1% of females), the young adult population aged 18-24 (21.0% of males and 9.5% of females) and the adolescents aged 11-17 (12.4% of males and 8.4% of females).

The population most at risk of binge drinking is the young adult population (aged 18-24), in this class the risk affects 14.8%, with a ratio of two males for each female. This behaviour often occurs during moments of socialisation.

10.5% of minors aged 11-15 consume alcohol, which is already a risky behaviour in itself, yet even more serious in that it lays the grounds for potential non-moderate consumption during their lifetime.

Non-moderate alcohol consumption of parents seems to influence children's behaviour: 17.4% of youths (aged 11 to 17) who live in households where at least one parent has a non-moderate alcohol consumption have risk behaviours in alcohol consumption. This rate decreases to 9.2% among youths who live in households where both parents do not have not risk behaviours in alcohol consumption.

People with non-moderate alcohol consumption are more often smokers (20.9%) or former smokers (19.3%) than no smokers (9.1%).

Among young people aged 18-24 who regularly go to discotheques, risk behaviours associated with alcohol consumption are more widespread (30.5%) compared with those who do not go to discoes (8.0%). The same differences are observed among those who regularly go to concerts or to sporting events.

GRAPH 1. PEOPLE AGED 14 AND OVER BY CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES IN THE LAST 10 YEARS
 From 2001 to 2012, per 100 people aged 14 and over.

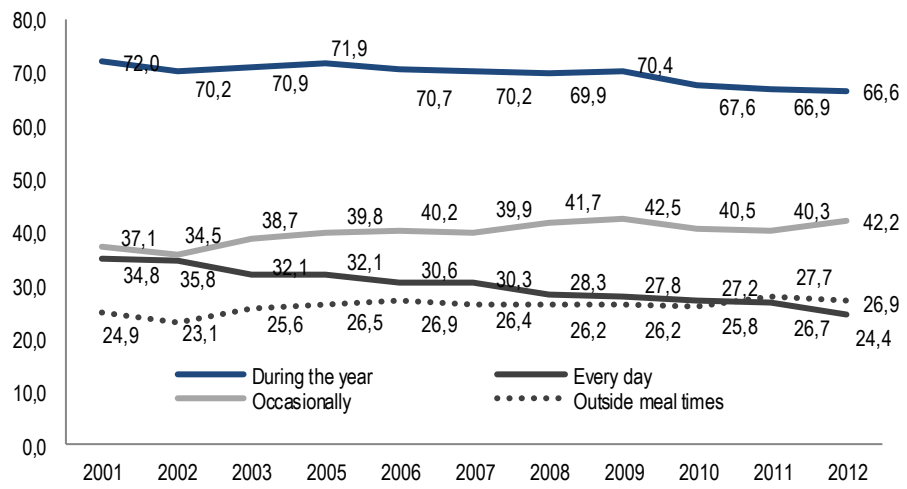


TABLE 1. PEOPLE AGED 14 AND OVER BY CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES BY SEX AND AGE CLASS. Years 2002 and 2012, per 100 people aged 14 and over of the same sex and age class

	14-17		18-24		25-44		45-64		65 and over		Total	
	2002	2012	2002	2012	2002	2012	2002	2012	2002	2012	2002	2012
MALES												
During the year	47,8	35,4	81,3	78,6	86,9	84,4	88,6	85,2	83,0	79,6	84,1	80,9
Every day	7,2	2,1	22,9	13,5	44,6	27,4	62,9	46,1	65,4	55,2	49,9	36,9
Occasionally	40,6	33,3	58,5	65,1	42,3	57,0	25,8	39,1	17,7	24,3	34,3	44,1
Outside mealtimes	18,4	18,5	41,7	50,7	40,3	48,6	35,7	37,0	24,6	24,0	35,0	38,5
FEMALES												
During the year	32,0	27,4	57,7	61,0	62,0	59,2	62,0	55,8	49,7	45,2	57,4	53,3
Every day	2,1	0,6	5,3	2,0	15,3	8,0	27,5	15,9	27,1	20,1	20,2	12,8
Occasionally	29,9	26,8	52,4	59,0	46,7	51,2	34,5	39,8	22,6	25,1	37,1	40,4
Outside mealtimes	11,5	11,7	26,6	36,6	15,4	23,4	10,3	12,9	4,3	5,7	12,1	16,0
MALES AND FEMALES												
During the year	40,3	31,3	69,6	70,2	74,5	71,8	75,0	70,2	63,6	59,9	70,2	66,6
Every day	4,8	1,3	14,1	8,0	30,0	17,7	44,8	30,7	43,0	35,1	34,5	24,4
Occasionally	35,5	30,0	55,4	62,2	44,5	54,1	30,2	39,5	20,5	24,8	35,8	42,2
Outside mealtimes	15,1	15,1	34,1	44,0	27,9	36,0	22,7	24,7	12,7	13,5	23,1	26,9

TABLE 2 PEOPLE AGED 11 AND OVER BY TYPE OF ALCOHOL-RELATED RISK BEHAVIOUR, SEX AND AGE . Year 2012 (per 100 people aged 11 and over of the same sex and age)

Age groups	At least one alcohol-related risk behaviour			Type of alcohol-related risk behaviour					
	Males	Females	Total	Daily non-moderate			Binge drinking		
				Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
11-15 (a)	11,2	9,7	10,5	0,4	0,4	0,4	1,5	1,0	1,3
16-17	15,2	5,2	10,1	3,0	0,4	1,7	13,7	4,8	9,2
11-17	12,4	8,4	10,4	1,1	0,4	0,8	4,9	2,2	3,6
18-19	19,2	11,5	15,5	0,5	1,2	0,8	18,9	10,6	15,0
20-24	21,7	8,8	15,6	2,4	0,7	1,6	20,6	8,5	14,8
18-24	21,0	9,5	15,6	1,9	0,8	1,4	20,1	9,1	14,8
25-29	21,2	7,1	14,2	2,4	1,0	1,7	19,9	6,3	13,2
30-34	19,2	5,6	12,3	3,0	0,6	1,8	17,7	5,3	11,5
35-44	16,7	4,1	10,4	5,0	1,0	3,0	13,7	3,5	8,7
25-44	18,1	5,0	11,6	4,1	0,9	2,5	15,8	4,5	10,2
45-54	15,5	3,6	9,5	6,9	1,1	4,0	11,3	2,6	6,9
55-59	16,4	3,6	9,8	9,6	1,7	5,5	9,6	2,1	5,7
60-64	15,0	3,1	8,8	11,0	1,5	6,1	6,6	1,7	4,0
45-64	15,6	3,5	9,4	8,5	1,4	4,8	9,9	2,3	6,0
65-74	42,9	11,6	26,5	41,6	10,8	25,5	4,9	1,2	3,0
75 e più	37,7	8,7	19,6	37,1	8,3	19,1	2,6	0,6	1,3
65 and over	40,7	10,1	23,2	39,7	9,5	22,4	3,9	0,8	2,2
Total	21,7	6,4	13,8	12,2	3,2	7,5	11,1	3,1	6,9

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 Households economic conditions

