

Alcohol in Ireland: consumption, harm and cost

HRB Health
Research
Board

Consumption

In 2014 Irish people drank 11 litres of pure alcohol.

This equals =



Per capita consumption:

21%

higher than the Dept of Health
Steering Group's target
of 9.1 litres of pure alcohol

Ireland had

4th

highest level of alcohol
consumption out of
36 OECD countries in 2012

Harm to health

In 2013:

3

Deaths per day were alcohol related

7,549

cases treated for problem alcohol use

An estimated

167,170



people suffered an alcohol-related assault

In 2014:

1 in 3

self-harm cases were alcohol-related

1995 - 2013:

Rate of alcohol-related liver disease trebled between

1995 and 2013

2001 - 2010:

More than

1 in 10

breast cancer cases attributed to alcohol

Cost to economy and tax payer

€1.5 billion

spent on alcohol related hospital discharges.
That's €1 for every €10 spent in public health in 2012*

*This excludes emergency care, general practice, psychiatric care and alcohol treatment services

In 2012:

160,221

hospital bed days used for alcohol-related illness (3.6% of total bed days)

2013 survey

€41 million:

The estimated cost of alcohol-related absenteeism in 2013

2013 survey

An estimated

5,315

people lost their job as a result of alcohol in 2013