

Table 65 (page 1 of 3). Alcohol consumption by persons 18 years of age and over, according to selected characteristics: United States, selected years 1997–2001

[Data are based on household interviews of a sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population]

Characteristic	Both sexes			Male			Female		
	1997	2000	2001	1997	2000	2001	1997	2000	2001
Drinking status ¹									
18 years and over, age adjusted ²									
All	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Lifetime abstainer	21.2	24.1	22.6	14.0	17.5	15.2	27.6	29.9	29.2
Former drinker	15.7	14.4	14.9	16.2	14.9	16.0	15.3	14.2	14.0
Infrequent	9.0	8.2	8.5	7.7	7.0	7.7	10.1	9.2	9.1
Regular	6.7	6.3	6.4	8.5	7.8	8.3	5.2	5.0	4.8
Current drinker	63.1	61.5	62.5	69.8	67.7	68.8	57.0	55.8	56.8
Infrequent	15.0	14.7	12.8	11.7	11.1	9.2	18.1	18.2	16.2
Regular	48.1	46.7	48.7	58.1	56.6	58.4	38.9	37.7	39.7
18 years and over, crude									
All	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Lifetime abstainer	21.1	24.0	22.5	14.0	17.5	15.2	27.7	30.1	29.3
Former drinker	15.5	14.3	14.8	15.6	14.3	15.5	15.4	14.3	14.1
Infrequent	8.9	8.1	8.4	7.5	6.8	7.5	10.1	9.3	9.2
Regular	6.6	6.2	6.4	8.1	7.5	8.0	5.2	5.0	4.9
Current drinker	63.4	61.7	62.7	70.5	68.2	69.3	57.0	55.6	56.6
Infrequent	15.0	14.7	12.9	11.7	11.1	9.3	18.1	18.1	16.2
Regular	48.4	46.9	48.8	58.8	57.2	58.9	38.8	37.5	39.5
Age									
Percent current drinkers among all persons									
All persons:									
18–44 years	69.4	67.4	69.0	74.8	73.0	75.0	64.2	61.9	63.2
18–24 years	62.2	59.4	63.6	66.7	64.0	69.6	57.7	54.9	57.7
25–44 years	71.6	69.9	70.8	77.2	76.0	76.8	66.1	64.1	65.0
45–64 years	63.3	62.0	62.5	70.8	68.1	67.8	56.2	56.3	57.5
45–54 years	67.1	65.1	65.6	73.8	70.3	70.1	60.7	60.1	61.2
55–64 years	57.3	57.2	57.6	65.8	64.6	64.2	49.4	50.6	51.6
65 years and over	43.4	42.1	42.0	52.7	50.0	50.9	36.6	36.2	35.5
65–74 years	48.6	46.9	45.8	56.7	52.6	55.2	42.0	42.2	38.2
75 years and over	36.6	36.3	37.6	46.7	46.6	45.1	30.2	29.7	32.6
Race ^{2,3}									
White only	66.0	64.6	65.8	71.8	69.7	71.0	60.7	59.9	61.0
Black or African American only	47.8	46.8	46.6	56.9	56.2	56.9	40.9	39.4	38.6
American Indian and Alaska Native only	53.9	54.2	51.5	66.1	62.6	62.8	45.2	46.9	38.6
Asian only	45.8	43.0	44.7	60.1	55.9	59.7	31.6	29.3	30.1
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander only	---	*	*	---	*	*	---	*	*
2 or more races	---	61.6	68.5	---	70.5	69.9	---	52.7	67.1
Hispanic origin and race ^{2,3}									
Hispanic or Latino	53.4	52.1	49.8	64.6	63.7	61.2	42.1	41.2	39.0
Mexican	53.0	50.6	49.8	66.9	64.4	63.0	38.9	36.8	36.7
Not Hispanic or Latino	64.1	62.1	62.9	70.2	68.7	68.8	58.7	57.4	57.9
White only	67.5	66.0	67.7	72.7	70.4	72.0	62.9	61.9	63.7
Black or African American only	47.8	46.8	46.5	57.1	56.4	57.0	40.7	39.3	38.4
Geographic region ²									
Northeast	68.7	68.0	68.4	74.4	73.2	73.8	63.8	63.7	63.7
Midwest	66.8	65.6	67.1	73.0	70.7	71.7	61.1	61.1	63.0
South	56.2	54.3	55.5	63.9	62.1	63.2	49.2	47.1	48.5
West	64.9	62.8	64.0	71.5	68.4	70.5	58.9	57.2	57.6
Location of residence ²									
Within MSA ⁴	64.7	63.0	64.1	71.0	69.0	70.4	59.1	57.5	58.3
Outside MSA ⁴	57.4	56.0	56.9	65.7	62.6	62.8	49.5	50.3	51.6

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 65 (page 2 of 3). Alcohol consumption by persons 18 years of age and over, according to selected characteristics: United States, selected years 1997–2001

[Data are based on household interviews of a sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population]

Characteristic	Both sexes			Male			Female		
	1997	2000	2001	1997	2000	2001	1997	2000	2001
Level of alcohol consumption in past year for current drinkers ⁵									
Percent distribution of current drinkers									
18 years and over, age adjusted ²									
All drinking levels	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Light	69.6	70.6	68.8	59.5	60.4	59.1	81.0	82.0	79.6
Moderate	22.5	22.2	23.4	31.8	32.0	32.6	12.0	11.5	13.0
Heavier	7.9	7.1	7.9	8.7	7.7	8.3	7.0	6.5	7.3
18 years and over, crude									
All drinking levels	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Light	69.8	70.8	69.0	59.6	60.5	59.2	81.4	82.3	79.9
Moderate	22.3	22.1	23.2	31.7	31.8	32.4	11.7	11.3	12.9
Heavier	7.9	7.1	7.8	8.8	7.7	8.4	6.9	6.4	7.2
Number of days in the past year with 5 or more drinks									
Percent distribution of current drinkers									
18 years and over, crude									
All current drinkers	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
No days	65.9	68.2	67.6	54.7	56.9	57.2	78.6	80.6	79.0
At least 1 day	34.1	31.8	32.4	45.3	43.1	42.8	21.4	19.4	21.0
1–11 days	18.5	17.4	17.1	22.0	21.2	19.9	14.6	13.3	14.0
12 or more days	15.6	14.4	15.3	23.4	21.9	22.8	6.8	6.1	7.0
Hispanic origin, race, and age ³									
Percent of persons with 5 or more drinks on at least one day among current drinkers									
All persons:									
18 years and over, age adjusted ²	32.4	30.3	30.6	43.3	41.2	40.5	20.2	18.5	19.9
18 years and over, crude	34.1	31.8	32.4	45.3	43.1	42.7	21.4	19.4	20.9
18–44 years	42.4	40.4	41.4	54.6	52.3	52.2	28.7	27.0	29.2
18–24 years	51.6	52.2	51.8	61.5	60.8	60.1	40.2	42.4	41.7
25–44 years	40.0	37.1	38.3	52.8	49.9	49.7	25.7	22.8	25.7
45–64 years	25.3	23.5	23.8	36.1	35.0	34.7	12.9	10.8	11.9
45–54 years	28.5	25.5	26.4	40.1	37.9	38.0	15.3	12.0	14.0
55–64 years	19.6	19.9	18.9	28.9	29.9	28.7	8.3	8.7	8.0
65 years and over	11.2	9.1	8.2	17.8	14.8	13.1	4.4	3.4	3.1
65–74 years	13.9	11.3	10.2	21.6	18.3	15.5	5.5	4.2	4.0
75 years and over	6.7	5.8	5.3	11.0	9.5	9.1	*2.5	*	*
Race ^{2,3}									
White only	33.3	31.0	31.8	44.4	41.8	42.0	20.9	19.2	20.7
Black or African American only	23.6	23.9	20.6	31.7	34.1	27.5	14.9	12.7	12.5
American Indian and Alaska Native only	54.5	45.0	34.6	70.5	47.0	35.9	38.4	34.7	*27.9
Asian only	25.5	20.3	23.2	30.7	25.4	28.9	16.6	10.8	*12.9
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander only	---	*	*	---	*	*	---	*	*
2 or more races	---	44.0	41.6	---	53.1	59.9	---	31.5	24.3
Hispanic origin and race ^{2,3}									
Hispanic or Latino	36.8	31.9	32.2	46.3	43.0	41.9	22.3	16.0	17.9
Mexican	39.0	37.5	35.6	50.1	49.0	45.9	20.3	17.9	17.7
Not Hispanic or Latino	31.9	31.9	32.2	42.7	43.0	41.9	20.0	16.0	17.9
White only	33.2	31.2	32.0	44.5	42.1	42.2	21.0	19.7	21.3
Black or African American only	23.4	23.8	20.5	31.7	33.8	27.4	14.4	12.7	12.5

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 65 (page 3 of 3). Alcohol consumption by persons 18 years of age and over, according to selected characteristics: United States, selected years 1997–2001

[Data are based on household interviews of a sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population]

Characteristic	Both sexes			Male			Female		
	1997	2000	2001	1997	2000	2001	1997	2000	2001
Geographic region	Percent of persons with 5 or more drinks on at least one day among current drinkers								
Northeast	31.3	28.9	30.0	43.1	39.7	41.4	18.9	18.1	18.8
Midwest	33.8	33.3	33.6	44.7	44.7	44.4	21.6	21.5	22.4
South	30.9	27.4	27.9	40.5	37.1	36.1	19.2	15.6	18.0
West	33.4	32.0	31.7	44.6	43.1	41.4	20.8	18.8	20.1
Location of residence ²									
Within MSA ⁴	31.6	30.0	30.1	42.4	40.4	39.9	19.8	18.5	19.1
Outside MSA ⁴	34.8	31.3	32.8	45.7	43.1	42.2	21.2	18.5	22.5

* Estimates are considered unreliable. Data preceded by an asterisk have a relative standard error (RSE) of 20–30 percent. Data not shown have a RSE of greater than 30 percent.

--- Data not available.

¹Drinking status categories are based on self-reported responses to questions about alcohol consumption. Lifetime abstainers had fewer than 12 drinks in their lifetime. Former drinkers had at least 12 drinks in their lifetime and none in the past year. Former infrequent drinkers are former drinkers who had fewer than 12 drinks in any one year. Former regular drinkers are former drinkers who had at least 12 drinks in any one year. Current drinkers had 12 drinks in their lifetime and at least one drink in the past year. Current infrequent drinkers are current drinkers who had fewer than 12 drinks in the past year. Current regular drinkers are current drinkers who had at least 12 drinks in the past year. See Appendix II, Alcohol consumption.

²Estimates are age adjusted to the year 2000 standard population using four age groups: 18–24 years, 25–44 years, 45–64 years, and 65 years and over. See Appendix II, Age adjustment.

³The race groups, white, black, American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN), Asian, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, and 2 or more races, include persons of Hispanic and non-Hispanic origin. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Starting with data year 1999 race-specific estimates are tabulated according to 1997 Standards for Federal data on Race and Ethnicity and are not strictly comparable with estimates for earlier years. The five single race categories plus multiple race categories shown in the table conform to 1997 Standards. The 1999 race-specific estimates are for persons who reported only one racial group; the category “2 or more races” includes persons who reported more than one racial group. Prior to data year 1999, data were tabulated according to 1977 Standards with four racial groups and the category “Asian only” included Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander. Estimates for single race categories prior to 1999 included persons who reported one race or, if they reported more than one race, identified one race as best representing their race. The effect of the 1997 Standard on the 1999 estimates can be seen by comparing 1999 data tabulated according to the two Standards: Age-adjusted estimates based on the 1977 Standards of the percent of persons who are current drinkers are: identical for the white men; 0.3 percentage points higher for black men; 1.6 percentage points higher for AI/AN men; 0.2 percentage points lower for Asian and Pacific Islander men; identical for white women; 0.2 percentage points higher for black women; 1.8 percentage points lower for AI/AN women; and 2.4 percentage points higher for Asian and Pacific Islander women than estimates based on the 1997 Standards. See Appendix II, Race.

⁴MSA is metropolitan statistical area.

⁵Level of alcohol consumption categories are based on self-reported responses to questions about average alcohol consumption and defined as follows: light drinkers: 3 drinks or fewer per week; moderate drinkers: more than 3 drinks and up to 14 drinks per week for men and more than 3 drinks and up to 7 drinks per week for women; heavier drinkers: more than 14 drinks per week for men and more than 7 drinks per week for women. (Most drinking guidelines consider more than 7 drinks per week to be a heavier level of consumption for women. U.S. Department of Agriculture: Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2000, 5th edition.)

NOTES: Data for additional years are available (see Appendix III). Standard errors for selected years are available in the spreadsheet version of this table. See www.cdc.gov/nchs/hus.htm. For more data on alcohol consumption see the National Health Interview Survey home page: www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis.htm.

SOURCE: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, National Health Interview Survey, family core and sample adult questionnaires.