Alcohol in Ireland: consumption, harm and cost

**HRB OVERVIEW**

**Consumption**

In 2014 Irish people drank on average 11 litres of pure alcohol.

This equals =

29 litres of vodka or 116 bottles of wine or 445 pints of beer

**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
- **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

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**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