

Children and alcohol in Denmark 2014 – a survey of 12-14-year olds

Report published by the Danish Cancer Society and TrygFonden, September 2015.

Danish title: "Børn og alkohol i Danmark 2014 – en kortlægning"

Summary

This report summarises the experiences of children aged 12-14 with alcohol in Denmark in 2014. The report is based on data from an online survey of 1,000 children aged between 12 and 14. The survey was carried out by the research agency TNS Gallup A/S and it is nationally representative in terms of gender, age and region (east/west). The report has been created by the Danish Cancer Society and the TrygFonden's preventative alcohol campaign with the Danish title 'Fuld af liv'.

Same as danish mht børn

Alcohol debut and consumption

Almost a quarter (23%) of 12-14-year-olds have drunk a full unit of alcohol, while 3% have been drunk. Far more 14-year-olds than 12-year-olds have experienced alcohol. The majority of those aged 12-14 (96%) do not drink alcohol during a typical week. Among children aged 12-14 who have drunk a complete unit, 12% were aged under 12 the first time they drank alcohol.

Young people's alcohol culture

Those aged 12-14 who drink alcohol¹ (n=104) state in particular that they drink because it is festive and social. Among those aged 12-14 who do *not* drink alcohol (n=890), the majority state that they do not drink because they think they are too young, because their parents do not allow them to drink, and because their friends do not drink alcohol.

When 12-14-year-olds drink alcohol, the majority do it with their friends (65%), but 44% also state that they are with their parents when they drink alcohol.

One fifth (20%) of 12-14-year-olds who drink alcohol have experienced being pressurised by their friends to drink more alcohol than they would like.

Parental involvement in the alcohol habits of 12-14-year-olds

According to their parents, 47% of children aged 12-14 know the age at which they are allowed to drink alcohol. 7% state that they are/were allowed to start drinking alcohol before they turned 15. 31% state that they are allowed to drink alcohol when they are 15-16-years-old, while 9% state that they are allowed to drink alcohol when they are 17-18-years-old.

¹ Young people who drink alcohol are those who have stated that they drink alcohol more often than never.

Two thirds of children aged 12-14 (65%) think that it is good or very good if their parents get involved in their alcohol habits, and very few are against this (3%).

Awareness of and attitudes to age limits for purchasing alcohol

Over one third of children aged 12-14 (35%) know the age restrictions for purchasing alcohol. Almost four out of ten children aged 12-14 (36%) support a minimum age limit of 18 for purchase of all types of alcohol, regardless of alcohol percentage, while 39% are against this. The remainder responded "Don't know".

Alcohol consumption and health risks

The majority of children aged 12-14 (86%) are aware that there is a health risk associated with drinking alcohol. When the 12-14-year-olds were asked an open question about the illnesses they believe heavy consumption of alcohol can cause, liver disease was often mentioned. 8% mentioned cancer.