



KNOW THE FACTS

A Snapshot of Youth and Alcohol



GLOBAL BURDEN OF DISEASE

More than a quarter of all 15 to 19-year-olds, are current drinkers, with rates of current drinking highest among this age group in Europe, followed by the Americas (North & South America and the Caribbean) and the Western Pacific.

Alcohol is the leading risk factor for death and disability among young people aged 15-49 in the Americas and worldwide.

Adolescents on average drink less frequently than adults, but consume more per occasion when they do drink.

Most students surveyed in the Americas had their first drink before the age of 14.

THE ENGLISH SPEAKING CARIBBEAN

Young people in the English Speaking Caribbean are exposed to alcohol at an early age

Percentage of students aged 13-15 years who drank at least one drink containing alcohol on one or more of the past 30 days:

Country	Percentage
St. Lucia	55.4%
Dominica	54.4%
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	53.2%
Barbados	46.9%

Percentage of students aged 13-15 years who drank so much alcohol that they were really drunk one or more times during their life:

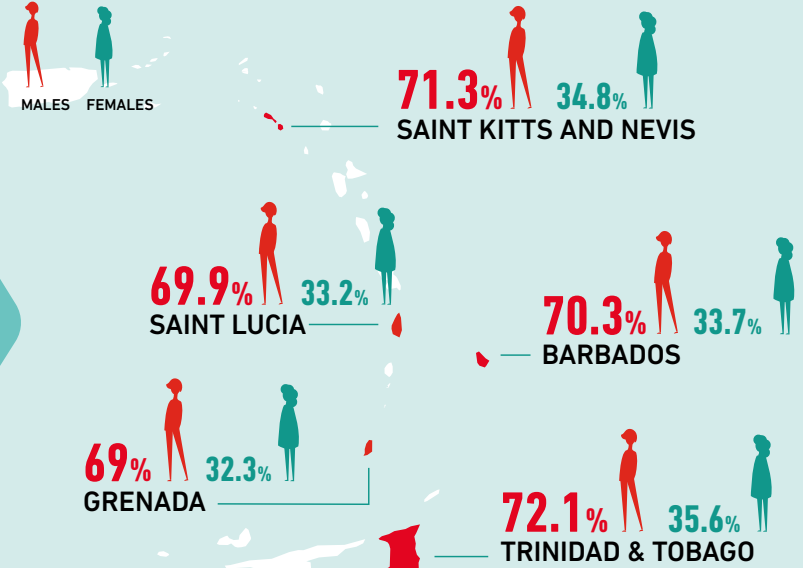
Country	Total
Jamaica	82.3%
Dominica	33.4%
Guyana	29.3%
Trinidad and Tobago	20.6%

Among students aged 13-15 years who ever had a drink of alcohol (other than a few sips) the percentage who had their first drink of alcohol before the age of 14:

Country	Total
Barbados	88.7%
Antigua and Barbuda	86.5%
Trinidad and Tobago	82.5%
Guyana	79.0%

HEAVY DRINKING

The following countries have the **HIGHEST prevalence of heavy episodic drinking** (more than 5 drinks in less than 2 hours) amongst the 15-19 year olds.



THE CONSEQUENCES

Around 14,000 DEATHS OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH under 19 were attributed to alcohol in 2010, in the Americas.



Create a **SAFER** Environment for your youth!



STRENGTHEN restrictions on alcohol availability. For example regulate hours and places where alcohol is sold and ensure that minimum purchasing and drinking age laws are enforced



ADVANCE and enforce drink driving countermeasures. For example introduce low legal blood alcohol limits for driving, alcohol breath testing and mass media campaigns to educate the public



FACILITATE access to screening, brief interventions, and treatment. For example ensuring all health services screen for alcohol use and provide appropriate advice to reduce drinking



ENFORCE bans or comprehensive restrictions on alcohol advertising, sponsorship, and promotion. For example ban the advertising of alcohol targeting young people through all or most media and covering all alcoholic beverages



RAISE prices on alcohol through excise taxes and pricing policies. For example raise the taxes on alcohol to reduce alcohol affordability and ban the use of price promotions, discount sales, flat rates for unlimited drinking

SAFER

SAFER is a new World Health Organisation led road map to accelerate progress on health, beat noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) through addressing the harmful use of alcohol, and achieve development targets.

Sources:
 1. WHO Global Status Report (GSR) on Alcohol and Health 2018
 2. Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation. (2017). GBD Compare. Retrieved from <http://vizhub.healthdata.org/gbd-compare>
 3. Probst, Et Al. Alcohol Policy Relevant Indicators and Alcohol Use Amongst Adolescents in Latin America and the Caribbean. (January 2018). Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs.
 4. Data gathered from youth 13-15 years old from the Global School based Health Survey 2007-2017