

Spot Survey December 2011

Alcohol

5/16/2012

Research and Information

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 RATIONALE

The Spot Survey on Alcohol trends has been conducted bi- annually since 1998. This survey helps to monitor and identify the prevailing trends and patterns related to alcohol use. It also identifies the prevailing attitudes with regard to alcohol . In this report, we concentrate on the results of the survey conducted in December 2011. In addition, a comparative analysis of results obtained this year with results obtained in July 2010 is also included.

This year the survey was in ten districts covering North and East provinces. Hence the survey was focused on the following districts; Colombo, Gampaha, Galle, Kegalle, Anuradhapura, Jaffna, Batticaloa, and Kandy. Two districts Badulla and Mannar were included in the survey from the routing selection.

1.2 OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the spot survey are as follows:

1. Core Objectives:

- To determine the prevailing alcohol trends in Sri Lanka
- To compare the alcohol consumption trends with the previous year

2. General Objectives:

- To determine the prevailing alcohol trends in the sample districts
- To find the prevailing tobacco trends according to age groups
- To find the prevailing attitudes and reasons for tobacco use
- To find the age and cause on initiation of tobacco use

2 METHODOLOGY

Questionnaires were used to collect the information. The questions asked were straight forward and easy to comprehend.

In order to carry out the survey, the Research and Evaluation Programme trained field investigators, with appropriate research techniques. SPSS software was used for analyzing the data.

The survey was conducted over a period of one month and covered a total number of 2,444 respondents who were males of the age fifteen and above. The sample is shown in Table1

Age group * District Cross tabulation												
		District										Total
		Colombo	Gampaha	Galle	Kegalle	Anuradhapura	Kandy	Badulla	Batticaloa	Jaffna	Mannar	
age group	15-24	104	91	103	95	118	98	107	94	97	85	992
		41.3%	39.9%	42.0%	39.3%	41.5%	40.2%	41.5%	43.7%	38.3%	38.1%	40.6%
	25-39	94	91	92	98	106	95	99	77	90	85	927
		37.3%	39.9%	37.6%	40.5%	37.3%	38.9%	38.4%	35.8%	35.6%	38.1%	37.9%
	>=40	54	46	50	49	60	51	52	44	66	53	525
		21.4%	20.2%	20.4%	20.2%	21.1%	20.9%	20.2%	20.5%	26.1%	23.8%	21.5%
Total		252	228	245	242	284	244	258	215	253	223	2444
		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 1: Sample of the survey – by district and age

Sample

The age distribution of the sample population is shown in Figure 1. 40.6% of the sample population comprised of the age range 15-24 years, 37.9% of the sample population comprised of the age range 25-39 years and 21.5% in the age range of 40 and above years. The age of the sample population ranged from 15 years to 87 years and mean age was 30 years.

LIMITATIONS

- Some respondents did not have time to respond, or they vaguely answered.

However, the reader of this report should not generalize the prevalence rates given in this report to national level without conducting a validation study.

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

The level of education is shown in Table 2. The majority of the respondents have reached the education level of completion of GCE A/L (42.7%).

Education			
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
No education	40	1.6	1.7
1-5	89	3.6	3.7
6-10	323	13.2	13.5
O/L	871	35.6	36.5
A/L	927	37.9	38.9
Degree	93	3.8	3.9
Diploma	16	.7	.7
Professional training	11	.5	.5
Postgraduate	14	.6	.6
Total	2384	97.5	100.0
No responses	60	2.5	
Total	2444	100.0	

Table 2: Sample of the survey – by highest level of education

The occupation classification is shown in Table 3.

Occupation	Frequency	(%)
Legislator	57	2.3
Professionals	136	5.6
Technician	92	3.8
Clears	71	2.9
Service worker	732	30.0
Skilled agricultural and fishery/salon	222	9.1
Craft and related worker	102	4.2
Plan machine operators and assemblers	21	.9
Elementary occupations	57	2.3
Army/police forces	138	5.6
Students	407	16.7
Retired	37	1.5
Foreign employed	5	.2
Unemployed	214	8.8
Total	2291	93.7
No response	153	6.3
Total	2444	100.0

Table 3: Sample of the survey – by occupation

3.2 CURRENT USERS

Current Users were identified based their alcohol use within the previous month. According to the responses, it was found that 38% used alcohol while 62% did not use alcohol. This is shown in Figure 1. (N=2,328)

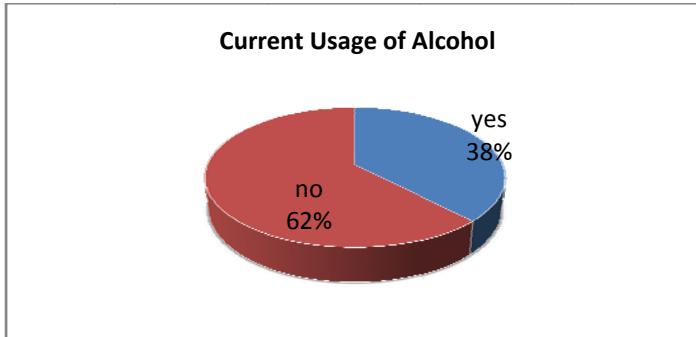


Figure 1: Alcohol prevalence

3.2.1 CURRENT ALCOHOL USAGE BY-AGE

The current alcohol use was further analyzed according to the age distribution. According to the responses, the highest response on current alcohol use was from the age category of 40 years and above (47%). The lowest current usage is recorded from the age category of 15-24 years (29%). This is shown in Figure 2.

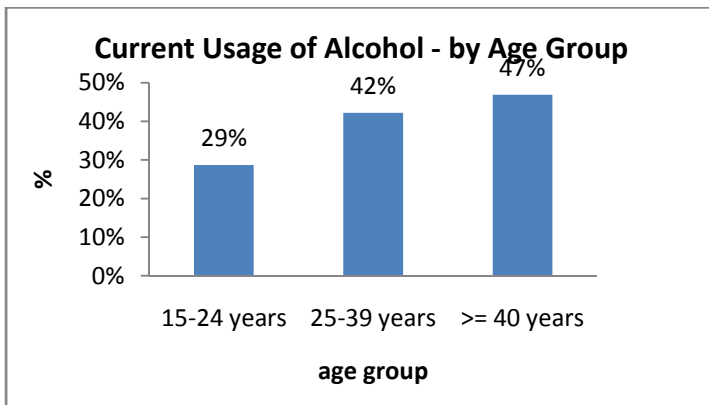


Figure 2: Alcohol prevalence by age group

3.2.2 CURRENT ALCOHOL USAGE-DISTRICT BASIS

The current alcohol use was further analyzed based on district. The highest percentage of current alcohol use was recorded from Anuradhapura (48%) while the lowest percentage was from Kandy(31%). This is shown in Figure 3.

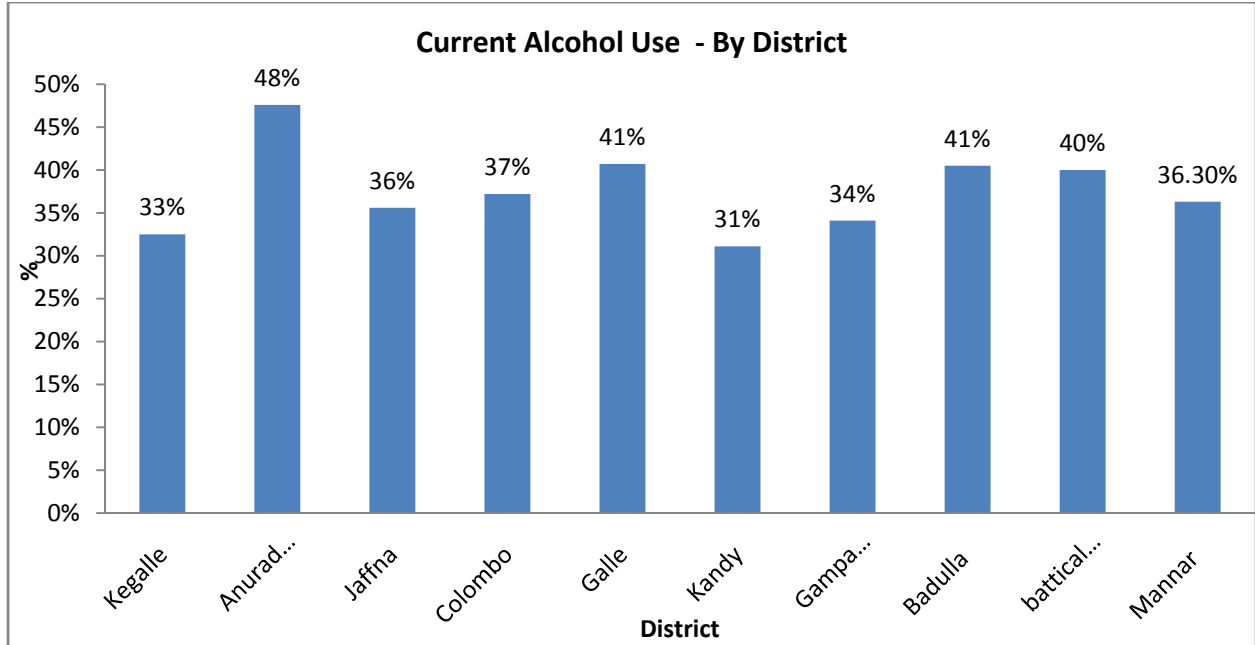


Figure 3: Alcohol prevalence by districts

3.2.3 FREQUENCY OF ALCOHOL USE

The current alcohol users were analyzed based on the frequency of usage; daily, monthly and special occasion basis. The highest percentage of alcohol users were consuming in special occasions (68.1%) while the lowest percentage was in daily (12%). This is shown in Figure 4.

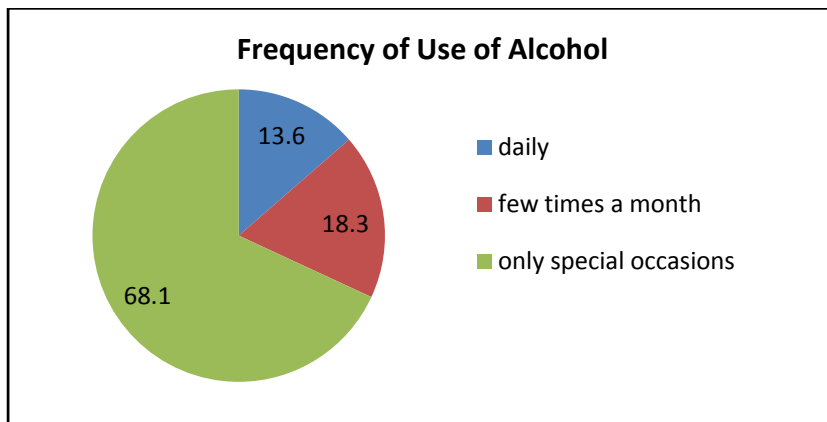


Figure 4: Frequency of alcohol use

3.2.4 FREQUENCY OF ALCOHOL USE - AGE DISTRIBUTION

The frequency of alcohol use was analyzed further according to age group. It was identified that individuals in the age range of 40 and above, used alcohol highly on daily basis (22%) while the age range of 15-24 use alcohol lightly on daily basis (9%). The percentage of monthly alcohol users was the 20% in the age range of 25-39. The lowest percentage of monthly users was in the age range of 15-24(17%). On special occasions, the age range of 15-24 uses alcohol highly (74%) than the other age ranges. This is shown in Figure 5.

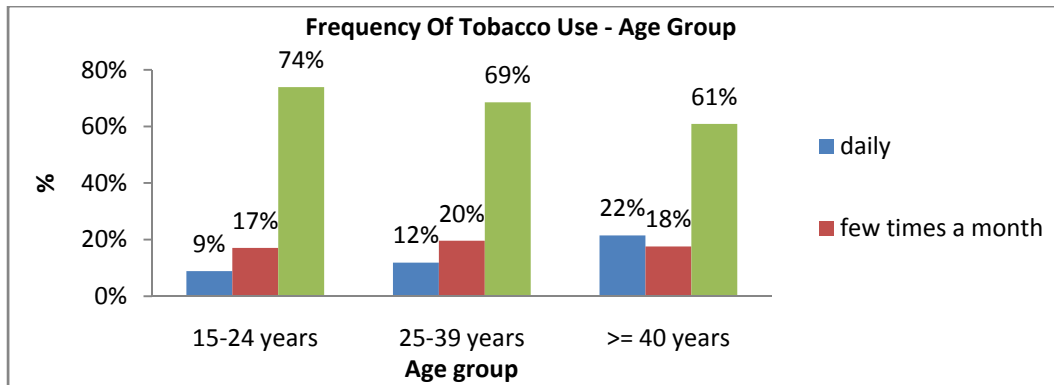


Figure 5: frequency of alcohol use by age group

3.2.5 FREQUENCY OF ALCOHOL USE DISTRICT BASIS

The frequency of alcohol use was analyzed according to districts. The highest percentage of daily alcohol users was from Jaffna district (29.2%) while the lowest percentage of daily alcohol users was from Badulla (4.5%). The highest percentage of alcohol users at the special occasions was from Badulla (92.1%) while lowest was reported in Jaffna (37.5%). The highest percentage of monthly alcohol users was from Batticaloa (38.5%) whereas the lowest percentage of monthly alcohol users was from Gampaha (2.8%). This is shown in Figure 6.

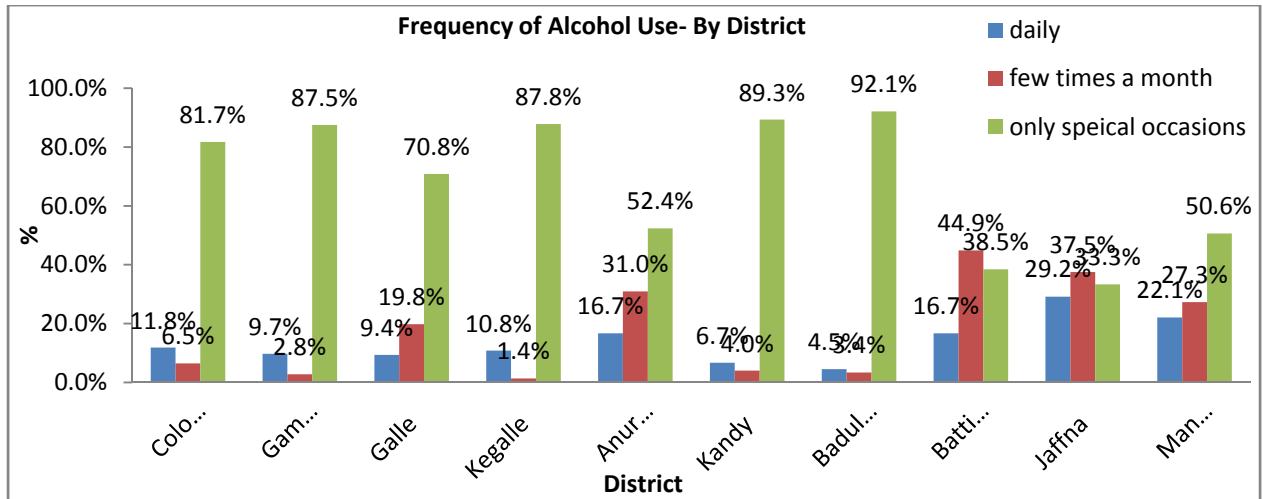


Figure 6: Frequency of alcohol use by district

2.6 REASONS FOR ALCOHOL USE

The survey also emphasized on the reasons for alcohol use. Among the reasons given on the use of alcohol, the majority (42.2%) have mentioned that they use alcohol for enjoyment followed by second highest reason being to socialize with friends (17.1%).

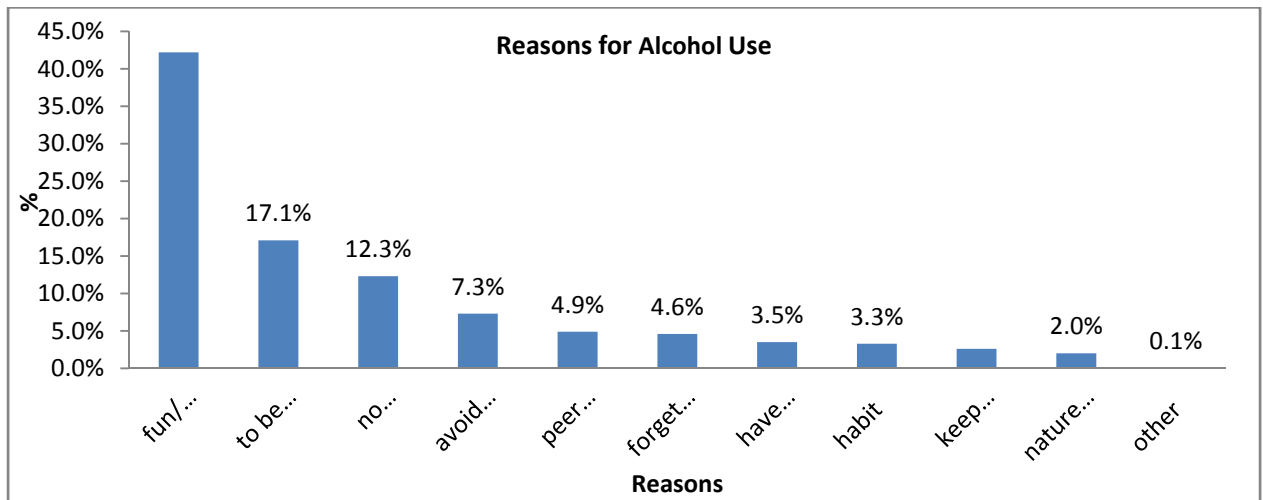


Figure 7: Reasons for alcohol use

The reasons for alcohol use by age group are shown in Figure 8. The major reason for using alcohol was the heist reason for all the age ranges. It was used for fun and enjoyment.

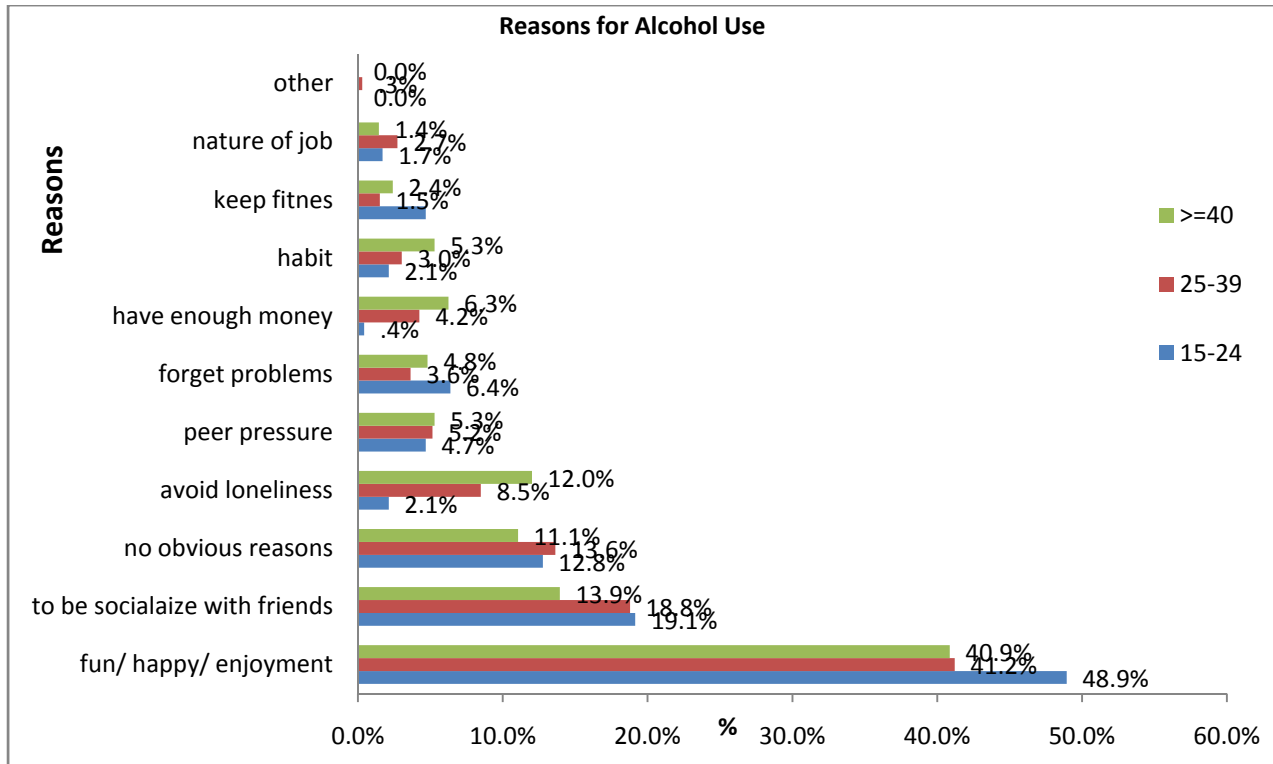


Figure 8: Reasons for alcohol use by age group

Figure 9: Reasons for alcohol use by district

3.2.7 TYPE OF ALCOHOL USED

Questions were asked on the specific alcohol type used by the users. The responses were as follows: The most common type of alcohol used was Beer (49%), while the lowest usage by type of alcohol was illicit alcohol- Kasippu (1.2%).

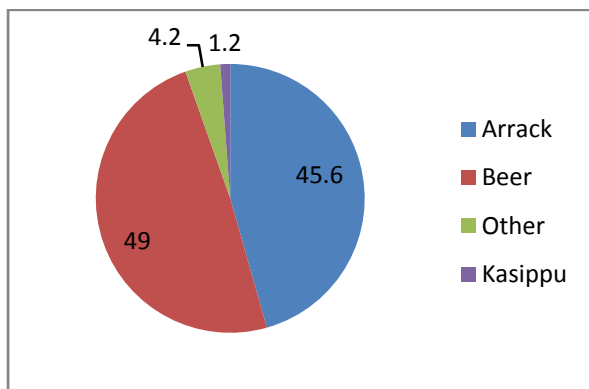


Figure 10: Type of alcohol use

The type of alcohol consumed was further analyzed with respect to age . This is shown in Figure 11. Majority of the adults (age range of 40 and above) use 'Arrack'(73.2%) while 'Beer' was used mainly by youth (age range of 15-24) (77.9%).

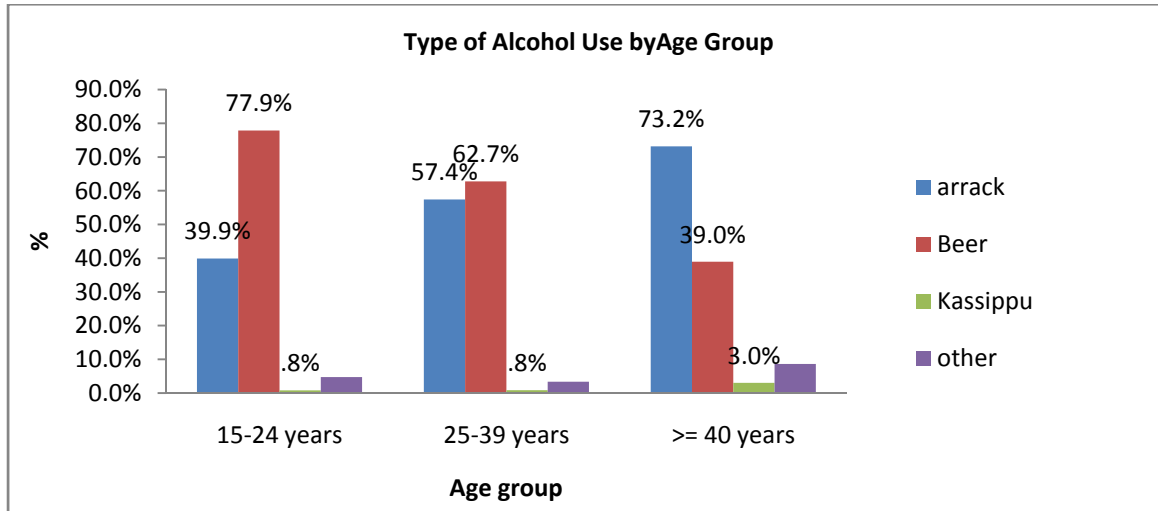


Figure 11: Type of alcohol use by age group

The type of alcohol used was analyzed according to the districts. This is shown in Figure 12. Colombo, Badulla, Batticaloa, Jaffna and Mannar have relatively high usage of Beer whereas Gampaha, Galle and Kegalle have relatively high usage of Arrack.

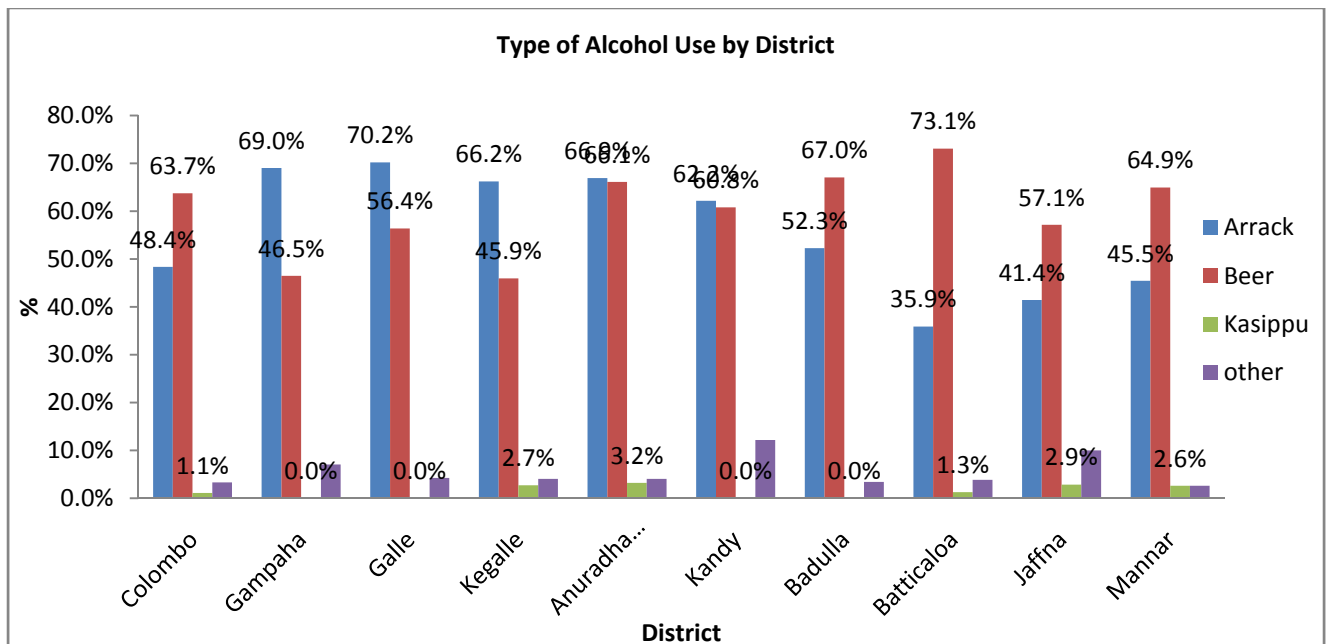


Figure 12: Type of alcohol use by district

3.2.8 REASONS OF ALCOHOL USE BY TYPE OF ALCOHOL

The data was also analyzed on the reasons of alcohol use by type of alcohol. Among the reasons given for use of alcohol, happiness was the major reason for all the type of alcohol. This is shown in Figure 13.

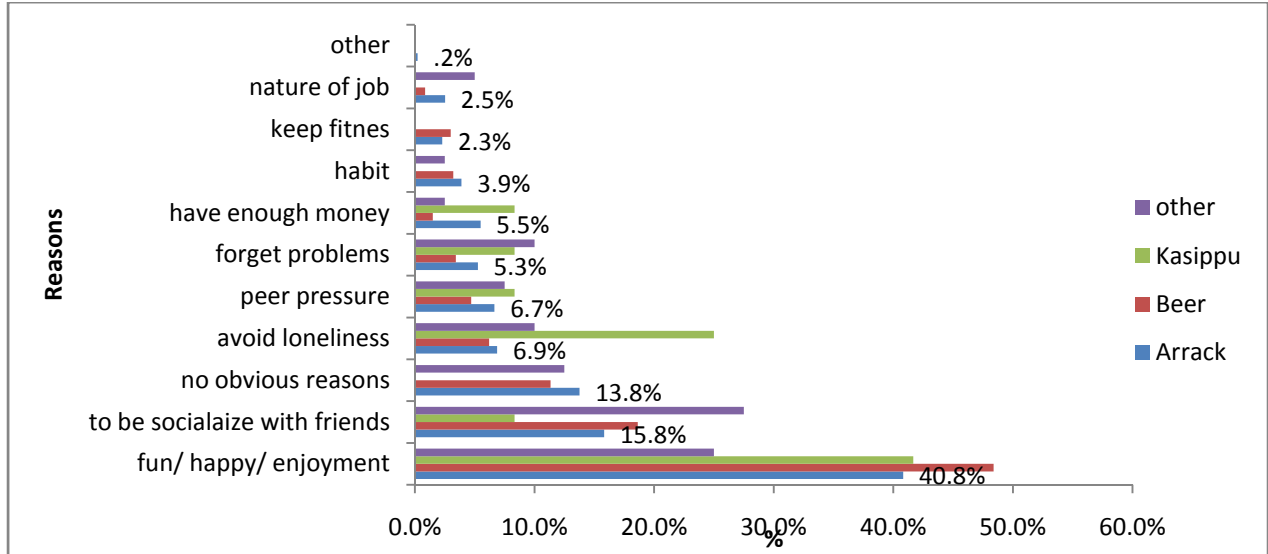


Figure 13: Reasons for alcohol use by type of alcohol

QUITTING ALCOHOL USE

In depth questions were asked of respondents who currently consume alcohol however who have attempted to quit the use of alcohol.

Out of the current alcohol users 42.9% have tried quitting alcohol use. This is shown in figure 14.

Quit use of alcohol use alcohol (From the current users)

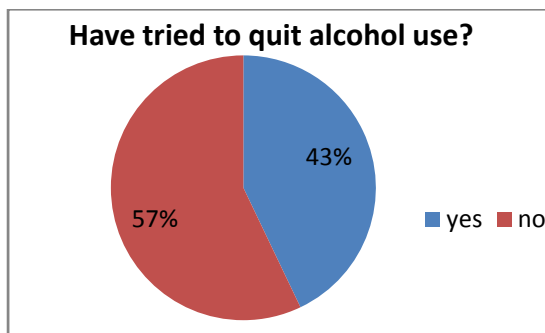


Figure 14: have tried to quit alcohol use alcohol

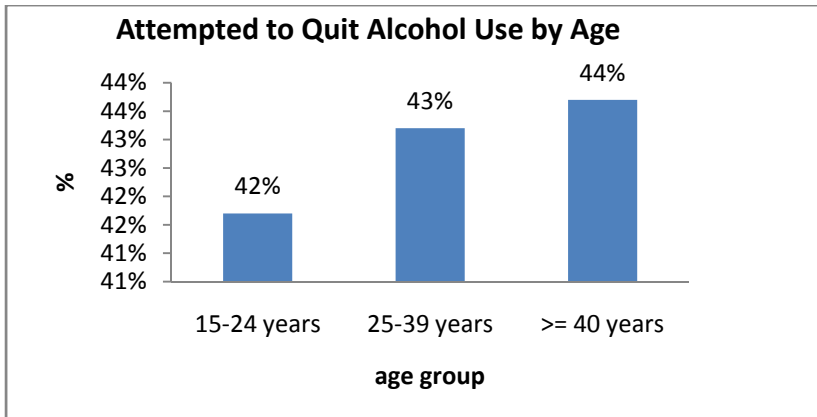


Figure 15: have tried to quit alcohol use alcohol by age range

Reasons for quitting alcohol

Further questions were asked about the reasons which caused them to attempt to quit this habit. 16.6% of the people have quitted alcohol use because of financial problems.

Reasons for try to quit alcohol use alcohol

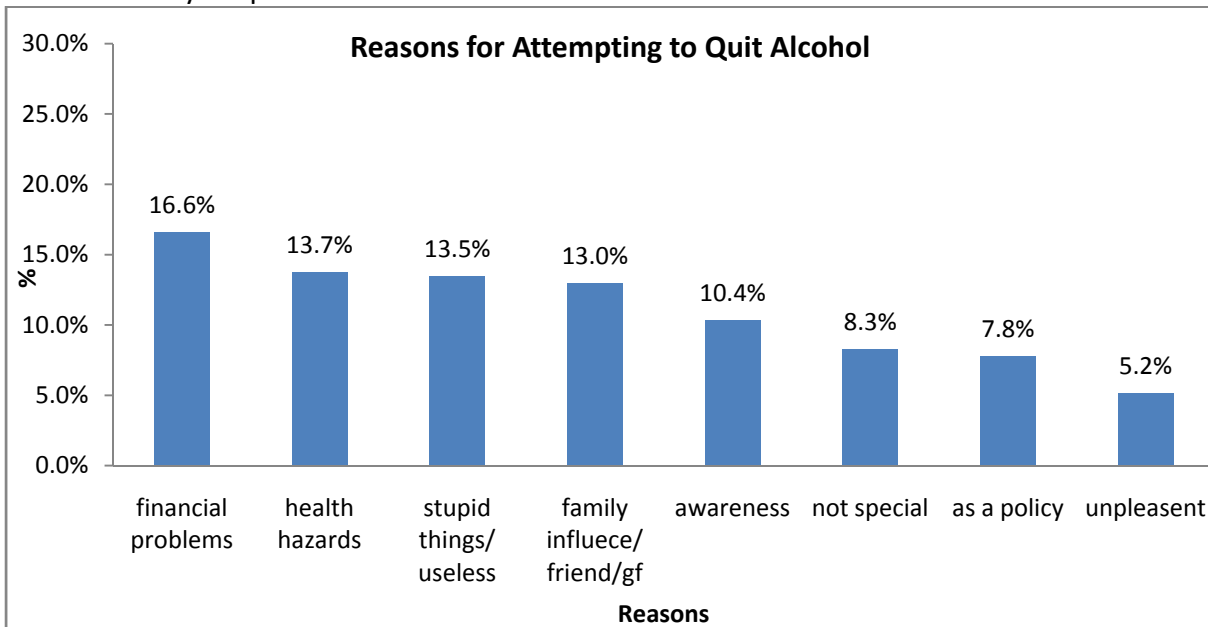


Figure 16: have tried to quit alcohol use alcohol by age range

Respondent who have not consumed alcohol within last month and who have ever used were questioned to determine whether they have stop using alcohol. The responses were as follows.

Stopped alcohol use

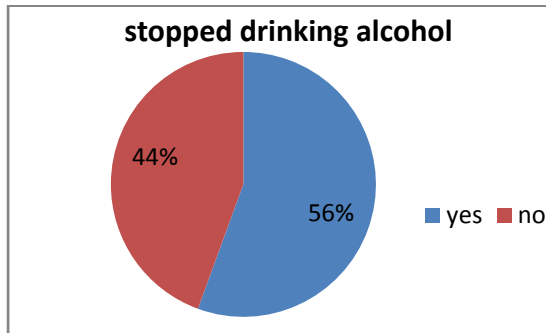


Figure 17: have quit alcohol use alcohol

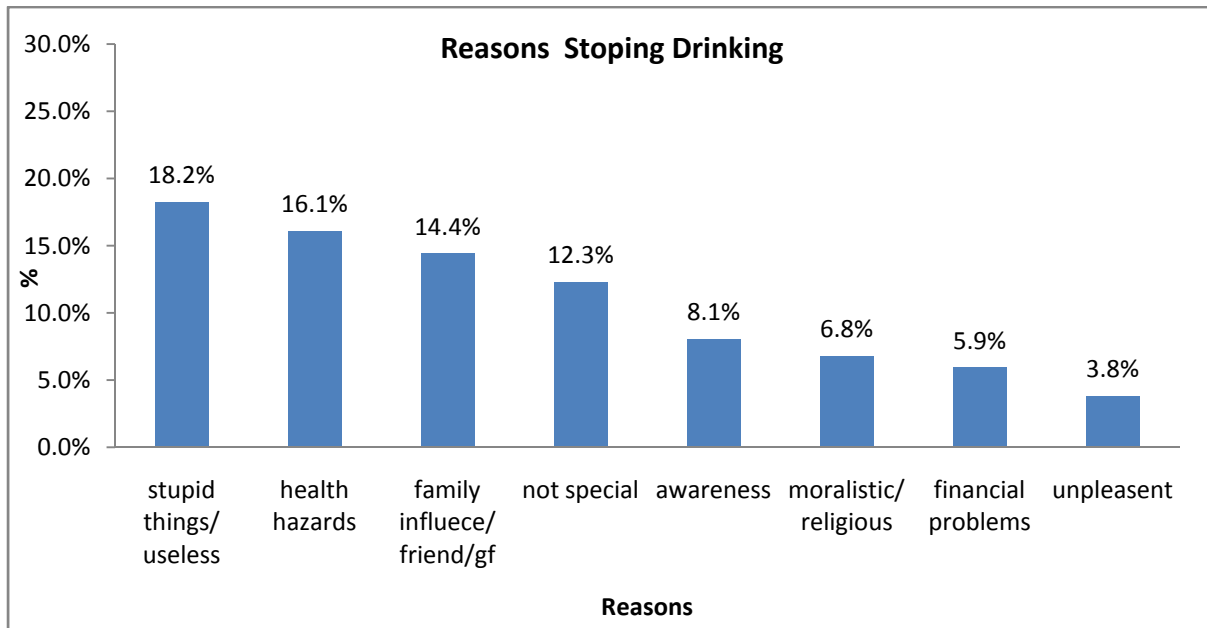


Figure 18: reasons for quit alcohol use

3.3 ALCOHOL USE (EVER USED)

Questions were asked on whether the respondents have ever used alcohol in their life until now. According to the respondents, 61.6 % ever used alcohol while 38.4% did not. This is shown in Figure 19.

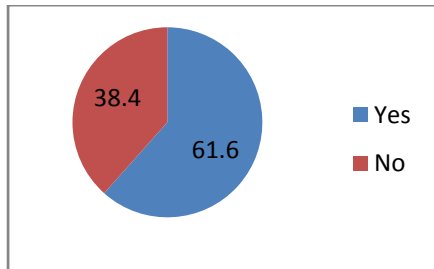


Figure 14: Ever use of alcohol

On further studying the prevalence of ever users of alcohol according to the age distribution, it was found that the highest percentage of respondents having used alcohol at any point in their lifetime was found to be among those belonging to the age group 40 and above (74.9%). This is shown in Figure 20.

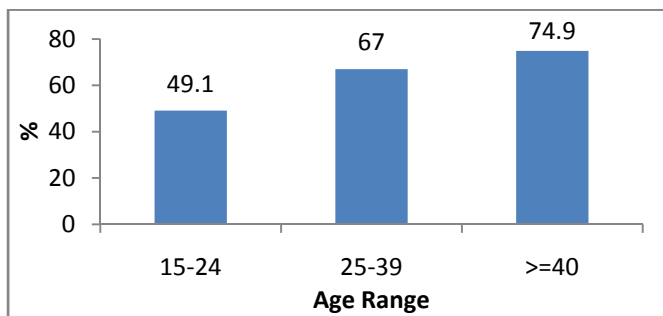


Figure 20: Ever use alcohol by age group

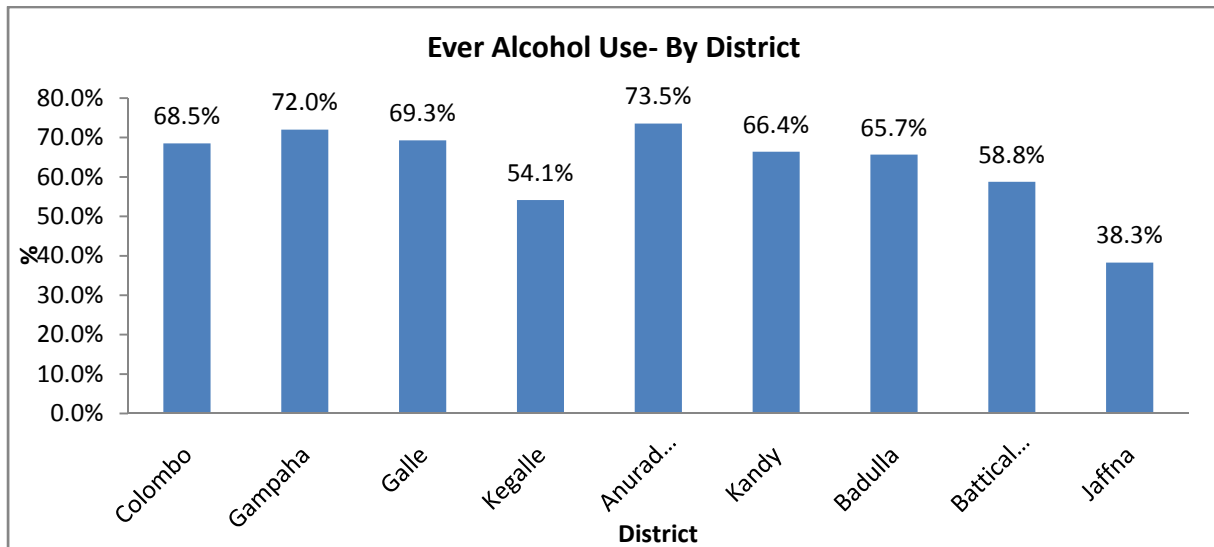


Figure 21: Ever use alcohol by district

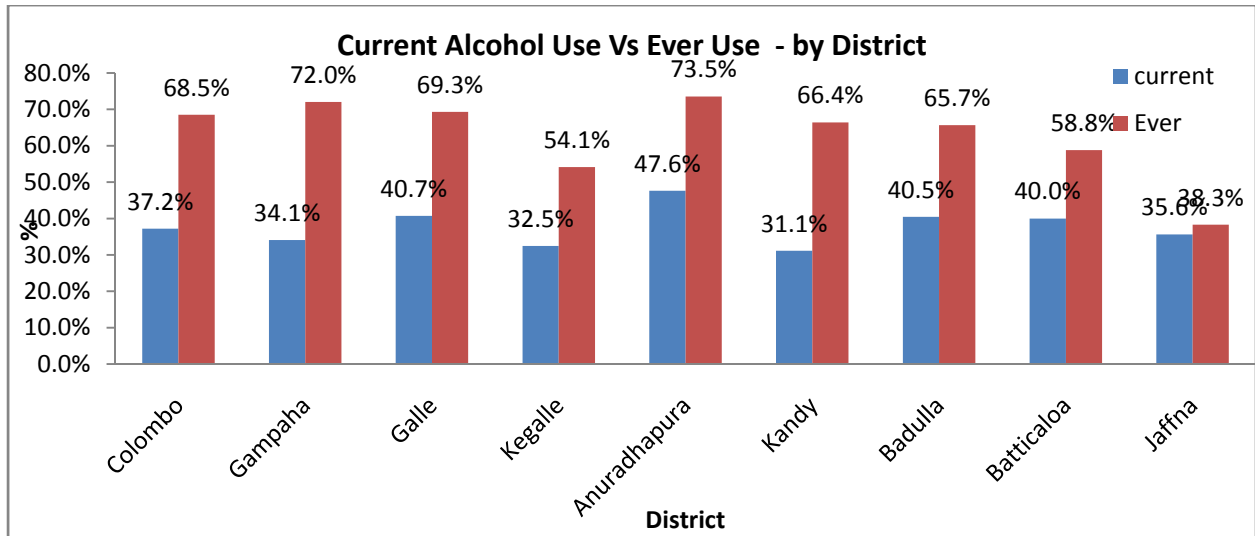


Figure 23: Ever use alcohol Vs current use of alcohol

3.3.1 INITIATION OF ALCOHOL USE

Initiation is a main concern of the survey. With the ever users of alcohol, the question which needs to be addressed next is the age of initiation. Further, the reasons for the initiation were also determined. and the first feelings during the initiation were asked.

3.3.2 AGE INITIATION OF ALCOHOL USE

Among the respondents, the highest percentage of respondents has initiated alcohol in the age range of 16-20 years (54.4%). This is shown in Figure 24.

Statistics

Al_inci_age

N	Valid	1317
	Missing	63
Mean		20.72
Std. Error of Mean		.229
Median		20.00
Mode		18
Std. Deviation		8.312
Variance		69.092
Range		230
Minimum		1
Maximum		231

Table 1: Initiation of alcohol

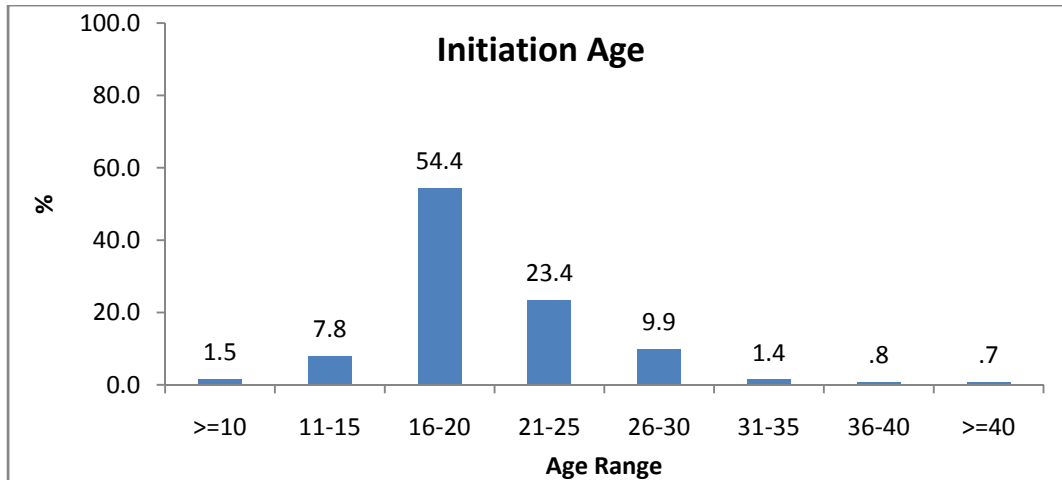


Figure 24 Initiation of alcohol use

3.3.3 OCCASION OF ALCOHOL INITIATION

Apart from the age of initiation, questions were asked on the occasion in which alcohol use was initiated. The majority of the respondents stated that they initiated alcohol at parties (53.1%).

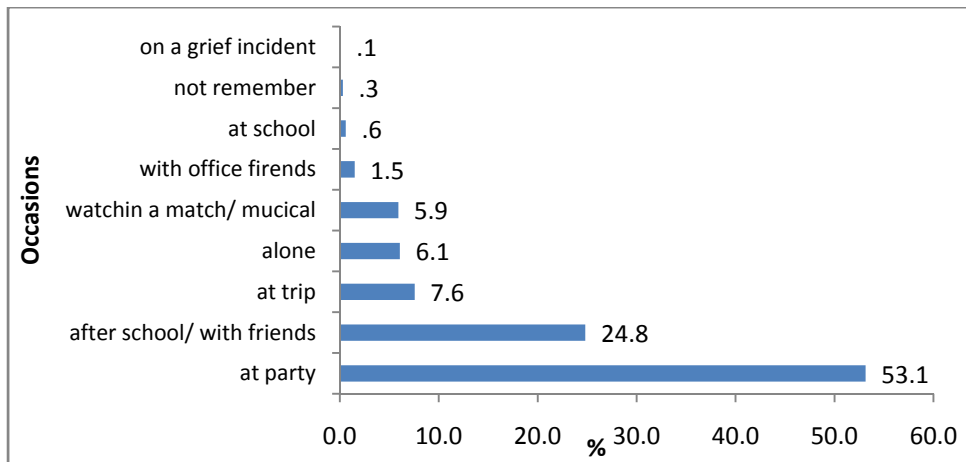


Figure 15: Occasions in which initiation of alcohol use

3.3.4 TYPE OF ALCOHOL AT INITIATION

Questions were further asked regarding the specific alcohol type used at initiation of alcohol use. The responses were as follows: The most common type of alcohol at initiation was Beer (57.9%), while the lowest type of alcohol used was Kasippu (1.1%).

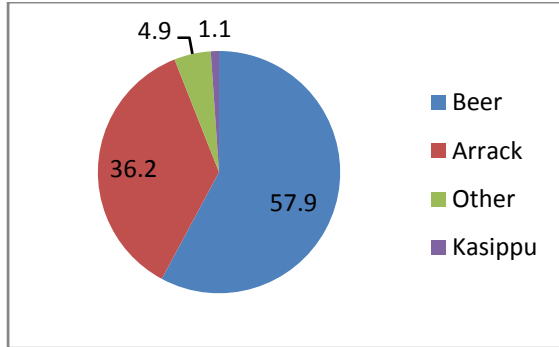


Figure 16: Type of alcohol use

The responses were also analyzed according to the age range with the type of alcohol. This is shown in Figures 27. Beer was the highest type of alcohol used at initiation in age groups 15-24 and 25-39. Arrack was the highest type used at initiation in the age range of 40.

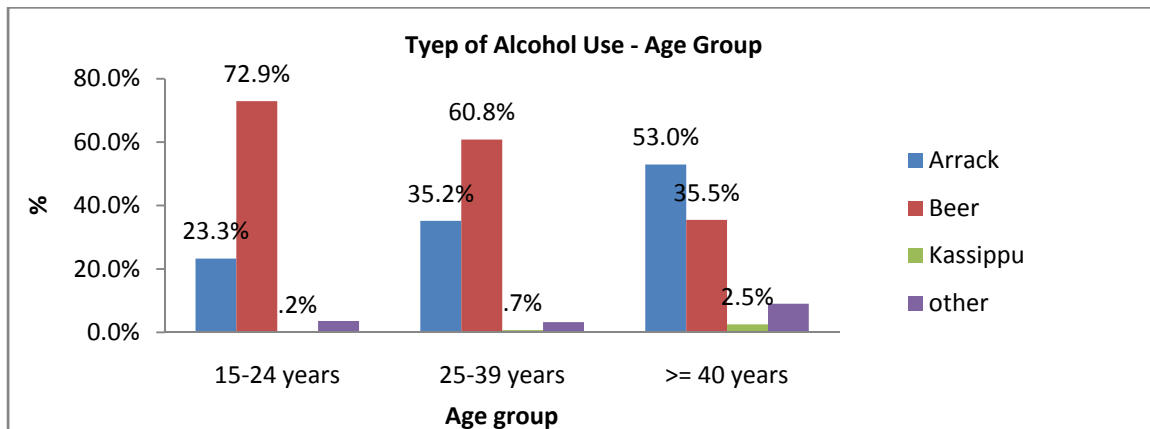


Figure 27: Type of alcohol use by age group

3.4 ALCOHOL NEVER USED (NEVER USERS)

In depth questions were asked of respondents who had never used alcohol. The responses were analyzed according to the age and the district. Further questions were asked regarding the reasons for not taking up this habit.

According to the responses, 38% responded that they have never used alcohol. This is shown in Figure 24.

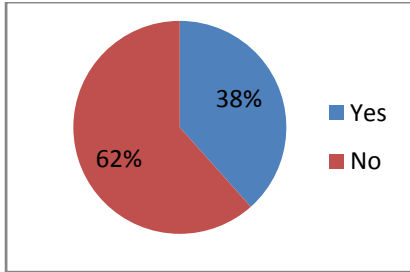


Figure 17: Never use of alcohol

The majority of never used category was from the age group 15-24 years (50.9%) This is shown in Figure 25. The highest response for never use of alcohol was from the district of Batticaloa (61.7%). This is shown in Figure 29.

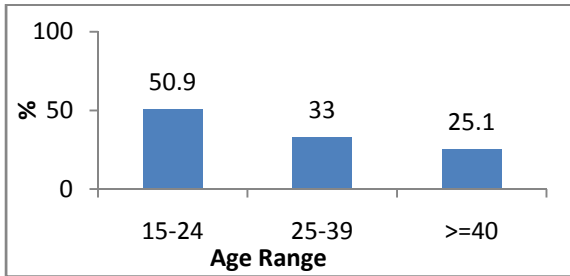


Figure 18: Never use of alcohol by age group

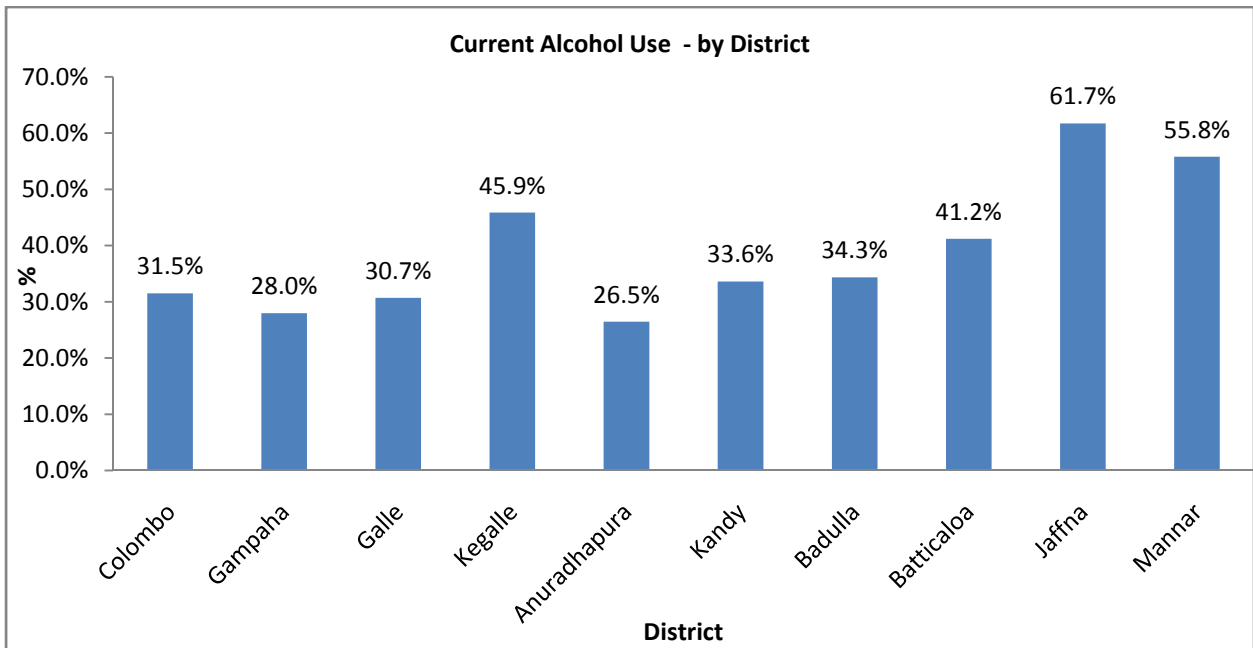


Figure 30: Never use of alcohol by district

Further, the responses were analyzed according to the reasons for never using alcohol. The most frequent reason for never using alcohol was due to the bad smell and unpleasantness. (20.2%). This is shown in Figure 31.

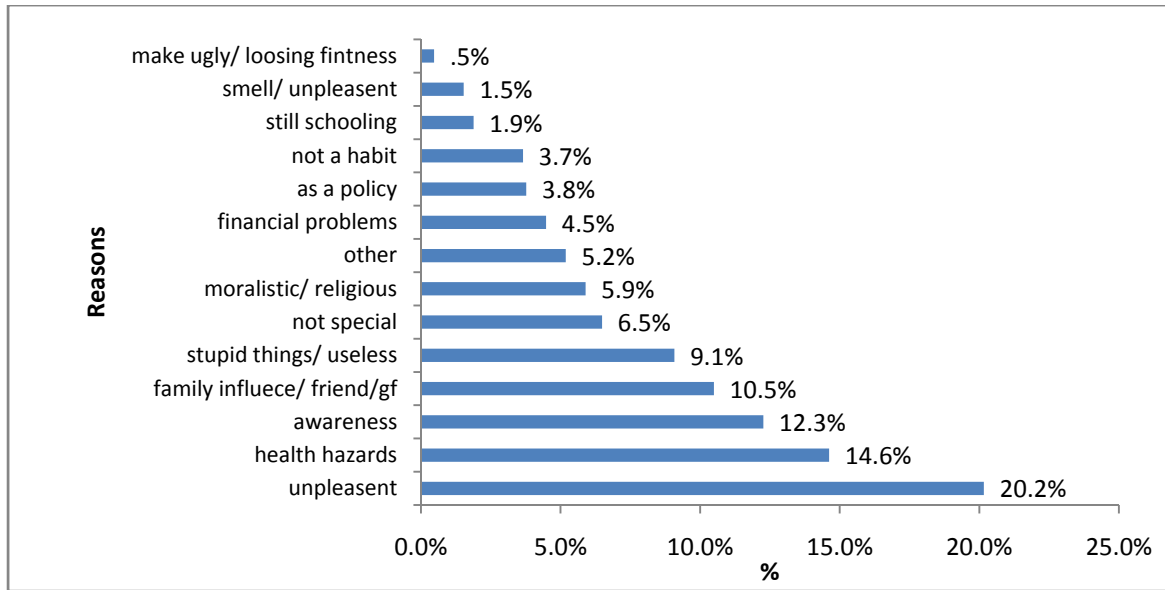


Figure 31: Reasons for never use of alcohol

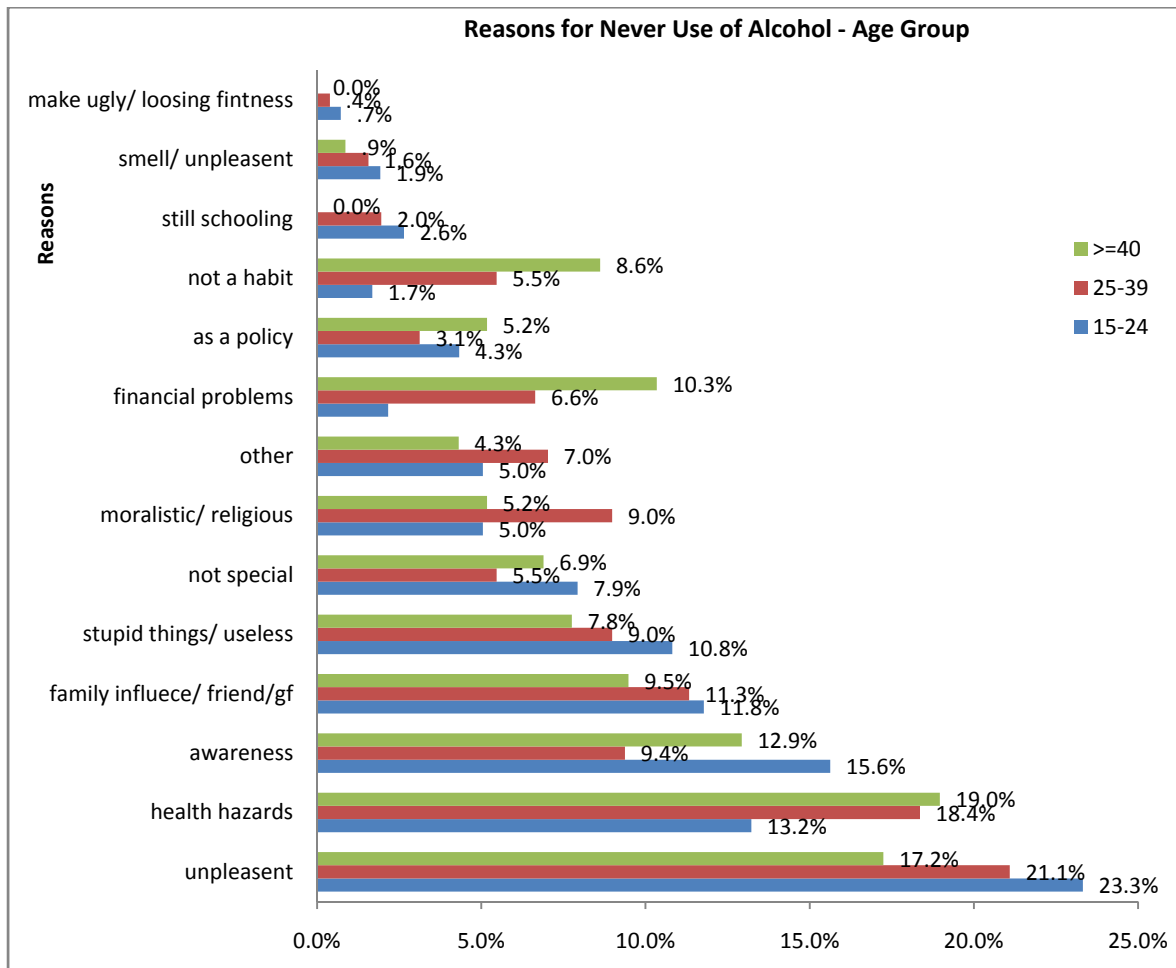


Figure 32: Reasons for never use of alcohol by age group

4.0 COMPARISONS OF RESULTS WITH THE 2010 SPOT SURVEY

In comparison with the results of the July 2010 and July 2011 spot survey, the alcohol use has a decreased by 8.9% in comparison to the previous year. This is shown in Figure 33.

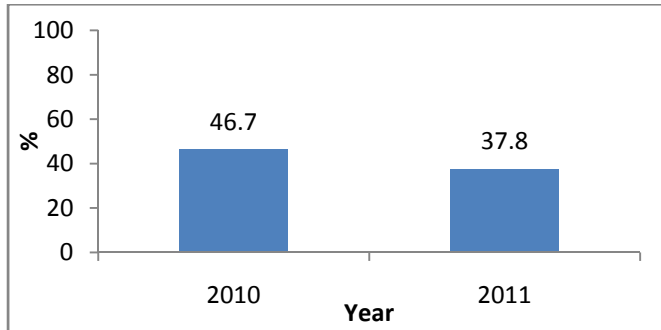


Figure 33: Comparison of alcohol use

5.0 THE TREND OF ALCOHOL USE 2000-2011

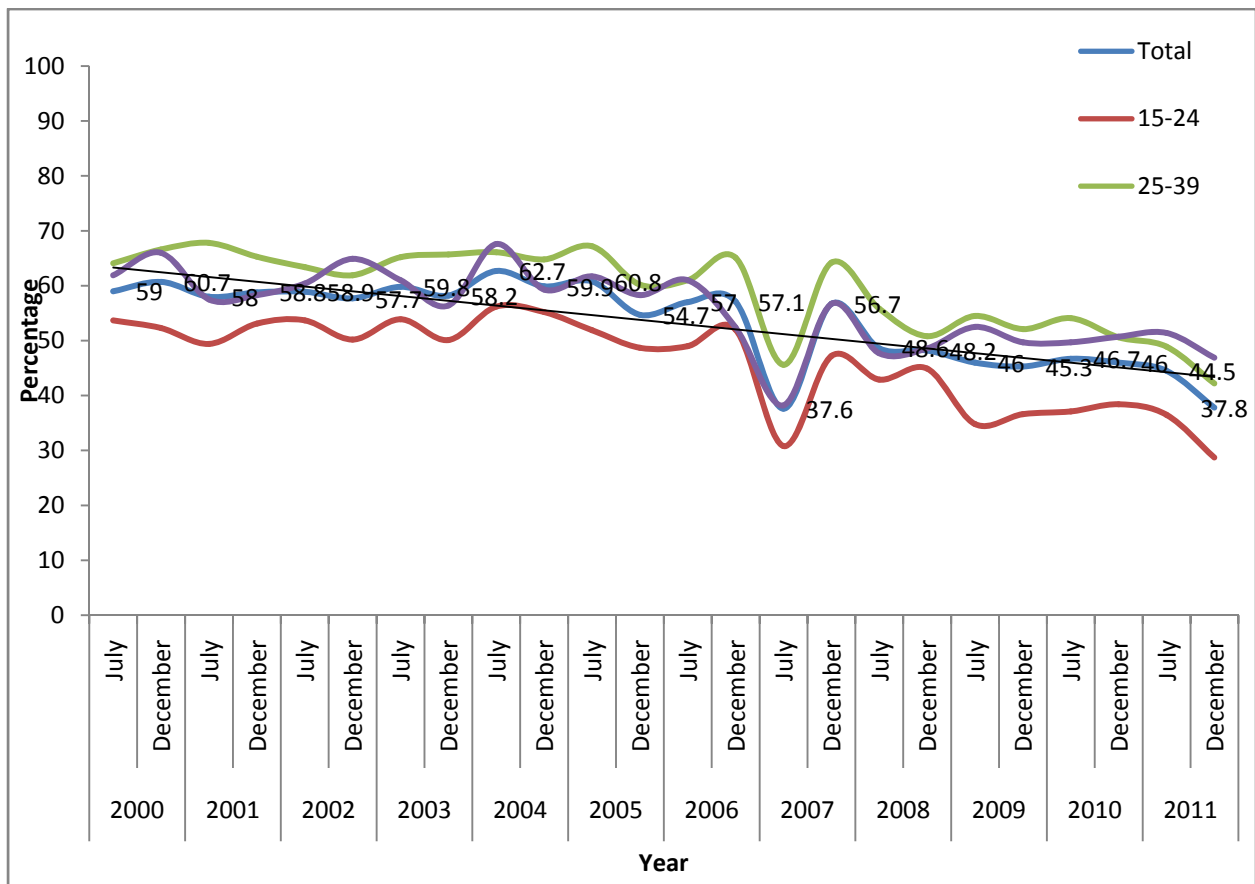


Figure 19: The trend of alcohol use

The percentage of alcohol users from year 2000 to July 2011 obtained from bi-annual spot surveys is shown in Figure 34. An overall decreasing trend in alcohol use can be observed.