

TRENDS IN ALCOHOL USE

SPOT SURVEY REPORT
JULY 2010

Research and Information Programme
Alcohol and Drug Information Centre (ADIC)
info@adicsrilanka.org , research@adicsrilanka.org

www.adicsrilanka.org

TRENDS IN ALCOHOL USE

SPOT SURVEY REPORT
JULY 2010

Research and Information Programme
Alcohol and Drug Information Centre (ADIC)
info@adicsrilanka.org , research@adicsrilanka.org
www.adicsrilanka.org

CONTENTS

	Page No	
1	Introduction	1
1.1	Rationale	1
1.2	Objectives	2
2	Methodology	3
2.1	Sample	3
2.2	Limitations	4
3	Results	4
3.1.	Demographic Information	4
3.1.1	Age Distribution	4
3.1.2	Level of Education	4
3.1.3	Occupation Classification	5
3.2	Alcohol Use	6
3.2.1	Current Users	6
3.2.1.1	Current Alcohol Use-Age Distribution	6
3.2.1.2	Current Alcohol Use-District Basis	7
3.2.1.3	Current Alcohol Use-Occupation Basis	7
3.2.1.4	Current Alcohol Use-Education Basis	8
3.2.2	Frequency of Alcohol Use	8
3.2.2.1	Feelings of Daily User if Not Use Alcohol	10
3.2.2.2	Reasons for Alcohol Use	11
3.2.2.3	Type of Alcohol Used	16
3.3	Alcohol Use (Ever Used)	18
3.4	Initiation of Alcohol Use	19
3.4.1	Age Initiation of Alcohol Use	19
3.4.2	Occasions in which Alcohol was used at Initiation	19
3.4.3	The feelings of Alcohol Use at Initiation	20
3.5	Alcohol Never Used (Never Users)	20
4	Comparison of Results with the 2009 Spot Survey	25
4.1	The Trend of the Alcohol 2000-2010	25
5	Summery	26
6	Appendix	27

LIST OF FIGURES

	Page No
1. Figure 1 Sample Distribution	2
2. Figure 2 Age Distribution	4
3. Figure 3 Current Use of Alcohol	6
4. Figure 4 Current Use of Alcohol (Age Distribution)	6
5. Figure 5 Current Use of Alcohol Use(District Distribution)	7
6. Figure 6 Current Use of Alcohol Use (Education Basis)	8
7. Figure 7 Frequency of Alcohol Use	8
8. Figure 8 Frequency of Alcohol Use(Age Distribution)	9
9. Figure 9 Frequency of Alcohol Use(District Distribution)	9
10. Figure 10 Feelings of Daily Alcohol Users	10
11. Figure 11 Feelings of Daily Alcohol Users(Age Distribution)	10
12. Figure 12 Reasons for Alcohol Use	11
13. Figure 13 Reasons for Alcohol Use (Age Distribution)	12
14. Figure 14 Reasons for Alcohol Use-Colombo	13
15. Figure 15 Reasons for Alcohol Use-Gampaha	13
16. Figure 16 Reasons for Alcohol Use-Galle	14
17. Figure 17 Reasons for Alcohol Use-Kegalle	14
18. Figure 18 Reasons for Alcohol Use-Anuradhapura	15
19. Figure 19 Reasons for Alcohol Use-Matale	15
20. Figure 20 Type of Alcohol Used	16
21. Figure 21 Type of Alcohol Used-15-25	16
22. Figure 22 Type of Alcohol Used-25-39	16
23. Figure 23 Type of Alcohol Used->=40	17
24. Figure 24 Type of Alcohol Used (District Basis)	17
25. Figure 25 Ever Use of Alcohol	18
26. Figure 26 Ever Use of Alcohol (Age Distribution)	18
27. Figure 27 Age Group of Alcohol Initiation	19
28. Figure 28 Occasions of Initiation Alcohol Use at Initiation	19
29. Figure 29 The Feelings of Alcohol Use at Initiation	20

LIST OF FIGURES

	Page No
30. Figure 30 Never Use of Alcohol	20
31. Figure 31 Never Use of Alcohol (Age Distribution)	21
32. Figure 32 Never Use of Alcohol(District Distribution)	21
33. Figure 33 Reasons for Never Use of Alcohol	21
34. Figure 34 Reasons for Never Use of Alcohol (Age Distribution)	22
35. Figure 35 Reasons for Never Use of Alcohol-Colombo	22
36. Figure 36 Reasons for Never Use of Alcohol-Gampaha	23
37. Figure 37 Reasons for Never Use of Alcohol-Galle	23
38. Figure 38 Reasons for Never Use of Alcohol-Kegalle	23
39. Figure 39 Reasons for Never Use of Alcohol-Anuradhapura	24
40. Figure 40 Reasons for Never Use of Alcohol-Matale	24
41. Figure 41 Comparison of Results with the July 2009 Spot Survey	25
42. Figure 42 The Trends of Alcohol Use 2000-2010	25

LIST OF TABLES

	Page No
1. Table 01 Sample of the Spot Survey	3
2. Table 02 Education Levels	4
3. Table 03 Occupation Classification	5
4. Table 04 Current Use of Alcohol (Occupation Basis)	7

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are indebted to a large number of people for their support in the survey and the preparation of the report.

We are also indebted to the support given to us by the students of the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka (Mihintale) under the coordination of Lecturer Duminda Guruge (Lecturer in Health Promotions, Faculty of Applied Sciences).

We must offer our gratitude to students of the National Institute of Social Development (NISD) who have come forward to offer their support for the survey under the coordination of Mr. Kavinda Kahawatta. We admire their support from the data gathering process to the success of the implementation of the survey.

We are also grateful to the ADIC staff and volunteers for their contribution. We hope that the effort they have put into gathering data is admirable.

PREFACE

The Alcohol and Drug Information Centre (ADIC) was established as an independent organization in 1990. Today, ADIC has become a well-recognized national resource centre, promoting drug demand reduction and developing new innovative strategies. ADIC is registered under the Voluntary Social Services Act of Sri Lanka and obtained Approved Charity Status in 1992. ADIC serves in many international networks such as the Global Alcohol Policy Alliance, the Framework Convention Alliance on Alcohol Control and the International Federation of Non Governmental Organization (IFNGO) and thereby contribute to the international advocacy by collecting and disseminating information as well as by training youth to carryout changes targeting the community.

The organization also focuses on research as a core component of its main programmes. The pillars of work under the research programme involve:

- Research and analytical work to increase knowledge and understanding of alcohol, Alcohol and other drugs.
- Information to assist development/health workers in the implementation of their programmes.
- Information for the development of domestic legislations on alcohol, Alcohol and other drugs.
- Field based monitoring and evaluations of the programmes of the organization.

Recognizing the importance of comprehensive, factual and objective information in the field of prevention, a bi annual research is conducted on Alcohol and alcohol. A Spot Survey on Alcohol and Alcohol has been developed since the year 1998 to facilitate academics and development health practitioners on the necessary information pertaining to Alcohol and alcohol in Sri Lanka.

The Spot Survey on Alcohol and Alcohol continues to provide a trend analysis of the Sri Lankan situation on Alcohol and alcohol consumption on males over 15 years. In addition, this year's report contains an in depth look into the brands used and the sensations used during their first use.

The Spot Survey Report coverage remains comprehensive and it tries to give the reader a complete picture of the Sri Lankan Alcohol and alcohol use with particular emphasis on the age range. As in previous years, the Report is based on data obtained primarily from spot surveys.

Electronic copies of the Spot Survey on Alcohol and Alcohol can be accessed via the ADIC website at www.adicsrilanka.org. Comments and feedback on the report can be sent to: research@adicsrilanka.org.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Rationale

The Spot Survey on Alcohol and Alcohol trends has been conducted bi- annually since 1998. This survey helps to monitor and identify the prevailing trends and patterns related to alcohol and Alcohol use. It also identifies the prevailing attitudes with regard to alcohol and Alcohol. In this report we concentrate on the results of the survey conducted in July 2010. In addition, a comparative analysis of results obtained this year with results obtained in July 2009 is also included.

The survey was focused on the following districts; Colombo, Gampaha, Galle, Kegalle, Anuradhapura and Matale.

1.2 Objectives

The objectives of the spot survey are as follows:

1. Core Objectives:

- To find out the prevailing alcohol and Alcohol trends in Sri Lanka
- To compare the alcohol and Alcohol trends with the previous year

2. General Objectives:

- To find the prevailing alcohol and Alcohol trends in the sample districts
- To find the prevailing alcohol and Alcohol trends according to age groups
- To find the prevailing attitudes and reasons for alcohol and Alcohol use
- To find the age and cause on initiation of alcohol and Alcohol use
- To find the trends in the Alcohol brands used according to age groups
- To find the types of alcohol use according to the age groups

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 Information Programme trained field investigators, with appropriate research techniques. SPSS software was used for analyzing the data.

The major districts in which the spot survey is conducted are: Colombo, Gampaha, Galle, Kegalle, and Anuradhapura. In addition, one other district (Matale) is selected randomly.

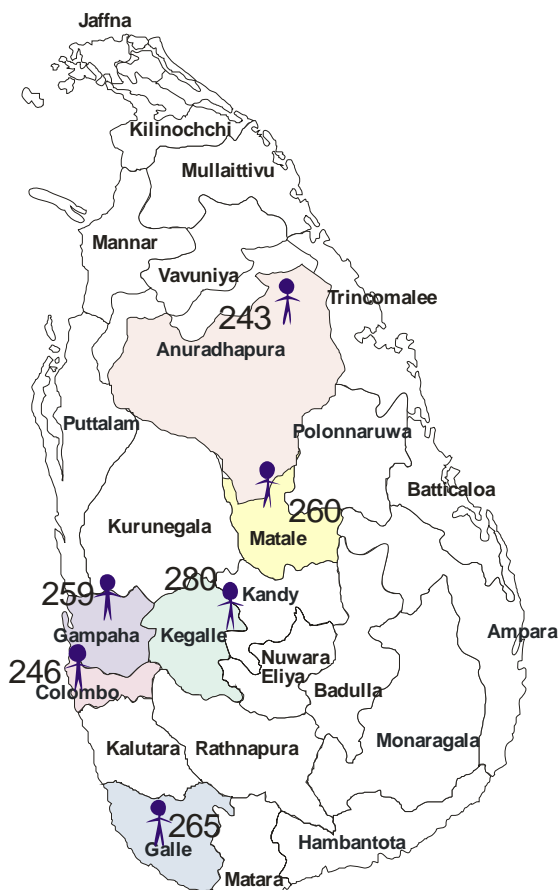


Figure 1- Sample Distribution

2.1 Sample

The survey was conducted over a period of two weeks and covered a total number of 1553 people which were male respondents of the age fifteen and above. The sample is shown in Table 1.

Age Group	Districts						Total
	Colombo	Gampaha	Galle	Kegalle	Anurdhapura	Matale	
15-24 years	100 40.7%	108 41.7%	103 38.9%	111 39.6%	93 38.3%	99 38.1%	614 39.5%
25-39 years	86 35.0%	97 37.5%	106 40.0%	112 40.0%	97 39.9%	100 38.5%	598 38.5%
>=40 years	60 24.4%	54 20.8%	56 21.1%	57 20.4%	53 21.8%	61 23.5%	341 22.0%
Total	246 100.0%	259 100.0%	265 100.0%	280 100.0%	243 100.0%	260 100.0%	1553 100.0%

Table - 01

2.2 Limitations

- Some respondents do not have time to respond, or answer vaguely.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Demographic Information

The demographic information comprises of the age distribution, level of education and the employment status.

3.1.1 Age Distribution

The age distribution of the sample population is shown in Figure 2. 40% of the sample population comprised of the age range 15-24 years, 38% of the sample population comprised of the age range 25-39 years and 22% in the age range of 40 and above years. The mean of the sample population is the minimum age was 15 years and maximum age was 81 years.

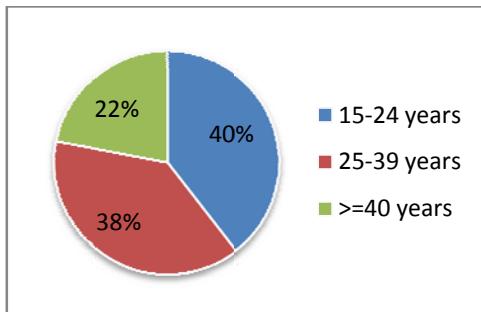


Figure 2- Age Distribution

3.1.2 Level of Education

The level of education is shown in Table 2. The highest percentage on the level of education was on the completion of GCE A/L (42.7%).

Level of Education	(%)
No Education	0.4
Grade 1-5	1.5
Grade 6-10	14.0
GCG O/L	36.0
GCE A/L	42.7
Degree	3.8
Diploma/Courses	1.2
Professional Training	0.5

Table -02

3.1.3 Occupation Classification

The occupation classification is shown in Table 3. The occupation is being classified according to the International Standard Classification of Occupation (ISO 88). The highest percentage on the main occupation was students (17.5%). This is a classification of employments of the entire sample. Refer [Appendix 1](#) for supplementary information.

Occupation	Frequency	(%)
Legislators, Senior Officials and Managers	50	3.6
Professionals	46	3.3
Technicians and Associate Professionals	119	8.6
Clerks	29	2.1
Service workers, shop and market sales workers	161	11.6
Skilled agricultural and fishery workers	40	2.9
Craft and related workers	42	3.0
Plant and machine operators and assembles	204	14.7
Elementary occupations	210	15.1
Police and armed forces	118	8.5
Retired	18	1.3
Students	243	17.5
Foreign employment	2	0.1
Unemployment	107	7.7

Table -03

3.2 Alcohol Use

Alcohol use of the sample was assessed according to the responses of the sample population. These responses were analyzed according to (1) Current Users (respondents who used alcohol within the previous month), (2) Ever Users (respondents that have at least initiated alcohol use in their lifetime) and (3) Never Used (respondents that never used).

3.2.1 Current Users

Current users were assessed on the alcohol use within the previous month. According to the responses, it was found that 46.7 % used alcohol, while 53.3% did not use alcohol. This is shown in Figure 3.

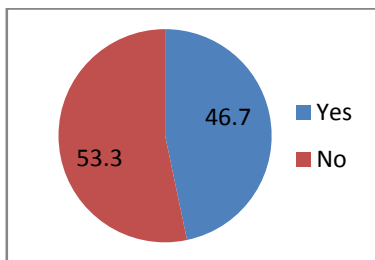


Figure 3 – Current Use of Alcohol

3.2.1.1 Current Alcohol Use-Age Distribution

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 25-39 (54.1%). The least response on current alcohol use was from the age category of 15-24 (37.1%). This is shown in Figure 4.

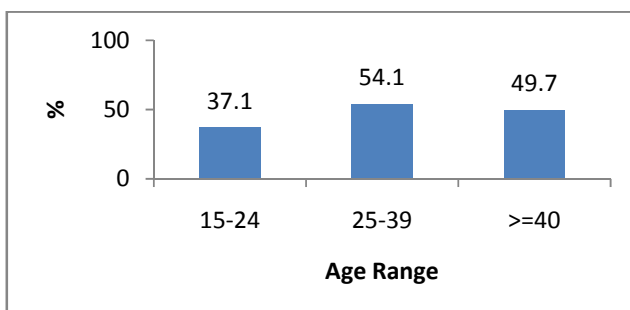


Figure 4-Current Use of Alcohol(Age Distribution)

The current alcohol use was further analyzed on district basis, occupation basis and education basis.

3.2.1.2 Current Alcohol Use-District Distribution

The highest percentage on alcohol use was from Gampaha (52.3%) while the least percentage was from Matale (41.7%). This is shown in Figure 5.

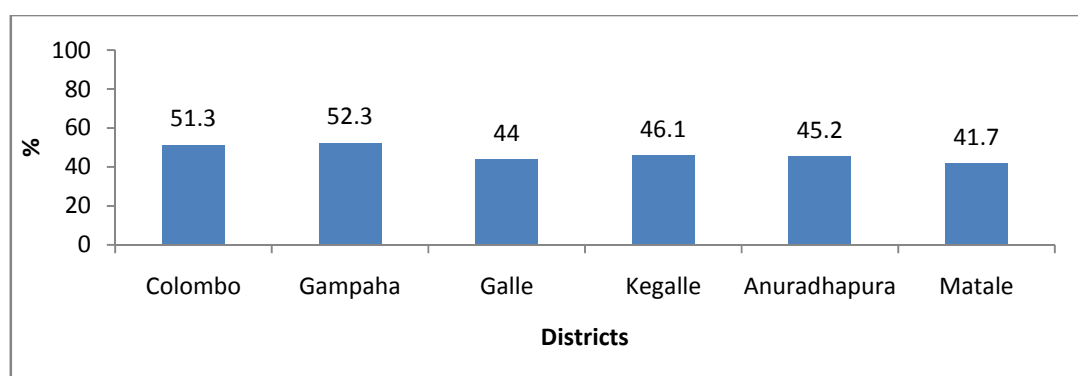


Figure 5 – Current Use of Alcohol (District Basis)

3.2.1.3 Current Use of Alcohol-Occupation Basis

The highest percentage on alcohol use was from drivers (72.6%), while the least percentage was from Students (31.2%). This table represents the alcohol use on the basis of major occupations. These occupations are categorized under the International Standard Classification of Occupation (ISO 88) and the other avoidable information on occupations is not included.

Occupation	yes	%	Total
Drivers	119	72.6	164
Three wheel drivers	19	67.9	28
Technical sector	14	53.8	26
Labors	28	52.8	53
Conductors	15	51.7	29
Military forces	50	49.5	101
Mesons	11	45.8	24
Business men (large scale/ shop owners)	61	44.9	136
No job/ waiting for a job	44	42.3	104
Business men (small/ pavement)	41	41.4	99
Sales assistants/ agents	22	38.6	57
Students	69	31.2	221

Table 4 – Current Use of Alcohol (Occupation Basis)

3.2.1.4 Current Alcohol Use-Education level Basis

The highest percentage on alcohol use from those who never had education (66.7%) whereas the least percentage was from those who have followed course/diplomas (42.1%).

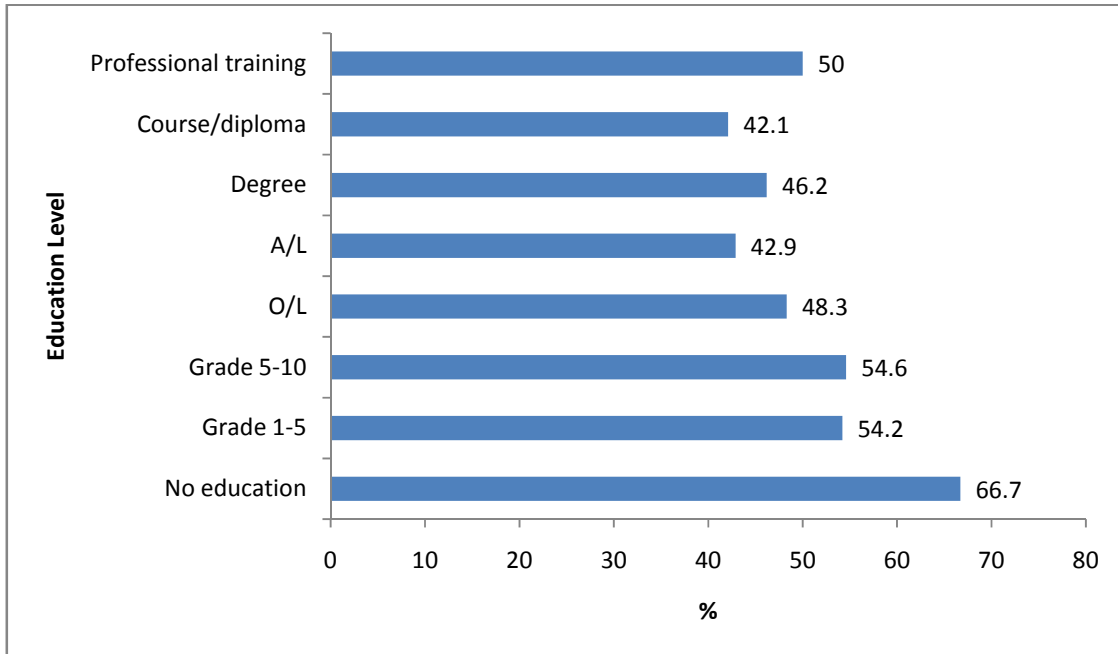


Figure 6 – Current Use of Alcohol (Education Basis)

3.2.2 Frequency of Alcohol Use

The frequency of alcohol use was analyzed on daily, monthly and special occasion basis. The highest percentage of alcohol use was visible at special occasions (50.8%) while the least percentage was in daily (7.8%). This is shown in Figure 7.

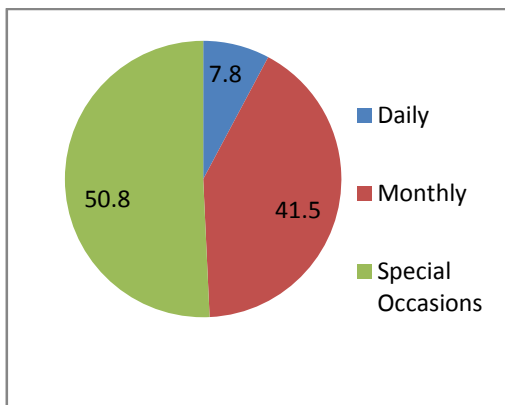


Figure 7– Frequency of Alcohol Use

The frequency of alcohol use was further analyzed according to the age range. Alcohol use was high in the age range of 15-24 at the special occasions (57.7%) with compared to alcohol use at special occasions in the age range of 25-39 and 40 and above. Alcohol use was high (43.8%) in the age range of 25-39 on monthly basis than other two age groups.

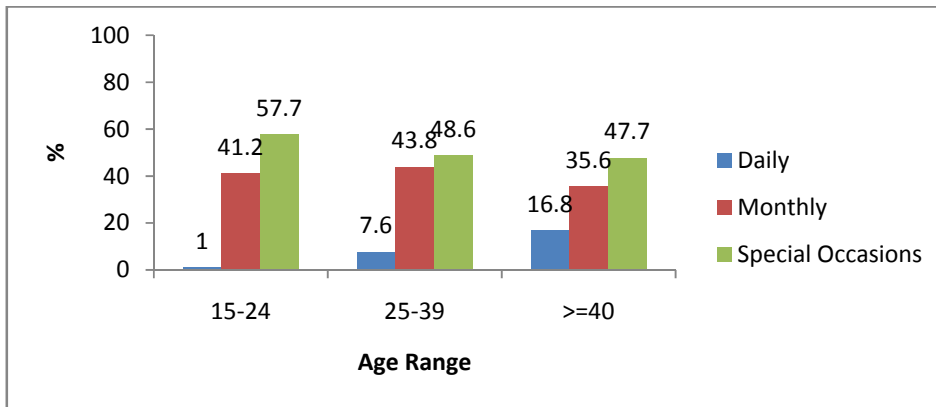


Figure 8 – Frequency of Alcohol Use (Age Distribution)

The frequency of alcohol use was further analyzed according to districts. The highest percentage of daily alcohol users was from Colombo (13.5%) while the least percentage of daily alcohol users was from Galle (2.0%). The highest percentage of alcohol users at the special occasions was from Gampaha (58.5%). The highest percentage of monthly alcohol users was from Anuradhapura (54.5%) whereas the least percentage of monthly alcohol users was from Colombo (33.3%). This is shown in Figure 9.

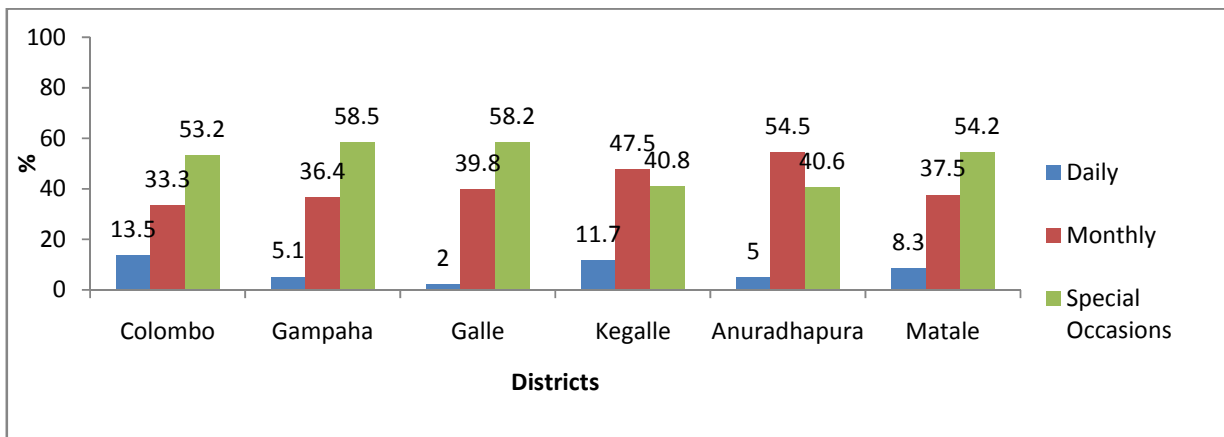


Figure 9 Frequency of Alcohol Use (District Basis)

3.2.2.1 Feelings of Daily Users if Not Use Alcohol

Further questions were asked on the feelings of daily users if they were unable to consume for at least a day. The responses are shown in Figure 10. The highest response on the feeling of daily users if they unable to use alcohol for at least one day were, “nothing special/no problem” (45.7%).

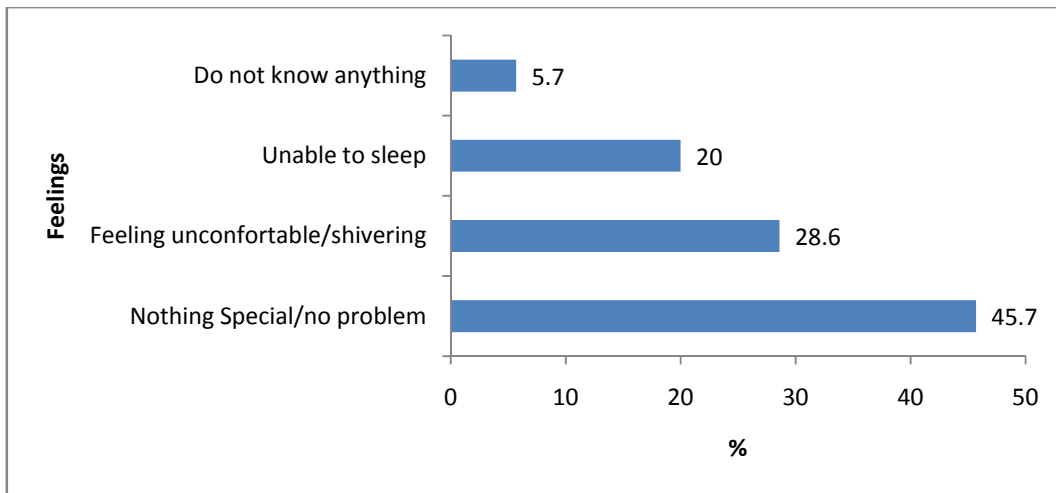


Figure 10- Feelings of Daily Users

Further responses were analyzed according to the age category. This is shown in Figure 11. The highest response on the feeling of “nothing special/no problem” was from the age category of 25-39 (57.1%).

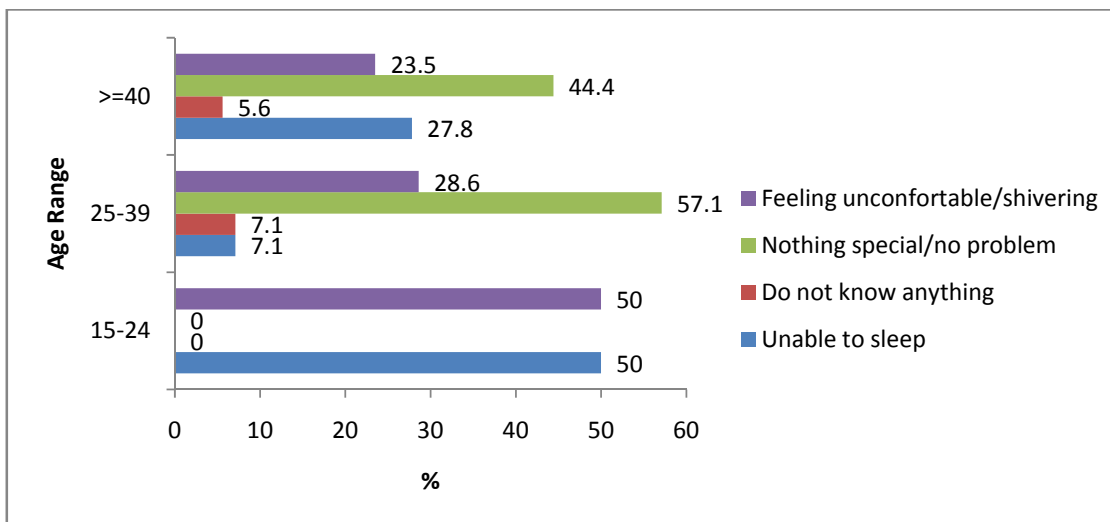


Figure 11-Feelings of Daily Users-(Age Distribution)

3.2.2.2 Reasons on Alcohol Use

The survey also emphasized on the reasons on alcohol use. Among the reasons given on using of alcohol, the majority (37.1%) have stated that they use alcohol for enjoyment/pleasure, while a least percentage (1.3%) stated that they use alcohol due to the employment. This is shown in Figure 12.

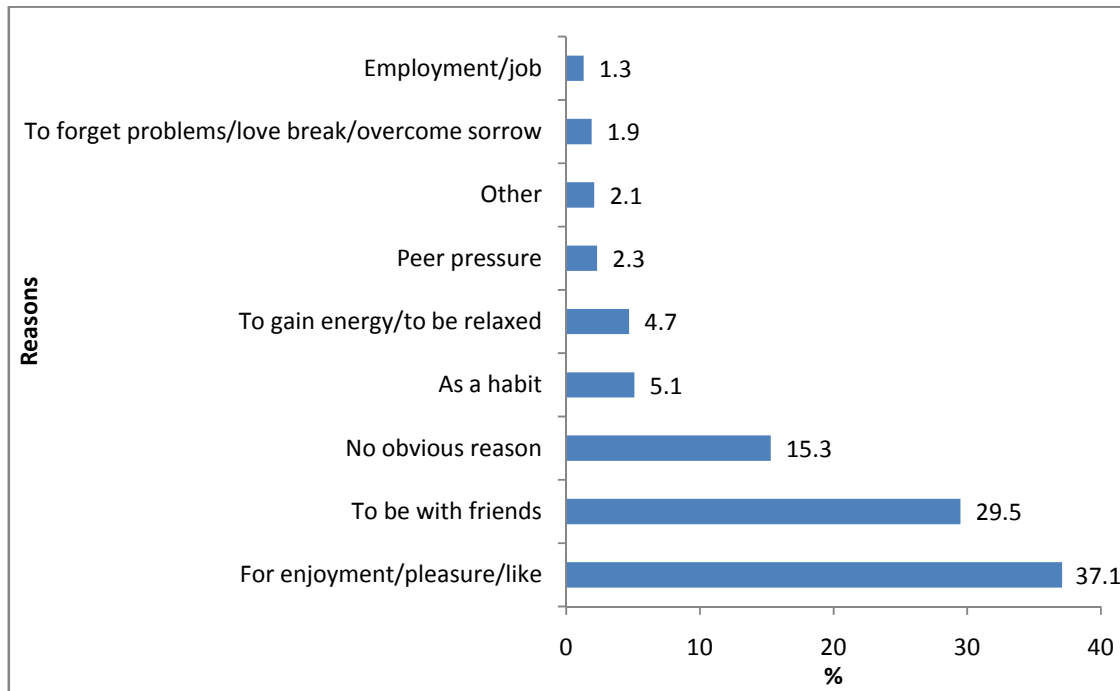


Figure 12 Reasons for Using Alcohol

These reasons were further analysed according to the age range of the respondents. This is shown in Figure-13.

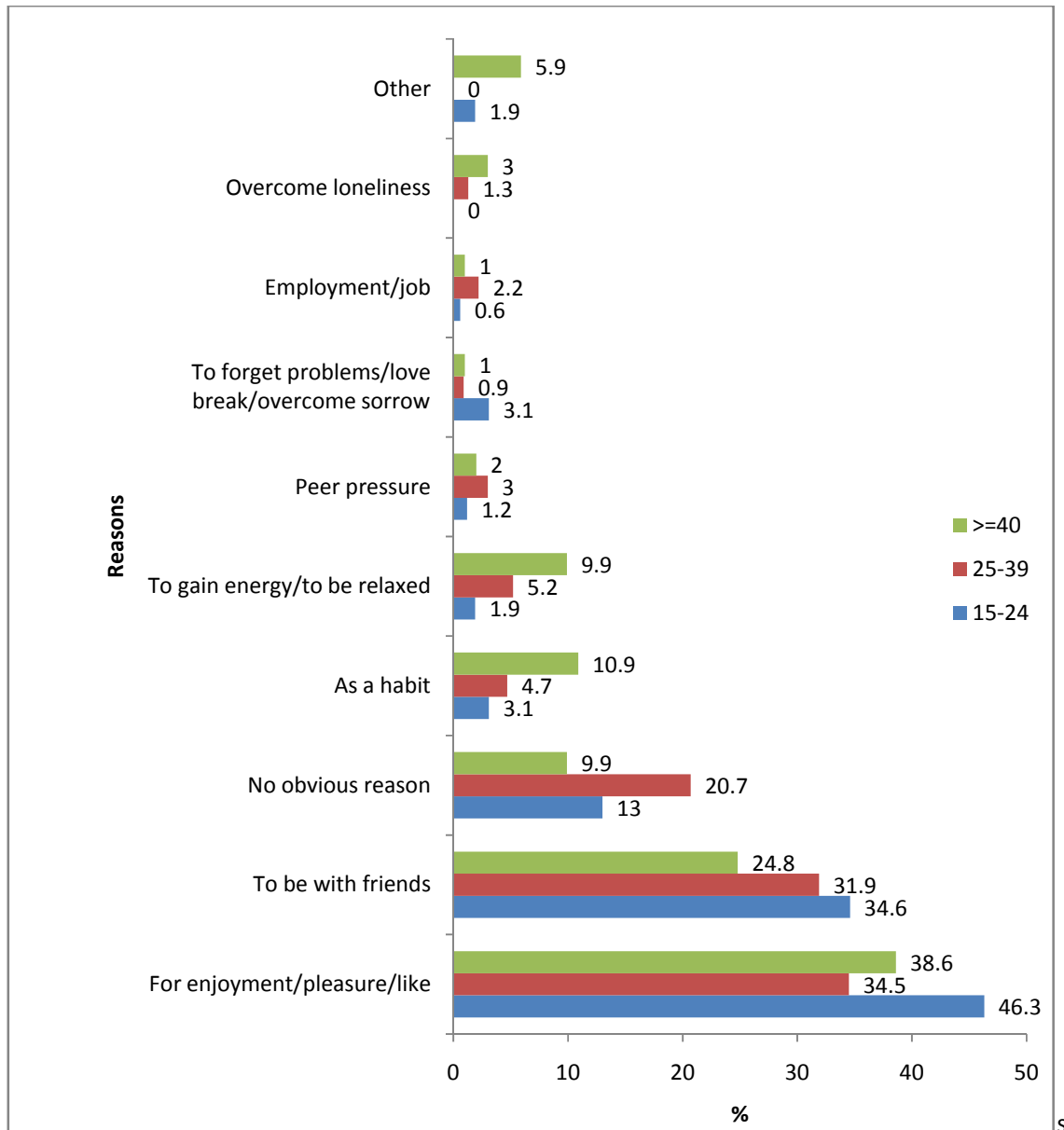


Figure 13 Reasons for Using Alcohol (Age Distribution)

These reasons were further analyzed according to the districts. The responses are shown in Figures 14-19.

The majority of respondents in 5 districts stated that they alcohol use alcohol as a means of enjoyment, pleasure and they like it, while in the respondents in Anuradhapura expressed that they use alcohol to be with friends.

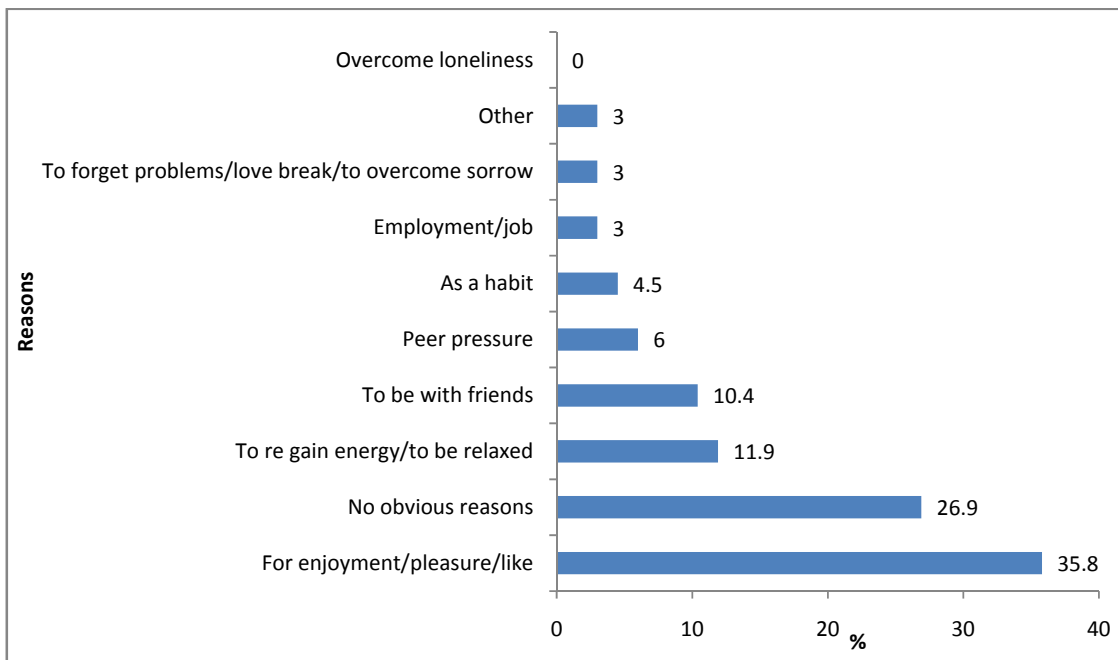


Figure 14 Reasons for Using Alcohol -Colombo

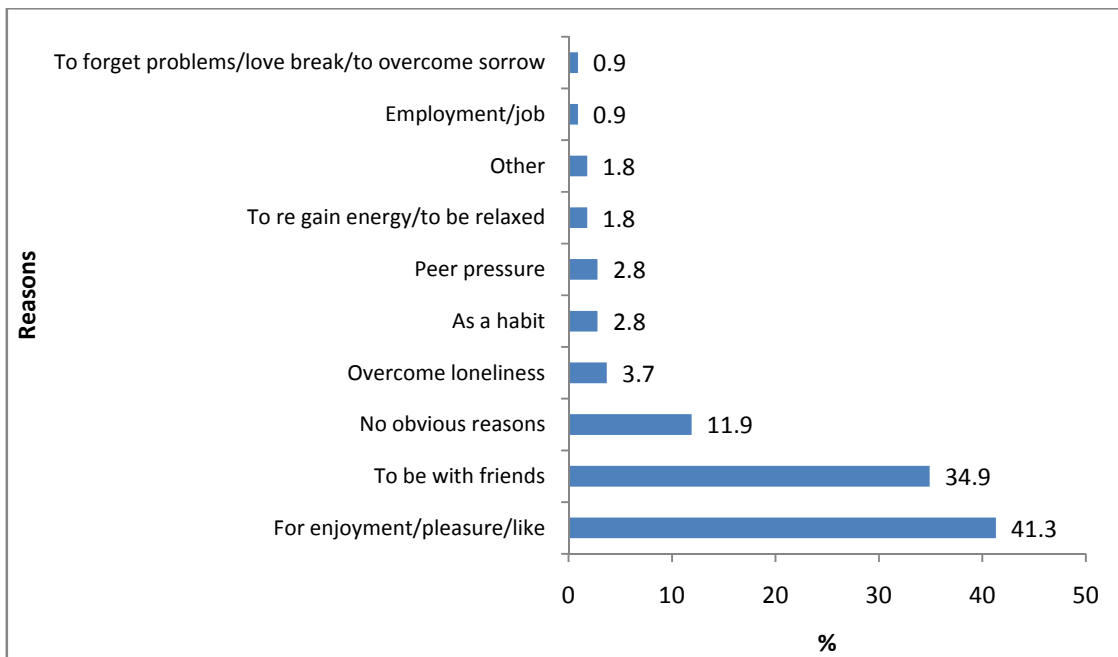


Figure 15 Reasons for Using Alcohol -Gampaha

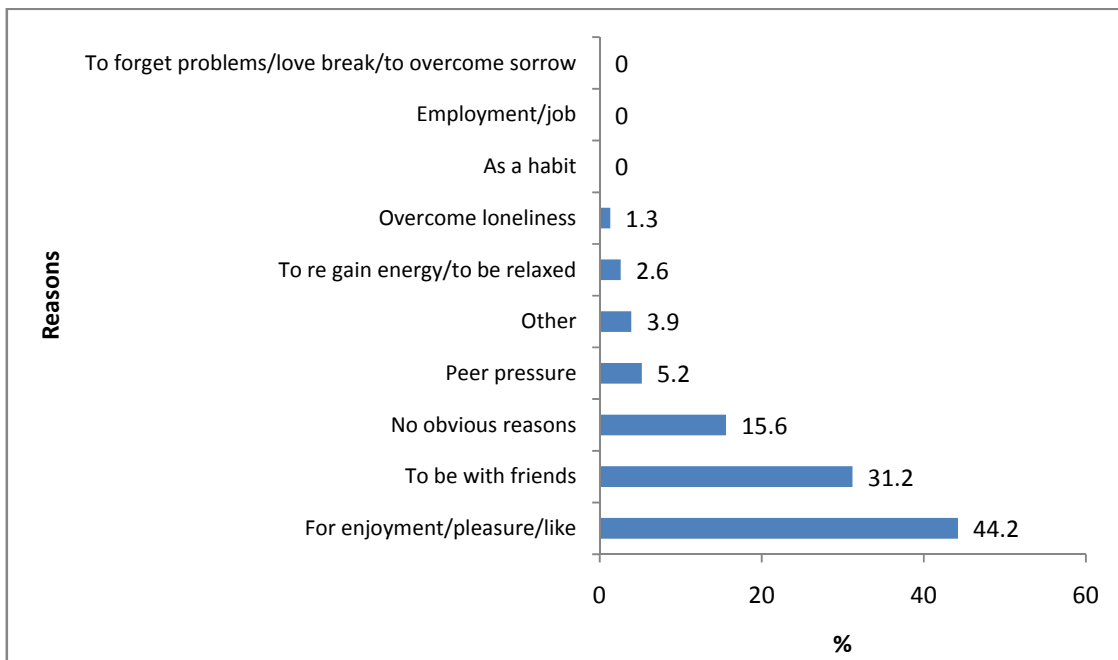


Figure 16 Reasons for Using Alcohol -Galle

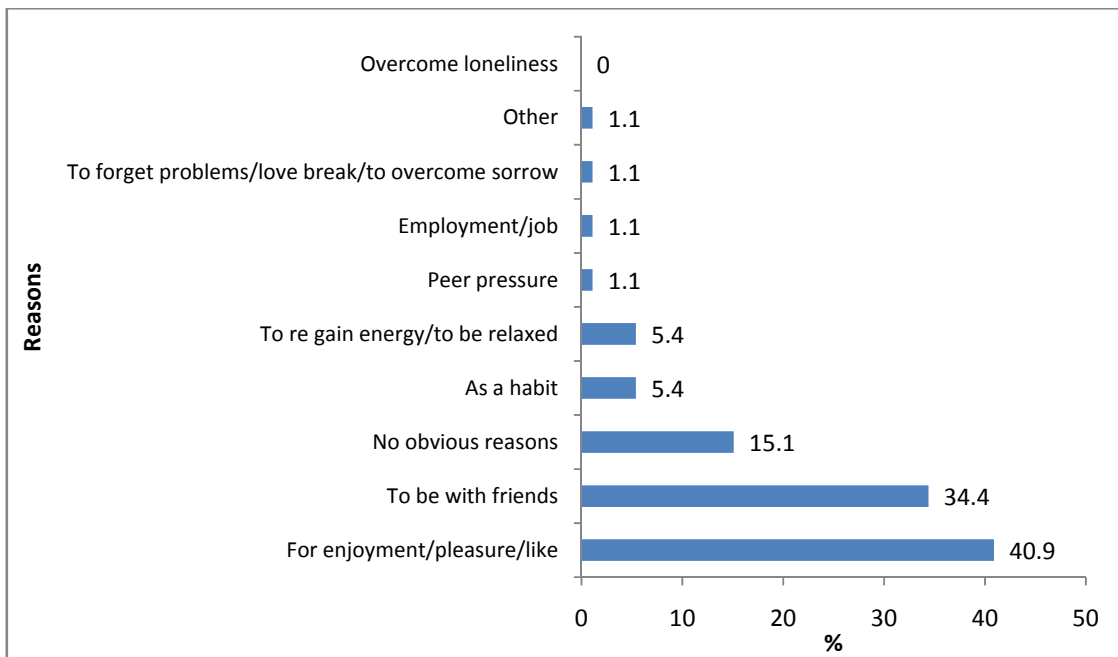


Figure 17 Reasons for Using Alcohol –Kegalle

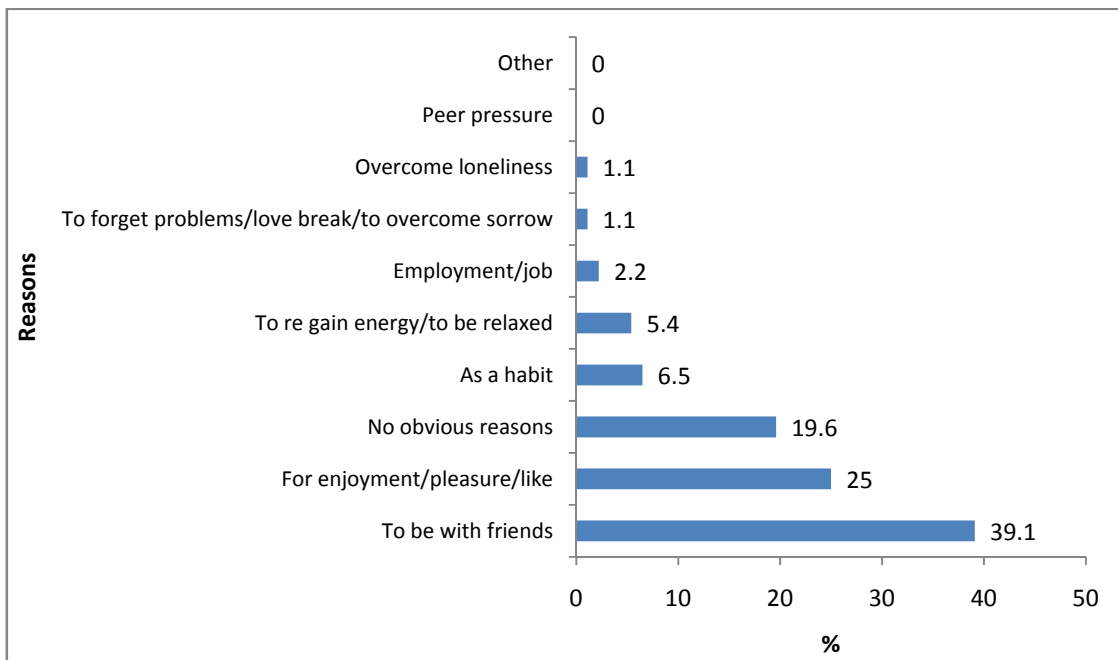


Figure 18 Reasons for Using Alcohol -Anuradhapura

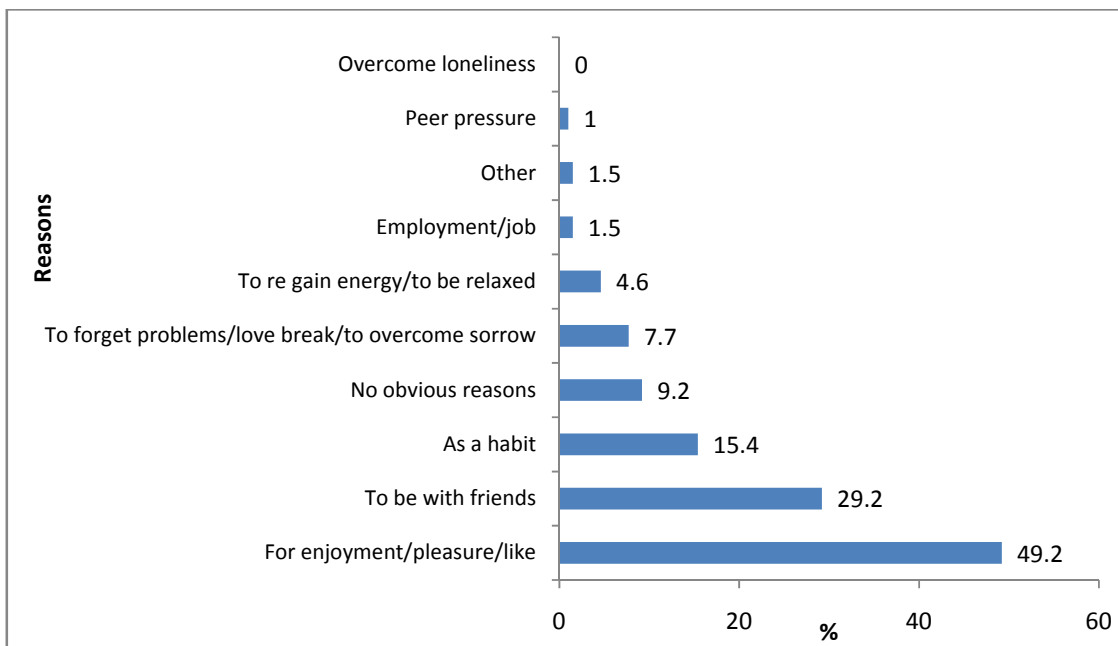


Figure 19 Reasons for Using Alcohol –Matale

3.2.2.3 Type of Alcohol Used

Questions were further asked on the specific alcohol type used. The responses were as follows: The highest type of alcohol used was Arrack (51.6%), while the least type of alcohol was used Kasippu (2.6%).

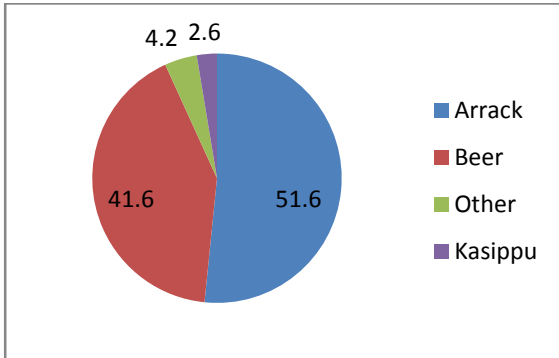


Figure 20 Type of Alcohol Used

The responses were further analyzed according to the age range. This is shown in Figures 21-23. The highest type of alcohol used in all the age ranges “Arrack” in the age range of 25-39 and 40 and above while ‘Beer’ was used highly in the age range of 15-24.

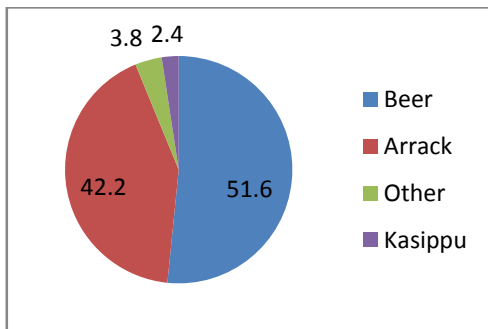


Figure 21 Type of Alcohol Used (15-24 age group)

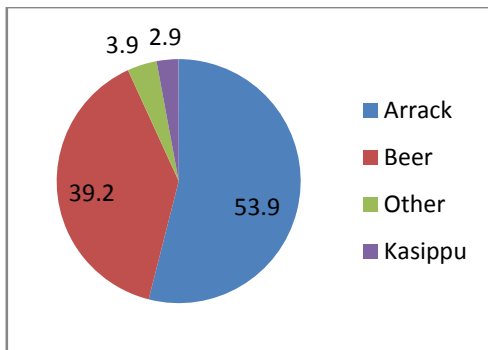


Figure 22 Type of Alcohol Used (25-39 age group)

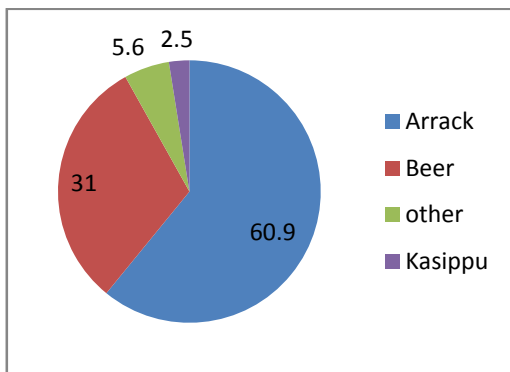


Figure 23 Type of Alcohol Used (>=40 age group)

The type of alcohol used was analyzed according to the districts. This is shown in Figure 24. The highest used type of alcohol was in was Arrack in Kegalle. (63.9%) while the Beer was used frequently in Anuradhapura (48.2%).

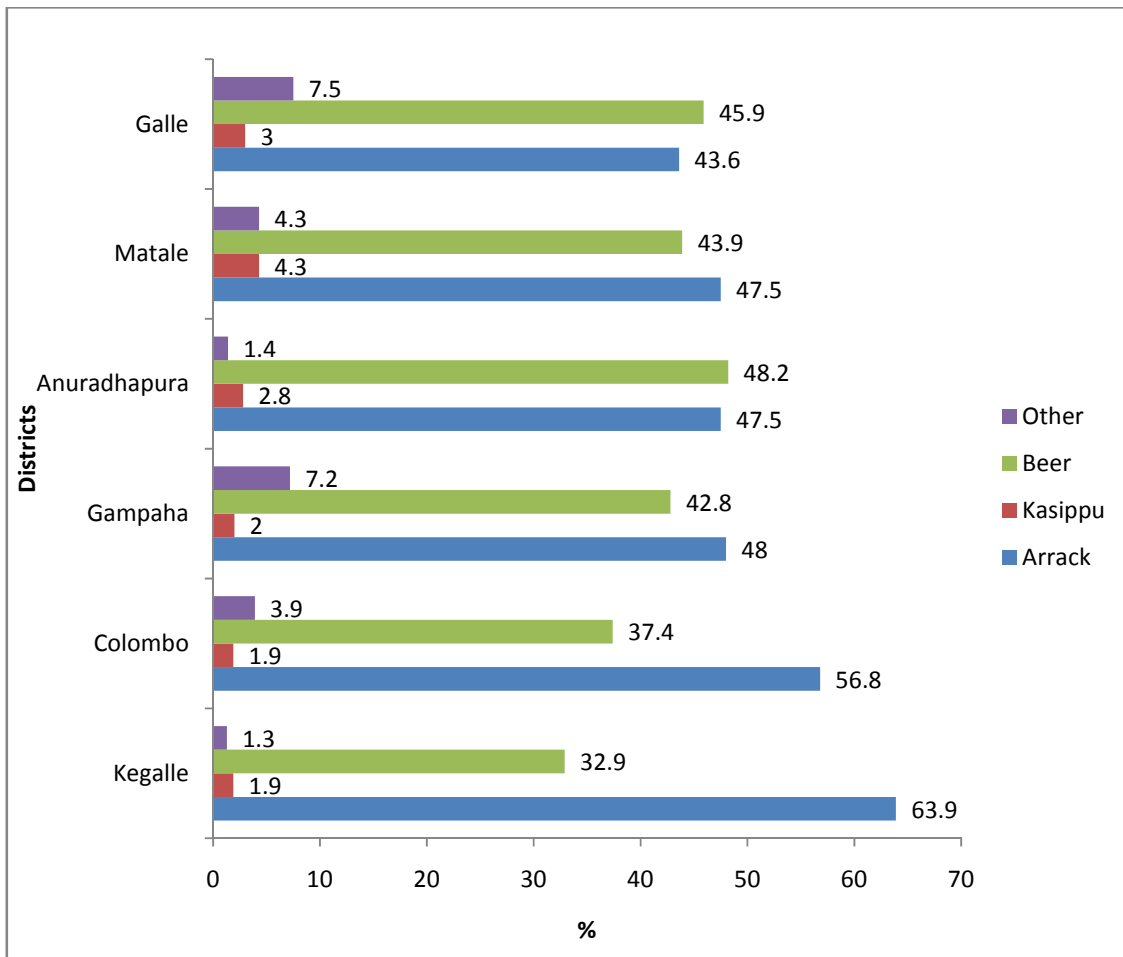


Figure 24 Type of Alcohol Used (District Basis)

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, 68.9% ever used alcohol while 31.1% did not. This is shown in Figure 25.

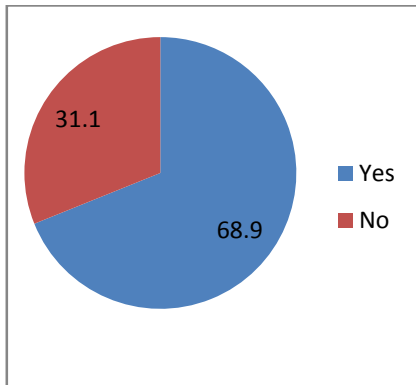


Figure 25 Ever use of Alcohol

On further studying the prevalence of ever use of alcohol according to the age distribution, it was reported that the highest percentage of alcohol users was found to be among those belonging to the age group 40 and above (78.6%) This is shown in Figure 26.

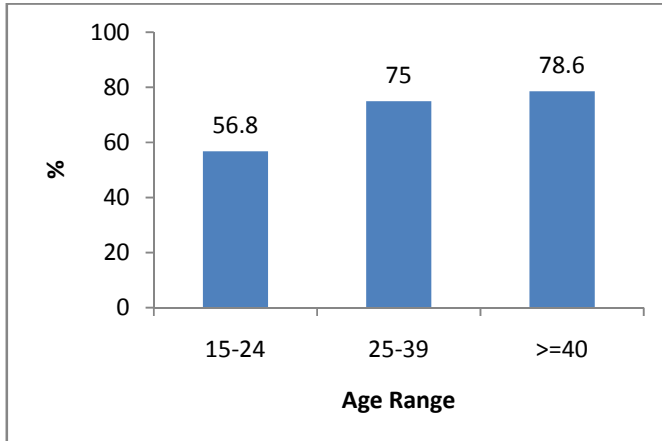


Figure 26 Ever Use of Alcohol (Age Distribution)

3.4 INITIATION OF ALCOHOL USE

Initiation is a key topic of the survey. Along with the ever use of alcohol, the question was focused on the age of initiation. Further along with the age of initiation, the reason for the initiation and the first feelings during the initiation were asked.

3.4.1 Age Initiation of Alcohol use

Among the respondents, the highest percentage has initiated alcohol in the age range of 16-20 years (55.7%). This is shown in Figure 27.

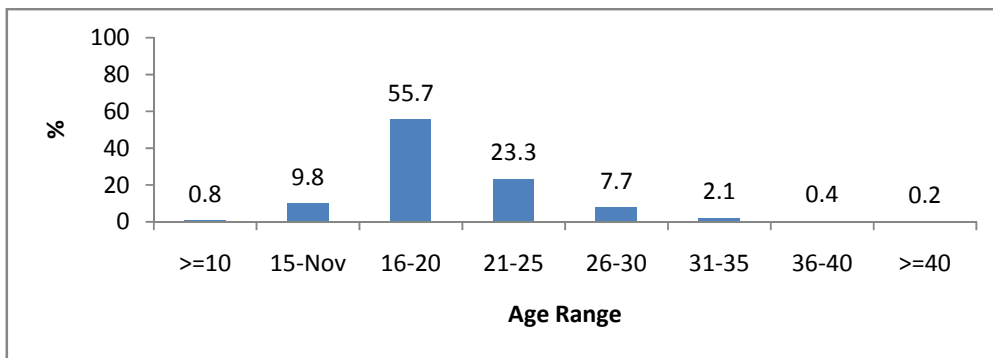


Figure 27 Age Group of Alcohol Initiation

3.4.2 Occasions in which Alcohol Used at 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 special occasions (53.7%). The least response was found for the reason “imitate adults (0.1%). This is shown in Figure 28.

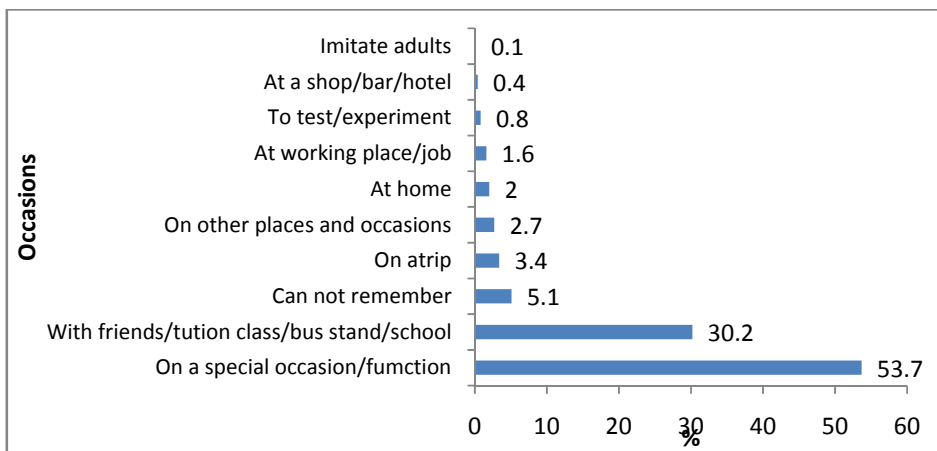


Figure 28 Occasions of Initiation of Alcohol Use

3.4.3 The Feelings of Alcohol at Initiation

Questions were also asked on the first feelings felt at the initiation of alcohol use. The highest percentage of respondents stated that they felt to vomit, cough and burning sense at the initiation of alcohol (27.3%) while the least percentage of respondents (0.7%) stated that they felt other feelings apart from the mentioned.

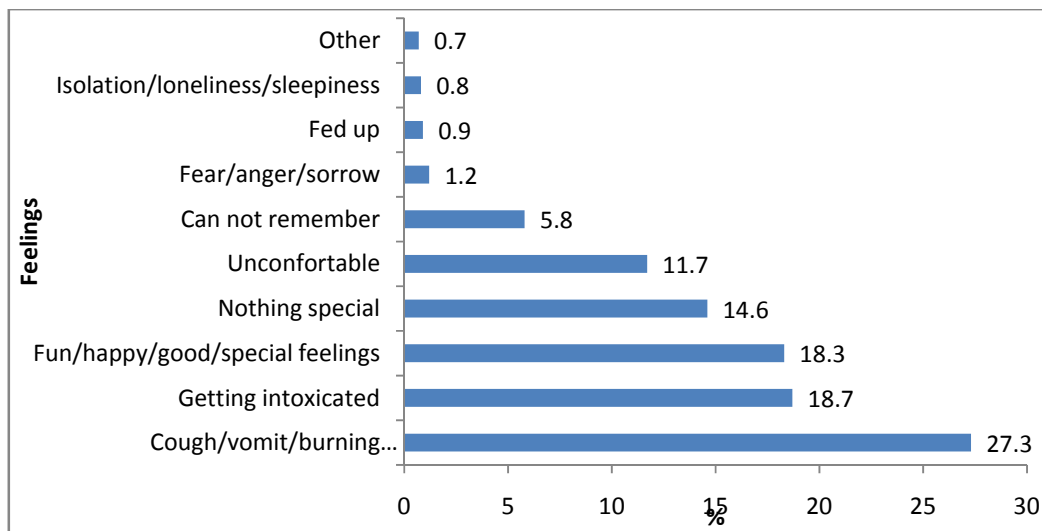


Figure 29 The Feelings of Alcohol Use at Initiation

3.5 ALCOHOL NEVER USED (NEVER USERS)

In depth questions were asked on respondents who had never used alcohol. The responses were analyzed according to the age and the district. Further questions were asked on the reasons for why they never had this habit.

According to the responses, 31.1% responded that they never had the habit. This is shown in Figure 30.

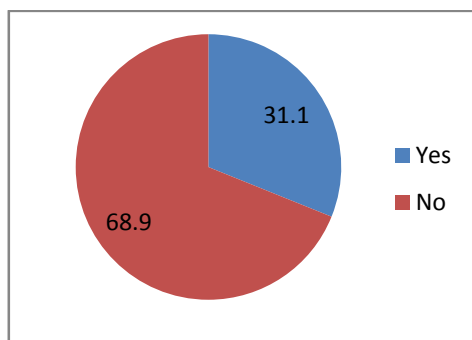


Figure 30 Never Use of Alcohol

The responses were further analyzed according to the district and age range. The highest response on never using alcohol came from the age group of 15-24 years (43.2%) This is shown in Figure 31. The highest response for never use of alcohol was from the district of Matale (39.2%). This is shown in Figure 32.

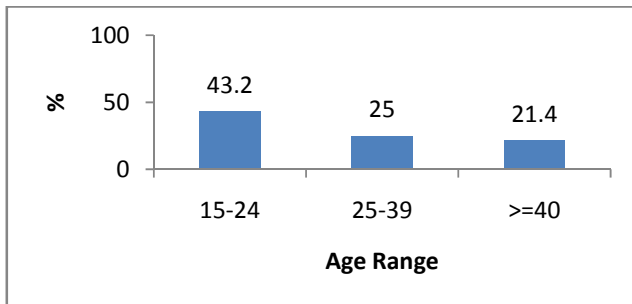


Figure 31 Never Use of Alcohol (Age Distribution)

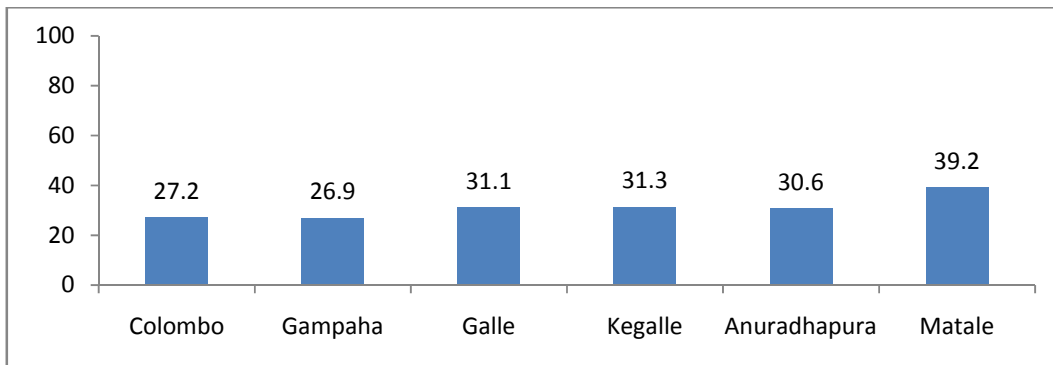


Figure 32 Never Use of Alcohol (District Distribution)

Further, the responses were analyzed according to the reasons for never using alcohol. The highest response on the reason for never use alcohol was due to the bad smell and they do not like it. (19.2%). This is shown in Figure 33.

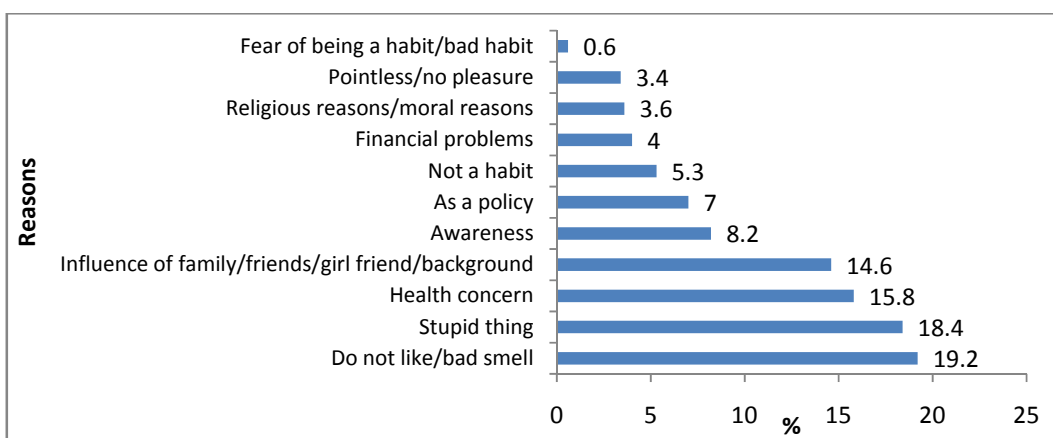


Figure 33 Reasons for Never Use of Alcohol

The reasons for never use of alcohol were further analyzed according to the specific age groups. The majority of the respondents in the age range of 15-24 considered alcohol as a stupid thing (22.6%) while the majority in the age range of 25-39 does not like bad smell of alcohol (22.4%). This is shown in Figure 34.

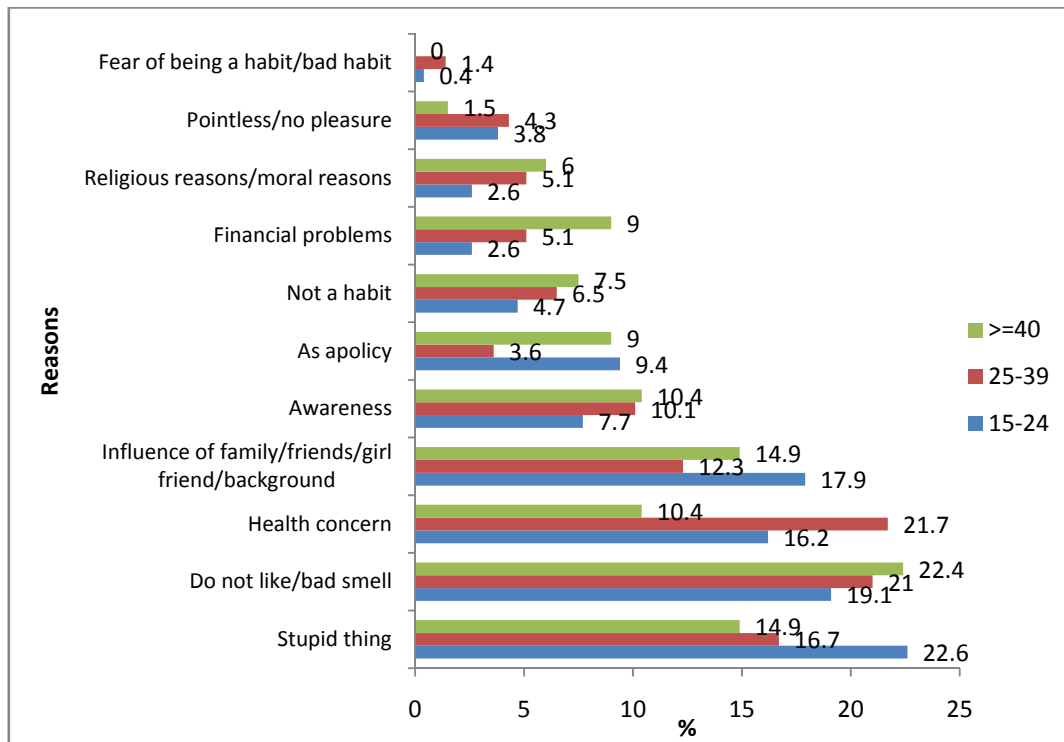


Figure 34 Reasons for Never Use of Alcohol (Age Distribution)

The responses were further analyzed in accordance to the specific districts. This is shown in Figures 35-40.

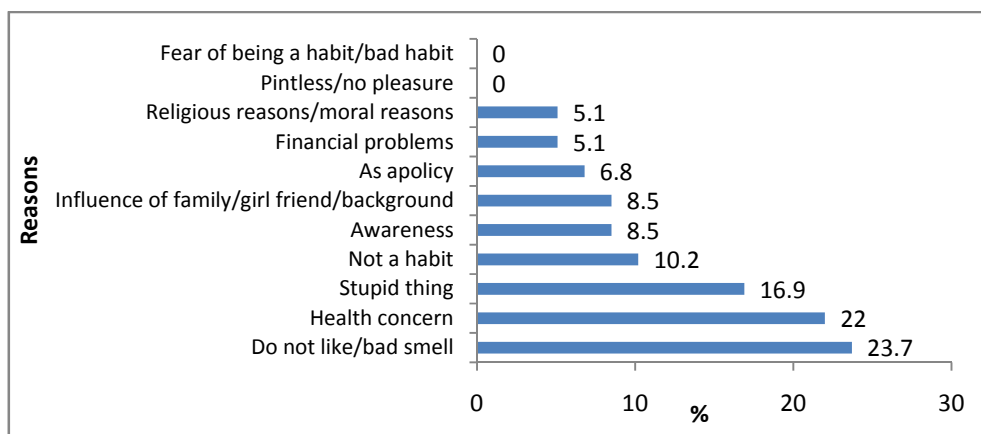


Figure 35 Reasons for Never Use of Alcohol - Colombo

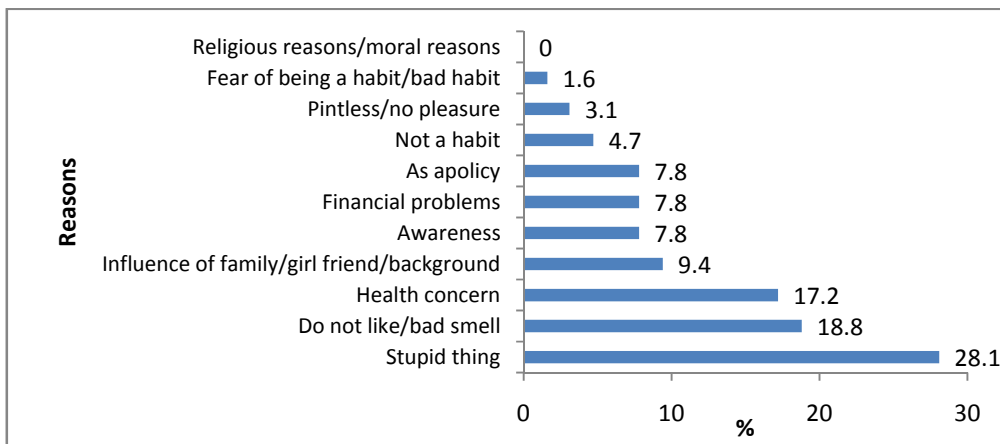


Figure 36 Reasons for Never Use of Alcohol-Gampaha

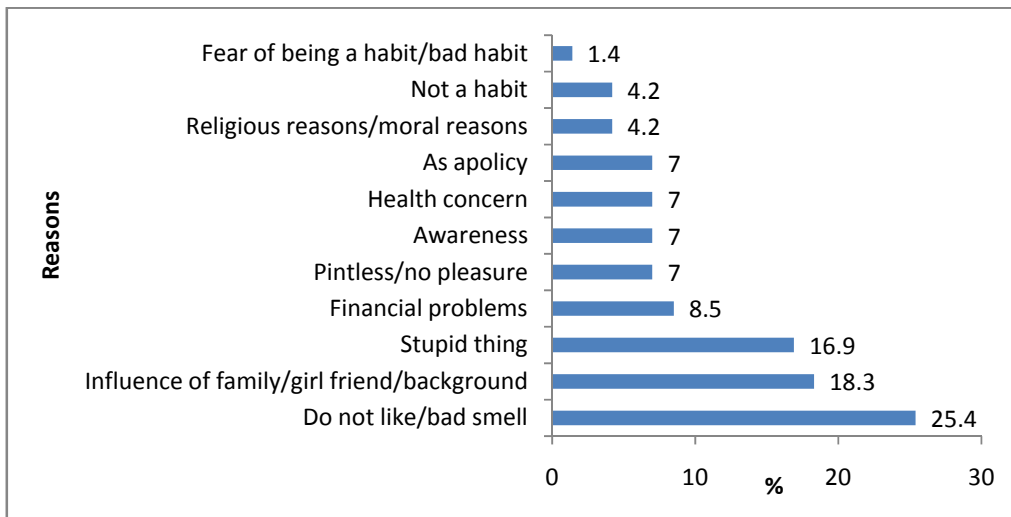


Figure 37 Reasons for Never Use of Alcohol - Galle

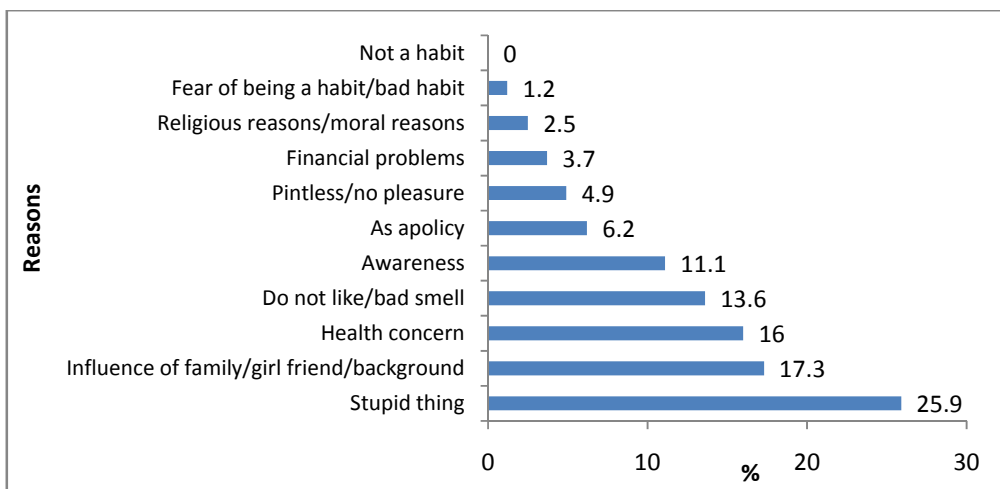


Figure 38 Reasons for Never Use of Alcohol - Kegalle

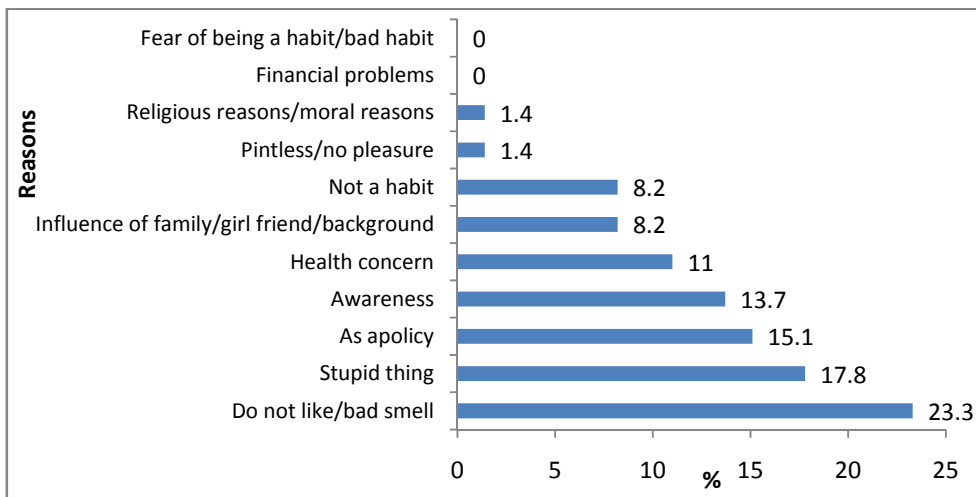


Figure 39 Reasons for Never Use of Alcohol - Anuradhapura

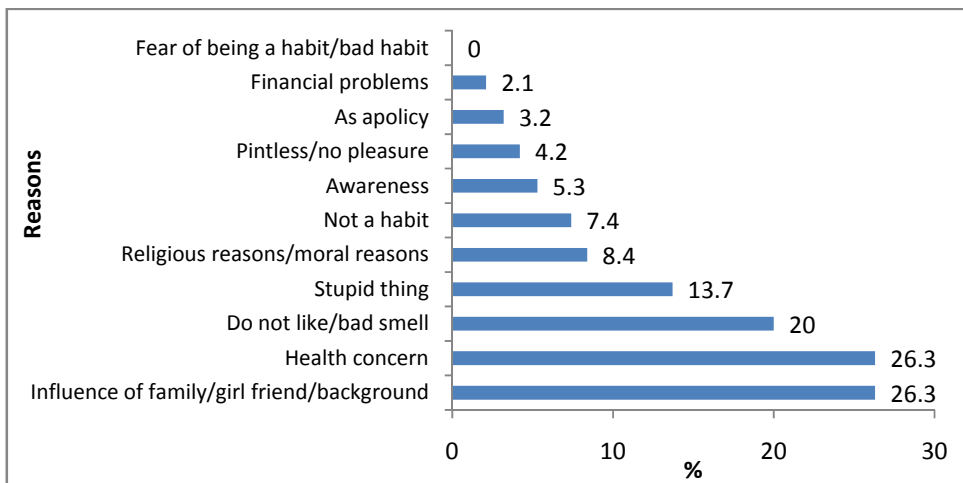


Figure 40 Reasons for Never Use of Alcohol – Matale

4 COMPARISONS OF RESULTS WITH THE 2009 SPOT SURVEY

In comparison with the results of the July 2010 and July 2009 spot survey, the alcohol use has increased by 0.7% in comparison to the previous year. This is shown in Figure 41.

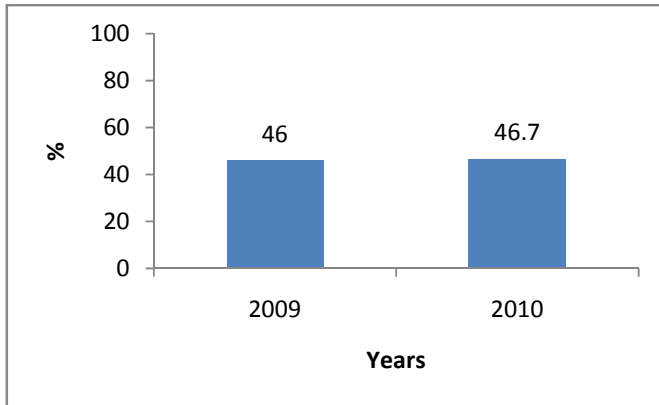


Figure 41 Comparison of Results with the July 2009 Spot Survey

4.1 The Trend of the Alcohol 2000-2010

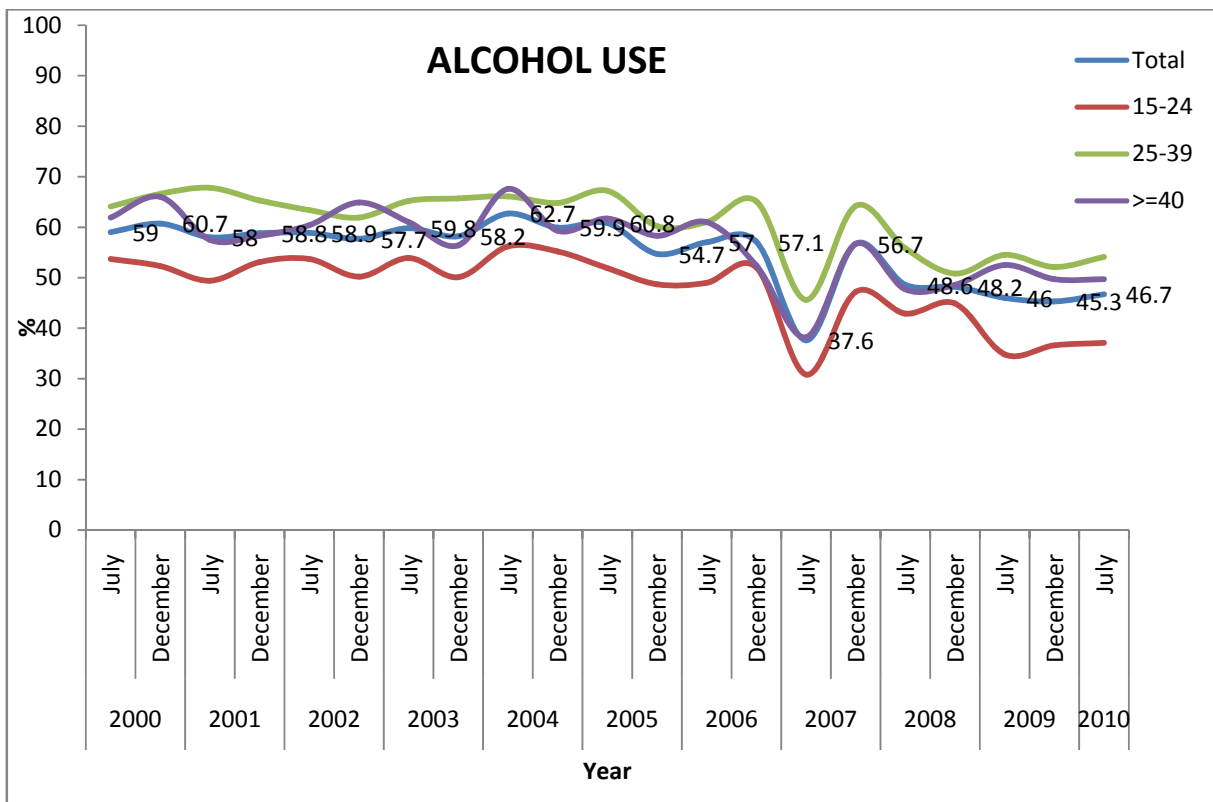


Figure 42- The Trends of Alcohol Use 2000-2010

5 SUMMERY

1. 46.7% of the sample population used alcohol. The highest percentage was recorded from the district of Gampaha (52.3%) and lowest from the district of Matale(41.7%).
2. The highest percentage of alcohol users were found to be among those belonging to the age group of 40 and above years (49.7%).
3. The highest percentage of alcohol users were found to be among those who working as plant, machine operators and assemblers (71.8%).The highest percentage of alcohol users haven't had education (66.7%).
4. The highest percentage of alcohol users uses alcohol at special occasions (50.8%).
5. The highest percentage of responses on daily use was from the district of Colombo (13.5%).
6. The highest response on the feeling of a daily user if they unable to use alcohol for at least one day were, "nothing special/no problem" (45.7%) and the highest response on the feeling of "nothing special/no problem" was from the age category of 25-39. (57.1%).
7. The majority (37.1%) have stated that they use alcohol for enjoyment/pleasure while 31.1% did not.
8. Among the respondents, 31.1% never used alcohol while 68.9% did. The highest percentage of never users was among the age group of 15-25 years(43.2%) and the highest percentage of never users were reported from the district of Matale(39.2%).The highest percentage of respondents stated that they never used alcohol as its bad smell and they do not like cigarettes(19.2%).
9. In comparison with the results of the July 2009 Spot Survey and July 2010 Spot Survey, the alcohol use has decreased by 0.7 in comparison to the previous year (July 2009)

6 APPENDIXE

Occupation Classification

The following briefly outlines ISCO-88 major groups, and is meant to facilitate the interpretation of the classification. The information given here should not be regarded as a substitute for the more detailed descriptions of occupational groups which the volume contains.

1. Legislators, senior officials and managers

This major group includes occupations whose main tasks consist of determining and formulating government policies, as well as laws and public regulations, overseeing their implementation, representing governments and acting on their behalf, or planning, directing and coordinating the policies and activities of enterprises and organizations, or departments. Reference to skill level has not been made in defining the scope of this major group, which has been divided into three sub-major groups, eight minor groups and 33 unit groups, reflecting differences in tasks associated with different areas of authority and different types of enterprises and organizations.

2. Professionals

This major group includes occupations whose main tasks require a high level of professional knowledge and experience in the fields of physical and life sciences, or social sciences and humanities. The main tasks consist of increasing the existing stock of knowledge, applying scientific and artistic concepts and theories to the solution of problems, and teaching about the foregoing in a systematic manner. Most occupations in this major group require skills at the fourth ISCO skill level. This major group has been divided into four sub-major groups, 18 minor groups and 55 unit groups, reflecting differences in tasks associated with different fields of knowledge and specialization.

3. Technicians and associate professionals

This major group includes occupations whose main tasks require technical knowledge and experience in one or more fields of physical and life sciences, or social sciences and humanities. The main tasks consist of carrying out technical work connected with the application of concepts and operational methods in the above-mentioned fields, and in teaching at certain educational levels. Most occupations in this major group require skills at the third ISCO skill level. This major group has been divided into four sub-major groups, 21 minor groups and 73 unit groups, reflecting differences in tasks associated with different fields of knowledge and specialization.

4. Clerks

This major group includes occupations whose main tasks require the knowledge and experience necessary to organize, store, compute and retrieve information. The main tasks consist of performing secretarial duties, operating word processors and other office machines, recording and computing numerical data, and performing a number of customer-oriented clerical duties, mostly in connection with mail services, money-handling operations and appointments. Most occupations in this major group require skills at the second ISCO skill level. This major group has been divided into two sub-major groups, seven minor groups and 23 unit groups, reflecting differences in tasks associated with different areas of specialization.

5. Service workers and shop and market sales workers

This major group includes occupations whose main tasks require the knowledge and experience necessary to provide personal and protective services, and to sell goods in shops or at markets. The main tasks consist of providing services related to travel, housekeeping, catering, personal care, protection of individuals and property, and to maintaining law and order, or selling goods in shops or at markets. Most occupations in this major group require skills at the second ISCO skill level. This major group has been divided into two sub-major groups, nine minor groups and 23 unit groups, reflecting differences in tasks associated with different areas of specialization.

6. Skilled agricultural and fishery workers

This major group includes occupations whose tasks require the knowledge and experience to produce farm, forestry and fishery products. The main tasks consist of growing crops, breeding or hunting animals, catching or cultivating fish, conserving and exploiting forests and, especially in the case of market-oriented agricultural and fishery workers, selling products to purchasers, marketing organizations or at markets. Most occupations in this major group require skills at the second ISCO skill level. This major group has been divided into two sub-major groups, six minor groups and 17 unit groups, reflecting differences in tasks associated with differences between market-oriented and subsistence agricultural and fishery workers.

7. Craft and related trades workers

This major group includes occupations whose tasks require the knowledge and experience of skilled trades or handicrafts which, among other things, involves an understanding of materials and tools to be used, as well as of all stages of the production process, including the characteristics and the intended use of the final product. The main tasks consist of extracting raw materials, constructing buildings and other structures and making various products as well as handicraft goods. Most occupations in this major group require skills at the second ISCO skill level. This major group has been divided into four sub-major groups, 16 minor groups and 70 unit groups, reflecting differences in tasks associated with different areas of specialization.

8. Plant and machine operators and assemblers

This major group includes occupations whose main tasks require the knowledge and experience necessary to operate and monitor large scale, and often highly automated, industrial machinery and equipment. The main tasks consist of operating and monitoring mining, processing and production machinery and equipment, as well as driving vehicles and driving and operating mobile plant, or assembling products from component parts. Most occupations in this major group require skills at the second ISCO skill level. This major group has been divided into three sub-major groups, 20 minor groups and 70 unit groups, reflecting differences in tasks associated with different areas of specialization.

9. Elementary occupations

This major group covers occupations which require the knowledge and experience necessary to perform mostly simple and routine tasks, involving the use of hand-held tools and in some cases considerable physical effort, and, with few exceptions, only limited personal initiative or judgment. The main tasks consist of selling goods in streets, door keeping and property watching, as well as cleaning, washing,

pressing, and working as laborers in the fields of mining, agriculture and fishing, construction and manufacturing. Most occupations in this major group require skills at the first ISCO skill level. This major group has been divided into three sub-major groups, ten minor groups and 25 unit groups, reflecting differences in tasks associated with different areas of work.

0. Armed forces

Members of the armed forces are those personnel who are currently serving in the armed forces, including auxiliary services, whether on a voluntary or compulsory basis, and who are not free to accept civilian employment. Included are regular members of the army, navy, air force and other military services, as well as conscripts enrolled for military training or other service for a specified period, depending on national requirements. Excluded are persons in civilian employment of government establishments concerned with defense issues: police (other than military police); customs inspectors and members of border or other armed civilian services; persons who have been temporarily withdrawn from civilian life for a short period of military training or retraining, according to national requirements, and members of military reserves not currently on active service. Reference to a skill level has not been used in defining the scope of this major group.

DESIGN AND STRUCTURE

conceptual approach adopted for ISCO-88 resulted in a pyramid whose hierarchical structure consists of ten major groups at the top level of aggregation, subdivided into 28 sub-groups, 116 minor groups, and 390 unit groups.

Table 1. ISCO-88 with number of subgroups and skill levels

Major groups	Sub-major groups	Sub-groups	Unit groups	ISCO Skill level
Legislators, senior officials and managers		8	33	-
Professionals	4	18	55	4th
Technicians and associate professionals	4	54	73	3rd
Clerks	2	7	23	2dd
Service workers and shop and market sales workers	2	9	23	2nd
Skilled agricultural and fishery workers	2	6	17	2nd
Craft and related trades workers	4	16	70	2nd
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	2	20	70	2nd
Elementary occupations	3	10	25	1st
Armed forces	1	1	1	-
Totals	28	116	390	

Source: ILO, ISCO-88, Geneva 1990.

TRENDS IN ALCOHOL USE

SPOT SURVEY REPORT - JULY 2010

Research and Information Programme
Alcohol and Drug Information Centre (ADIC)
NO.40/18, Park Road, Colombo 05, Sri Lanka
Tel:+94 11 2584416, +94 11 2592515, Fax: +94 11 2508484
Email: info@adicsrilanka.org , research@adicsrilanka.org

Web Site: www.adicsrilanka.org