

Spot Survey July 2012

Alcohol

5/9/2012

Research and Information

5/9/2012

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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 Polonnaruwa and Trincomalee 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 alcohol trends according to age groups
- To find the prevailing attitudes and reasons for alcohol use
- To find the age and cause on initiation of alcohol 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 2,519 respondents who were males of the age fifteen and above. The sample is shown in Table1

Age group * District cross tabulation												
Age Category		District										Total
		Colombo	Gampaha	Galle	Kegalle	Anuradhapura	Kandy	Batticaloa	Jaffna	Polonnaruwa	Trincomalee	
Age Category	15-24	99	117	97	107	95	101	95	102	114	83	1010
		40.6%	47.6%	38.6%	42.3%	37.3%	41.7%	38.5%	41.1%	40.1%	33.3%	40.1%
	25-39	87	78	91	85	95	74	106	96	107	103	922
		35.7%	31.7%	36.3%	33.6%	37.3%	30.6%	42.9%	38.7%	37.7%	41.4%	36.6%
	>=40	58	51	63	61	65	67	46	50	63	63	587
		23.8%	20.7%	25.1%	24.1%	25.5%	27.7%	18.6%	20.2%	22.2%	25.3%	23.3%
Total		244	246	251	253	255	242	247	248	284	249	2519
		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 Table 1. 40.1% of the sample population comprised of the age range 15-24 years, 36.6% of the sample population comprised of the age range 25-39 years and 23.3% 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.

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	Percentage	Valid Percentage
No education	19	.8	0.8
1-5 grade	97	3.9	3.9
6-10 grade	345	13.7	14
O/L	822	32.6	33.5
A/L	911	36.2	37
Graduate	123	4.9	5
Diploma	126	5.0	5.1
Professional Training	4	.2	0.2
Postgraduate	10	.4	0.5
Total	2457	97.5	100
No response	62	2.5	
Total	2519	100.0	

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

The occupation classification is shown in Table 3.

Occupation	Frequency	(%)
Legislator	66	2.6
Professionals	70	2.8
Technician	100	4.0
Clerks	35	1.4
Service worker	599	23.8
Skilled agricultural and fishery /salon	66	2.6
Craft and related workers	63	2.5
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	113	4.5
Elementary occupations	494	19.6
Army/ police forces	159	6.3
Students	484	19.2
Retired	47	1.9
Foreign employed	8	.3
Un employed	184	7.3
Total	2488	98.8
No Response	31	1.2
Total	2519	100.0

Table 3: Sample of the survey – by occupation

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.

3.2 CURRENT USERS

Current Users were identified based their alcohol use within the previous month. According to the responses, it was found that 35.6% used alcohol while 64.4% did not use alcohol. This is shown in Figure 1. (N=2,495)

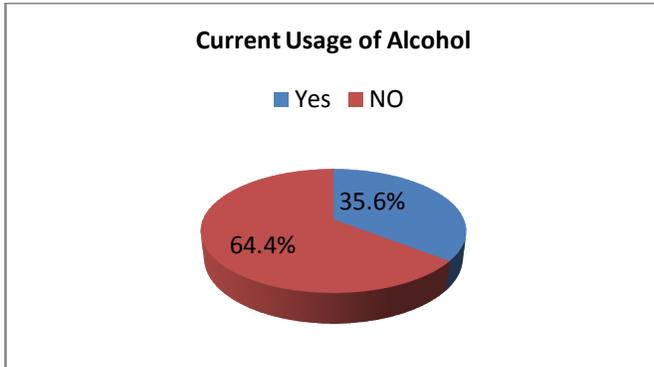


Figure 1: Alcohol prevalence

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 25-39 years (41.2%). The lowest current usage is recorded from the age category of 15-24 years (27.3%). This is shown in Figure 2.

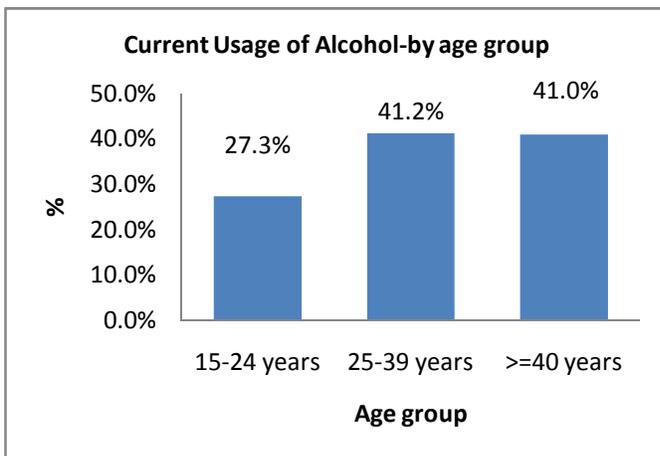


Figure 2: Alcohol prevalence by age group

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 Trincomalee(43.5%) while the lowest percentage was from Kegalle (29%). This is shown in Figure 3.

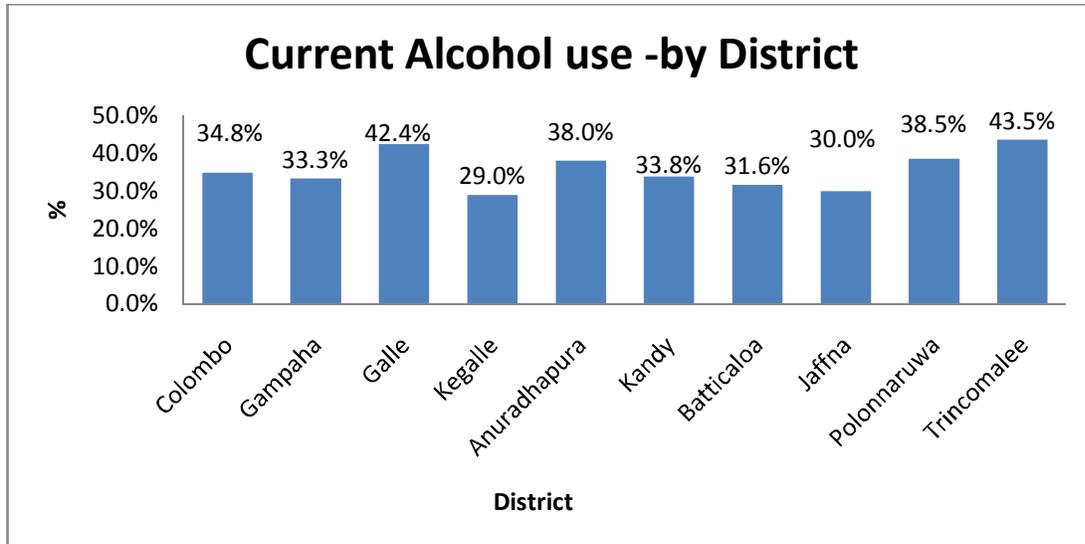


Figure 3: Alcohol prevalence by districts

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 few times a month (46.4%) while the lowest percentage was in daily (21.8%). This is shown in Figure 4.

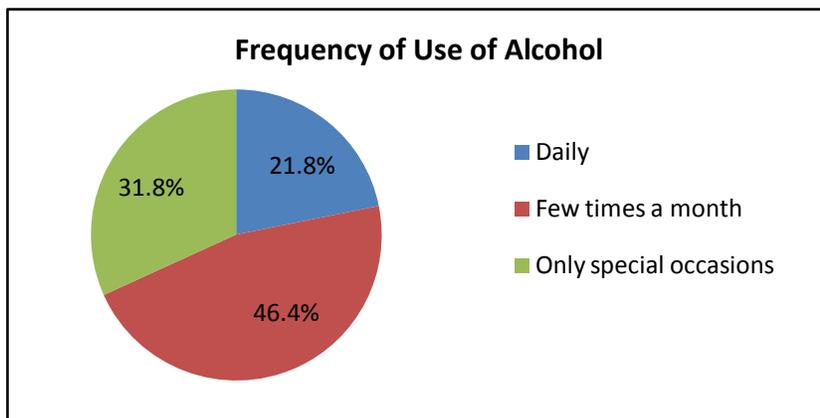


Figure 4: Frequency of alcohol use

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 (33.3%) while the age range of 15-24 use alcohol lightly on daily basis (13.3%). The percentage of monthly alcohol users was the 50% in the age range of 15-24. The lowest percentage of monthly users was in the age range of 40 and above (37.3%). On special occasions, the age range of 15-24 alcohol highly (36.7%) than the other age ranges. This is shown in Figure 5.

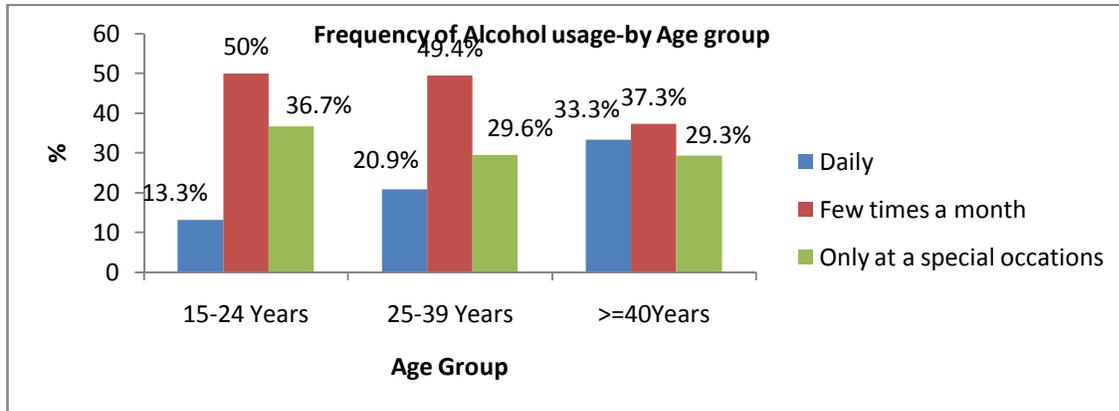


Figure 5: frequency of alcohol use by age group

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 Trincomalee district (54.7%) while the lowest percentage of daily alcohol users was from Galle (6.5%). The highest percentage of alcohol users at the special occasions was from Gampaha (53.1%) while lowest was reported in Trincomalee (7.5%). The highest percentage of monthly alcohol users was from Batticaloa (60%) whereas the lowest percentage of monthly alcohol users was from Jaffna (15.7%). This is shown in Figure 6.

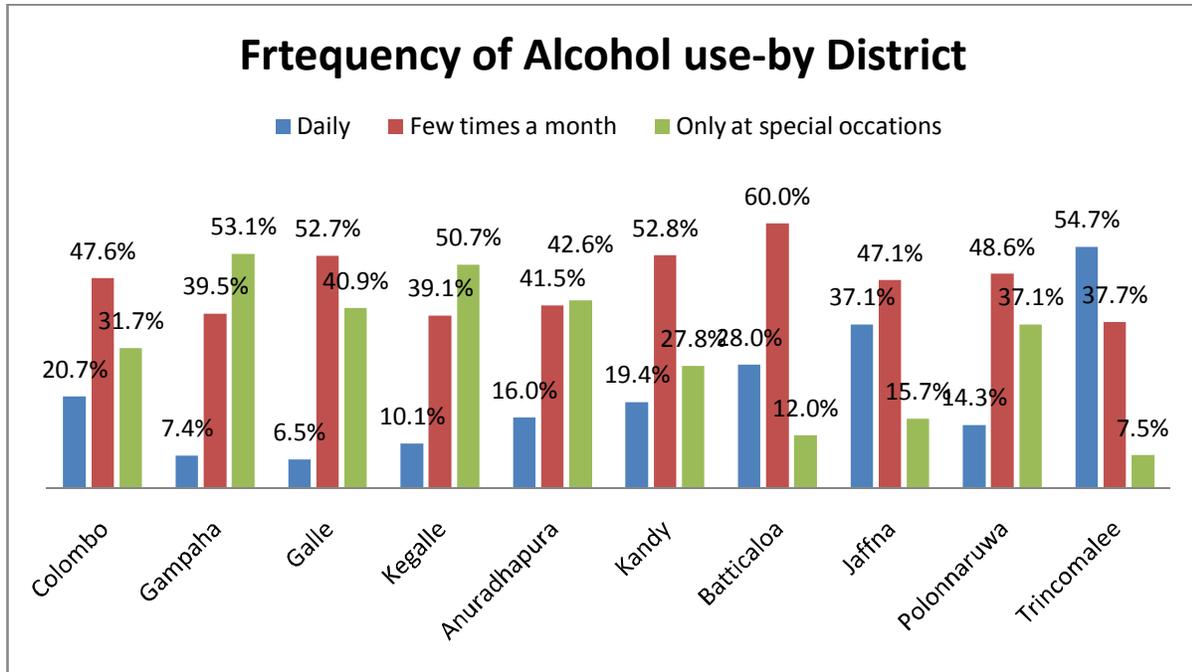


Figure 6: Frequency of alcohol use by district

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 (31.0%) have mentioned that they use alcohol for enjoyment followed by second highest reason being to socialize with friends (26.8%).

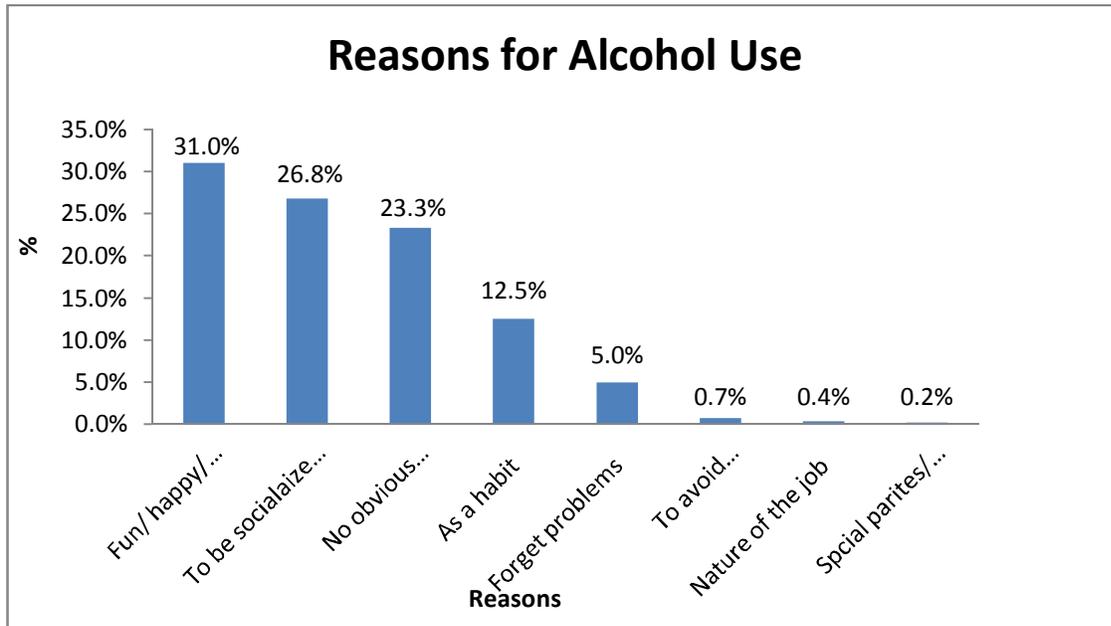


Figure 7: Reasons for alcohol use

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.

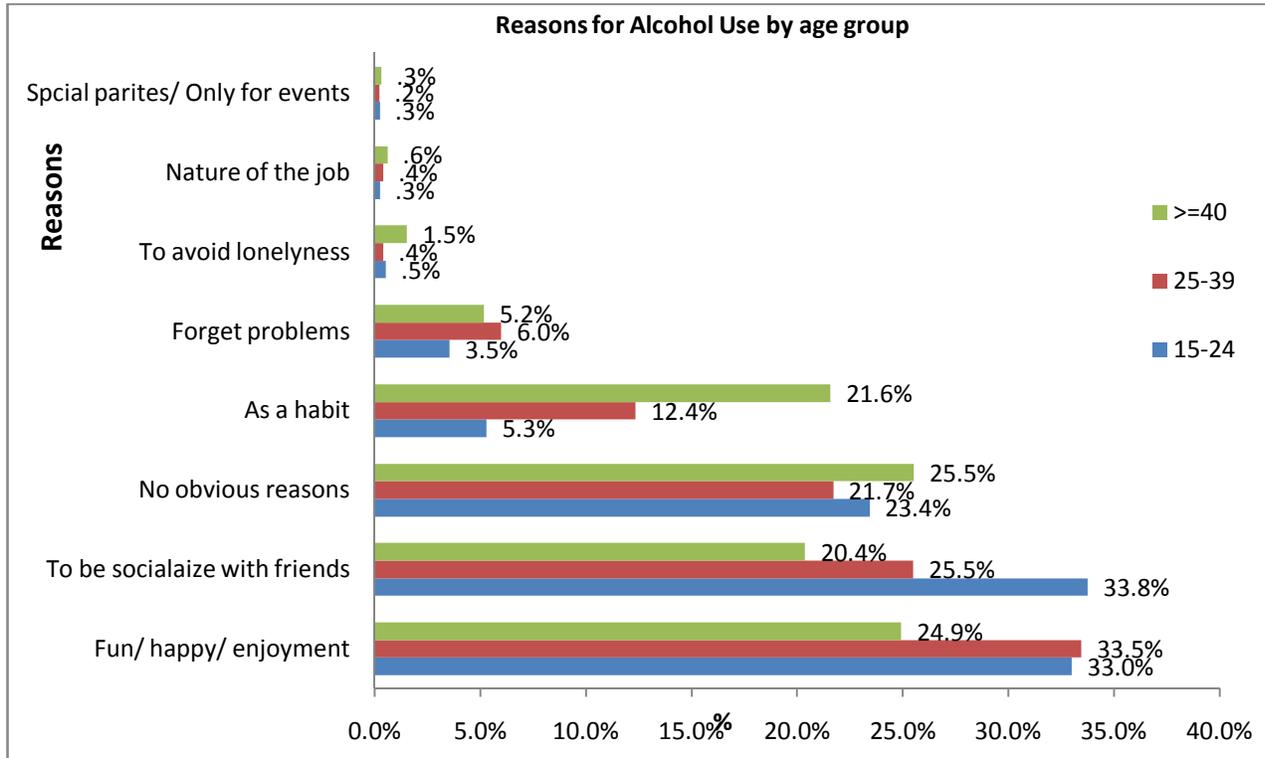


Figure 8: Reasons for alcohol use by age group

3.2.7 TYPE OF ALCOHOL USED

Questions were asked on the specific alcohol type used by the user. The responses were as follows: The most common type of alcohol used was Beer (48.9%), while the lowest usage by type of alcohol was illicit alcohol **other** such as **Toddy, Whisky, Brandy etc**(1.1%).

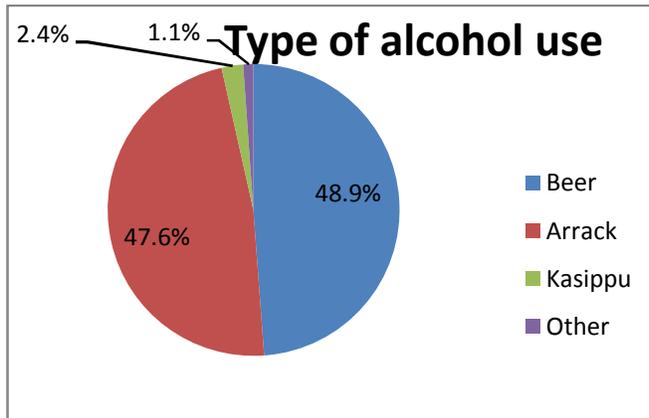


Figure 9: Type of alcohol use

The type of alcohol consumed was further analyzed with respect to age. This is shown in Figure 10. Majority of the adults' age range of 40 and above use 'Arrack' (84.3%), while 'Beer' was used mainly by youth (age range of 15-24) (80.3%).

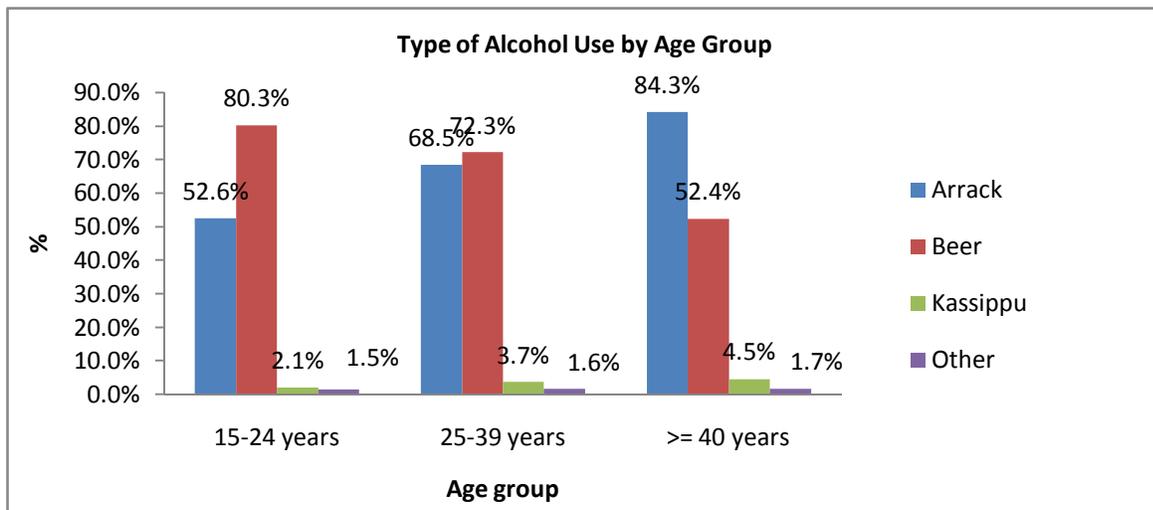


Figure 10: Type of alcohol use by age group

The type of alcohol used was analyzed according to the districts. This is shown in Figure 11 Batticaloa, Trincomalee, Colombo and Gampaha have relatively high usage of Beer where as Galle, Kandy and Anuradhapura has relatively high usage of Arrack.

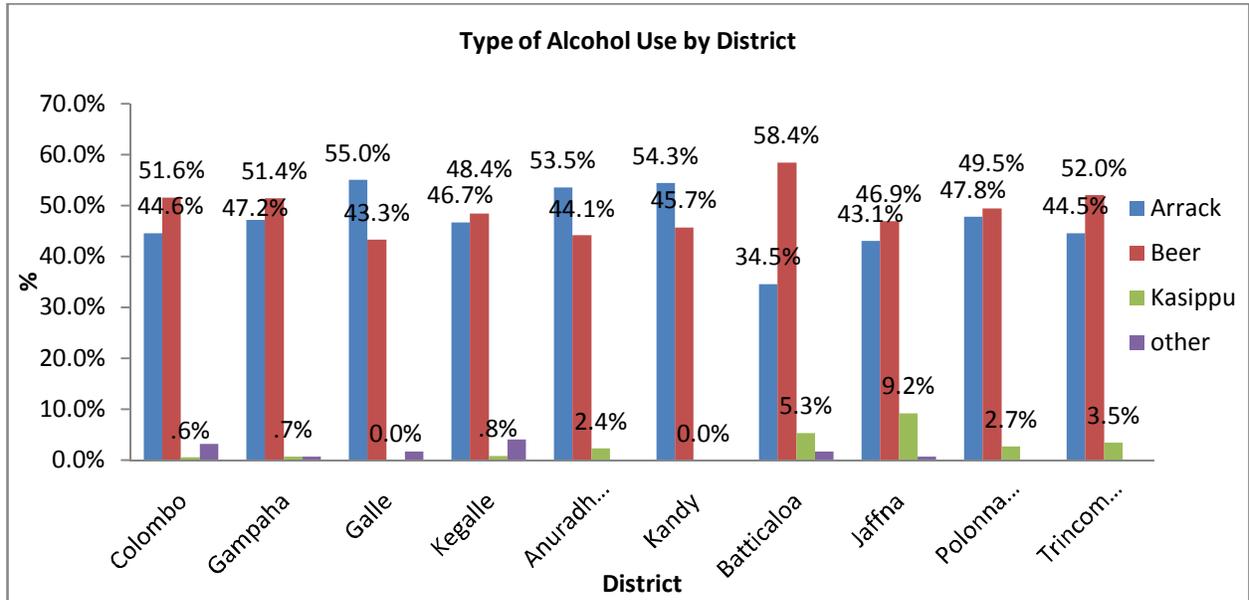


Figure 119: Type of alcohol use by district

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 12.

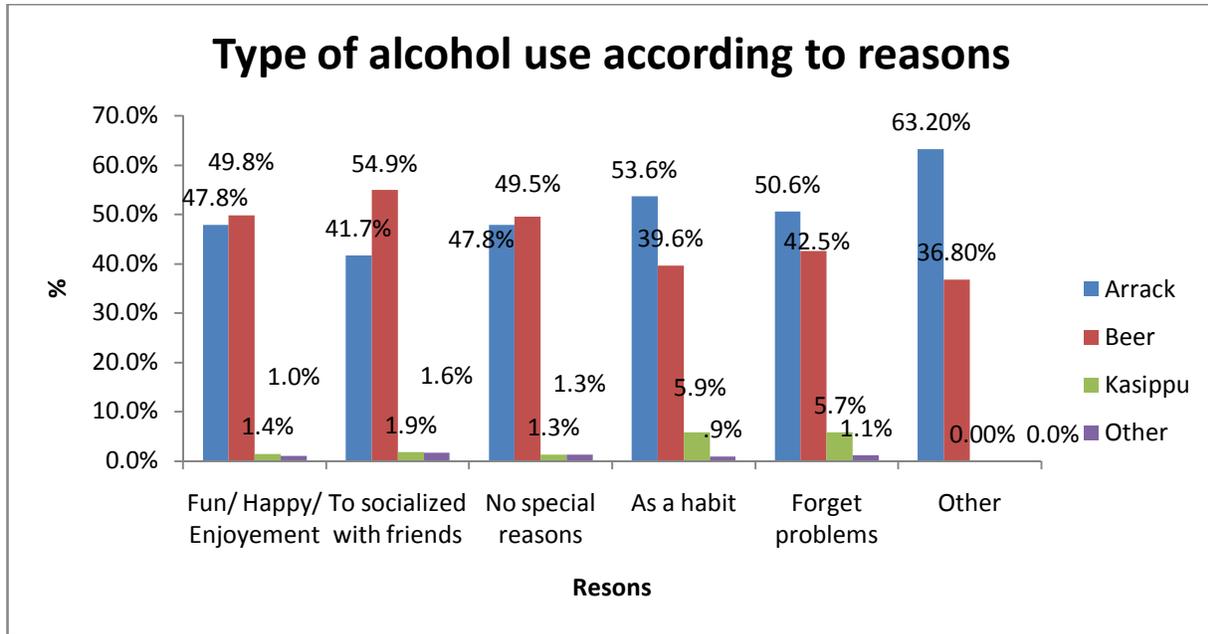


Figure 1210: Reasons for alcohol use by type of alcohol

ATTEMPT TO QUIT 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 49% have tried quitting alcohol use. This is shown in figure 13.

Attempt to quit use of alcohol (*From the current users*)

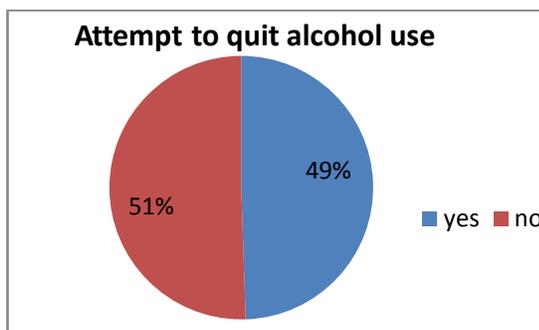


Figure 13: Attempt to quit alcohol use

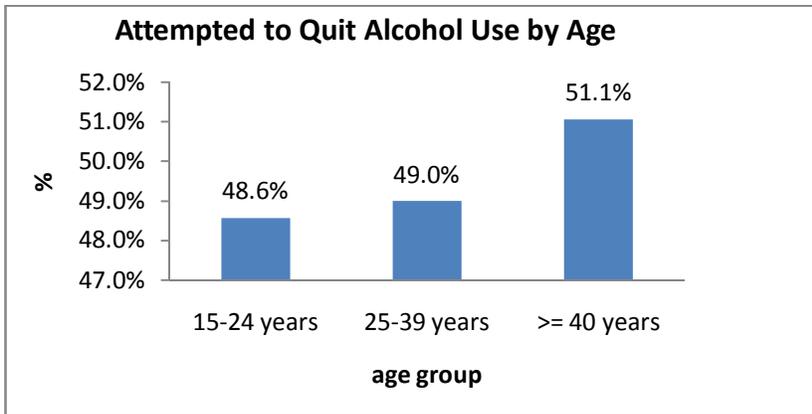


Figure 14: Attempted to quit alcohol use by age

Reasons for attempting to quit alcohol

Further questions were asked about the reasons which caused them to attempt to quit this habit. 30.2% of the people have quitted alcohol use because they think it's useless or stupid thing and 23.3% of them have attempted to quit because of health hazards.

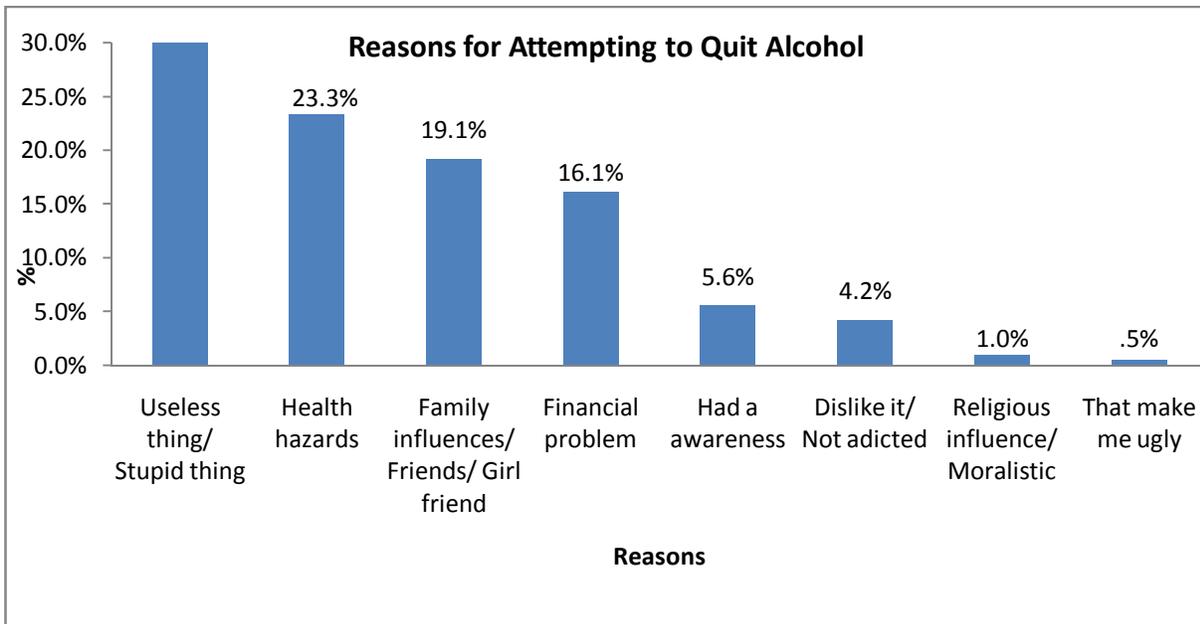


Figure 15: Reasons for attempting to quit alcohol

QUIT ALCOHOL USE

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.

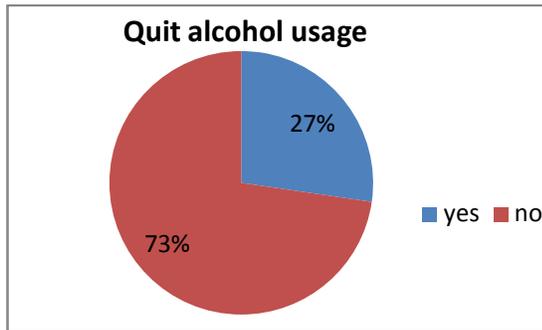


Figure 16: Quit alcohol use

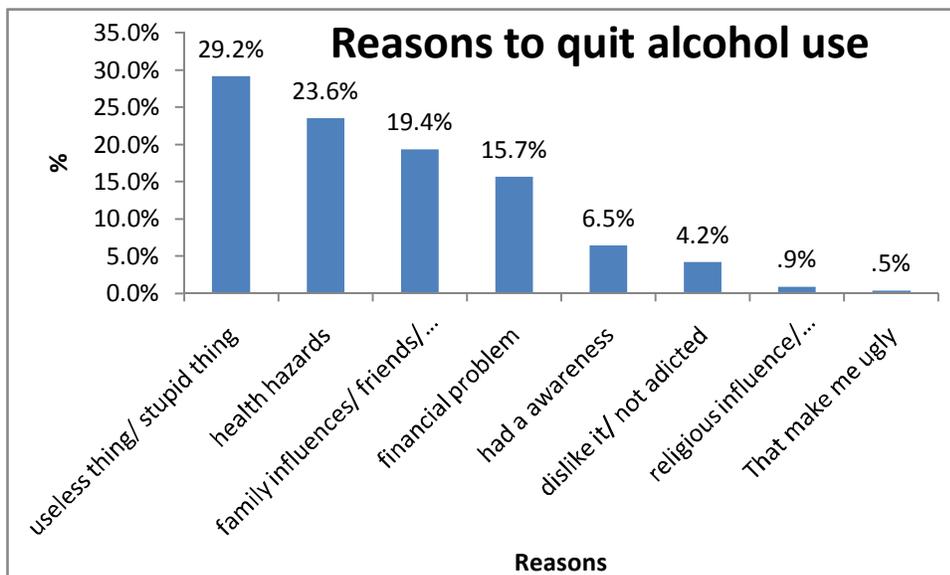


Figure 17: Reasons for quit alcohol use

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, 58 % ever used alcohol while 42% did not. This is shown in Figure 19.

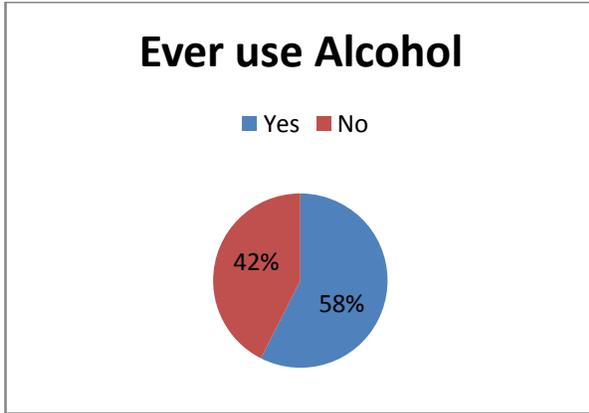


Figure 11: Ever use of alcohol

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 19.

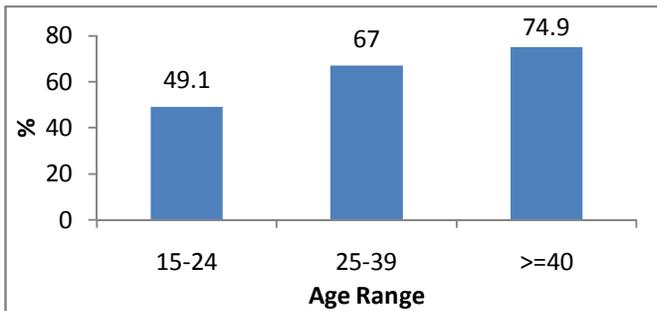


Figure 19: Ever use alcohol by age group

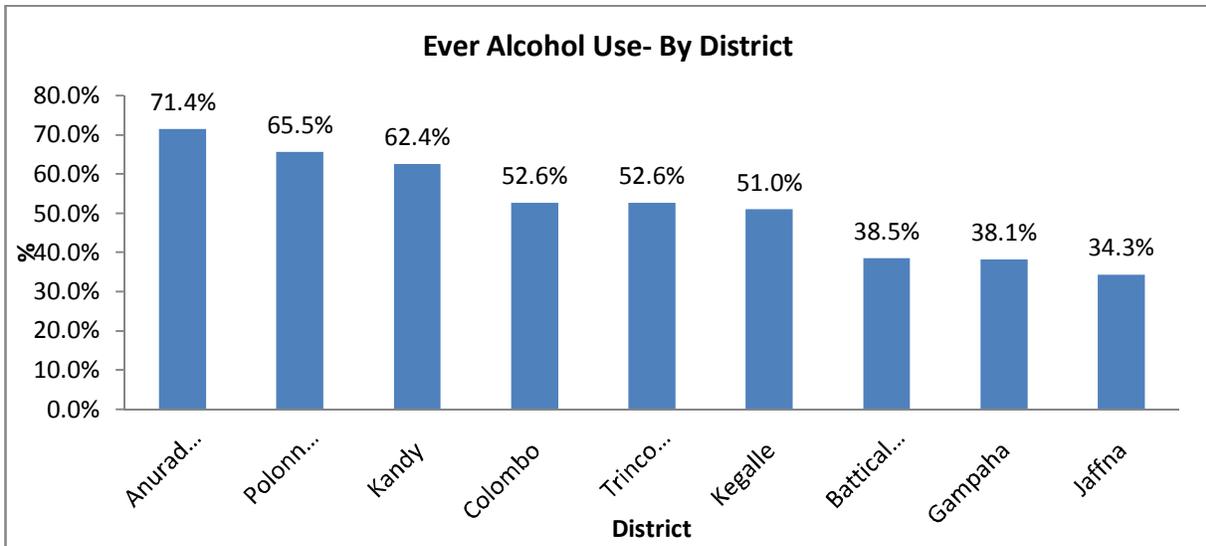


Figure 20: Ever use alcohol by district

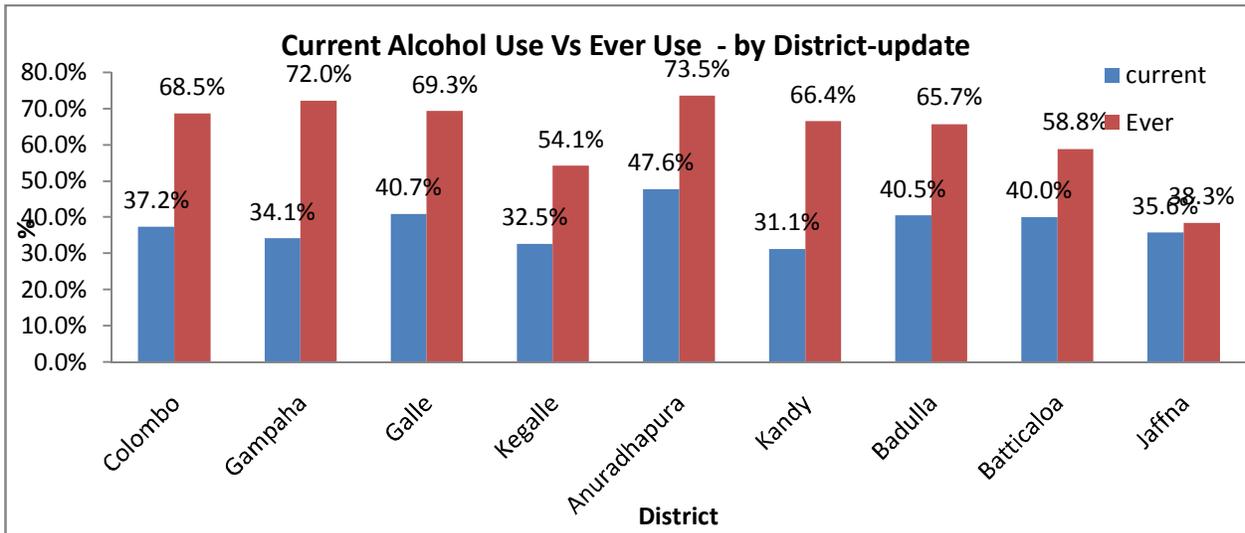


Figure 21: Ever use alcohol Vs current use of alcohol

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.

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 (55%). This is shown in Figure 22.

N	Valid	1337
	No response	112
Mean		20.43
Std. Error of Mean		.129
Median		20.00
Mode		18
Std. Deviation		4.730
Variance		22.372
Range		36
Minimum		8
Maximum		44

Table 4: Initiation of alcohol

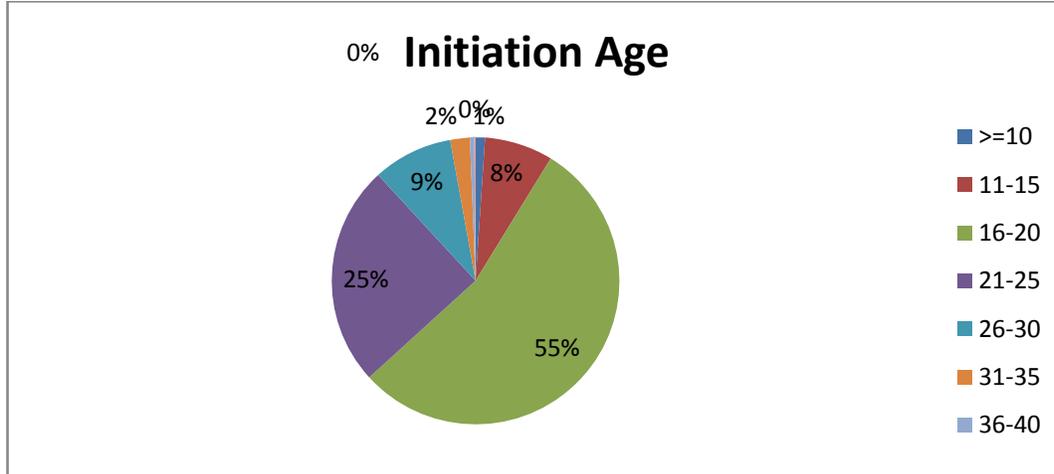


Figure 22: Initiation of alcohol use

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 (47.4%).

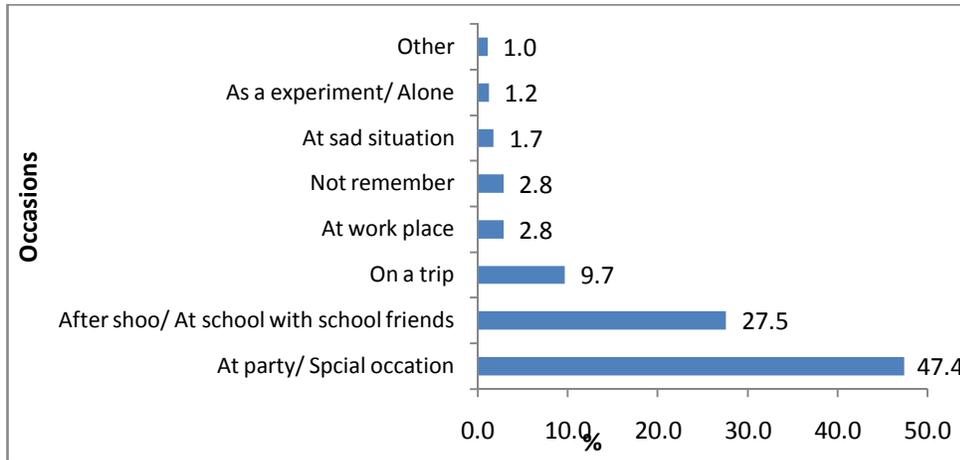


Figure 23: Occasions in which initiation of alcohol use

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 (56.1%), while the lowest type of alcohol used was Kasippu (2.0%).

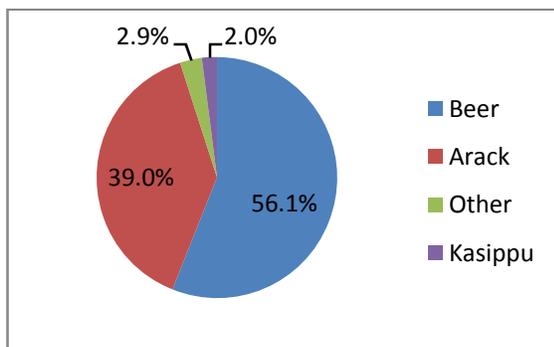


Figure 24: Type of alcohol use

The responses were also analyzed according to the age group with the type of alcohol. This is shown in Figures 25. 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.

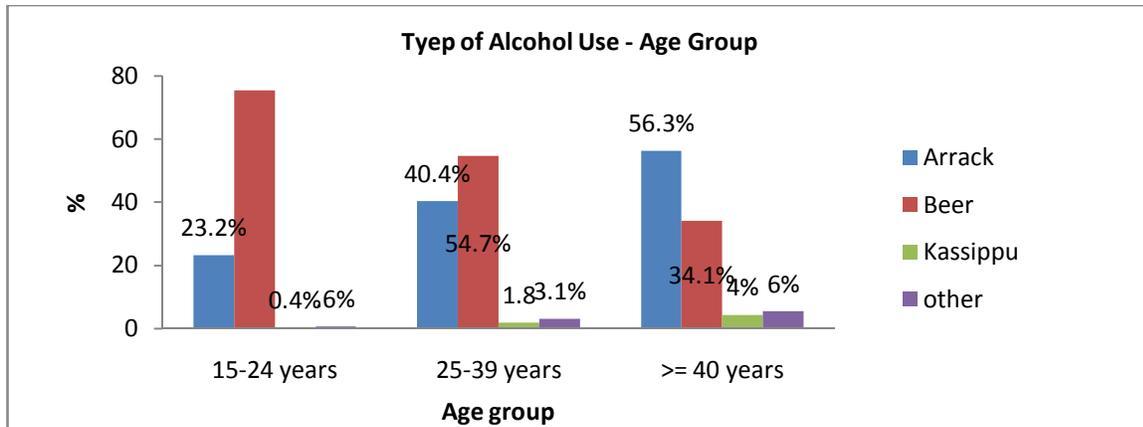


Figure 25: Type of alcohol use by age group

3.4 ALCOHOL NEVER USED (NEVER USERS)

In depth questions were asked of respondents who had never used alcohol (42% of respondent in Figure). The further questions were asked regarding the reasons for not taking up this habit. And, the responses were analyzed according to the reasons for never using alcohol. The most frequently reason for never using alcohol was due to dislike (39.4%) and no special reason (17.5%). This is shown in Figure 26.

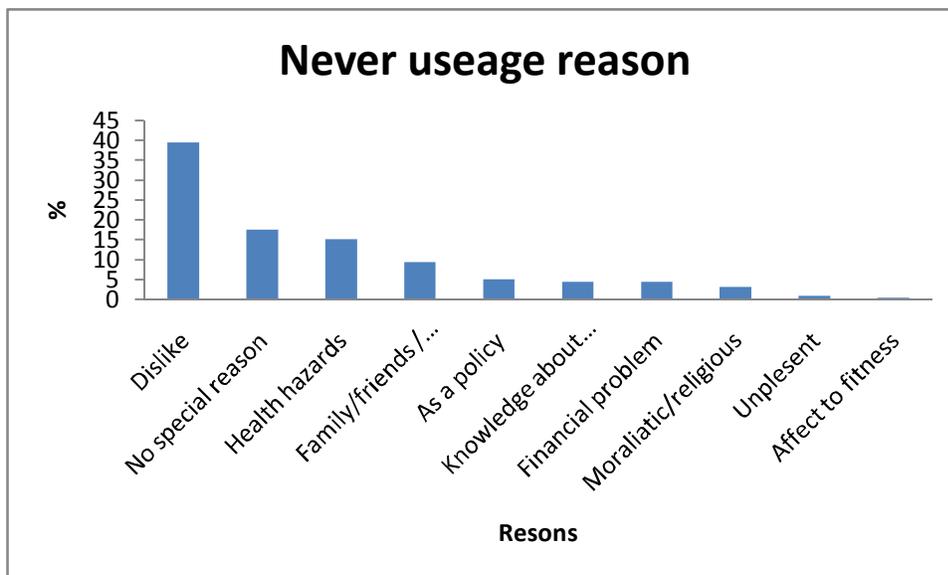


Figure 26: Reasons for never use of alcohol

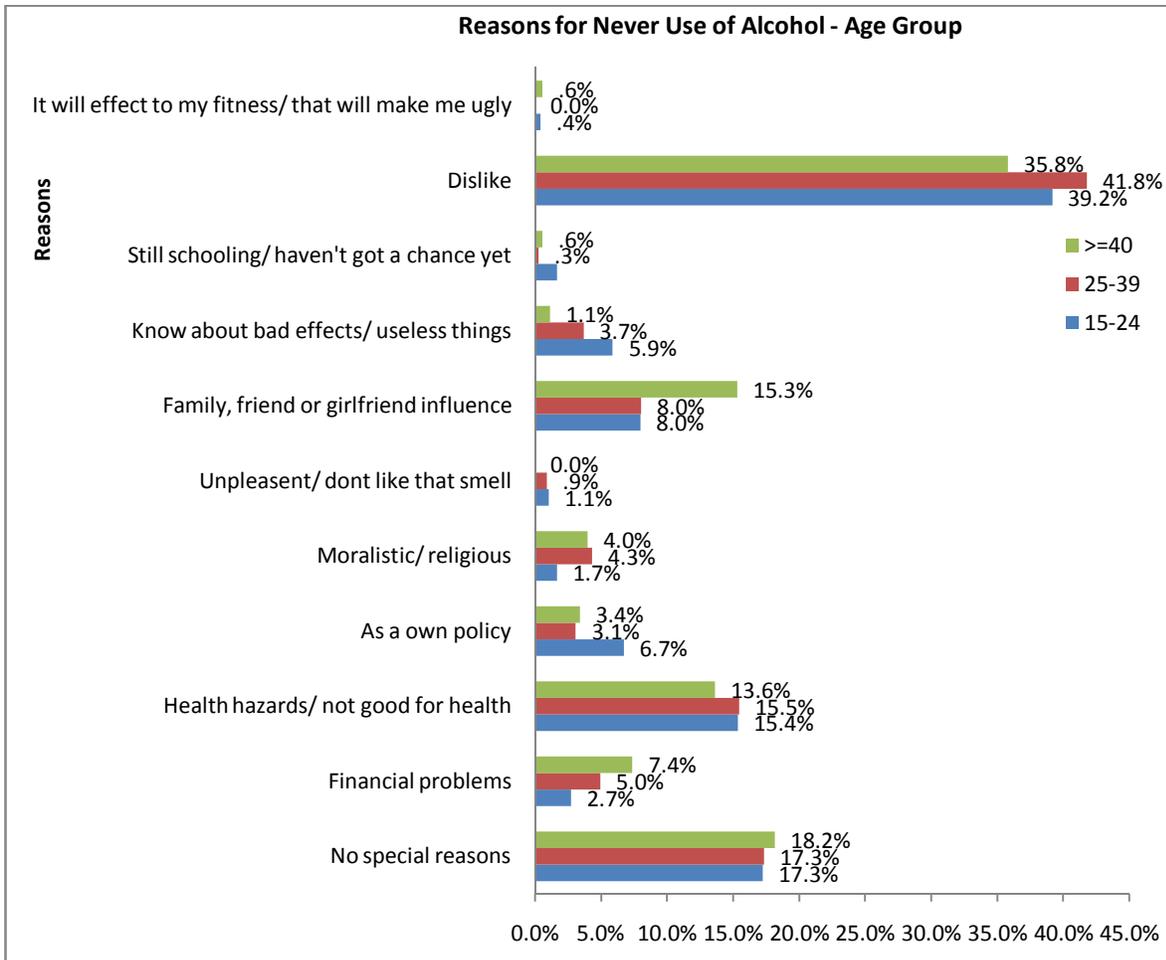


Figure 27: Reasons for never use of alcohol by age group

4.0 COMPARISONS OF RESULTS WITH THE 2011 SPOT SURVEY

In comparison with the results of the July 2011 and July 2012 spot survey, the alcohol use has a decreased by 8.4% in comparison to the previous year. This is shown in Figure 28.

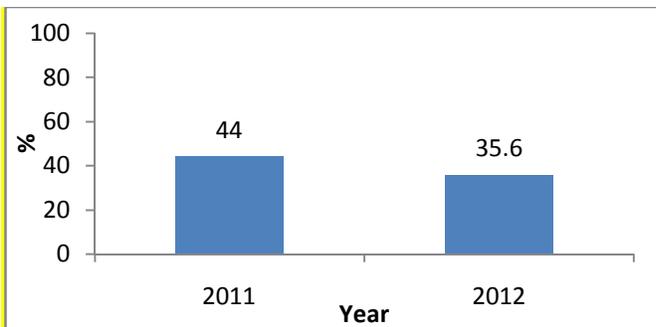


Figure 28: Comparison of alcohol use

5.0 THE TREND OF ALCOHOL USE 2000-2012

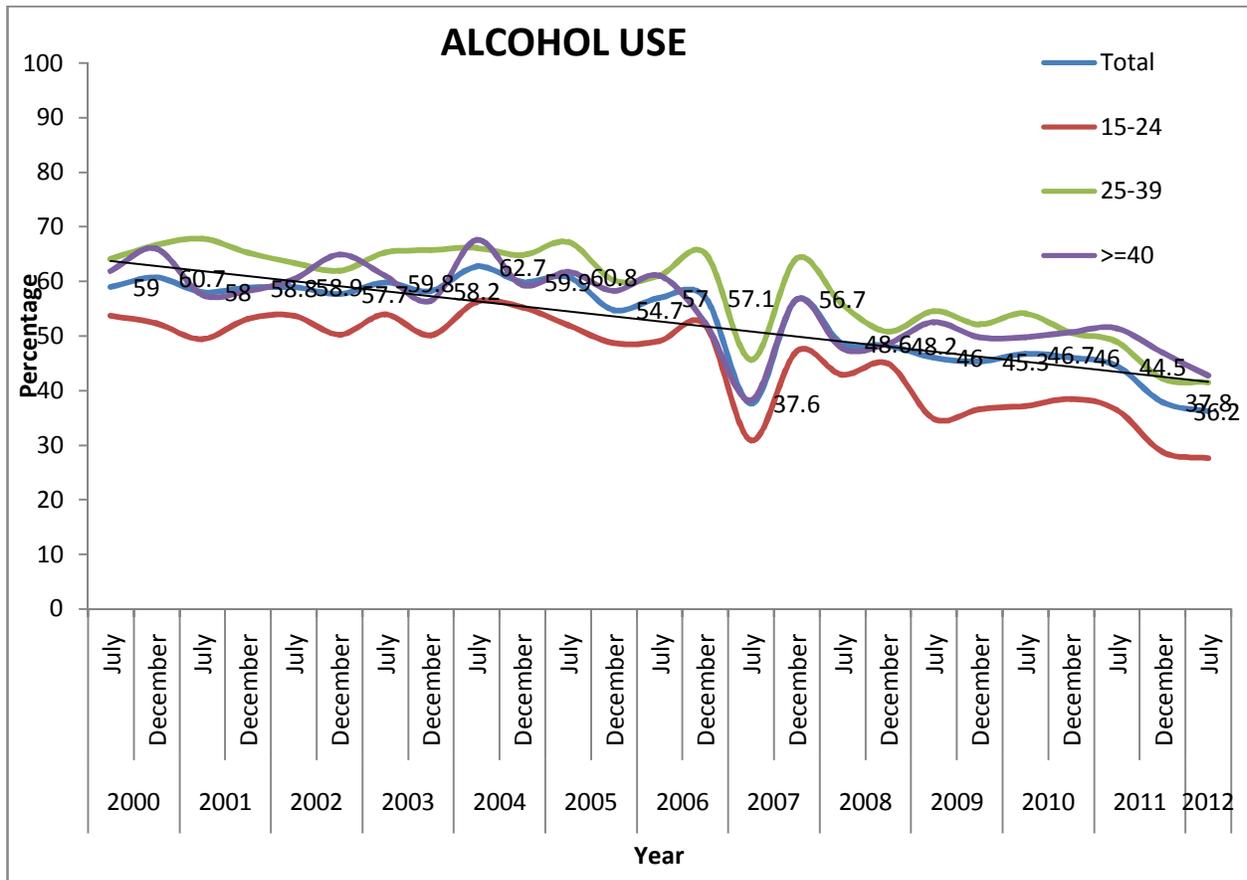


Figure29: The trend of alcohol use

The percentage of alcohol users from year 2000 to July 2012 obtained from bi-annual spot surveys is shown in Figure 29. An overall decreasing trend in alcohol use can be observed.