

Spot Survey July 2011

Alcohol

7/8/2011

Research and Information

Table of Contents

1 INTRODUCTION	5
1.1 RATIONALE	5
1.2 OBJECTIVES	5
2 METHODOLOGIES	6
2.1 Sample.....	6
DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION	6
2.2 LIMITATIONS	7
3 RESULTS.....	7
3.1 ALCOHOL USE.....	7
3.2 CURRENT USERS.....	8
3.2.1 CURRENT ALCOHOL USE-AGE DISTRIBUTION	8
3.2.2 CURRENT ALCOHOL USE-DISTRICT BASIS.....	9
3.2.3 FREQUENCY OF ALCOHOL USE.....	9
3.2.4 FREQUENCY OF ALCOHOL USE - AGE DISTRIBUTION.....	10
3.2.5 FREQUENCY OF ALCOHOL USE DISTRICT BASIS	10
3.2.6 REASONS FOR ALCOHOL USE	11
3.2.7 TYPE OF ALCOHOL USED	13
3.2.8 REASONS OF ALCOHOL USE BY TYPE OF ALCOHOL.....	14
3.3 ALCOHOL USE (EVER USED)	16
3.3.1 INITIATION OF ALCOHOL USE	18
3.3.2 AGE INITIATION OF ALCOHOL USE.....	18
3.3.3 OCCASION OF ALCOHOL INITIATION.....	19
3.3.4 TYPE OF ALCOHOL AT INITIATION.....	19
3.4 ALCOHOL NEVER USED (NEVER USERS)	20
4.0 COMPARISONS OF RESULTS WITH THE 2010 SPOT SURVEY.....	23
5.0 THE TREND OF ALCOHOL USE 2000-2011.....	23

List of Figures

Figure 1: Alcohol prevalence	8
Figure 2: Alcohol prevalence by age group	8
Figure 3: Alcohol prevalence by districts.....	9
Figure 4: Frequency of alcohol use.....	9
Figure 5: frequency of alcohol use by age group	10
Figure 6: Frequency of alcohol use by district.....	11
Figure 7: Reasons for alcohol use	11
Figure 8: Reasons for alcohol use by age group	12
Figure 9: Reasons for alcohol use by district.....	12
Figure 10: Type of alcohol use	13
Figure 11: Type of alcohol use by age group	13
Figure 12: Type of alcohol use by district.....	14
Figure 13: Reasons for alcohol use by type of alcohol	14
Figure 14: Source of alcohol for consumption	15
Figure 15: Method of getting alcohol by age.....	15
Figure 16: Ever use of alcohol	16
Figure 17: Ever use alcohol by age group	16
Figure 18: Ever use alcohol by district.....	17
Figure 19: Ever use alcohol Vs current use of alcohol.....	17
Figure 20: Initiation of alcohol use.....	18
Figure 21: Occasions in which initiation of alcohol use	19
Figure 22: Type of alcohol use	19
Figure 23: Type of alcohol use by age group	20
Figure 24: Never use of alcohol.....	20
Figure 25: Never use of alcohol by age group	20
Figure 26: Never use of alcohol by district.....	21
Figure 27: Reasons for never use of alcohol	21
Figure 28: Reasons for never use of alcohol by age group	22
Figure 29: Comparison of alcohol use.....	23
Figure 30: The trend of alcohol use.....	23

List of Tables

1. Table 1: Sample of the survey – by district and age	6
2. Table 2: Sample of the survey – by highest level of education	6
3. Table 3: Sample of the survey – by occupation	7
4. Table 4: Initiation of alcohol	18

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. In this report we concentrate on the results of the survey conducted in July 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 expanded to North and East provinces. Jaffna District from North Province and Batticaloa district from East province were added as compulsory districts for the survey. And also Kandy District was included to the list of constant districts of the survey. The routing selection district was Puttlam. Hence the survey focused on the following districts; Colombo, Gampaha, Galle, Kegalle, Anuradhapura, Jaffna, Batticaloa, Kandy and Puttalam.

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 trends with the previous year
2. General Objectives:
 - To find 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 in initiation of alcohol use

2 METHODOLOGIES

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 survey was conducted over a period of one month and covered a total number of 2,242 male respondents of the age fifteen and above. The sample is shown in Table1

Age group	District									Total
	Colombo	Gampaha	Galle	Kegalle	Anuradhapura	Kandy	Puttalm	Batticaloa	Jaffna	
15-24 years	98 39.2%	100 40.2%	111 42.0%	95 37.7%	84 34.7%	98 38.9%	105 42.2%	98 41.4%	91 37.6%	880 39.3%
25-39 years	96 38.4%	88 35.3%	96 36.4%	100 39.7%	99 40.9%	93 36.9%	91 36.5%	89 37.6%	101 41.7%	853 38.1%
>= 40 years	56 22.4%	61 24.5%	57 21.6%	57 22.6%	59 24.4%	61 24.2%	53 21.3%	50 21.1%	50 20.7%	504 22.5%
Total	250 100.0%	249 100.0%	264 100.0%	252 100.0%	242 100.0%	252 100.0%	249 100.0%	237 100.0%	242 100.0%	2237 100.0%

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

2.1 Sample

The age distribution of the sample population is shown in Table 1. The sample population comprised of 40%, 38% and 22% of the age 15-24 years, 25-39 years and 40 years and above respectively. The mean of the sample population is the minimum age was 15 years and maximum age was 81 years.

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

The level of education of the sample is shown in Table 2. The highest percentage on the level of education was on the completion of GCE A/L (36.6%).

Education	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
No education	21	.9	1.0
1-5	92	4.1	4.2
6-10	344	15.3	15.6
O/L	794	35.4	35.9
A/L	809	36.1	36.6
Degree	81	3.6	3.7
Diploma	29	1.3	1.3
Professional training	25	1.1	1.1
Postgraduate	14	.6	.6
Total	2209	98.5	100.0
No responses	33	1.5	
Total	2242	100.0	

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

The occupation classification is shown in Table 3. The occupation has been classified according to the International Standard Classification of Occupation (ISO 88). The highest percentage on the main occupation was Service Worker (32.4%). This is a classification of employment of the entire sample.

Occupation	Frequency	(%)
Legislator	22	1.1
Professionals	96	4.7
Technician	55	2.7
Clears	24	1.2
Service worker	660	32.4
Skilled agricultural and fishery/salon	326	16.0
Craft and related worker	87	4.3
Plan machine operators and assemblers	84	4.1
Elementary occupations	54	2.7
Army/police forces	127	6.2
Students	279	13.7
Retired	34	1.7
Foreign employed	8	.4
Un employed	179	8.8
Total	2035	100.0
No response	207	
Total	2242	

Table 3: Sample of the survey – by occupation

2.2 LIMITATIONS

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

3 RESULTS

3.1 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 Used - respondents who have at any instance initiated alcohol use in their lifetime
- (3) Never Used - respondents who have never used any alcohol product

3.2 CURRENT USERS

Current Users were assessed on alcohol use within the previous month. According to the responses, it was found that 44% used alcohol while 56% did not use alcohol. This is shown in Figure 1. (N=2211)

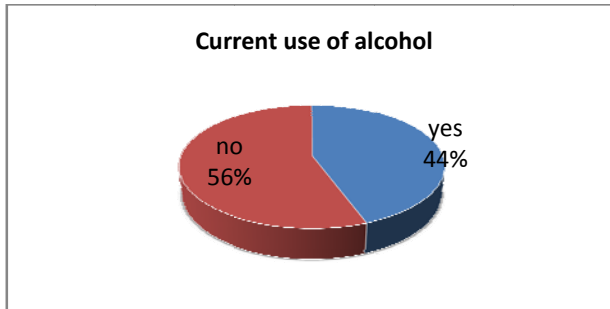


Figure 1: Alcohol prevalence

3.2.1 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 40 and above (51%). The lowest response on current use was from the age category of 15-24 years (37%). This is shown in Figure 2.

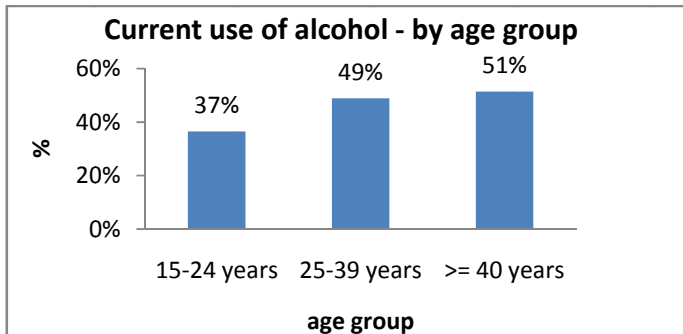


Figure 2: Alcohol prevalence by age group

3.2.2 CURRENT ALCOHOL USE-DISTRICT BASIS

The current alcohol use was further analyzed on district basis, occupation basis and education basis. The highest percentage on alcohol use from Kegalle (55%) while the lowest percentage was from Puttalam(31%). This is shown in Figure 3.

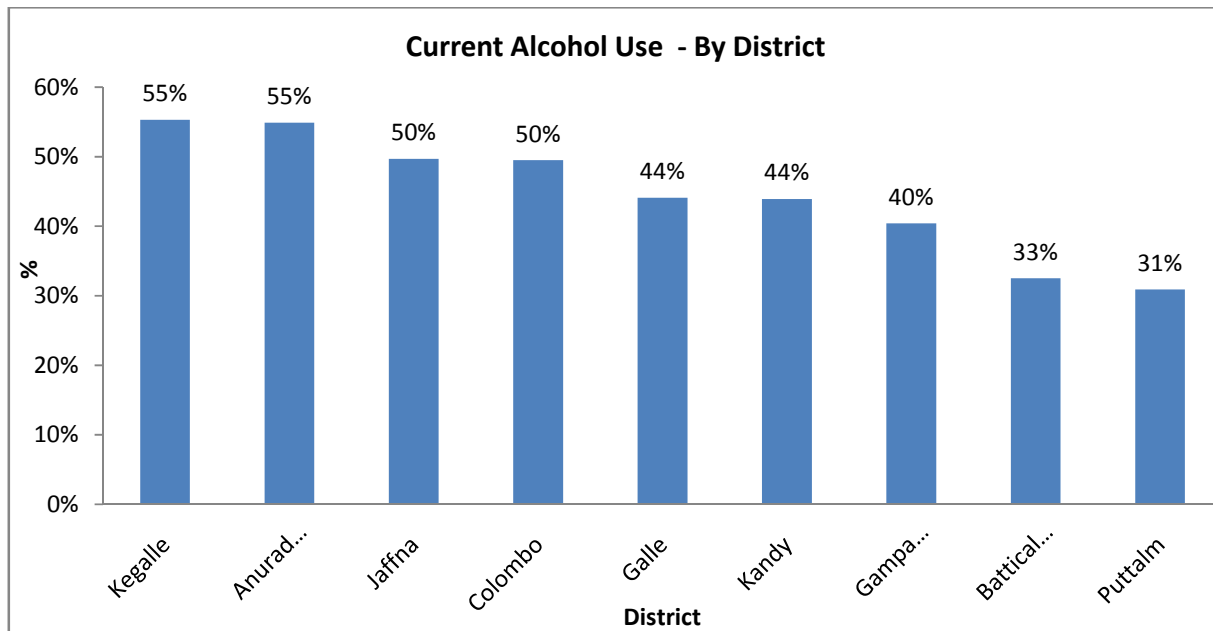


Figure 3: Alcohol prevalence by districts

3.2.3 FREQUENCY OF ALCOHOL USE

The current alcohol use was analyzed on daily, monthly and special occasion basis. The highest percentage of alcohol use was in special occasions (50.6%) while the lowest percentage was in daily (12%). This is shown in Figure 4.

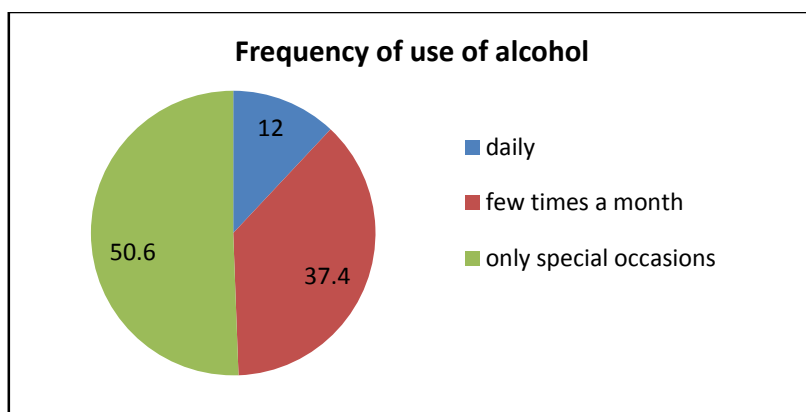


Figure 4: Frequency of alcohol use

3.2.4 FREQUENCY OF ALCOHOL USE - AGE DISTRIBUTION

The frequency of alcohol use was further analyzed according to age group. It was identified that individuals in the age range of 40 and above, used alcohol highly on daily basis (20%) while the age range of 15-24 use alcohol lightly on daily basis (8%). The percentage of monthly alcohol users was the same in the age range of 15-24 and 25-39 (39%) whereas the lowest percentage of monthly users was in the age range of >=40(34%). On special occasions, the age range of 15-24 use alcohol highly (53%) than in the age range of >=40 (46%). This is shown in Figure 5.

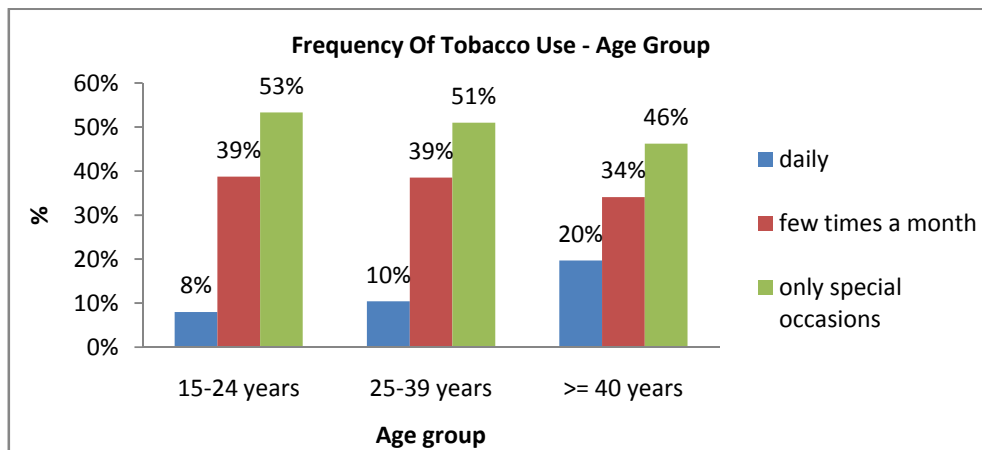


Figure 5: frequency of alcohol use by age group

3.2.5 FREQUENCY OF ALCOHOL USE DISTRICT BASIS

The frequency of alcohol use was further analyzed according to districts. The highest percentage of daily alcohol users was from Jaffna district (42.1%) while the lowest percentage of daily alcohol users was from Galle (2.1%). The highest percentage of alcohol users at the special occasions was from Galle (67%) while lowest use of alcohol only for special occasions was reported in Batticaloa (26.2%). The highest percentage of monthly alcohol users was from Kegalle (44.2%) whereas the lowest percentage of monthly alcohol users was from Galle (30.9%). This is shown in Figure 6.

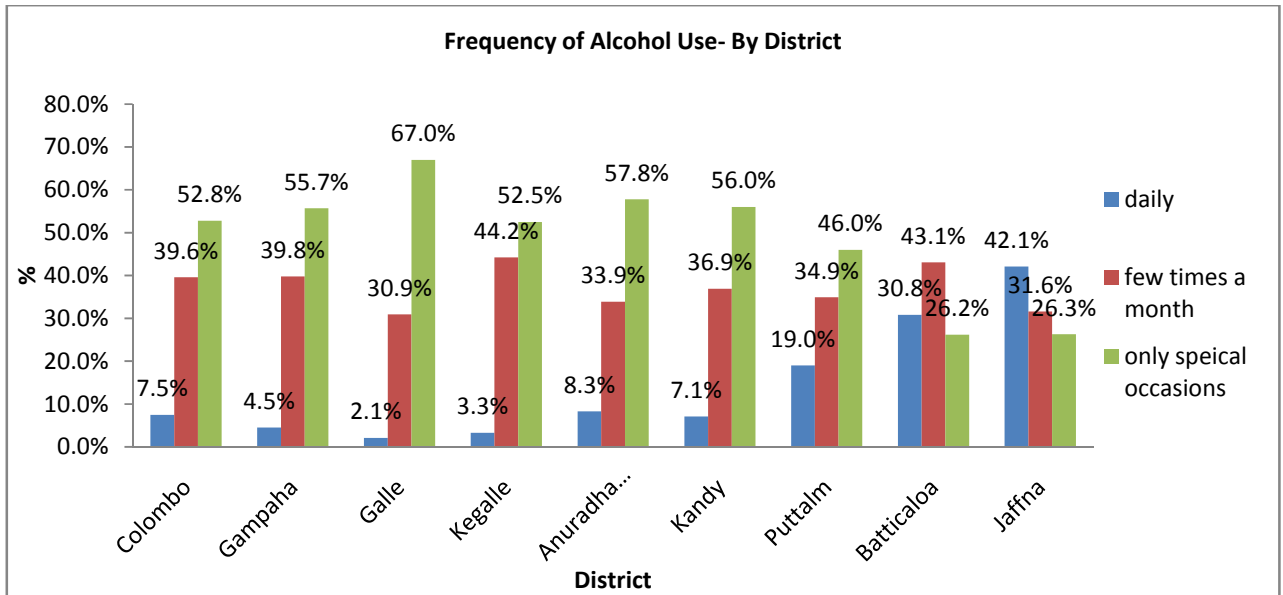


Figure 6: Frequency of alcohol use by district

.2.6 REASONS FOR ALCOHOL USE

The survey also emphasized on the reasons on alcohol use. Among the reasons given on the use of alcohol, the majority (44.8%) have mentioned that they use alcohol for enjoyment followed by second highest reason being to socialize with friends (16.4%).

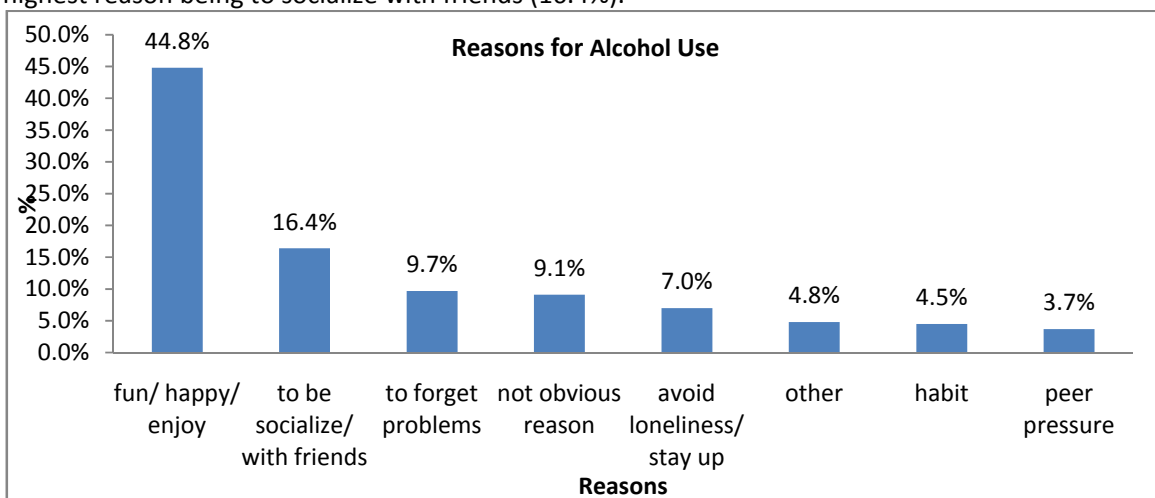


Figure 7: Reasons for alcohol use

The reasons for alcohol use by age group are shown in Figure 8. The highest percentages are 49% for both age groups 15-24 and >=40, 47% for 25-39 showed that alcohol in all age groups is used mainly for fun and enjoyment.

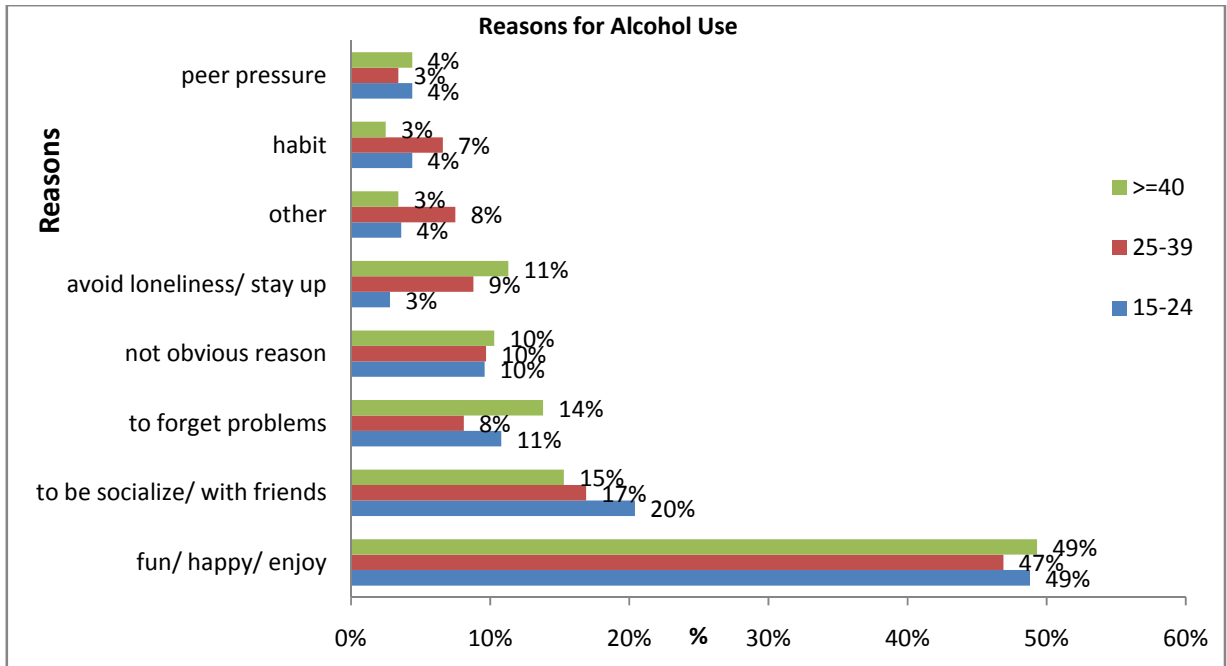


Figure 8: Reasons for alcohol use by age group

The reasons for alcohol use by district is shown in Figure 9. Highest percentage(61%) can be seen in Puttalam and Colombo and reinforce that majority of individuals use alcohol mainly for fun and enjoyment.

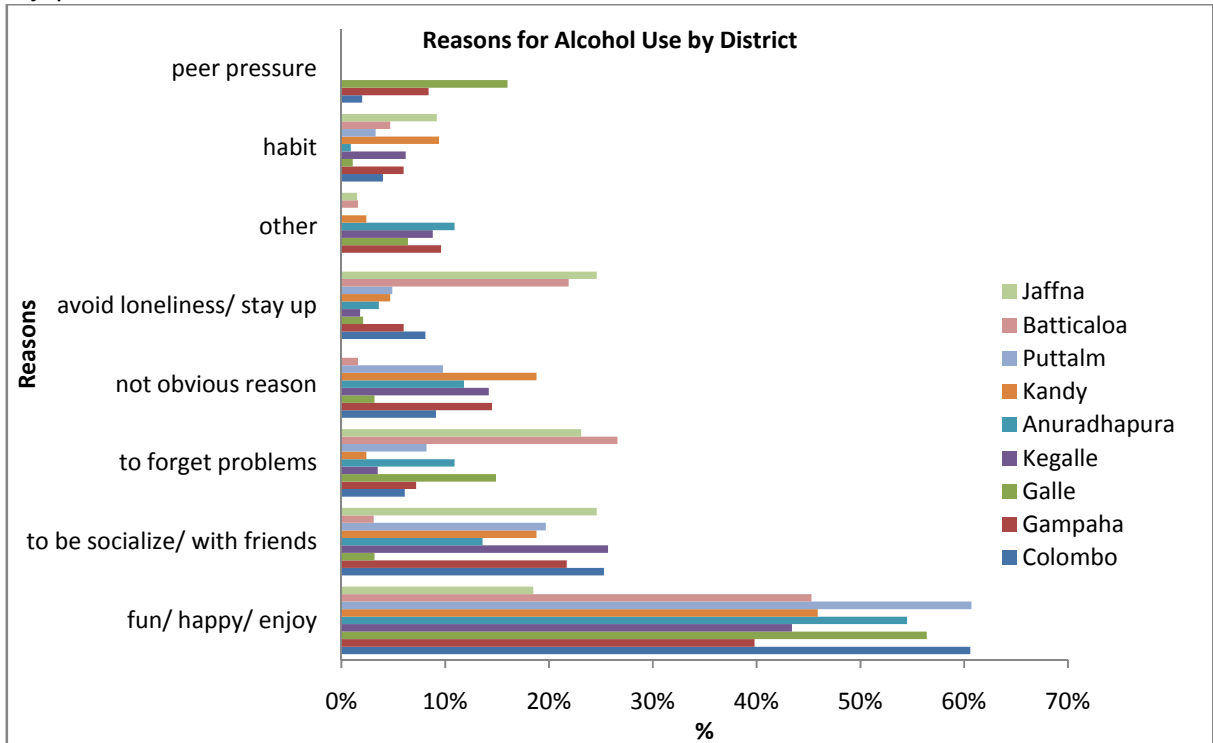


Figure 9: Reasons for alcohol use by district

3.2.7 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 Beer (49.4%), while the lowest usage by type of alcohol was Kasippu (2.1%).

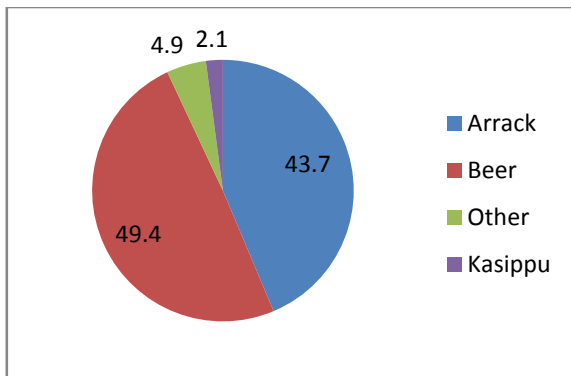


Figure 10: Type of alcohol use

The responses were further analyzed according to the age range. This is shown in Figure 11. The highest type of alcohol used in the age range of 40 and above was 'Arrack' (72%) while 'Beer' was used highly in the age range of 15-24 (80%).

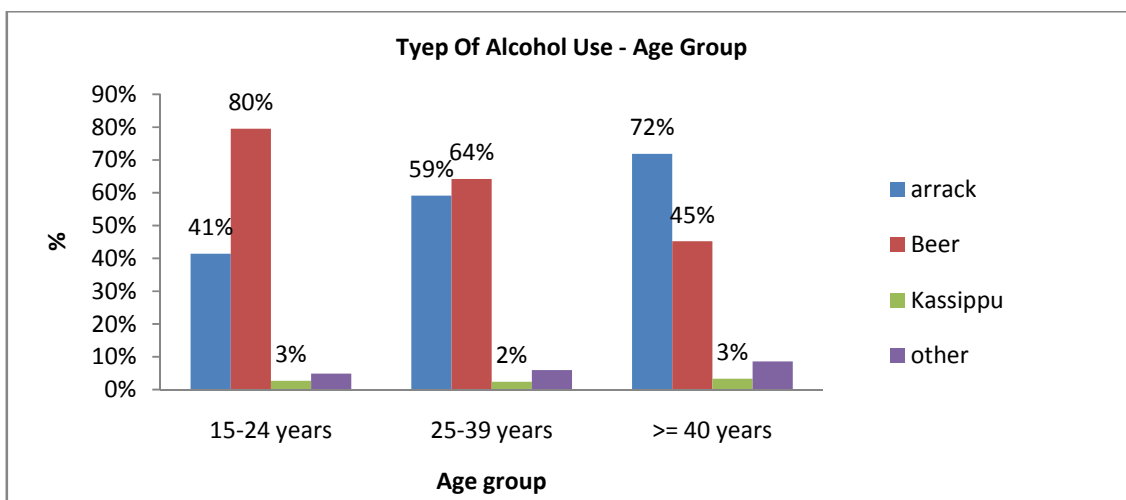


Figure 11: Type of alcohol use by age group

The type of alcohol used was analyzed according to the districts. This is shown in Figure 12. The type of alcohol with the highest percentage was Beer in Galle (74.7%), while Arrack was used frequently in Anuradhapura (68.5%).

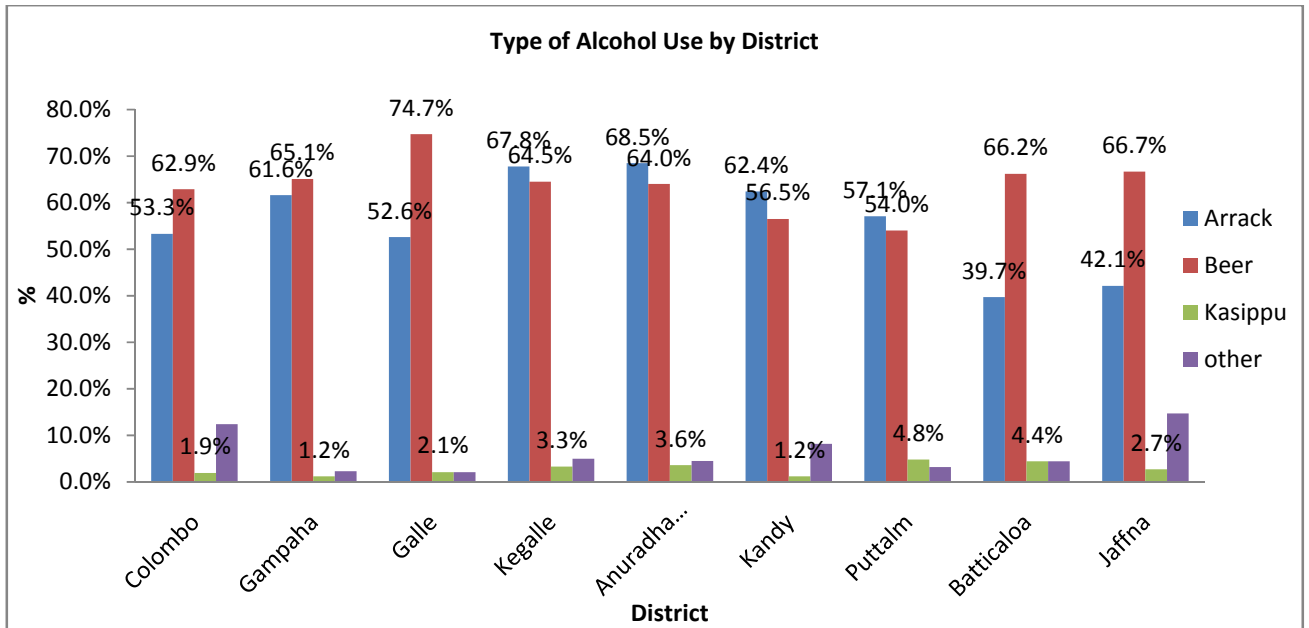


Figure 12: Type of alcohol use by district

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, for happiness was the major reason for all the type of alcohol. This is shown in Figure 13.

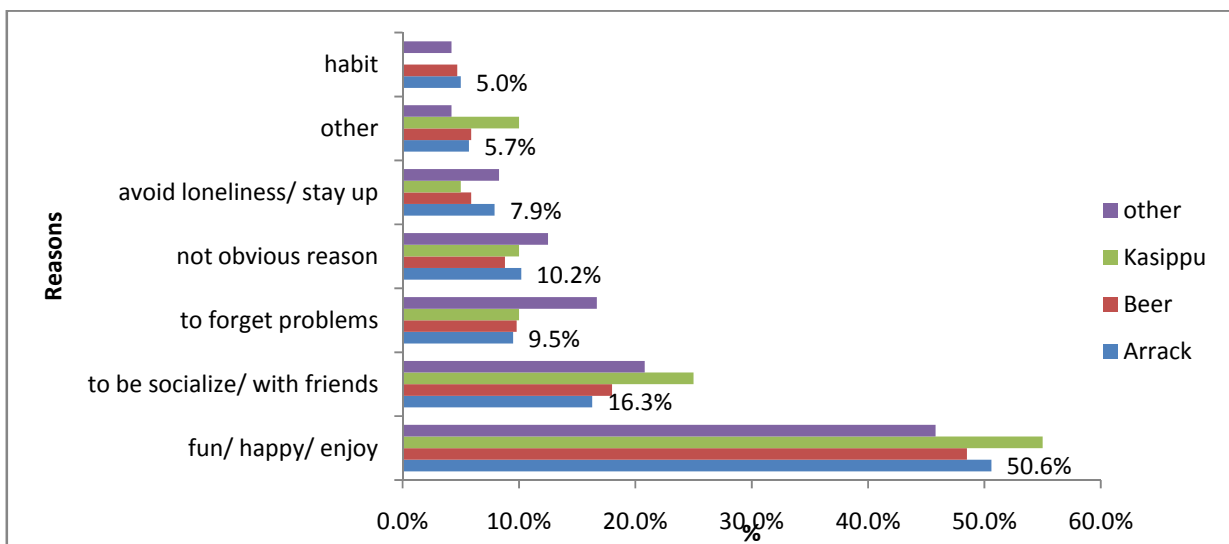


Figure 13: Reasons for alcohol use by type of alcohol

3.2.9 SOURCE OF ALCOHOL FOR CONSUMPTION

During the survey the alcohol user was asked how they get the alcohol for them to consume. The results are given in the Figure 14. The most common method to obtain alcohol is to buy it them self (34.7%).

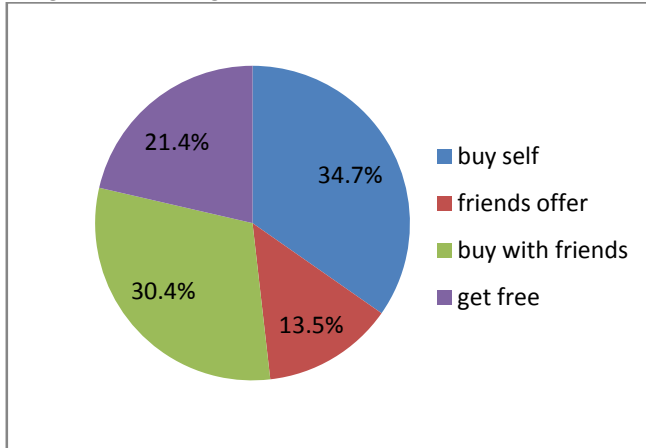


Figure 14: Source of alcohol for consumption

The method of obtaining alcohol by age is shown in Figure 15. Age groups 40 and above and 25-39 years both commonly buy alcohol for consumption themselves, while age group of 15-24 years mostly buy alcohol with friends (43%).

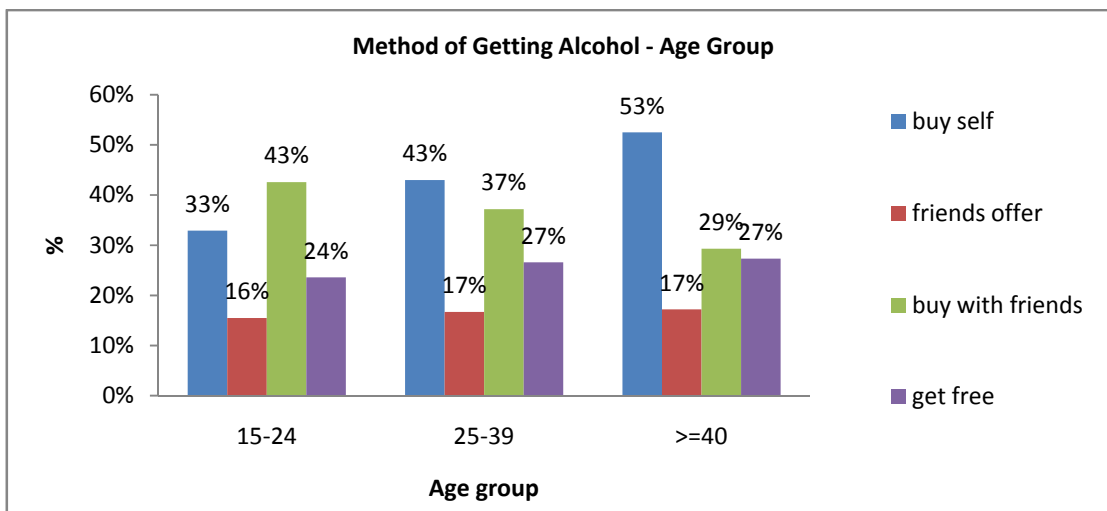


Figure 15: Method of getting alcohol by age

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, 63.7% ever used alcohol while 36.3% did not. This is shown in Figure 16.

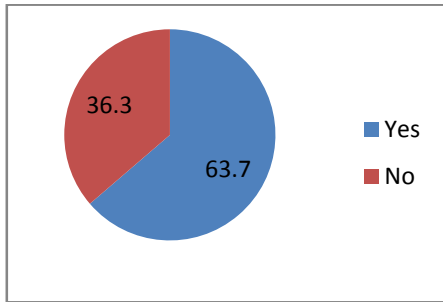


Figure 16: Ever use of alcohol

On further studying the prevalence of ever use of alcohol according to the age distribution, it was reported that the highest percentage of respondents having used alcohol at any point in their lifetime was found to be among those belonging to the age group 40 and above (75%). This is shown in Figure 17.

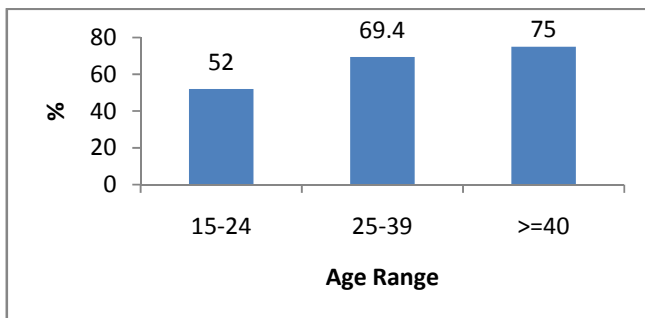


Figure 17: Ever use alcohol by age group

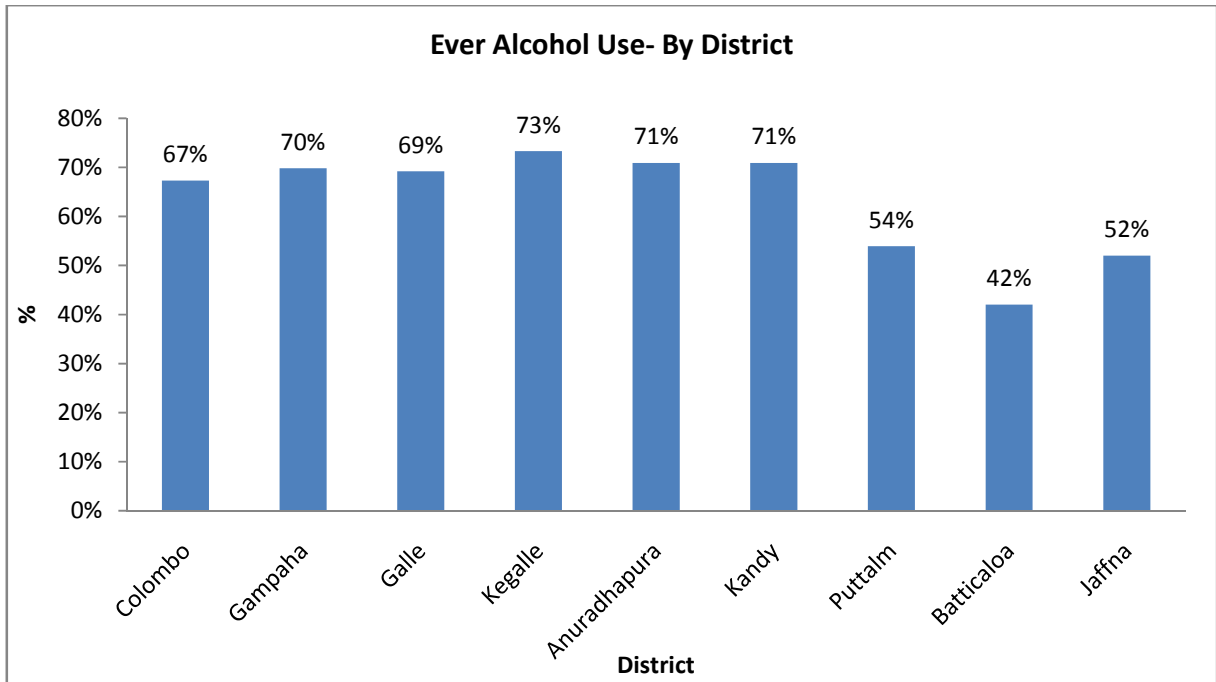


Figure 18: Ever use alcohol by district

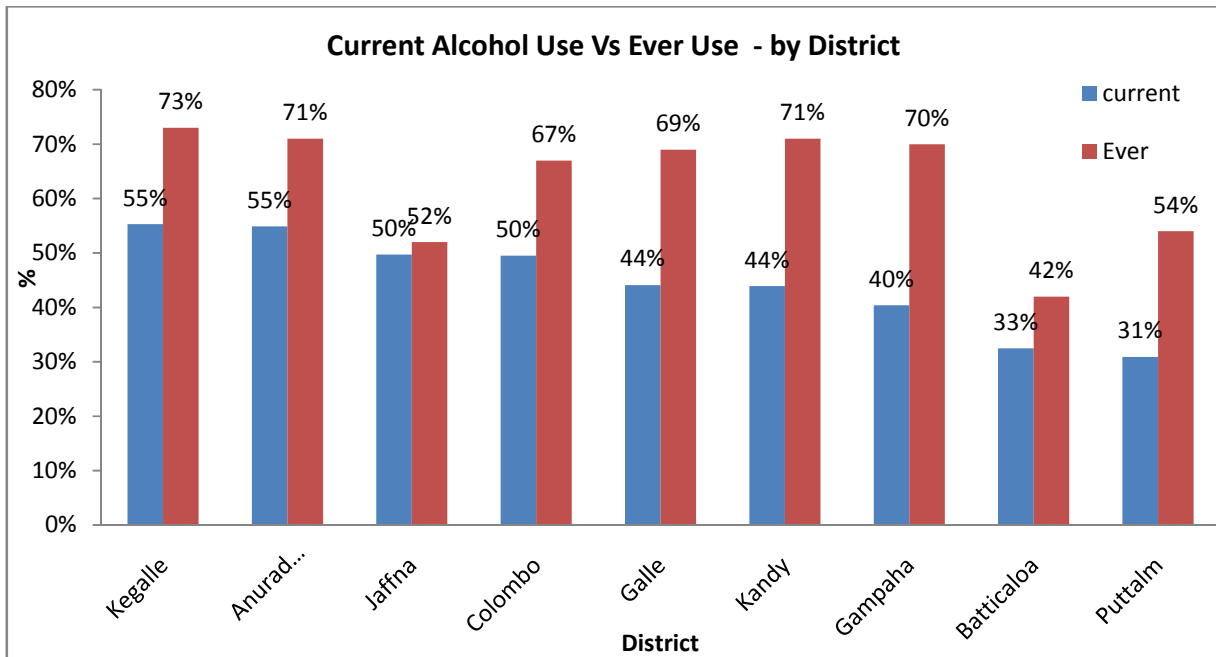


Figure 19: Ever use alcohol Vs current use of alcohol

3.3.1 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.

3.3.2 AGE INITIATION OF ALCOHOL USE

Among the respondents, the highest percentage of respondents has initiated alcohol in the age range of 16-20 years (49.7%). This is shown in Figure 20.

Statistics

al_first_age

N	Valid	777
	Missing	417
Mean		20.73
Std. Error of Mean		.188
Median		20.00
Mode		18
Std. Deviation		5.232
Variance		27.378
Range		35
Minimum		10
Maximum		45

Table 4: Initiation of alcohol

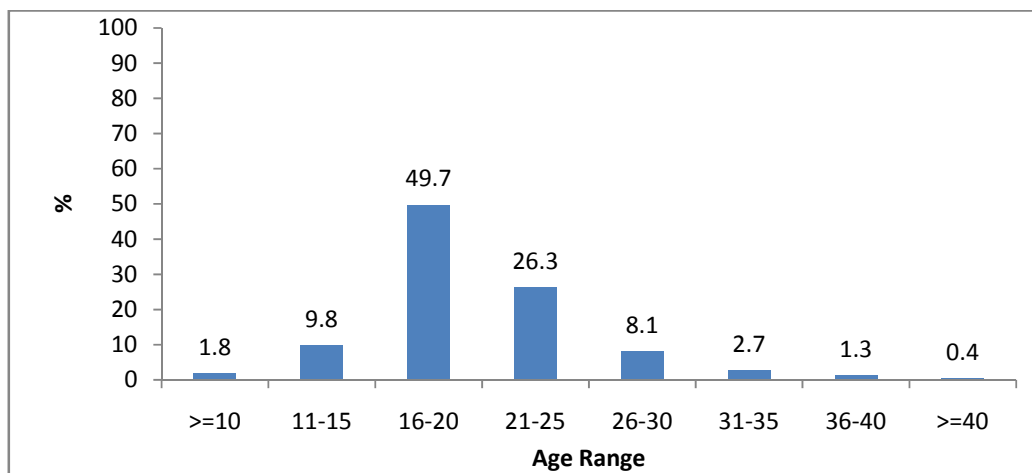


Figure 20: Initiation of alcohol use

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 (55.9%).

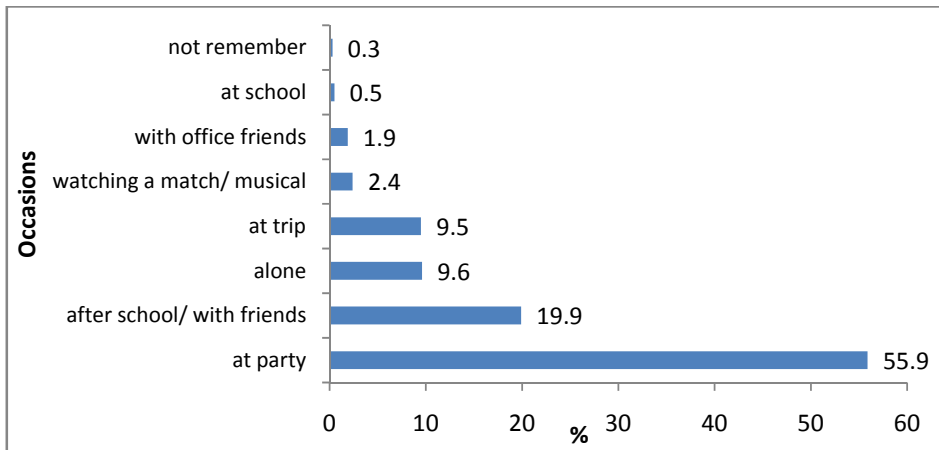


Figure 21: Occasions in which initiation of alcohol use

3.3.4 TYPE OF ALCOHOL AT INITIATION

Questions were further asked on the specific alcohol type used at initiation of alcohol use. The responses were as follows: The highest type of alcohol at initiation was Beer (56.9%), while the lowest type of alcohol was used Kasippu (1.1%).

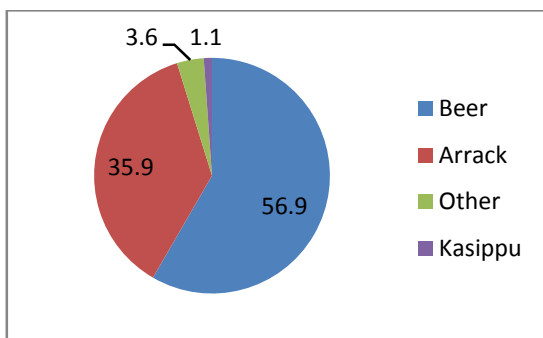


Figure 22: Type of alcohol use

The responses were further analyzed according to the age range with the type of alcohol. This is shown in Figures 23. 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.

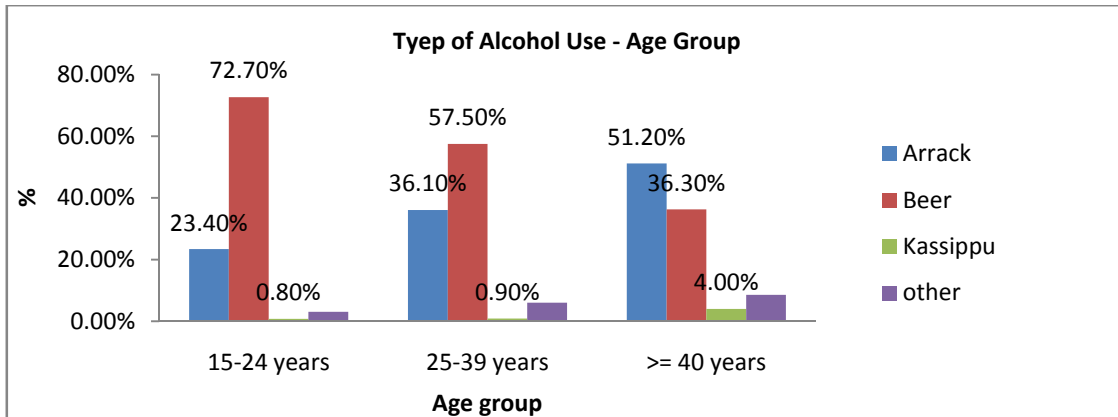


Figure 23: Type of alcohol use by age group

3.4 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, 36.3% responded that they never used alcohol. This is shown in Figure 24.

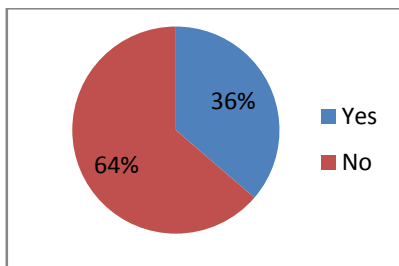


Figure 24: Never use of alcohol

The responses were further analyzed according to district and age range. The highest response on never using alcohol came from the age group of 15-24 years (48%) This is shown in Figure 25. The highest response for never use of alcohol was from the district of batticaloa (57%).This is shown in Figure 26.

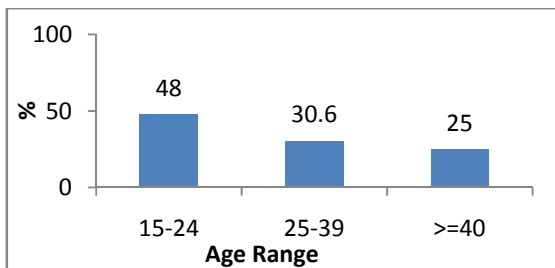


Figure 25: Never use of alcohol by age group

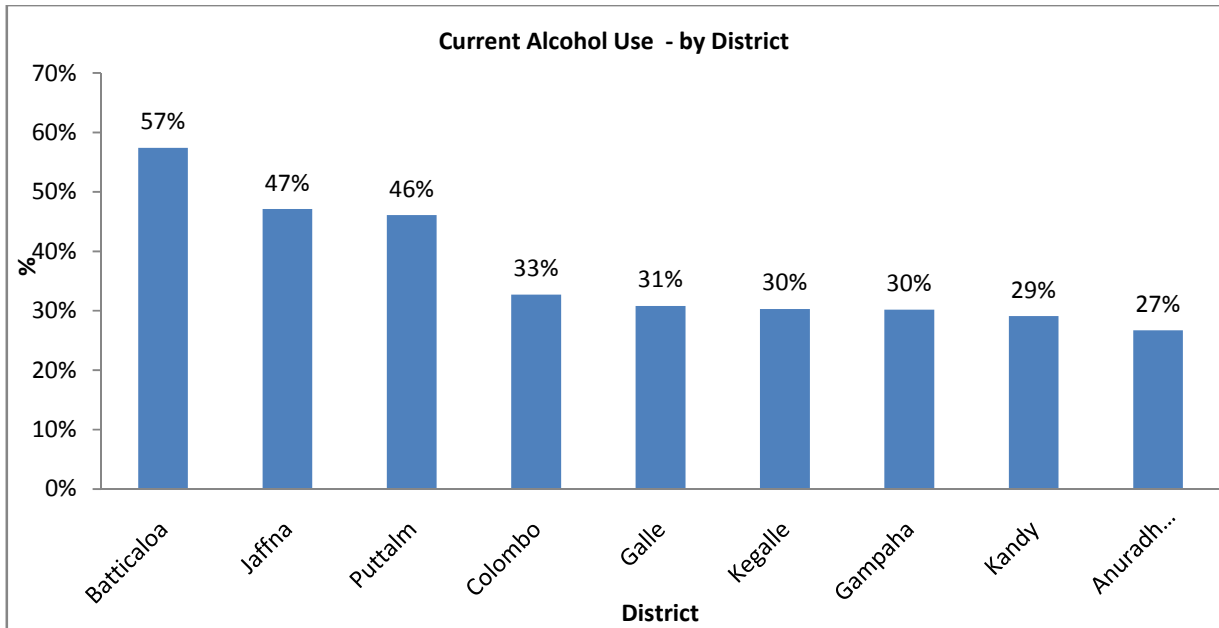


Figure 26: Never use of alcohol by district

Further, the responses were analyzed according to the reasons for never using alcohol. The highest response on the reason for never use of alcohol was due to the bad smell and unpleasantness. (19.2%). This is shown in Figure 27.

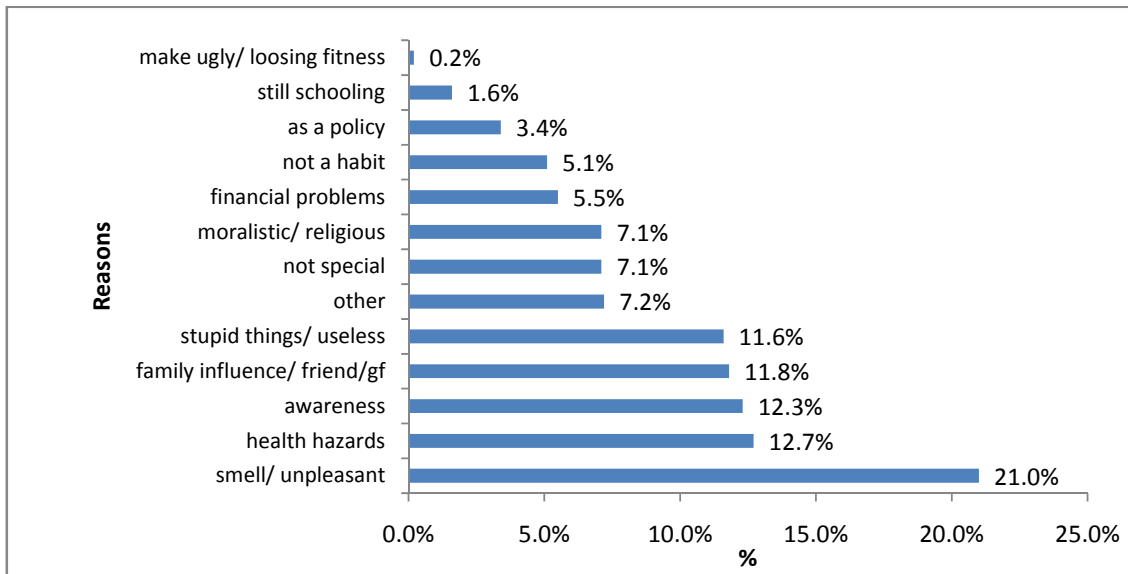


Figure 27: Reasons for never use of alcohol

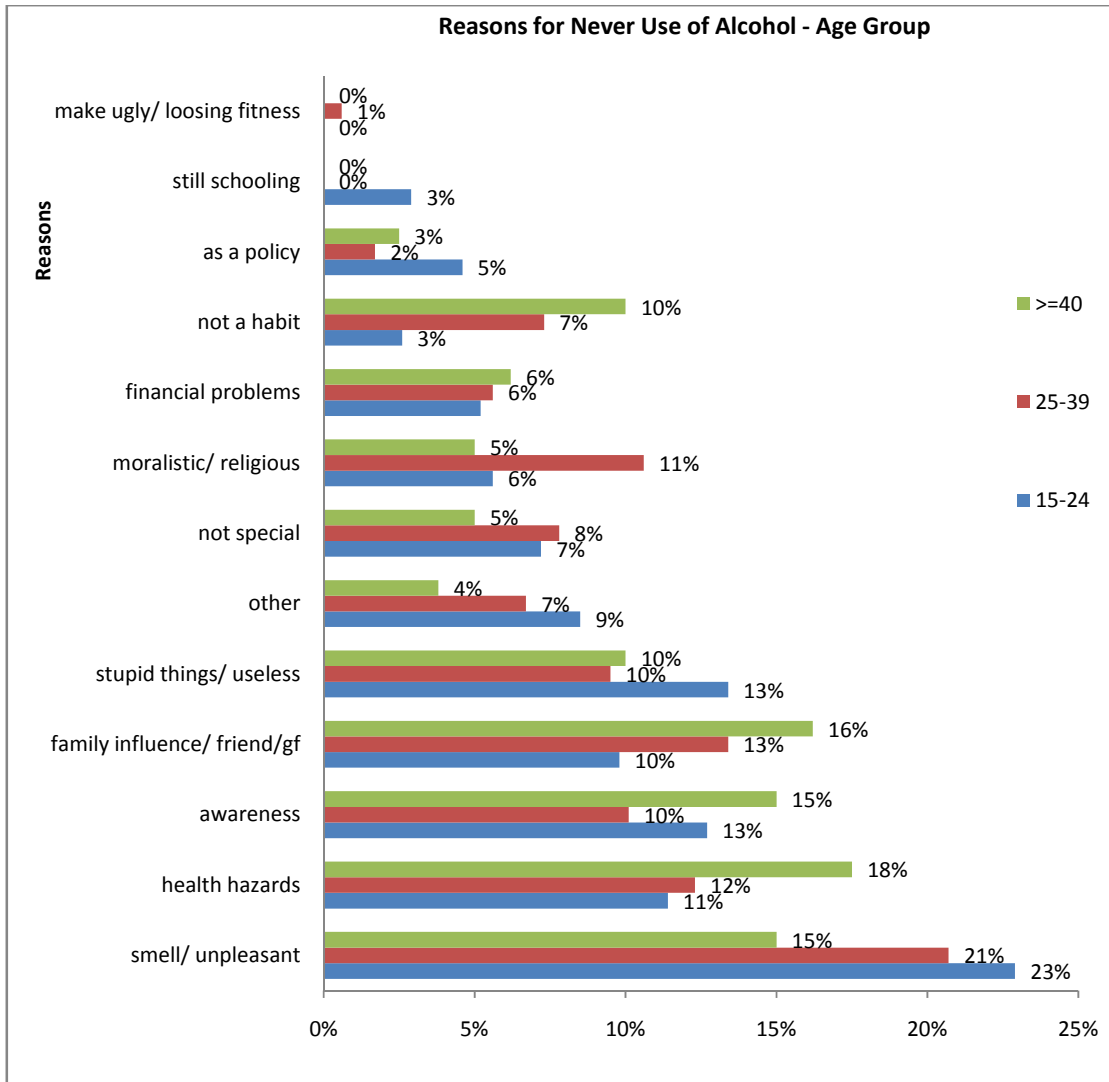


Figure 28: Reasons for never use of alcohol by age group

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 small decrease 1.3% in comparison to the previous year. This is shown in Figure 29.

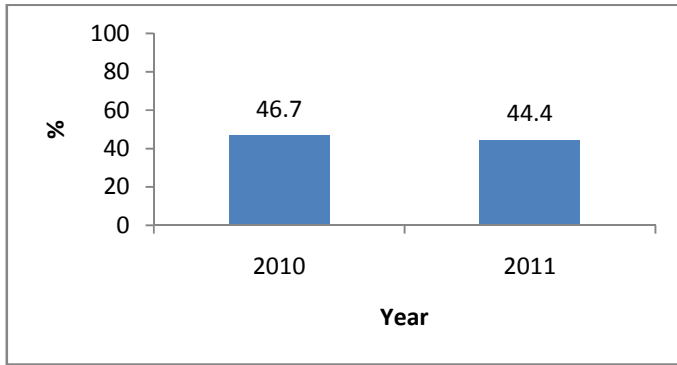


Figure 29: Comparison of alcohol use

5.0 THE TREND OF ALCOHOL USE 2000-2011

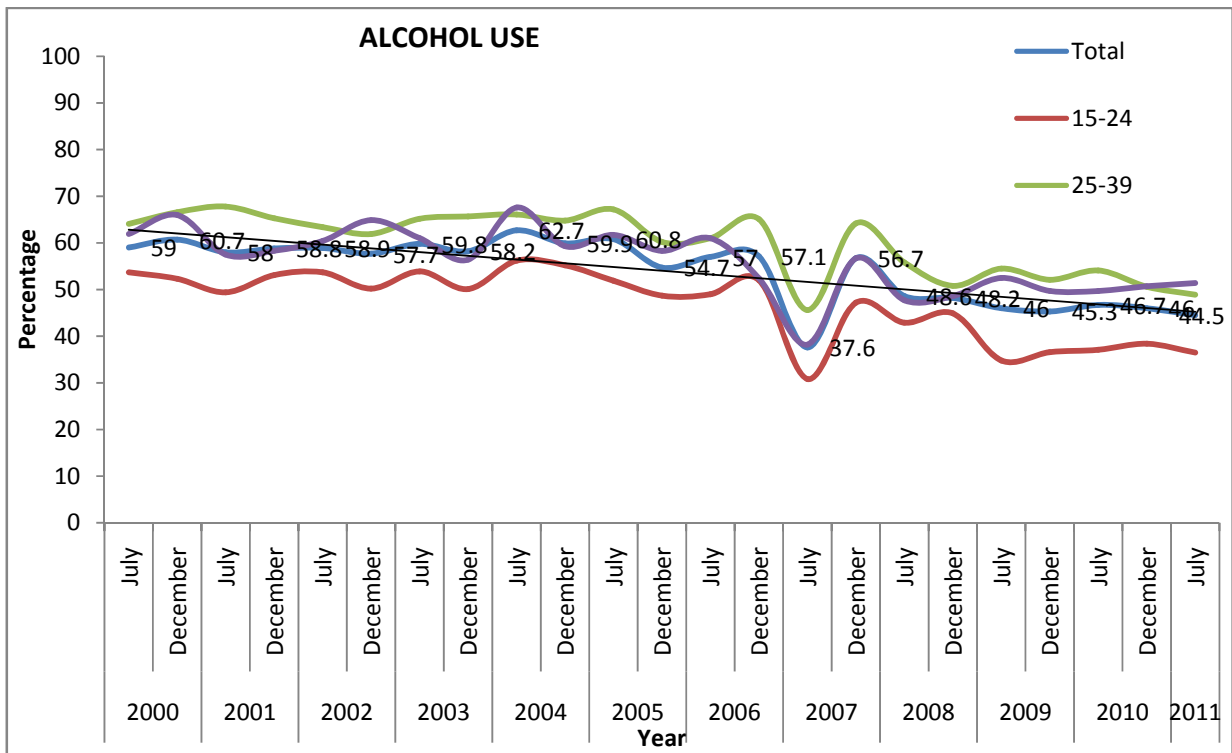


Figure 30: The trend of alcohol use

The percentage of alcohol users from year 2000 to July 2011 obtained from bi-annual spot surveys is shown in Figure 30. An overall decreasing trend of alcohol use can be identified.