



Quebec's Social and Health Survey Information: Baseline Data Report 2008 (Section 2.2)

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2.2 Alcohol Consumption

Table 2.2.1 – Type of drinker

	N=	18211	1029	1045	445
		French	English	Other	n/a
Abstinent		11.85%	9.62%	23.64%	20.67%
Former drinker		5.64%	8.16%	4.02%	6.97%
Current drinker		79.84%	80.56%	69.09%	64.49%
Unknown		2.67%	1.65%	3.25%	7.87%
		100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

Source: Institut de la statistique du Québec, *Enquête social et de santé 1998*.

- With respect to alcohol consumption, more than 80% of English-speaking respondents to the survey reported being current drinkers. Anglophone and Francophone survey respondents were similar in terms of the proportion that reported being current drinkers. Anglophones were much more likely to also report being former drinkers.

Table 2.2.2 – Type of drinker according to income level, population 15 years and older, 1998

	Abstinent	Former drinker ¹	Current drinker ²
	%		
Very poor	24.0%	9.7%	66.3%
Poor	22.9%	9.2%	67.9%
Lower middle income	14.3%	6.4%	79.3%
Upper middle income	9.1%	4.8%	86.1%
High income	5.1%	2.8*%	92.2%
	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

Source: Institut de la statistique du Québec, *Enquête social et de santé 1998*.

* Interpret with caution

1- Those who have not consumed alcohol in the last 12 months

2- Those who have consumed alcohol occasionally or on a regular basis in the last 12 months

- Respondents to the survey who were current drinkers were highly likely to report high income levels compared to those who were abstinent or former drinkers.

Table 2.2.3 – Frequency of alcohol consumption over the last seven days prior to the survey by mother tongue

	N=	14540	829	722	287
		French	English	Other	n/a
None		36.86%	41.50%	45.98%	41.11%
1 to 6 drinks		36.58%	32.09%	34.35%	24.04%
7 to 13 drinks		14.90%	14.23%	11.22%	14.63%
14-28 drinks		7.28%	8.44%	4.57%	7.67%
29 drinks or more		1.97%	1.81%	0.97%	2.79%
Unknown		2.41%	1.93%	2.91%	9.76%
		100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

Source: Institut de la statistique du Québec, *Enquête social et de santé 1998*.

- When Francophone and Anglophone respondents are compared, Anglophones were more likely (13% in relative terms) to report no alcohol consumption in the 7 days prior to the survey. For both Francophones and Anglophones the most likely reported frequency of alcohol consumption was 1-13 drinks over the past 7 days.

Table 2.2.4 – Frequency of alcohol consumption over the last twelve months prior to the survey by mother tongue

	N=	14540	853	487	287
		French	English	Other	n/a
Daily		4.09%	4.81%	5.95%	5.57%
4-6 times a week		7.19%	7.39%	7.39%	9.76%
2-3 times a week		19.55%	16.30%	15.40%	17.42%
Once a week		22.59%	17.47%	20.74%	20.91%
1 to 2 times a month		21.41%	24.15%	22.18%	19.51%
Less than once a month		24.56%	29.19%	27.93%	23.69%
Refusal		0.61%	0.70%	0.00%	3.14%
		100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

Source: Institut de la statistique du Québec, *Enquête social et de santé 1998*.

- When the frequency of alcohol consumption over the last twelve months is considered, the greatest percentage of Anglophones report 1 to 2 times a month or less followed by those reporting 1 to 3 times weekly.
- When Francophone and Anglophone survey respondents are compared, Francophones are more highly represented in the 1-3 times weekly group than Anglophones.

Table 2.2.5 – Alcohol consumption over the last seven days prior to the survey by sex and age, current drinkers 15 years and older, Quebec, 1998

	Number of drinks consumed			
	None	1 to 6	7 to 13	14 or more
	%			
Men				
15-24	41.5	26.9	17.3	14.3
25-44	27.8	38.9	19.9	13.5
45-64	26.7	34.6	21.3	17.4
65 years+	34.8	34.0	15.5	15.7
Total	30.6	35.0	19.4	15.0
Women				
15-24	51.8	33.3	10.0	4.9*
25-44	40.4	43.5	11.7	4.4
45-64	40.4	43.0	11.6	5.0
65 years+	55.7	34.3	6.2*	3.8**
Total	43.8	40.7	10.9	4.6
Both sexes				
15-24	46.4	30.0	13.8	9.8
25-44	33.8	41.1	16.0	9.2
45-64	33.4	38.6	16.6	11.4
65 years+	44.6	34.1	11.1	10.1
Total	37.0	37.7	15.3	10.0

Source: Institut de la statistique du Québec, *Enquête social et de santé 1998*.

- When measuring the number of drinks consumed over the last seven days prior to the survey, the greater percentage of men and women either consumed none or 1 to 6 drinks.
- Women were somewhat more likely to have consumed 1 to 6 drinks than men; men were more likely to have consumed 7 or more. Women were more likely than men not to have engaged in alcohol consumption in the seven days prior to the survey.
- The highest percentage of non-drinking men and women during this time period were 15-24 years of age. The highest percentage of drinkers was in the 45-64 age groups.

Table 2.2.6 – High alcohol consumption on a single occasion, five times or more in 12 months, by income level, current drinkers 15 years and older, Quebec, 1998

Income level	5 drinks or more on a single occasion (5 times or more in 12 months)	Intoxicated (5 times or more in 12 months)
	%	
Very poor	29.0	12.0
Poor	26.5	14.9
Lower middle income	27.4	10.9
Upper middle income	29.7	9.6
High income	31.8	7.9

Source: Institut de la statistique du Québec, *Enquête social et de santé 1998*.

- Intoxication 5 times or more in 12 months tended to occur more frequently among respondents with low income.
- 5 drinks or more on a single occasion 5 times or more in 12 months was fairly evenly distributed across income levels with slightly higher likelihood among high income earners.

Table 2.2.7 – High alcohol consumption on a single occasion, five times or more in 12 months, by age, current drinkers 15 years and older, Quebec, 1992-1993 and 1998

	5 drinks or more on a single occasion (5 times or more in 12 months)		Intoxication (5 times or more in 12 months)	
	1992-1993	1998	1992-1993	1998
%				
Both sexes				
15-24	38.7	41.9	24.2	28.7
25-44	28.2	29.1	8.3	8.2
45-64	21.1	25.0	3.6	3.5
65 years+	9.2	10.0	1.3**	1.6**
Total	26.8	29.0	9.5	10.3

Source: Institut de la statistique du Québec, *Enquête social et de santé 1998*.

**Imprecise estimate, indication only

- A greater percentage of respondents 15-24 years of age reported consuming 5 drinks or more on a single occasion and this percentage increased somewhat between 1992-1993 and 1998. They were also more likely than other age groups to report intoxication 5 times or more in 12 months. The percentage in this age group reporting intoxication 5 times or more in 12 months increased between 1992-1993 and 1998.

Table 2.2.8 – High alcohol consumption (five drinks or more) on a single occasion, five times or more in 12 months, by mother tongue

	N=	14540	829	722	287
		French	English	Other	n/a
Not at all		37.65%	43.67%	46.54%	26.13%
1 to 4 times		27.54%	27.02%	25.62%	27.87%
5 or more times		28.89%	24.85%	16.48%	25.78%
Unknown		5.92%	4.46%	11.36%	20.21%
		100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

Source: Institut de la statistique du Québec, *Enquête social et de santé 1998*.

- When Anglophone and Francophone survey respondents are compared, Anglophones report fewer occasions of high alcohol consumption over the 12 months prior to the survey.

Table 2.2.9 – Intoxication, five times or more in 12 months, by mother tongue

	N=	14540	829	722	287
		French	English	Other	n/a
Not at all		57.97%	64.41%	66.20%	44.25%
1 to 4 times		25.28%	21.47%	15.37%	25.44%
5 or more times		10.04%	9.41%	4.02%	8.71%
Unknown		6.71%	4.70%	14.40%	21.60%
		100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

Source: Institut de la statistique du Québec, *Enquête social et de santé 1998*.

- Anglophone survey respondents reported fewer occasions of alcohol intoxication in the last 12 months when compared to Francophones.