

## Facts & figures

### Mixed impact of COVID-19 on alcohol consumption

During the first COVID-19 lockdown, 43% of people reported that they drank more frequently; 25% said less frequently and 32% reported no change.\*

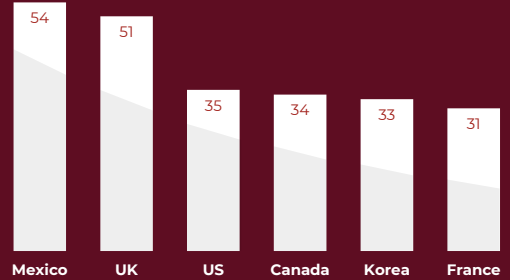


Due to restrictions, sales of alcohol in bars and restaurants plummeted but were replaced by an increase in off-premise sales (e.g. online and retail stores).

\*Average across 11 countries

### A large share of alcohol is drunk by a minority of drinkers

% of total pure alcohol consumption consumed by people who drink heavily\*



\*Heavy drinkers are defined as men and women consuming more than 40 or 20 grammes of pure alcohol per day, respectively, and make up between 4% to 14% of the population depending on the country.

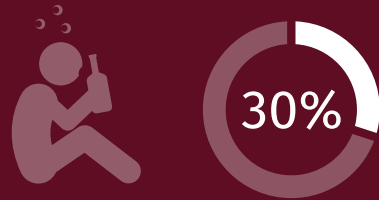
### Drunkenness among adolescents remains a major source of concern



One in five adolescents have experienced being drunk (15 year-olds).\*

\*Average of 27 OECD countries

### Binge drinking remains prevalent



On average across OECD countries, 30% of adults engage in binge drinking at least once a month. This corresponds to drinking more than 80% of a bottle of wine or 1.5 litres of beer per occasion.

### Harmful alcohol consumption reduces life expectancy & is costly to society

On average across OECD countries, diseases and injuries from drinking more than 1 drink a day for women\* and 1.5 drinks a day for men\* cause:

- Life expectancy to be almost 1 year lower than it otherwise would be over the next 30 years



- Medical treatment costs up to 2.4% of total health expenditure each year over the next 30 years.



\*Lower-risk threshold specifically used for the simulation.

### How to tackle harmful alcohol consumption



Sobriety checkpoints to counter drink-driving



Strengthening counselling in primary care



Alcohol advertising regulation



Ban on alcohol advertising to children



Minimum unit pricing targeting cheap alcohol



Alcohol taxation