

Alcohol consumption is responsible for 12 deaths per hour in Brazil and costs public finances almost R\$19 billion per year



In 2019, almost **105 thousand deaths** were attributed to alcohol consumption in the country. (Fiocruz)

- 86% of deaths are men and the main causes for these are cardiovascular diseases, accidents and violence.
- Among women, who represent 14% of deaths caused by alcohol consumption, more than 60% of fatal records are related to cardiovascular diseases and various types of cancer.

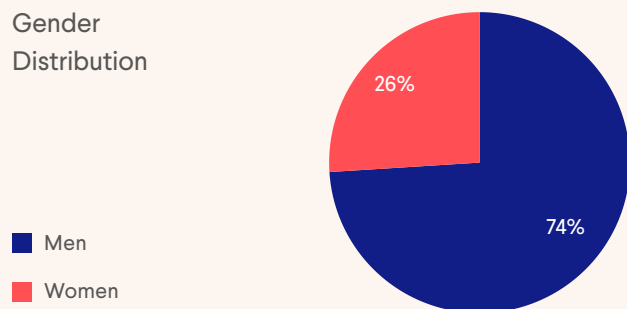
## In 2019, consumption of alcoholic beverages cost Brazil **R\$ 18.8 billion**, between direct and indirect costs.

(Fiocruz)

### DIRECT COSTS

The Unified Health System (SUS) spent **R\$ 1.1 billion** on hospitalizations and outpatient procedures related to alcohol consumption.

Gender Distribution



### INDIRECT COSTS

Indirect costs amounted to **R\$ 17.7 billion**, a result of:

- Productivity losses (absenteeism and premature deaths).
- Social Security spending on medical leaves and early retirement.

Social Security spending:	Premature deaths:	Absenteeism:
<b>47,2 million</b>	<b>16,2 billion</b>	<b>644,2 million</b>

Alcohol use has a devastating impact on public health and public finances. Measures such as the selective tax on alcoholic beverages, recommended by the World Health Organization, are essential to reduce consumption and save lives, besides saving billions of reais yearly.

The costs which the Federal Government has with alcohol consumption represent:

**8,6%**  
of total spending on health in 2024

**6x**  
the amount which the government plans to invest on **literacy** until 2026

**3,5x**  
the amount committed to the maintenance of the **Farmácia Popular do Brasil Program** (which offers free drugs for specific conditions)

**61,6%**  
of the amount which the government plans to invest until 2026 with the **expansion of SUS care**

**7x**  
the amount spent on care, control and treatment of **HIV and other sexually transmitted infections**



**METHODOLOGY**

The “Estimation of direct and indirect costs attributable to alcohol consumption in Brazil” report, conducted by Fiocruz at the request of Vital Strategies and ACT Promoção da Saúde, utilized a comparative risk analysis based on official data from SUS and IBGE, beside estimates of attributable deaths from WHO. The fractions attributable to alcohol were calculated for diseases and deaths associated with alcoholic beverage consumption, considering the prevalence of consumption by sex and age range. It is important to note that the study **adopted a conservative approach**, since it is based exclusively on official data from public sources, such as SUS and IBGE data from population surveys, and was conducted at the federal level, considering federal expenditures and not including complements of costs by states and municipalities. The report also does not consider the costs of private health services.

Therefore, although almost 19 billion reais per year is already an extremely significant figure, the real cost of alcohol consumption for Brazilian society is probably still much higher.

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