Observatoire français des drogues et des tendances addictives

In a glimpse

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Alcohol consumption and its consequences in France in 2024

The 2024 edition of this annual assessment provides an overview of alcohol use in France and of the French alcohol market. Despite a decline in both sales volumes and use, there has been an increase in hospital admissions and the impact on public health remains high.

Alcohol use and sales volumes continued to decline in 2024, while the number of alcohol-related hospital admissions increased compared to 2023. These are the main findings of the report published by the French Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (OFDT), which provides an overview of the supply of alcoholic beverages and their use, as well as the health and social consequences in France in 2024.

A changing market with a decline in use

The year 2024 once again saw a decline in most of the indicators related to the sale and use of alcohol. The volume of pure alcohol placed on the market continued to decline in 2024 (down 5.8% compared to 2023), standing at an average of 9.75 litres of pure alcohol per inhabitant over the age of 15. This decline is mainly attributable to the decrease in sales of wine (down 6.8% between 2023 and 2024), which still accounts for the majority of alcoholic beverages sold in France (52%). However, sales patterns indicate a shift towards beer, with volumes rising steadily since 2018 and now accounting for over a quarter of the total volume of alcohol sold.

A decline in use across age groups

As for alcohol use, this has declined significantly among young consumers. Among 16-year-olds, alcohol use has greatly decreased since 2015, placing France below the European average. However, the 2024 figures remain high, with 68% having tried alcohol at least once and 22% having engaged in binge drinking during the preceding month.

Among adults, use indicators continued to decline, while remaining high. In 2023, more than one in four men had engaged in binge drinking at least once during the preceding month.

A persistently significant health impact

The number of alcohol-related hospital admissions is on the increase, up 3.1% in 2024 compared to the previous year. Of the 316 950 patients, the majority were men (75%) of an average age of 56 years.

Combined, these changes confirm a long-term trend, driven by new generations of adults, towards a shift in alcohol use in France. Daily consumption is less frequent, while heavy episodic drinking is on the rise, with an increasing preference for beer rather than wine.