
South-East Asia Region

Bangladesh

Sociodemographic characteristics

POPULATION	1980	1990	1995
Total	88 221 000	108 118 000	120 433 000
Adult (15+)	46 615 000	62 878 000	72 874 000
% Urban	11.3	15.7	18.3
% Rural	88.7	84.3	81.7

Health status

Life expectancy at birth, 1990-1995 : 55.6 (males), 55.6 (females)

Infant mortality rate in 1990-1995 : 108 per 1000 live births

Socioeconomic situation

GNP per capita (US\$), 1995 : 240, PPP estimate of GNP per capita (current int'l \$) : 1380

Average distribution of labour force by sector, 1990-1992 : agriculture 59%; industry 13%; services 28%

Adult literacy rate (per cent), 1995 : total 38; male 49; female 26

Alcohol production, trade and industry

As a primarily Muslim country, Bangladesh has no formal alcohol industry and very little alcohol trade. Home production of alcohol takes place, but figures are not available.

Alcohol consumption and prevalence

Lower socioeconomic classes are known to consume a local alcoholic beverage called "*cholar*", while labourers drink another distilled beverage known as "*Bangla Mad*." A section of the formally educated citizenry consumes imported alcohol including whisky and beer.

Mortality, morbidity, health and social problems from alcohol use

Alcohol dependence and related disorders

Experts estimate the number of alcohol-dependent people in the country to be roughly 300 000, less than one half of one per cent of the adult population.

Alcohol policies

Control of alcohol products

Production, sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited by law. Importation of alcoholic beverages is allowed for consumption by foreign nationals and tourists.

Control of alcohol problems

The government's primary strategy for dealing with alcohol is prohibition. Some NGOs active in health education include alcohol problems as a component of their work.