



Ontario

Cancer Care Ontario

Action Cancer Ontario



Cancer Risk Factors in Ontario

Alcohol – Aboriginal Peoples (off-reserve)

5. ABORIGINAL PEOPLES (OFF-RESERVE)

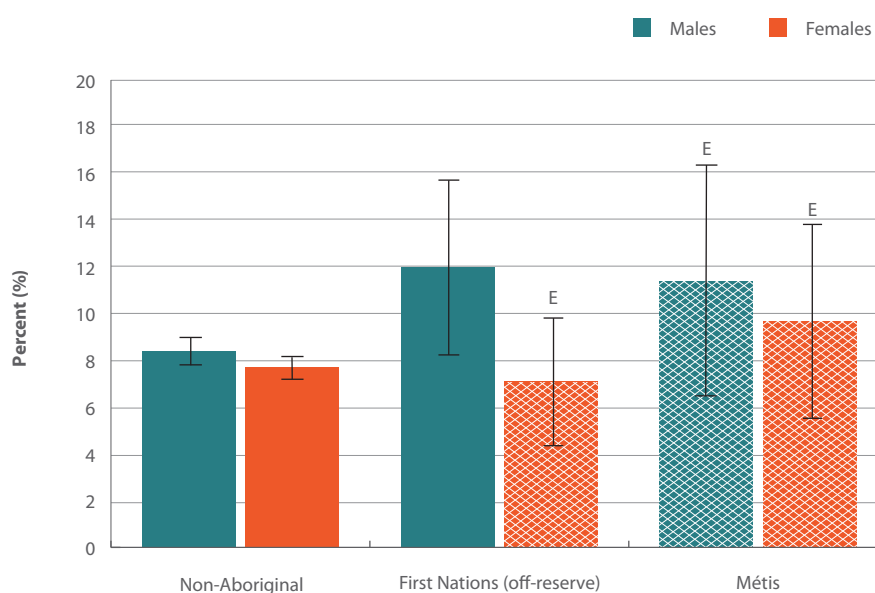


In keeping with Cancer Care Ontario's commitment to working on cancer control with Aboriginal Peoples, this section describes alcohol consumption in off-reserve Aboriginal populations. This report addresses only off-reserve populations because the Canadian Community Health Survey does not include residents of First Nations reserves. Results specific for Inuit are not presented due to small sample sizes.

5.1 EXCEEDING CANCER PREVENTION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION BY ABORIGINAL IDENTITY

FIGURE 18.

Percentage of Ontario adults (aged 19+) exceeding cancer prevention recommendations for alcohol consumption, by Aboriginal identity (off-reserve), 2008–2012 combined



Notes: Estimates are age-standardized to the 2006 Canadian population.
 I represent 95% confidence intervals.
 E—Interpret cross-hatched estimates with caution due to high sampling variability.
 Data from CCHS cycles 2008 through 2012 combined to increase sample size for analyses by Aboriginal identity.
Source: Canadian Community Health Survey, 2008–2012 (Statistics Canada)

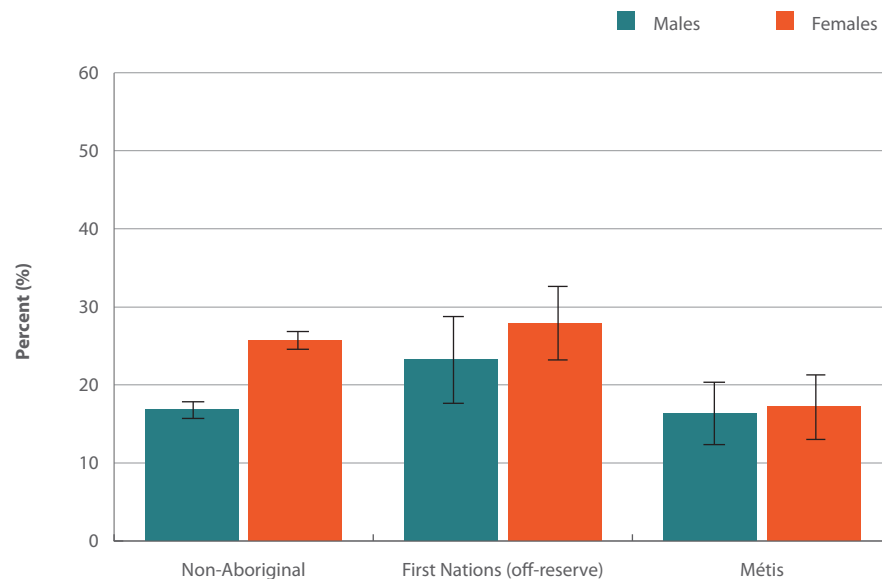
- The proportion of adult males who reported drinking in excess of the cancer prevention recommendations was slightly higher among off-reserve First Nations (12.0%) than in non-Aboriginals (8.4%), although this difference was not statistically significant (Figure 18). The proportion of adult females who reported drinking in excess of the cancer prevention recommendations was similar among off-reserve First Nations (roughly 7%) to non-Aboriginals (7.7%). Among Métis, the proportion of adults exceeding the recommendations was approximately 11% for males and 10% for females.
- From 2008 to 2012, roughly 5% of off-reserve First Nations and Métis aged 19 and older reported drinking in excess of the cancer prevention recommendations and being current



(daily or occasional) smokers (data not shown). Smokers who also drink alcohol, and particularly those who are both heavy smokers and heavy drinkers, are at an especially increased risk for cancers of the oral cavity, pharynx, larynx and esophagus (squamous cell carcinoma).^{2,3}

5.2 LEVELS OF ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION BY ABORIGINAL IDENTITY

FIGURE 19.
Percentage of Ontario adults (aged 19+) abstaining from drinking alcohol during past 12 months, by Aboriginal identity (off-reserve), 2008–2012 combined



Notes: Estimates are age-standardized to the 2006 Canadian population.
I represent 95% confidence intervals.
Data from CCHS cycles 2008 through 2012 combined to increase sample size for analyses by Aboriginal identity.

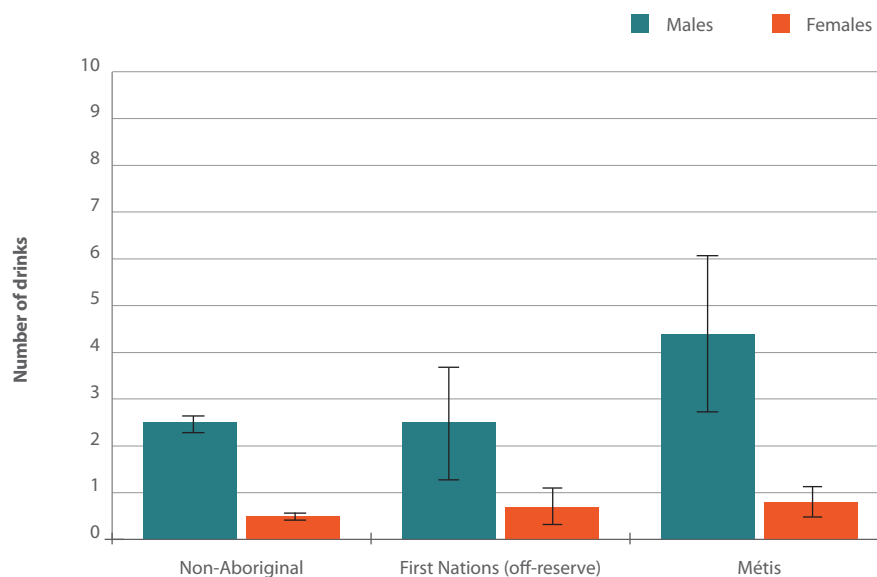
Source: Canadian Community Health Survey, 2008–2012 (Statistics Canada)

- A significantly smaller proportion of Métis adult females (17.2%) than non-Aboriginal adult females (25.7%) abstained from drinking during the past 12 months (Figure 19). The difference between Métis and non-Aboriginal adult males was not statistically significant.
- There were no statistically significant differences for abstinence during the past 12 months between off-reserve First Nations and non-Aboriginal males and females.



FIGURE 20.

Median number of drinks consumed weekly among Ontario adults (aged 19+) who reported having a drink during past 12 months, by Aboriginal identity (off-reserve), 2008–2012 combined



Notes: \pm represent 95% confidence intervals.

Data from CCHS cycles 2008 through 2012 combined to increase sample size for analyses by Aboriginal identity.

Source: Canadian Community Health Survey, 2008–2012 (Statistics Canada)

- Adult males had higher median drink consumption during the past week than females in all three groups: off-reserve First Nations, Métis and non-Aboriginals (Figure 20).
- Métis adult males had significantly higher median drink consumption (4.4 drinks) than non-Aboriginal males (2.5 drinks). There were no statistically significant differences for females.
- There were no statistically significant differences in median drink consumption between off-reserve First Nations and non-Aboriginal males and females.