

Supplementary Table 1: Sensitivity analyses - relationship between alcohol consumption and all-cause mortality, by age and sex (non-drinker referent category)

	Men						Women					
	16-64 years			50-64 years			16-64 years			50-64 years		
	Deaths	HR ^d (95% CI ^e)	p-value	Deaths	HR ^d (95% CI ^e)	p-value	Deaths	HR ^d (95% CI ^e)	p-value	Deaths	HR ^d (95% CI ^e)	p-value
Model 1^a												
Non-drinker	70	1.00 (reference)		60	1.00 (reference)		92	1.00 (reference)		72	1.00 (reference)	
Not in the last 12 months ^b	2	0.81 (0.20 to 3.29)	0.76	2	0.87 (0.21 to 3.57)	0.85	7	1.17 (0.54 to 2.52)	0.69	7	1.37 (0.63 to 2.98)	0.43
<1 occasion/month	73	0.81 (0.59 to 1.13)	0.22	53	0.66 (0.46 to 0.95)	0.03	107	0.78 (0.59 to 1.03)	0.08	81	0.78 (0.57 to 1.08)	0.14
1-2 occasions/month	68	0.68 (0.49 to 0.95)	0.02	48	0.59 (0.40 to 0.86)	0.01	74	0.60 (0.44 to 0.81)	<0.01	52	0.59 (0.42 to 0.85)	<0.01
0.1-5.0 units	61	0.61 (0.43 to 0.86)	0.01	51	0.58 (0.40 to 0.84)	<0.01	90	0.57 (0.42 to 0.76)	<0.01	66	0.55 (0.39 to 0.76)	<0.01
5.1-10.0 units	93	0.59 (0.43 to 0.81)	<0.01	72	0.54 (0.38 to 0.76)	<0.01	80	0.57 (0.42 to 0.77)	<0.01	50	0.52 (0.36 to 0.74)	<0.01
10.1-15.0 units	75	0.56 (0.40 to 0.77)	<0.01	58	0.52 (0.37 to 0.75)	<0.01	44	0.49 (0.35 to 0.71)	<0.01	25	0.43 (0.27 to 0.67)	<0.01
15.1-20.0 units	54	0.51 (0.36 to 0.73)	<0.01	34	0.41 (0.27 to 0.62)	<0.01	26	0.60 (0.39 to 0.94)	0.02	15	0.54 (0.31 to 0.95)	0.03
>20.0 units	279	0.79 (0.61 to 1.02)	0.07	195	0.69 (0.51 to 0.92)	0.01	61	0.79 (0.57 to 1.09)	0.15	37	0.76 (0.51 to 1.13)	0.17
Model 2^c												
Non-drinker	66	1.00 (reference)		54	1.00 (reference)		86	1.00 (reference)		56	1.00 (reference)	
Not in the last 12 months ^b	2	0.49 (0.07 to 3.58)	0.48	1	0.53 (0.07 to 3.90)	0.53	7	1.09 (0.47 to 2.52)	0.84	6	1.16 (0.49 to 2.71)	0.74
<1 occasion/month	69	0.79 (0.55 to 1.15)	0.22	45	0.63 (0.42 to 0.94)	0.02	103	0.71 (0.52 to 0.98)	0.04	67	0.70 (0.49 to 1.00)	0.05
1-2 occasions/month	68	0.79 (0.55 to 1.15)	0.22	41	0.61 (0.40 to 0.93)	0.02	70	0.65 (0.46 to 0.92)	0.02	42	0.65 (0.43 to 0.97)	0.04
0.1-5.0 units	59	0.82 (0.56 to 1.21)	0.33	44	0.75 (0.50 to 1.14)	0.18	87	0.71 (0.51 to 0.99)	0.04	60	0.69 (0.47 to 1.00)	0.05
5.1-10.0 units	92	0.81 (0.57 to 1.14)	0.23	65	0.66 (0.45 to 0.97)	0.03	80	0.69 (0.49 to 0.97)	0.03	47	0.61 (0.41 to 0.91)	0.02
10.1-15.0 units	72	0.78 (0.54 to 1.12)	0.19	52	0.65 (0.44 to 0.97)	0.03	41	0.55 (0.36 to 0.82)	<0.01	22	0.48 (0.29 to 0.79)	<0.01
15.1-20.0 units	53	0.75 (0.51 to 1.11)	0.15	30	0.51 (0.32 to 0.82)	0.01	26	0.73 (0.45 to 1.19)	0.21	14	0.71 (0.39 to 1.29)	0.26
>20.0 units	277	0.94 (0.69 to 1.27)	0.67	175	0.75 (0.54 to 1.03)	0.08	58	0.75 (0.52 to 1.10)	0.14	32	0.77 (0.49 to 1.20)	0.25
	Consumption on heaviest day (1999-2008)											
	Deaths	HR ^d (95% CI ^e)	p-value	Deaths	HR ^d (95% CI ^e)	p-value	Deaths	HR ^d (95% CI ^e)	p-value	Deaths	HR ^d (95% CI ^e)	p-value
Model 1^a												
Non-drinker	74	1.00 (reference)		57	1.00 (reference)		95	1.00 (reference)		70	1.00 (reference)	
Not in the last 12 months ^b	6	1.82 (0.79 to 4.19)	0.16	6	2.26 (0.97 to 5.24)	0.06	7	0.99 (0.46 to 2.14)	0.98	7	1.27 (0.58 to 2.76)	0.55
<1 occasion/month	79	0.76 (0.56 to 1.05)	0.09	57	0.69 (0.48 to 0.99)	0.05	112	0.72 (0.55 to 0.95)	0.02	90	0.81 (0.59 to 1.10)	0.18
1-2 occasions/month	62	0.55 (0.39 to 0.77)	<0.01	44	0.53 (0.36 to 0.79)	<0.01	65	0.54 (0.39 to 0.74)	<0.01	46	0.57 (0.39 to 0.83)	<0.01
>2 occasions/month ^f	28	0.64 (0.41 to 0.99)	0.05	20	0.65 (0.39 to 1.09)	0.10	27	0.70 (0.45 to 1.07)	0.10	17	0.68 (0.40 to 1.16)	0.16
0.1-1.5 units	41	0.38 (0.26 to 0.56)	<0.01	29	0.33 (0.21 to 0.52)	<0.01	60	0.49 (0.36 to 0.68)	<0.01	45	0.50 (0.35 to 0.73)	<0.01
>1.5-3.0 units	107	0.48 (0.36 to 0.64)	<0.01	88	0.49 (0.35 to 0.68)	<0.01	92	0.48 (0.36 to 0.64)	<0.01	64	0.47 (0.34 to 0.67)	<0.01
>3.0-4.5 units	78	0.64 (0.47 to 0.89)	0.01	64	0.68 (0.48 to 0.97)	0.04	36	0.61 (0.42 to 0.90)	0.01	20	0.51 (0.31 to 0.84)	0.01
>4.5 units	303	0.69 (0.54 to 0.89)	<0.01	214	0.67 (0.50 to 0.90)	0.01	75	0.65 (0.48 to 0.88)	0.01	38	0.60 (0.41 to 0.90)	0.01
Model 2^c												
Non-drinker	49	1.00 (reference)		42	1.00 (reference)		69	1.00 (reference)		52	1.00 (reference)	
Not in the last 12 months ^b	4	1.75 (0.63 to 4.89)	0.28	4	1.77 (0.63 to 5.03)	0.28	6	1.00 (0.43 to 2.30)	0.99	6	1.18 (0.50 to 2.76)	0.71
<1 occasion/month	64	0.81 (0.55 to 1.18)	0.26	46	0.66 (0.43 to 1.01)	0.06	84	0.64 (0.47 to 0.89)	0.01	70	0.72 (0.50 to 1.03)	0.07
1-2 occasions/month	55	0.79 (0.53 to 1.17)	0.23	39	0.66 (0.42 to 1.03)	0.07	53	0.61 (0.43 to 0.89)	0.01	40	0.70 (0.46 to 1.06)	0.10
>2 occasions/month ^f	24	0.80 (0.49 to 1.32)	0.39	18	0.78 (0.44 to 1.36)	0.38	23	0.82 (0.51 to 1.33)	0.43	16	0.86 (0.49 to 1.52)	0.60
0.1-1.5 units	36	0.67 (0.43 to 1.04)	0.08	25	0.50 (0.30 to 0.84)	0.01	53	0.68 (0.47 to 0.98)	0.04	39	0.67 (0.44 to 1.03)	0.07

>1.5-3.0 units	94	0.79 (0.55 to 1.14)	0.21	76	0.69 (0.47 to 1.02)	0.06	83	0.62 (0.44 to 0.86)	0.01	57	0.58 (0.39 to 0.86)	0.01
>3.0-4.5 units	68	0.95 (0.65 to 1.38)	0.77	54	0.84 (0.56 to 1.27)	0.40	31	0.60 (0.43 to 1.02)	0.06	18	0.56 (0.32 to 0.96)	0.04
>4.5 units	279	0.96 (0.70 to 1.32)	0.81	198	0.83 (0.59 to 1.18)	0.30	66	0.65 (0.46 to 0.93)	0.02	34	0.60 (0.38 to 0.93)	0.02

Sample sizes (weekly)

Model 1	17,743	5,308	21,101	6,051
Model 2	16,127	4,876	18,231	5,444

Sample sizes (heaviest day)

Model 1	30,809	10,046	37,888	11,596
Model 2	27,682	9,155	32,289	10,323

^a Adjusted for age

^b Participants who reported being current drinkers but reported not having consumed alcohol within the 12 months prior to interview

^c As Model 1, plus adjustment for BMI, economic activity, education, ethnicity, government office region, marital status, smoking status, and social class

^d Hazard ratio

^e Confidence interval

^f Participants who reported an average annual frequency of >2 occasions/month but who reported not drinking in the week prior to interview

Supplementary Table 2: Sensitivity analyses - relationship between alcohol consumption and all-cause mortality, by age and sex (never drinker referent category)

	Men						Women					
	16-64 years			50-64 years			16-64 years			50-64 years		
	Deaths	HR ^d (95% CI ^e)	p-value	Deaths	HR ^d (95% CI ^e)	p-value	Deaths	HR ^d (95% CI ^e)	p-value	Deaths	HR ^d (95% CI ^e)	p-value
Model 1^a												
Never drinker	26	1.00 (reference)		20	1.00 (reference)		39	1.00 (reference)		29	1.00 (reference)	
Former drinker	44	1.28 (0.79 to 2.07)	0.32	40	1.28 (0.75 to 2.19)	0.36	53	1.84 (1.21 to 2.78)	<0.01	43	1.94 (1.21 to 3.11)	0.01
Not in the last 12 months ^b	2	0.93 (0.22 to 3.93)	0.93	2	1.02 (0.24 to 4.37)	0.98	7	1.59 (0.71 to 3.54)	0.26	7	1.93 (0.84 to 4.40)	0.12
<1 occasion/month	73	0.94 (0.60 to 1.48)	0.80	53	0.77 (0.46 to 1.29)	0.33	107	1.06 (0.73 to 1.53)	0.77	81	1.11 (0.72 to 1.69)	0.64
1-2 occasions/month	68	0.78 (0.50 to 1.23)	0.29	48	0.69 (0.41 to 1.16)	0.17	74	0.81 (0.55 to 1.20)	0.29	52	0.84 (0.53 to 1.32)	0.45
0.1-5.0 units	61	0.71 (0.45 to 1.12)	0.14	51	0.68 (0.41 to 1.14)	0.15	90	0.77 (0.53 to 1.12)	0.17	66	0.77 (0.50 to 1.19)	0.24
5.1-10.0 units	93	0.69 (0.41 to 1.06)	0.09	72	0.63 (0.38 to 1.03)	0.07	80	0.77 (0.52 to 1.13)	0.18	50	0.73 (0.46 to 1.16)	0.18
10.1-15.0 units	75	0.65 (0.41 to 1.01)	0.06	58	0.61 (0.37 to 1.02)	0.06	44	0.67 (0.44 to 1.03)	0.07	25	0.60 (0.35 to 1.03)	0.06
15.1-20.0 units	54	0.59 (0.37 to 0.95)	0.03	34	0.48 (0.27 to 0.83)	0.01	26	0.82 (0.50 to 1.35)	0.43	15	0.77 (0.41 to 1.43)	0.40
>20.0 units	279	0.91 (0.61 to 1.36)	0.65	195	0.81 (0.51 to 1.28)	0.36	61	1.07 (0.71 to 1.60)	0.75	37	1.07 (0.66 to 1.74)	0.79
Model 2^c												
Never drinker	23	1.00 (reference)		17	1.00 (reference)		33	1.00 (reference)		19	1.00 (reference)	
Former drinker	43	0.86 (0.49 to 1.49)	0.58	37	0.93 (0.52 to 1.69)	0.82	53	1.79 (1.08 to 2.99)	0.03	37	1.79 (1.02 to 3.16)	0.04
Not in the last 12 months ^b	2	0.44 (0.06 to 3.33)	0.43	1	0.51 (0.07 to 3.87)	0.51	7	1.54 (0.62 to 3.81)	0.35	6	1.63 (0.64 to 4.13)	0.30
<1 occasion/month	69	0.71 (0.42 to 1.20)	0.20	45	0.60 (0.33 to 1.07)	0.08	103	1.02 (0.64 to 1.63)	0.94	67	1.00 (0.59 to 1.67)	0.99
1-2 occasions/month	68	0.71 (0.42 to 1.20)	0.20	41	0.58 (0.32 to 1.05)	0.07	70	0.92 (0.57 to 1.51)	0.75	42	0.92 (0.53 to 1.60)	0.77
0.1-5.0 units	59	0.74 (0.43 to 1.27)	0.27	44	0.72 (0.40 to 1.29)	0.27	87	1.01 (0.63 to 1.63)	0.96	60	0.97 (0.57 to 1.65)	0.92
5.1-10.0 units	92	0.72 (0.44 to 1.20)	0.21	65	0.63 (0.36 to 1.11)	0.11	80	0.99 (0.61 to 1.60)	0.97	47	0.87 (0.50 to 1.50)	0.61
10.1-15.0 units	72	0.70 (0.42 to 1.18)	0.18	52	0.62 (0.35 to 1.10)	0.10	41	0.78 (0.46 to 1.34)	0.37	22	0.68 (0.36 to 1.29)	0.24
15.1-20.0 units	53	0.67 (0.39 to 1.15)	0.15	30	0.49 (0.26 to 0.91)	0.03	26	1.05 (0.58 to 1.90)	0.88	14	1.01 (0.50 to 2.05)	0.98
>20.0 units	277	0.84 (0.52 to 1.36)	0.48	175	0.71 (0.42 to 1.21)	0.21	58	1.08 (0.65 to 1.81)	0.76	32	1.10 (0.61 to 1.98)	0.76
	Men						Women					
	16-64 years			50-64 years			16-64 years			50-64 years		
	Deaths	HR ^d (95% CI ^e)	p-value	Deaths	HR ^d (95% CI ^e)	p-value	Deaths	HR ^d (95% CI ^e)	p-value	Deaths	HR ^d (95% CI ^e)	p-value
Consumption on heaviest day (1999-2008)												
Model 1^a												
Never drinker	23	1.00 (reference)		16	1.00 (reference)		43	1.00 (reference)		32	1.00 (reference)	
Former drinker	51	1.48 (0.91 to 2.43)	0.12	41	1.34 (0.75 to 2.39)	0.32	52	1.38 (0.92 to 2.07)	0.12	38	1.28 (0.80 to 2.04)	0.31
Not in the last 12 months ^b	6	2.35 (0.96 to 5.79)	0.06	6	2.76 (1.08 to 7.07)	0.03	7	1.17 (0.53 to 2.60)	0.70	7	1.44 (0.63 to 3.26)	0.39
<1 occasion/month	79	0.98 (0.62 to 1.57)	0.95	57	0.84 (0.48 to 1.46)	0.54	112	0.85 (0.60 to 1.21)	0.37	90	0.91 (0.61 to 1.37)	0.66
1-2 occasions/month	62	0.71 (0.44 to 1.15)	0.17	44	0.65 (0.37 to 1.16)	0.14	65	0.64 (0.43 to 0.93)	0.02	46	0.65 (0.41 to 1.02)	0.06
>2 occasions/month ^f	28	0.83 (0.48 to 1.43)	0.50	20	0.80 (0.41 to 1.54)	0.51	27	0.82 (0.51 to 1.33)	0.42	17	0.77 (0.43 to 1.39)	0.39
0.1-1.5 units	41	0.50 (0.30 to 0.83)	0.01	29	0.41 (0.22 to 0.75)	<0.01	60	0.58 (0.39 to 0.86)	0.01	45	0.57 (0.36 to 0.90)	0.02
>1.5-3.0 units	107	0.62 (0.39 to 0.97)	0.04	88	0.59 (0.35 to 1.01)	0.06	92	0.56 (0.39 to 0.81)	<0.01	64	0.54 (0.35 to 0.82)	<0.01
>3.0-4.5 units	78	0.83 (0.52 to 1.32)	0.44	64	0.83 (0.48 to 1.44)	0.51	36	0.72 (0.46 to 1.12)	0.14	20	0.58 (0.33 to 1.01)	0.06
>4.5 units	303	0.89 (0.58 to 1.36)	0.59	214	0.82 (0.49 to 1.37)	0.45	75	0.76 (0.52 to 1.11)	0.15	38	0.68 (0.43 to 1.09)	0.11
Model 2^c												
Never drinker	14	1.00 (reference)		12	1.00 (reference)		25	1.00 (reference)		19	1.00 (reference)	
Former drinker	35	0.99 (0.52 to 1.90)	0.99	30	0.79 (0.40 to 1.58)	0.51	44	1.34 (0.81 to 2.23)	0.26	33	1.19 (0.67 to 2.11)	0.55

Not in the last 12 months ^b	4	1.75 (0.56 to 5.41)	0.34	4	1.50 (0.47 to 4.77)	0.49	6	1.19 (0.49 to 2.93)	0.70	6	1.31 (0.52 to 3.31)	0.57
<1 occasion/month	64	0.80 (0.44 to 1.48)	0.48	46	0.56 (0.29 to 1.09)	0.09	84	0.77 (0.49 to 1.22)	0.27	70	0.80 (0.48 to 1.34)	0.40
1-2 occasions/month	55	0.78 (0.42 to 1.45)	0.44	39	0.56 (0.29 to 1.10)	0.09	53	0.74 (0.45 to 1.21)	0.23	40	0.78 (0.45 to 1.36)	0.38
>2 occasions/month ^f	24	0.80 (0.40 to 1.59)	0.53	18	0.66 (0.31 to 1.40)	0.28	23	0.99 (0.55 to 1.77)	0.97	16	0.96 (0.49 to 1.88)	0.90
0.1-1.5 units	36	0.67 (0.35 to 1.28)	0.22	25	0.43 (0.21 to 0.87)	0.02	53	0.81 (0.50 to 1.33)	0.41	39	0.75 (0.43 to 1.31)	0.32
>1.5-3.0 units	94	0.79 (0.44 to 1.44)	0.44	76	0.59 (0.31 to 1.11)	0.10	83	0.74 (0.46 to 1.19)	0.22	57	0.65 (0.38 to 1.10)	0.11
>3.0-4.5 units	68	0.94 (0.51 to 1.73)	0.85	54	0.72 (0.37 to 1.37)	0.31	31	0.79 (0.46 to 1.37)	0.41	18	0.62 (0.32 to 1.20)	0.16
>4.5 units	279	0.96 (0.54 to 1.71)	0.89	198	0.71 (0.38 to 1.31)	0.27	66	0.79 (0.48 to 1.28)	0.33	34	0.66 (0.37 to 1.18)	0.17

Sample sizes (weekly)

Model 1	17,743	5,308	21,101	6,051
Model 2	16,127	4,876	18,231	5,444

Sample sizes (heaviest day)

Model 1	30,809	10,046	37,888	11,596
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^a Adjusted for age

^b Participants who reported being current drinkers but reported not having consumed alcohol within the 12 months prior to interview

^c As Model 1, plus adjustment for BMI, economic activity, education, ethnicity, government office region, marital status, smoking status, and social class

^d Hazard ratio

^e Confidence interval

^f Participants who reported an average annual frequency of >2 occasions/month but who reported not drinking in the week prior to interview

Supplementary Table 3: Sensitivity analyses - relationship between alcohol consumption and all-cause mortality, by age and sex (non-drinker referent category, years 2003-08)

Consumption on heaviest day (survey-adjusted)	Men						Women					
	50-64 years			≥65 years			50-64 years			≥65 years		
	Deaths	HR ^d (95% CI ^e)	p-value	Deaths	HR ^d (95% CI ^e)	p-value	Deaths	HR ^d (95% CI ^e)	p-value	Deaths	HR ^d (95% CI ^e)	p-value
Model 1^a												
Non-drinker	22	1.00 (reference)		116	1.00 (reference)		24	1.00 (reference)		231	1.00 (reference)	
Not in the last 12 months ^b	4	2.93 (1.21 to 7.10)	0.02	12	0.89 (0.57 to 1.38)	0.60	3	1.52 (0.49 to 4.73)	0.47	18	0.70 (0.48 to 1.01)	0.06
<1 occasion/month	23	0.61 (0.36 to 1.04)	0.07	168	1.06 (0.86 to 1.30)	0.61	43	0.94 (0.60 to 1.47)	0.79	245	0.68 (0.58 to 0.79)	<0.01
1-2 occasions/month	15	0.44 (0.24 to 0.81)	0.01	99	0.91 (0.72 to 1.14)	0.39	16	0.61 (0.35 to 1.06)	0.08	75	0.56 (0.44 to 0.70)	<0.01
>2 occasions/month ^f	9	0.89 (0.45 to 1.76)	0.74	48	1.00 (0.76 to 1.31)	0.99	5	0.64 (0.27 to 1.52)	0.32	35	0.81 (0.61 to 1.08)	0.15
0.1-1.5 units	10	0.28 (0.15 to 0.51)	<0.01	171	0.77 (0.63 to 0.95)	0.01	19	0.62 (0.37 to 1.06)	0.08	192	0.72 (0.60 to 0.85)	<0.01
>1.5-3.0 units	35	0.43 (0.26 to 0.71)	<0.01	194	0.77 (0.64 to 0.94)	0.01	24	0.49 (0.30 to 0.80)	<0.01	113	0.69 (0.56 to 0.85)	<0.01
>3.0-4.5 units	24	0.59 (0.34 to 1.01)	0.05	81	0.93 (0.73 to 1.18)	0.55	6	0.43 (0.18 to 1.02)	0.06	19	0.63 (0.44 to 0.90)	0.01
>4.5 units	89	0.62 (0.40 to 0.96)	0.03	100	0.57 (0.46 to 0.72)	<0.01	14	0.56 (0.32 to 0.98)	0.04	12	0.53 (0.34 to 0.82)	<0.01
Model 2^c												
Non-drinker	12	1.00 (reference)		77	1.00 (reference)		16	1.00 (reference)		125	1.00 (reference)	
Not in the last 12 months ^b	3	4.04 (1.33 to 12.24)	0.01	9	1.04 (0.66 to 1.65)	0.85	2	1.09 (0.26 to 4.50)	0.91	9	0.83 (0.46 to 1.49)	0.53
<1 occasion/month	17	0.74 (0.38 to 1.46)	0.39	122	1.03 (0.82 to 1.30)	0.77	33	0.85 (0.50 to 1.45)	0.56	160	0.70 (0.57 to 0.86)	<0.01
1-2 occasions/month	14	0.86 (0.42 to 1.75)	0.67	77	1.02 (0.80 to 1.30)	0.85	15	0.85 (0.47 to 1.55)	0.60	50	0.59 (0.45 to 0.76)	<0.01
>2 occasions/month ^f	9	1.82 (0.85 to 3.89)	0.12	31	0.96 (0.70 to 1.32)	0.80	5	0.84 (0.34 to 2.06)	0.70	23	0.97 (0.68 to 1.39)	0.88
0.1-1.5 units	7	0.50 (0.22 to 1.12)	0.09	124	0.81 (0.64 to 1.01)	0.07	16	0.78 (0.43 to 1.39)	0.40	120	0.78 (0.63 to 0.97)	0.03
>1.5-3.0 units	31	0.97 (0.51 to 1.84)	0.93	149	0.82 (0.66 to 1.03)	0.09	21	0.58 (0.32 to 1.06)	0.08	78	0.76 (0.59 to 0.97)	0.03
>3.0-4.5 units	20	1.04 (0.53 to 2.04)	0.92	66	1.01 (0.79 to 1.29)	0.95	5	0.43 (0.17 to 1.12)	0.08	10	0.45 (0.27 to 0.75)	<0.01
>4.5 units	82	1.14 (0.63 to 2.04)	0.67	86	0.61 (0.48 to 0.78)	<0.01	13	0.58 (0.31 to 1.09)	0.09	8	0.46 (0.28 to 0.76)	<0.01
Consumption on heaviest day (survey-unadjusted)	Deaths	HR ^d (95% CI ^e)	p-value	Deaths	HR ^d (95% CI ^e)	p-value	Deaths	HR ^d (95% CI ^e)	p-value	Deaths	HR ^d (95% CI ^e)	p-value
Model 1^a												
Non-drinker	22	1.00 (reference)		116	1.00 (reference)		24	1.00 (reference)		231	1.00 (reference)	
Not in the last 12 months ^b	4	2.78 (0.96 to 8.06)	0.06	12	0.87 (0.48 to 1.58)	0.65	3	1.53 (0.46 to 5.07)	0.49	18	0.72 (0.45 to 1.17)	0.19
<1 occasion/month	23	0.64 (0.36 to 1.14)	0.13	168	1.06 (0.84 to 1.35)	0.62	43	0.98 (0.59 to 1.61)	0.94	245	0.67 (0.56 to 0.80)	<0.01
1-2 occasions/month	15	0.41 (0.21 to 0.79)	0.01	99	0.92 (0.71 to 1.21)	0.56	16	0.62 (0.33 to 1.17)	0.14	75	0.54 (0.41 to 0.70)	<0.01
>2 occasions/month ^f	9	0.88 (0.40 to 1.91)	0.74	48	1.00 (0.72 to 1.41)	0.98	5	0.65 (0.25 to 1.71)	0.38	35	0.81 (0.57 to 1.15)	0.24
0.1-1.5 units	10	0.28 (0.13 to 0.59)	<0.01	171	0.78 (0.61 to 0.98)	0.04	19	0.61 (0.33 to 1.11)	0.10	192	0.71 (0.59 to 0.86)	<0.01
>1.5-3.0 units	35	0.44 (0.26 to 0.75)	<0.01	194	0.77 (0.61 to 0.97)	0.03	24	0.50 (0.29 to 0.89)	0.02	113	0.68 (0.54 to 0.85)	<0.01
>3.0-4.5 units	24	0.57 (0.32 to 1.01)	0.05	81	0.92 (0.69 to 1.22)	0.57	6	0.38 (0.16 to 0.94)	0.04	19	0.64 (0.40 to 1.02)	0.06
>4.5 units	89	0.61 (0.38 to 0.98)	0.04	100	0.57 (0.43 to 0.75)	<0.01	14	0.52 (0.27 to 1.01)	0.06	12	0.52 (0.29 to 0.93)	0.03
Model 2^c												
Non-drinker	12	1.00 (reference)		77	1.00 (reference)		16	1.00 (reference)		125	1.00 (reference)	
Not in the last 12 months ^b	3	3.29 (0.91 to 11.91)	0.07	9	1.01 (0.50 to 2.03)	0.98	2	1.14 (0.26 to 5.05)	0.87	9	0.89 (0.45 to 1.75)	0.73
<1 occasion/month	17	0.79 (0.37 to 1.67)	0.53	122	1.03 (0.77 to 1.37)	0.85	33	0.89 (0.49 to 1.65)	0.72	160	0.70 (0.55 to 0.89)	<0.01
1-2 occasions/month	14	0.78 (0.35 to 1.71)	0.53	77	1.03 (0.75 to 1.42)	0.86	15	0.86 (0.42 to 1.77)	0.69	50	0.56 (0.40 to 0.78)	<0.01
>2 occasions/month ^f	9	1.77 (0.74 to 4.24)	0.20	31	0.92 (0.60 to 1.41)	0.70	5	0.84 (0.30 to 2.33)	0.74	23	0.97 (0.62 to 1.52)	0.90

0.1-1.5 units	7	0.50 (0.19 to 1.29)	0.15	124	0.80 (0.60 to 1.07)	0.14	16	0.77 (0.38 to 1.58)	0.48	120	0.77 (0.59 to 0.99)	0.04
>1.5-3.0 units	31	0.98 (0.49 to 1.96)	0.95	149	0.80 (0.60 to 1.06)	0.11	21	0.59 (0.30 to 1.15)	0.12	78	0.73 (0.55 to 0.98)	0.03
>3.0-4.5 units	20	1.01 (0.49 to 2.12)	0.97	66	0.99 (0.71 to 1.39)	0.96	5	0.37 (0.13 to 1.03)	0.06	10	0.46 (0.24 to 0.87)	0.02
>4.5 units	82	1.11 (0.59 to 2.09)	0.74	86	0.60 (0.43 to 0.82)	<0.01	13	0.53 (0.25 to 1.14)	0.10	8	0.46 (0.22 to 0.95)	0.04

Sample sizes

Model 1	6,295	5,229	7,349	6,399
Model 2	5,701	4,453	6,503	4,950

^a Adjusted for age

^b Participants who reported being current drinkers but reported not having consumed alcohol within the 12 months prior to interview

^c As Model 1, plus adjustment for BMI, economic activity, education, ethnicity, government office region, marital status, smoking status, and social class

^d Hazard ratio

^e Confidence interval

^f Participants who reported an average annual frequency of >2 occasions/month but who reported not drinking in the week prior to interview

Supplementary Table 4: Sensitivity analyses - relationship between alcohol consumption and all-cause mortality, by age and sex (never drinker referent category, years 2003-08)

Consumption on heaviest day (survey-adjusted)	Men						Women					
	50-64 years			≥65 years			50-64 years			≥65 years		
	Deaths	HR ^d (95% CI ^e)	p-value	Deaths	HR ^d (95% CI ^e)	p-value	Deaths	HR ^d (95% CI ^e)	p-value	Deaths	HR ^d (95% CI ^e)	p-value
Model 1^a												
Never drinker	5	1.00 (reference)		31	1.00 (reference)		14	1.00 (reference)		125	1.00 (reference)	
Former drinker	17	1.52 (0.56 to 4.13)	0.41	85	1.87 (1.29 to 2.69)	<0.01	10	0.63 (0.32 to 1.25)	0.19	106	1.42 (1.10 to 1.82)	0.01
Not in the last 12 months ^b	4	4.05 (1.22 to 13.42)	0.02	12	1.33 (0.79 to 2.25)	0.28	3	1.23 (0.38 to 3.98)	0.73	18	0.81 (0.54 to 1.20)	0.29
<1 occasion/month	23	0.85 (0.32 to 2.22)	0.74	168	1.59 (1.13 to 2.24)	0.01	43	0.76 (0.44 to 1.33)	0.34	245	0.78 (0.64 to 0.96)	0.02
1-2 occasions/month	15	0.61 (0.22 to 1.67)	0.34	99	1.36 (0.95 to 1.96)	0.09	16	0.50 (0.27 to 0.91)	0.03	75	0.64 (0.50 to 0.84)	<0.01
>2 occasions/month ^f	9	1.23 (0.43 to 3.50)	0.70	48	1.50 (1.02 to 2.23)	0.04	5	0.52 (0.21 to 1.29)	0.16	35	0.94 (0.68 to 1.28)	0.68
0.1-1.5 units	10	0.38 (0.14 to 1.04)	0.06	171	1.16 (0.83 to 1.63)	0.38	19	0.51 (0.27 to 0.93)	0.03	192	0.83 (0.67 to 1.02)	0.08
>1.5-3.0 units	35	0.59 (0.23 to 1.53)	0.28	194	1.16 (0.84 to 1.62)	0.37	24	0.40 (0.23 to 0.70)	<0.01	113	0.80 (0.63 to 1.02)	0.07
>3.0-4.5 units	24	0.81 (0.31 to 2.12)	0.66	81	1.40 (0.97 to 2.03)	0.07	6	0.35 (0.14 to 0.87)	0.02	19	0.73 (0.50 to 1.07)	0.11
>4.5 units	89	0.86 (0.35 to 2.13)	0.74	100	0.86 (0.60 to 1.25)	0.43	14	0.45 (0.24 to 0.84)	0.01	12	0.62 (0.39 to 0.97)	0.04
Model 2^c												
Never drinker	3	1.00 (reference)		19	1.00 (reference)		7	1.00 (reference)		69	1.00 (reference)	
Former drinker	9	0.58 (0.14 to 2.43)	0.46	58	1.44 (0.93 to 2.23)	0.10	9	0.76 (0.32 to 1.82)	0.54	56	1.13 (0.82 to 1.56)	0.44
Not in the last 12 months ^b	3	2.57 (0.52 to 12.84)	0.25	9	1.36 (0.76 to 2.42)	0.30	2	0.93 (0.21 to 4.14)	0.92	9	0.87 (0.47 to 1.62)	0.67
<1 occasion/month	17	0.47 (0.12 to 1.80)	0.27	122	1.35 (0.90 to 2.02)	0.15	33	0.73 (0.34 to 1.55)	0.41	160	0.74 (0.57 to 0.97)	0.03
1-2 occasions/month	14	0.55 (0.14 to 2.14)	0.39	77	1.33 (0.87 to 2.03)	0.19	15	0.73 (0.34 to 1.54)	0.40	50	0.62 (0.46 to 0.84)	<0.01
>2 occasions/month ^f	9	1.17 (0.30 to 4.60)	0.83	31	1.25 (0.78 to 2.01)	0.36	5	0.71 (0.26 to 1.98)	0.52	23	1.03 (0.69 to 1.52)	0.90
0.1-1.5 units	7	0.32 (0.08 to 1.31)	0.11	124	1.05 (0.70 to 1.57)	0.83	16	0.66 (0.31 to 1.41)	0.29	120	0.83 (0.63 to 1.09)	0.17
>1.5-3.0 units	31	0.62 (0.17 to 2.34)	0.48	149	1.07 (0.72 to 1.60)	0.73	21	0.50 (0.23 to 1.06)	0.07	78	0.80 (0.59 to 1.07)	0.14
>3.0-4.5 units	20	0.66 (0.18 to 2.49)	0.54	66	1.31 (0.85 to 2.02)	0.21	5	0.37 (0.13 to 1.06)	0.06	10	0.47 (0.28 to 0.81)	0.01
>4.5 units	82	0.73 (0.20 to 2.70)	0.63	86	0.79 (0.52 to 1.22)	0.29	13	0.49 (0.23 to 1.05)	0.07	8	0.49 (0.29 to 0.83)	0.01
Consumption on heaviest day (survey-unadjusted)	Deaths	HR ^d (95% CI ^e)	p-value	Deaths	HR ^d (95% CI ^e)	p-value	Deaths	HR ^d (95% CI ^e)	p-value	Deaths	HR ^d (95% CI ^e)	p-value
Model 1^a												
Never drinker	5	1.00 (reference)		31	1.00 (reference)		14	1.00 (reference)		125	1.00 (reference)	
Former drinker	17	1.28 (0.47 to 3.48)	0.62	85	1.98 (1.31 to 2.99)	<0.01	10	0.67 (0.30 to 1.50)	0.33	106	1.42 (1.09 to 1.84)	0.01
Not in the last 12 months ^b	4	3.35 (0.90 to 12.47)	0.07	12	1.37 (0.70 to 2.67)	0.36	3	1.26 (0.36 to 4.40)	0.71	18	0.84 (0.51 to 1.37)	0.48
<1 occasion/month	23	0.77 (0.29 to 2.02)	0.59	168	1.67 (1.14 to 2.45)	0.01	43	0.81 (0.44 to 1.48)	0.50	245	0.78 (0.63 to 0.96)	0.02
1-2 occasions/month	15	0.49 (0.18 to 1.36)	0.17	99	1.45 (0.97 to 2.18)	0.07	16	0.52 (0.25 to 1.06)	0.07	75	0.62 (0.47 to 0.83)	<0.01
>2 occasions/month ^f	9	1.06 (0.35 to 3.16)	0.92	48	1.58 (1.00 to 2.48)	0.05	5	0.54 (0.19 to 1.50)	0.24	35	0.94 (0.64 to 1.36)	0.73
0.1-1.5 units	10	0.34 (0.12 to 0.99)	0.05	171	1.22 (0.83 to 1.79)	0.32	19	0.50 (0.25 to 1.00)	0.05	192	0.82 (0.66 to 1.03)	0.09
>1.5-3.0 units	35	0.53 (0.21 to 1.36)	0.19	194	1.21 (0.83 to 1.77)	0.33	24	0.42 (0.22 to 0.81)	0.01	113	0.78 (0.61 to 1.01)	0.06
>3.0-4.5 units	24	0.68 (0.26 to 1.79)	0.44	81	1.45 (0.96 to 2.20)	0.08	6	0.32 (0.12 to 0.83)	0.02	19	0.74 (0.45 to 1.20)	0.22
>4.5 units	89	0.74 (0.30 to 1.82)	0.51	100	0.90 (0.60 to 1.35)	0.61	14	0.43 (0.21 to 0.91)	0.03	12	0.60 (0.33 to 1.09)	0.09
Model 2^c												
Never drinker	3	1.00 (reference)		19	1.00 (reference)		7	1.00 (reference)		69	1.00 (reference)	
Former drinker	9	0.52 (0.13 to 2.06)	0.35	58	1.46 (0.86 to 2.48)	0.17	9	0.81 (0.30 to 2.23)	0.69	56	1.15 (0.81 to 1.66)	0.43

Not in the last 12 months ^b	3	1.93 (0.36 to 10.26)	0.44	9	1.32 (0.59 to 2.95)	0.50	2	1.01 (0.20 to 4.98)	0.99	9	0.95 (0.47 to 1.90)	0.88
<1 occasion/month	17	0.46 (0.12 to 1.70)	0.24	122	1.35 (0.82 to 2.21)	0.24	33	0.79 (0.34 to 1.84)	0.59	160	0.75 (0.56 to 1.00)	0.05
1-2 occasions/month	14	0.46 (0.12 to 1.72)	0.25	77	1.35 (0.81 to 2.25)	0.25	15	0.76 (0.30 to 1.92)	0.57	50	0.59 (0.41 to 0.86)	0.01
>2 occasions/month ^f	9	1.04 (0.26 to 4.10)	0.95	31	1.21 (0.67 to 2.17)	0.52	5	0.75 (0.23 to 2.41)	0.62	23	1.03 (0.64 to 1.67)	0.89
0.1-1.5 units	7	0.29 (0.07 to 1.21)	0.09	124	1.05 (0.64 to 1.72)	0.85	16	0.69 (0.27 to 1.71)	0.42	120	0.81 (0.60 to 1.10)	0.19
>1.5-3.0 units	31	0.58 (0.16 to 2.04)	0.39	149	1.04 (0.64 to 1.70)	0.87	21	0.52 (0.21 to 1.26)	0.15	78	0.78 (0.56 to 1.09)	0.14
>3.0-4.5 units	20	0.60 (0.16 to 2.17)	0.43	66	1.30 (0.77 to 2.20)	0.32	5	0.33 (0.10 to 1.06)	0.06	10	0.49 (0.25 to 0.95)	0.04
>4.5 units	82	0.65 (0.19 to 2.25)	0.50	86	0.78 (0.47 to 1.31)	0.36	13	0.47 (0.18 to 1.23)	0.12	8	0.49 (0.23 to 1.03)	0.06

Sample sizes

<i>Model 1</i>	6,295	5,229	7,349	6,399
<i>Model 2</i>	5,701	4,453	6,503	4,950

^a Adjusted for age

^b Participants who reported being current drinkers but reported not having consumed alcohol within the 12 months prior to interview

^c As Model 1, plus adjustment for BMI, economic activity, education, ethnicity, government office region, marital status, smoking status, and social class

^d Hazard ratio

^e Confidence interval

^f Participants who reported an average annual frequency of >2 occasions/month but who reported not drinking in the week prior to interview

Supplementary Table 5: Descriptive statistics for each analytical sample, by age and sex

Weekly alcohol consumption (1998-2002)	Men				Women			
	50-64 years		≥65 years		50-64 years		≥65 years	
Covariates	% (95% CI ^a)	n	% (95% CI ^a)	n	% (95% CI ^a)	n	% (95% CI ^a)	n
Demographic variables								
<u>Ethnicity</u>								
White	96.7 (96.1 to 97.1)	5,131	97.5 (97.0 to 98.0)	4,334	96.8 (96.4 to 97.3)	5,857	98.6 (98.3 to 98.9)	5,481
Black	0.9 (0.6 to 1.2)	46	0.9 (0.7 to 1.3)	41	1.0 (0.8 to 1.3)	61	0.7 (0.5 to 1.0)	39
Asian	1.7 (1.4 to 2.1)	90	1.2 (0.9 to 1.5)	52	1.3 (1.0 to 1.6)	79	0.5 (0.4 to 0.7)	29
Chinese or other	0.8 (0.6 to 1.0)	41	0.4 (0.2 to 0.6)	16	0.8 (0.6 to 1.1)	51	0.2 (0.1 to 0.3)	10
 <u>Government office region</u>								
North East	6.7 (6.0 to 7.4)	354	6.5 (5.8 to 7.3)	288	6.2 (5.6 to 6.8)	374	7.5 (6.8 to 8.2)	417
North West and Merseyside	14.2 (13.3 to 15.2)	754	12.9 (11.9 to 13.9)	571	14.0 (13.1 to 14.9)	845	13.0 (12.1 to 13.9)	719
Yorkshire and the Humber	11.2 (10.4 to 12.1)	594	10.5 (9.6 to 11.4)	464	10.9 (10.2 to 11.8)	661	11.2 (10.4 to 12.1)	624
West Midlands	10.2 (9.4 to 11.1)	542	11.1 (10.2 to 12.1)	493	10.7 (9.9 to 11.5)	645	11.1 (10.3 to 12.0)	617
East Midlands	9.6 (8.8 to 10.4)	506	9.5 (8.6 to 10.4)	420	9.3 (8.6 to 10.0)	561	8.8 (8.1 to 9.5)	487
Eastern	12.0 (11.1 to 12.9)	634	12.1 (11.1 to 13.0)	535	12.7 (11.8 to 13.5)	765	11.4 (10.6 to 12.3)	633
London	9.2 (8.5 to 10.0)	489	8.9 (8.1 to 9.7)	393	9.5 (8.7 to 10.2)	571	9.2 (8.4 to 10.0)	509
South East	16.2 (15.2 to 17.2)	858	16.1 (15.1 to 17.2)	715	16.6 (15.7 to 17.6)	1,003	15.9 (15.0 to 16.9)	885
South West	10.7 (9.9 to 11.6)	567	12.6 (11.7 to 13.6)	559	10.2 (9.5 to 11.0)	617	11.9 (11.1 to 12.8)	660
 <u>Marital status</u>								
Single	7.8 (7.1 to 8.6)	414	4.9 (4.3 to 5.6)	218	4.0 (3.5 to 4.5)	242	5.4 (4.9 to 6.1)	302
Married	77.3 (76.1 to 78.4)	4,100	71.2 (69.9 to 72.5)	3,167	73.0 (71.9 to 74.1)	4,418	44.0 (42.7 to 45.3)	2,446
Separated	2.3 (2.0 to 2.8)	124	1.1 (0.9 to 1.5)	51	2.6 (2.3 to 3.1)	160	1.1 (0.9 to 1.4)	63
Divorced	10.0 (9.2 to 10.8)	530	4.2 (3.6 to 4.8)	185	12.4 (11.6 to 13.3)	752	4.7 (4.1 to 5.2)	259
Widowed	2.6 (2.2 to 3.1)	139	18.6 (17.4 to 19.7)	825	7.9 (7.2 to 8.6)	478	44.8 (43.5 to 46.1)	2,490
 Socio-economic variables								
<u>Education</u>								
NVQ4, NVQ5, Degree, equivalent	16.3 (15.4 to 17.4)	867	9.4 (8.6 to 10.3)	418	8.6 (8.0 to 9.4)	523	3.2 (2.8 to 3.7)	178
Higher education below degree	13.6 (12.7 to 14.6)	723	7.4 (6.7 to 8.3)	331	10.0 (9.3 to 10.8)	608	6.5 (5.9 to 7.2)	362
NVQ3 or GCE A Level equivalent	8.0 (7.3 to 8.8)	426	4.7 (4.1 to 5.4)	210	5.7 (5.2 to 6.4)	347	2.1 (1.7 to 2.5)	115
NVQ2 or GCE O Level equivalent	16.5 (15.5 to 17.5)	876	9.3 (8.5 to 10.2)	414	20.3 (19.3 to 21.4)	1,230	8.8 (8.0 to 9.5)	487
NVQ1, CSE, equivalent, ungraded	6.7 (6.1 to 7.4)	356	10.6 (9.8 to 11.6)	473	1.9 (1.6 to 2.3)	114	1.4 (1.2 to 1.8)	80
Foreign, other	3.5 (3.0 to 4.0)	186	5.4 (4.8 to 6.1)	240	10.7 (9.9 to 11.5)	647	10.2 (9.4 to 11.0)	566
No qualification	31.5 (30.3 to 32.8)	1,672	50.3 (48.8 to 51.8)	2,235	39.6 (38.4 to 40.8)	2,396	65.6 (64.4 to 66.8)	3,646
Full-time student	3.7 (3.3 to 4.3)	198	2.8 (2.3 to 3.3)	124	3.1 (2.7 to 3.5)	185	2.2 (1.9 to 2.6)	123
 <u>Economic activity</u>								
Employed	66.0 (64.7 to 67.3)	3,500	6.6 (5.9 to 7.4)	294	52.2 (50.9 to 53.4)	3,154	3.1 (2.7 to 3.6)	172
Unemployed	3.8 (3.3 to 4.3)	199	to	to	1.4 (1.2 to 1.8)	86	to	to
Retired	12.9 (12.0 to 13.8)	685	92.7 (91.9 to 93.5)	4,123	20.5 (19.5 to 21.6)	1,242	76.7 (75.6 to 77.8)	4,266

Other economically inactive	17.3 (16.3 to 18.4)	918	0.7 (0.5 to 0.9)	29	25.9 (24.8 to 27.0)	1,563	20.2 (19.1 to 21.3)	1,122
<u>Social class</u>								
Professional	8.3 (7.5 to 9.0)	438	6.7 (6.0 to 7.5)	297	1.6 (1.3 to 2.0)	99	0.8 (0.6 to 1.1)	45
Managerial technical	31.0 (29.8 to 32.3)	1,648	28.1 (26.8 to 29.4)	1,250	26.1 (25.0 to 27.3)	1,581	17.2 (16.3 to 18.3)	959
Skilled non-manual	8.7 (8.0 to 9.5)	462	10.6 (9.8 to 11.6)	473	34.7 (33.5 to 35.9)	2,100	34.5 (33.2 to 35.7)	1,918
Skilled manual	33.1 (31.9 to 34.4)	1,758	35.1 (33.7 to 36.5)	1,560	7.9 (7.2 to 8.6)	476	10.5 (9.7 to 11.4)	585
Semi-skilled manual	13.4 (12.5 to 14.3)	710	14.1 (13.1 to 15.1)	626	18.5 (17.6 to 19.5)	1,120	19.0 (18.0 to 20.1)	1,058
Unskilled manual	4.4 (3.9 to 5.0)	236	4.7 (4.1 to 5.3)	208	9.0 (8.3 to 9.7)	544	11.5 (10.7 to 12.3)	638
Other	1.1 (0.8 to 1.4)	56	0.7 (0.5 to 1.0)	33	2.2 (1.8 to 2.6)	131	6.5 (5.8 to 7.1)	359
Anthropometric and health behaviour variables								
<u>Body mass index (BMI)</u>								
<24.9	23.9 (22.8 to 25.2)	1,178	26.8 (25.4 to 28.2)	1,011	33.0 (31.8 to 34.3)	1,837	33.0 (31.7 to 34.4)	1,508
25-29.9	51.3 (49.9 to 52.7)	2,522	51.9 (50.3 to 53.5)	1,959	38.3 (37.0 to 39.6)	2,128	40.7 (39.3 to 42.2)	1,861
≥30	24.8 (23.6 to 26.0)	1,219	21.3 (20.0 to 22.6)	802	28.7 (27.5 to 29.9)	1,594	26.2 (25.0 to 27.5)	1,198
<u>Cigarette smoking status</u>								
Never regular smoker	34.6 (33.4 to 35.9)	1,837	29.0 (27.7 to 30.4)	1,289	50.2 (49.0 to 51.5)	3,040	54.3 (53.0 to 55.6)	3,022
Ex-smoker	41.6 (40.3 to 42.9)	2,206	57.6 (56.1 to 59.1)	2,560	26.6 (25.5 to 27.8)	1,612	31.7 (30.5 to 32.9)	1,761
<10/day	4.3 (3.7 to 4.8)	226	4.0 (3.4 to 4.6)	177	5.0 (4.5 to 5.6)	302	5.0 (4.4 to 5.6)	276
10-19/day	7.8 (7.1 to 8.6)	414	5.3 (4.7 to 6.0)	235	9.6 (8.9 to 10.3)	579	5.9 (5.3 to 6.5)	328
≥20/day	11.7 (10.9 to 12.6)	622	4.1 (3.6 to 4.7)	183	8.5 (7.9 to 9.3)	517	3.1 (2.7 to 3.6)	174
Alcohol consumption variable								
<u>Average weekly consumption</u>								
Never drinker	2.4 (2.0 to 2.8)	125	3.8 (3.3 to 4.4)	170	6.1 (5.6 to 6.8)	372	12.5 (11.7 to 13.4)	696
Former drinker	3.9 (3.4 to 4.5)	208	7.3 (6.5 to 8.1)	323	5.2 (4.6 to 5.8)	313	9.3 (8.6 to 10.1)	520
Not in the last 12 months	0.1 (0.1 to 0.4)	11	0.6 (0.4 to 0.9)	26	0.8 (0.6 to 1.0)	47	0.8 (0.6 to 1.1)	45
<1 occasion/month	8.3 (7.6 to 9.1)	441	11.4 (10.5 to 12.3)	506	16.2 (15.3 to 17.2)	983	21.9 (20.8 to 23.0)	1,217
1-2 occasions/month	8.5 (7.8 to 9.3)	450	8.8 (8.0 to 9.7)	391	13.8 (12.9 to 14.7)	833	11.6 (10.8 to 12.5)	646
0.1-5.0 units	8.9 (8.1 to 9.6)	470	13.6 (12.6 to 14.6)	603	18.9 (17.9 to 19.9)	1,144	18.1 (17.1 to 19.1)	1,006
5.1-10.0 units	14.1 (13.2 to 15.1)	751	16.3 (15.3 to 17.5)	727	15.7 (14.9 to 16.7)	953	12.5 (11.7 to 13.4)	695
10.1-15.0 units	12.3 (11.5 to 13.3)	655	11.4 (10.5 to 12.3)	505	9.9 (9.2 to 10.7)	600	6.2 (5.6 to 6.8)	343
15.1-20.0 units	9.1 (8.3 to 9.9)	481	6.2 (5.6 to 7.0)	277	4.6 (4.1 to 5.2)	280	2.8 (2.4 to 3.2)	153
>20.0 units	32.3 (31.1 to 33.6)	1,716	20.7 (19.5 to 21.9)	919	8.7 (8.0 to 9.4)	526	4.3 (3.8 to 4.9)	241
Outcome variable								
<u>Mortality</u>								
Censored	89.2 (88.3 to 90.0)	4,735	51.0 (49.6 to 52.5)	2,270	93.3 (92.6 to 93.9)	5,646	58.6 (57.3 to 59.9)	3,259
Deceased	10.8 (10.0 to 11.7)	573	49.0 (47.5 to 50.4)	2,177	6.7 (6.1 to 7.4)	405	41.4 (40.1 to 42.7)	2,303
Consumption on heaviest day (1999-2008)	50-64 years		≥65 years		50-64 years		≥65 years	
Covariates	% (95% CI^a)	n	% (95% CI^a)	n	% (95% CI^a)	n	% (95% CI^a)	n
Demographic variables								
<u>Ethnicity</u>								
White	96.2 (95.8 to 96.6)	9,659	97.4 (97.0 to 97.7)	8,139	96.5 (96.1 to 96.8)	11,184	98.3 (98.0 to 98.5)	10,086

Black	0.8 (0.7 to 1.0)	85	0.9 (0.7 to 1.1)	76	1.0 (0.8 to 1.2)	115	0.7 (0.6 to 0.9)	74
Asian	2.3 (2.0 to 2.6)	232	1.3 (1.1 to 1.6)	108	1.7 (1.5 to 2.0)	200	0.7 (0.5 to 0.9)	69
Chinese or other	0.6 (0.5 to 0.8)	65	0.4 (0.3 to 0.6)	35	0.8 (0.6 to 1.0)	91	0.3 (0.2 to 0.5)	34

Government office region

North East	6.5 (6.1 to 7.0)	656	6.1 (5.6 to 6.6)	510	6.6 (6.2 to 7.1)	771	6.4 (5.9 to 6.9)	655
North West and Merseyside	14.0 (13.3 to 14.7)	1,403	13.7 (13.0 to 14.5)	1,148	14.1 (13.5 to 14.8)	1,637	14.1 (13.5 to 14.8)	1,451
Yorkshire and the Humber	10.9 (10.3 to 11.6)	1,099	9.8 (9.1 to 10.4)	816	10.9 (10.3 to 11.5)	1,264	10.1 (9.5 to 10.6)	1,032
West Midlands	10.0 (9.4 to 10.6)	1,006	11.0 (10.4 to 11.7)	924	10.5 (9.9 to 11.1)	1,216	10.9 (10.3 to 11.5)	1,114
East Midlands	9.9 (9.3 to 10.5)	994	10.1 (9.4 to 10.7)	842	9.9 (9.4 to 10.4)	1,147	9.7 (9.2 to 10.3)	998
Eastern	12.5 (11.9 to 13.2)	1,258	12.4 (11.7 to 13.1)	1,034	12.2 (11.6 to 12.8)	1,410	12.1 (11.4 to 12.7)	1,238
London	8.7 (8.1 to 9.2)	869	8.2 (7.6 to 8.8)	686	8.5 (8.0 to 9.0)	986	8.1 (7.6 to 8.6)	831
South East	16.6 (15.9 to 17.3)	1,668	16.7 (15.9 to 17.5)	1,393	16.4 (15.8 to 17.1)	1,905	17.2 (16.5 to 17.9)	1,764
South West	10.9 (10.3 to 11.5)	1,093	12.1 (11.4 to 12.8)	1,011	10.9 (10.3 to 11.4)	1,259	11.5 (10.9 to 12.2)	1,184

Marital status

Single	8.6 (8.1 to 9.2)	864	4.8 (4.4 to 5.3)	403	4.8 (4.4 to 5.2)	556	4.6 (4.2 to 5.1)	476
Married	74.7 (73.8 to 75.5)	7,503	71.5 (70.6 to 72.5)	5,984	71.4 (70.5 to 72.2)	8,274	45.8 (44.8 to 46.7)	4,697
Separated	2.4 (2.2 to 2.8)	245	1.3 (1.0 to 1.5)	105	2.8 (2.5 to 3.1)	327	0.9 (0.8 to 1.1)	95
Divorced	11.8 (11.2 to 12.5)	1,189	5.2 (4.8 to 5.7)	436	14.2 (13.6 to 14.9)	1,652	6.4 (5.9 to 6.9)	653
Widowed	2.4 (2.1 to 2.7)	244	17.2 (16.4 to 18.0)	1,436	6.8 (6.3 to 7.3)	787	42.3 (41.4 to 43.3)	4,344

Socio-economic variables

Education

NVQ4, NVQ5, Degree, equivalent	19.6 (18.8 to 20.4)	1,966	11.0 (10.3 to 11.7)	918	12.6 (12.0 to 13.2)	1,455	4.1 (3.7 to 4.5)	418
Higher education below degree	14.7 (14.1 to 15.4)	1,480	9.5 (8.9 to 10.2)	796	10.8 (10.3 to 11.4)	1,254	7.9 (7.4 to 8.4)	806
NVQ3 or GCE A Level equivalent	9.9 (9.3 to 10.5)	991	5.2 (4.7 to 5.7)	435	7.3 (6.9 to 7.8)	851	2.3 (2.0 to 2.6)	233
NVQ2 or GCE O Level equivalent	18.1 (17.3 to 18.8)	1,814	11.8 (11.1 to 12.5)	985	22.1 (21.3 to 22.8)	2,560	12.0 (11.4 to 12.7)	1,233
NVQ1, CSE, equivalent, ungraded	5.7 (5.2 to 6.1)	568	10.2 (9.5 to 10.8)	850	2.6 (2.4 to 2.9)	305	1.5 (1.3 to 1.7)	151
Foreign, other	1.9 (1.7 to 2.2)	191	3.0 (2.6 to 3.4)	250	7.6 (7.2 to 8.1)	886	9.1 (8.5 to 9.6)	930
No qualification	27.4 (26.6 to 28.3)	2,755	47.5 (46.4 to 48.5)	3,968	34.4 (33.6 to 35.3)	3,992	61.5 (60.6 to 62.4)	6,309
Full-time student	2.7 (2.4 to 3.1)	275	1.9 (1.6 to 2.2)	159	2.5 (2.2 to 2.8)	290	1.7 (1.5 to 2.0)	179

Economic activity

Employed	67.9 (67.0 to 68.9)	6,821	7.2 (6.7 to 7.8)	602	54.7 (53.8 to 55.6)	6,336	4.2 (3.8 to 4.6)	431
Unemployed	3.2 (2.8 to 3.5)	318	-	-	1.3 (1.1 to 1.5)	152	-	-
Retired	13.6 (12.9 to 14.3)	1,366	92.3 (91.7 to 92.8)	7,716	22.0 (21.3 to 22.8)	2,550	80.9 (80.1 to 81.6)	8,301
Other economically inactive	15.3 (14.6 to 16.0)	1,534	0.5 (0.4 to 0.7)	46	22.0 (21.3 to 22.8)	2,552	14.9 (14.3 to 15.6)	1,533

Social class

Professional	8.5 (8.0 to 9.1)	858	7.8 (7.2 to 8.4)	652	2.0 (1.8 to 2.3)	237	1.0 (0.8 to 1.2)	99
Managerial technical	33.8 (32.9 to 34.7)	3,393	29.1 (28.1 to 30.1)	2,434	29.3 (28.5 to 30.2)	3,403	20.2 (19.4 to 20.9)	2,070
Skilled non-manual	9.1 (8.5 to 9.7)	912	10.4 (9.7 to 11.0)	868	33.7 (32.8 to 34.5)	3,904	35.5 (34.6 to 36.5)	3,647
Skilled manual	30.8 (29.9 to 31.7)	3,097	34.1 (33.1 to 35.1)	2,853	7.4 (6.9 to 7.9)	858	9.2 (8.7 to 9.8)	949
Semi-skilled manual	12.7 (12.1 to 13.4)	1,275	13.3 (12.6 to 14.0)	1,110	18.4 (17.7 to 19.1)	2,131	18.8 (18.1 to 19.6)	1,934
Unskilled manual	4.1 (3.7 to 4.5)	413	4.8 (4.3 to 5.2)	398	7.1 (6.6 to 7.6)	821	10.2 (9.7 to 10.8)	1,051
Other	1.0 (0.8 to 1.2)	98	0.6 (0.5 to 0.8)	50	2.1 (1.8 to 2.4)	242	5.0 (4.6 to 5.5)	517

Anthropometric and health behaviour variablesBody mass index (BMI)

<24.9	23.0 (22.2 to 23.9)	2,126	24.9 (23.9 to 25.9)	1,775	33.0 (32.1 to 33.9)	3,478	30.5 (29.5 to 31.5)	2,545
25-29.9	48.6 (47.6 to 49.6)	4,484	50.4 (49.3 to 51.6)	3,595	37.4 (36.4 to 38.3)	3,932	40.7 (39.6 to 41.7)	3,391
≥30	28.4 (27.5 to 29.3)	2,621	24.7 (23.7 to 25.7)	1,757	29.6 (28.7 to 30.5)	3,117	28.8 (27.8 to 29.8)	2,402

Cigarette smoking status

Never regular smoker	38.1 (37.1 to 39.0)	3,821	31.5 (30.5 to 32.5)	2,630	50.9 (50.0 to 51.8)	5,898	56.7 (55.7 to 57.6)	5,812
Ex-smoker	40.2 (39.2 to 41.1)	4,032	57.2 (56.1 to 58.2)	4,778	27.9 (27.0 to 28.7)	3,229	31.7 (30.9 to 32.7)	3,257
<10/day	4.2 (3.9 to 4.7)	426	3.3 (3.0 to 3.7)	277	5.0 (4.7 to 5.5)	585	4.0 (3.6 to 4.4)	411
10-19/day	7.4 (6.9 to 7.9)	740	4.5 (4.1 to 5.0)	380	9.0 (8.5 to 9.6)	1,046	5.0 (4.6 to 5.5)	515
≥20/day	10.2 (9.6 to 10.8)	1,021	3.5 (3.2 to 3.9)	295	7.2 (6.7 to 7.7)	835	2.6 (2.3 to 2.9)	264

Alcohol consumption variableConsumption on the heaviest day

Never drinker	2.0 (1.7 to 2.2)	196	3.5 (3.1 to 3.9)	290	5.3 (4.9 to 5.7)	614	10.6 (10.0 to 11.2)	1,091
Former drinker	4.0 (3.6 to 4.4)	403	6.2 (5.7 to 6.8)	520	5.3 (5.0 to 5.8)	620	7.9 (7.4 to 8.5)	814
Not in the last 12 months ^b	0.3 (0.2 to 0.5)	34	1.0 (0.8 to 1.2)	80	0.9 (0.7 to 1.0)	100	1.5 (1.3 to 1.8)	157
<1 occasion/month	8.9 (8.4 to 9.5)	899	12.8 (12.1 to 13.5)	1,067	18.0 (17.4 to 18.8)	2,092	25 (24.2 to 25.9)	2,569
1-2 occasions/month	8.7 (8.2 to 9.3)	875	8.9 (8.3 to 9.5)	746	12.4 (11.8 to 13.0)	1,436	11.4 (10.8 to 12.0)	1,172
>2 occasions/month	3.1 (2.8 to 3.4)	309	4.4 (4.0 to 4.9)	370	3.8 (3.5 to 4.2)	446	3.7 (3.4 to 4.1)	383
0.1-1.5 units	8.3 (7.8 to 8.9)	837	16.1 (15.4 to 16.9)	1,349	12.9 (12.3 to 13.5)	1,499	19.2 (18.4 to 20.0)	1,970
1.6-3.0 units	18.0 (17.3 to 18.8)	1,811	21.0 (20.2 to 21.9)	1,758	21.1 (20.3 to 21.8)	2,444	14.7 (14.1 to 15.4)	1,514
3.1-4.5 units	10.3 (9.8 to 11.0)	1,039	8.6 (8.0 to 9.2)	721	7.3 (6.9 to 7.8)	852	2.9 (2.6 to 3.3)	300
>4.5 units	36.3 (35.3 to 37.2)	3,643	17.5 (16.7 to 18.3)	1,464	12.9 (12.3 to 13.5)	1,493	2.9 (2.6 to 3.2)	297

Outcome variableMortality

Censored	94.2 (93.8 to 94.7)	9,467	71.1 (70.1 to 72.1)	5,947	96.6 (96.2 to 96.9)	11,199	76.9 (76.1 to 77.7)	7,896
Deceased	5.8 (5.3 to 6.2)	579	28.9 (27.9 to 29.9)	2,418	3.4 (3.1 to 3.8)	397	23.1 (22.3 to 23.9)	2,371

^a 95% confidence interval^b Participants who reported being current drinkers but reported not having consumed alcohol within the 12 months prior to interview

Supplementary Table 6: Alternative definitions of occasional drinking, by age and sex

	Men						Women					
	50-64 years			≥65 years			50-64 years			≥65 years		
	Deaths	HR ^f (95% CI ^g)	p-value	Deaths	HR ^f (95% CI ^g)	p-value	Deaths	HR ^f (95% CI ^g)	p-value	Deaths	HR ^f (95% CI ^g)	p-value
Occasional drinker definition 1												
Never drinker	17	1.69 (0.98 to 2.92)	0.06	73	1.12 (0.86 to 1.45)	0.40	19	1.04 (0.63 to 1.70)	0.89	205	1.25 (1.06 to 1.48)	0.01
Former drinker	37	1.58 (1.07 to 2.35)	0.02	144	1.32 (1.08 to 1.61)	0.01	37	1.86 (1.27 to 2.71)	<0.01	181	1.54 (1.30 to 1.83)	<0.01
Not in the last 12 months	1	0.86 (0.12 to 6.25)	0.88	11	1.60 (0.87 to 2.93)	0.13	6	1.69 (0.73 to 3.89)	0.22	16	2.15 (1.29 to 3.56)	<0.01
≤2 occasions/month ^a	86	1.00 (reference)		344	1.00 (reference)		109	1.00 (reference)		499	1.00 (reference)	
0.1-5.0 units	44	1.22 (0.64 to 1.76)	0.30	249	1.03 (0.87 to 1.21)	0.74	60	1.01 (0.73 to 1.39)	0.96	265	0.96 (0.83 to 1.12)	0.60
5.1-10.0 units	65	1.07 (0.77 to 1.48)	0.69	263	0.87 (0.74 to 1.02)	0.09	47	0.90 (0.64 to 1.27)	0.55	187	0.96 (0.81 to 1.14)	0.64
10.1-15.0 units	52	1.05 (0.74 to 1.49)	0.79	188	1.03 (0.86 to 1.23)	0.78	22	0.71 (0.45 to 1.13)	0.15	89	1.06 (0.85 to 1.34)	0.60
15.1-20.0 units	30	0.83 (0.55 to 1.27)	0.39	83	0.86 (0.68 to 1.10)	0.23	14	1.05 (0.60 to 1.84)	0.88	37	0.93 (0.66 to 1.30)	0.65
>20.0 units	175	1.20 (0.92 to 1.57)	0.17	341	0.98 (0.84 to 1.14)	0.82	32	1.14 (0.76 to 1.71)	0.53	74	0.98 (0.76 to 1.26)	0.89
Occasional drinker definition 2												
Never drinker	17	1.68 (0.94 to 3.01)	0.08	73	1.11 (0.84 to 1.46)	0.46	19	1.00 (0.60 to 1.69)	0.99	205	1.20 (1.01 to 1.43)	0.04
Former drinker	37	1.57 (1.01 to 2.44)	0.05	144	1.31 (1.05 to 1.62)	0.02	37	1.80 (1.20 to 2.70)	<0.01	181	1.48 (1.23 to 1.78)	<0.01
Not in the last 12 months	1	0.85 (0.12 to 6.26)	0.87	11	1.58 (0.86 to 2.92)	0.14	6	1.64 (0.70 to 3.82)	0.25	16	2.06 (1.24 to 3.44)	0.01
<1 occasion/month ^b	45	1.00 (reference)		203	1.00 (reference)		67	1.00 (reference)		339	1.00 (reference)	
1-2 occasions/month	41	0.98 (0.64 to 1.50)	0.93	141	0.98 (0.79 to 1.21)	0.83	42	0.92 (0.63 to 1.37)	0.69	160	0.89 (0.73 to 1.07)	0.22
0.1-5.0 units	44	1.20 (0.79 to 1.84)	0.39	249	1.02 (0.84 to 1.23)	0.85	60	0.98 (0.69 to 1.39)	0.90	265	0.92 (0.78 to 1.08)	0.33
5.1-10.0 units	65	1.06 (0.72 to 1.56)	0.77	263	0.86 (0.72 to 1.04)	0.12	47	0.87 (0.60 to 1.28)	0.48	187	0.92 (0.77 to 1.11)	0.38
10.1-15.0 units	52	1.04 (0.69 to 1.56)	0.85	188	1.02 (0.83 to 1.24)	0.88	22	0.69 (0.42 to 1.12)	0.13	89	1.02 (0.80 to 1.30)	0.87
15.1-20.0 units	30	0.82 (0.52 to 1.32)	0.42	83	0.85 (0.66 to 1.10)	0.23	14	1.01 (0.56 to 1.82)	0.97	37	0.89 (0.63 to 1.25)	0.50
>20.0 units	175	1.19 (0.85 to 1.67)	0.30	341	0.97 (0.81 to 1.16)	0.75	32	1.10 (0.72 to 1.70)	0.66	74	0.94 (0.73 to 1.22)	0.66
Occasional drinker definition 3												
Never drinker	17	1.71 (0.95 to 3.09)	0.07	73	1.14 (0.85 to 1.52)	0.39	19	1.09 (0.62 to 1.89)	0.77	205	1.35 (1.10 to 1.67)	0.01
Former drinker	37	1.60 (1.01 to 2.52)	0.04	144	1.34 (1.06 to 1.69)	0.02	37	1.95 (1.24 to 3.05)	<0.01	181	1.67 (1.35 to 2.07)	<0.01
Not in the last 12 months	1	0.87 (0.12 to 6.39)	0.89	11	1.62 (0.87 to 3.01)	0.13	6	1.77 (0.74 to 4.23)	0.20	16	2.33 (1.38 to 3.92)	<0.01
<1 occasion/month	45	1.02 (0.67 to 1.56)	0.93	203	1.02 (0.82 to 1.27)	0.83	67	1.08 (0.73 to 1.60)	0.69	339	1.13 (0.93 to 1.36)	0.22
1-2 occasions/month ^c	41	1.00 (reference)		141	1.00 (reference)		42	1.00 (reference)		160	1.00 (reference)	
0.1-5.0 units	44	1.23 (0.80 to 1.89)	0.35	249	1.04 (0.85 to 1.29)	0.69	60	1.06 (0.71 to 1.57)	0.78	265	1.04 (0.85 to 1.26)	0.71
5.1-10.0 units	65	1.08 (0.73 to 1.61)	0.70	263	0.88 (0.72 to 1.08)	0.24	47	0.94 (0.62 to 1.43)	0.78	187	1.04 (0.84 to 1.29)	0.73
10.1-15.0 units	52	1.06 (0.70 to 1.60)	0.78	188	1.04 (0.84 to 1.30)	0.72	22	0.74 (0.44 to 1.25)	0.26	89	1.15 (0.88 to 1.49)	0.30
15.1-20.0 units	30	0.84 (0.52 to 1.35)	0.47	83	0.87 (0.66 to 1.15)	0.33	14	1.10 (0.59 to 2.02)	0.77	37	1.00 (0.70 to 1.44)	0.99
>20.0 units	175	1.22 (0.86 to 1.72)	0.27	341	1.00 (0.82 to 1.21)	0.97	32	1.19 (0.75 to 1.90)	0.46	74	1.06 (0.80 to 1.41)	0.68
Occasional drinker definition 4												
Never drinker	17	1.50 (0.85 to 2.62)	0.16	73	1.09 (0.84 to 1.42)	0.52	19	1.02 (0.62 to 1.69)	0.94	205	1.25 (1.06 to 1.48)	0.01
Former drinker	37	1.40 (0.93 to 2.12)	0.11	144	1.28 (1.05 to 1.58)	0.02	37	1.83 (1.24 to 2.70)	<0.01	181	1.54 (1.29 to 1.83)	<0.01
Not in the last 12 months	1	0.76 (0.10 to 5.55)	0.79	11	1.56 (0.85 to 2.86)	0.16	6	1.67 (0.72 to 3.85)	0.23	16	2.14 (1.29 to 3.56)	<0.01
≤2 occasions/month and <1 unit/day ^d	63	1.00 (reference)		277	1.00 (reference)		90	1.00 (reference)		468	1.00 (reference)	

≤2 occasions/month and ≥1 unit/day	23	0.66 (0.41 to 1.08)	0.10	67	0.88 (0.67 to 1.15)	0.34	19	0.92 (0.56 to 1.51)	0.74	31	0.97 (0.68 to 1.41)	0.89
0.1-5.0 units	44	1.07 (0.72 to 1.58)	0.75	249	1.00 (0.84 to 1.19)	0.99	60	0.99 (0.71 to 1.38)	0.97	265	0.96 (0.82 to 1.12)	0.58
5.1-10.0 units	65	0.94 (0.66 to 1.34)	0.74	263	0.85 (0.71 to 1.00)	0.06	47	0.89 (0.62 to 1.27)	0.51	187	0.96 (0.81 to 1.14)	0.63
10.1-15.0 units	52	0.92 (0.63 to 1.34)	0.67	188	1.00 (0.83 to 1.20)	0.98	22	0.70 (0.43 to 1.12)	0.14	89	1.06 (0.84 to 1.34)	0.61
15.1-20.0 units	30	0.73 (0.47 to 1.14)	0.16	83	0.84 (0.65 to 1.07)	0.16	14	1.03 (0.58 to 1.82)	0.92	37	0.92 (0.66 to 1.30)	0.65
>20.0 units	175	1.06 (0.79 to 1.42)	0.71	341	0.95 (0.81 to 1.12)	0.58	32	1.12 (0.74 to 1.70)	0.59	74	0.98 (0.76 to 1.26)	0.88

Occasional drinker definition 5

Never drinker	17	1.53 (0.87 to 2.68)	0.14	73	1.08 (0.83 to 1.41)	0.57	19	1.01 (0.61 to 1.67)	0.97	205	1.24 (1.05 to 1.47)	0.01
Former drinker	37	1.44 (0.95 to 2.17)	0.09	144	1.27 (1.04 to 1.56)	0.02	37	1.81 (1.23 to 2.66)	<0.01	181	1.53 (1.29 to 1.82)	<0.01
Not in the last 12 months	1	0.78 (0.11 to 5.74)	0.81	11	1.54 (0.84 to 2.83)	0.16	6	1.65 (0.71 to 3.81)	0.24	16	2.14 (1.29 to 3.54)	<0.01
<1.0 unit	63	1.00 (reference)		286	1.00 (reference)		93	1.00 (reference)		478	1.00 (reference)	
1.0-5.0 units	65	0.92 (0.65 to 1.31)	0.64	304	0.95 (0.81 to 1.12)	0.55	76	0.95 (0.70 to 1.29)	0.75	284	0.94 (0.81 to 1.09)	0.44
5.1-10.0 units	66	0.96 (0.68 to 1.36)	0.82	265	0.84 (0.71 to 1.00)	0.05	47	0.87 (0.61 to 1.25)	0.46	189	0.96 (0.81 to 1.14)	0.66
10.1-15.0 units	53	0.96 (0.66 to 1.39)	0.83	189	0.99 (0.82 to 1.19)	0.89	22	0.69 (0.43 to 1.11)	0.12	89	1.06 (0.84 to 1.33)	0.63
15.1-20.0 units	30	0.75 (0.48 to 1.16)	0.20	83	0.83 (0.65 to 1.06)	0.14	14	1.02 (0.58 to 1.80)	0.95	37	0.92 (0.66 to 1.29)	0.63
>20.0 units	175	1.09 (0.81 to 1.46)	0.58	341	0.95 (0.81 to 1.11)	0.51	32	1.11 (0.73 to 1.67)	0.62	74	0.98 (0.76 to 1.26)	0.86

Consumption on heaviest day (1999-2008)	Deaths	HR ^f (95% CI ^g)	p-value	Deaths	HR ^f (95% CI ^g)	p-value	Deaths	HR ^f (95% CI ^g)	p-value	Deaths	HR ^f (95% CI ^g)	p-value
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Occasional drinker definition 1

Never drinker	12	1.82 (0.98 to 3.41)	0.06	65	0.95 (0.73 to 1.25)	0.72	19	1.26 (0.77 to 2.07)	0.36	195	1.32 (1.11 to 1.55)	<0.01
Former drinker	30	1.42 (0.93 to 2.17)	0.10	150	1.22 (1.01 to 1.47)	0.04	33	1.50 (1.01 to 2.23)	0.04	164	1.50 (1.26 to 1.79)	<0.01
Not in the last 12 months	4	2.69 (0.97 to 7.44)	0.06	19	1.24 (0.78 to 1.97)	0.36	6	1.65 (0.72 to 3.79)	0.24	20	1.62 (1.03 to 2.54)	0.04
≤2 occasions/month ^a	85	1.00 (reference)		436	1.00 (reference)		110	1.00 (reference)		540	1.00 (reference)	
>2 occasions/month ^e	18	1.18 (0.70 to 1.97)	0.54	92	0.96 (0.77 to 1.21)	0.74	16	1.21 (0.71 to 2.05)	0.48	63	1.21 (0.93 to 1.57)	0.16
0.1-1.5 units	25	0.76 (0.49 to 1.20)	0.25	322	0.88 (0.76 to 1.01)	0.08	39	0.95 (0.65 to 1.38)	0.78	305	1.00 (0.87 to 1.15)	0.99
1.6-3.0 units	76	1.04 (0.76 to 1.43)	0.79	351	0.82 (0.71 to 0.95)	0.01	57	0.82 (0.59 to 1.13)	0.22	192	0.97 (0.82 to 1.15)	0.70
3.1-4.5 units	54	1.27 (0.90 to 1.79)	0.18	169	1.01 (0.85 to 1.21)	0.89	18	0.79 (0.48 to 1.30)	0.35	28	0.77 (0.52 to 1.13)	0.18
>4.5 units	198	1.26 (0.97 to 1.63)	0.08	248	0.77 (0.66 to 0.90)	<0.01	34	0.84 (0.57 to 1.24)	0.38	27	0.83 (0.56 to 1.23)	0.35

Occasional drinker definition 2

Never drinker	12	1.82 (0.94 to 3.50)	0.07	65	0.93 (0.71 to 1.23)	0.62	19	1.25 (0.75 to 2.09)	0.40	195	1.27 (1.07 to 1.51)	0.01
Former drinker	30	1.42 (0.89 to 2.26)	0.14	150	1.20 (0.98 to 1.46)	0.08	33	1.49 (0.98 to 2.26)	0.06	164	1.45 (1.20 to 1.74)	<0.01
Not in the last 12 months ^b	4	2.68 (0.95 to 7.57)	0.06	19	1.21 (0.76 to 1.94)	0.42	6	1.64 (0.71 to 3.80)	0.25	20	1.56 (0.99 to 2.46)	0.05
<1 occasion/month	46	1.00 (reference)		269	1.00 (reference)		70	1.00 (reference)		388	1.00 (reference)	
1-2 occasions/month	39	1.00 (0.65 to 1.53)	0.99	167	0.95 (0.78 to 1.15)	0.60	40	0.97 (0.66 to 1.44)	0.90	152	0.88 (0.3 to 1.07)	0.20
>2 occasions/month ^e	18	1.17 (0.68 to 2.03)	0.57	92	0.94 (0.74 to 1.20)	0.63	16	1.20 (0.69 to 2.07)	0.52	63	1.16 (0.89 to 1.52)	0.27
0.1-1.5 units	25	0.76 (0.46 to 1.25)	0.29	322	0.86 (0.73 to 1.01)	0.07	39	0.94 (0.63 to 1.41)	0.76	305	0.96 (0.83 to 1.12)	0.63
1.6-3.0 units	76	1.04 (0.72 to 1.52)	0.83	351	0.81 (0.69 to 0.95)	0.01	57	0.81 (0.56 to 1.16)	0.25	192	0.93 (0.78 to 1.11)	0.44
3.1-4.5 units	54	1.27 (0.85 to 1.89)	0.24	169	0.99 (0.82 to 1.21)	0.94	18	0.78 (0.46 to 1.32)	0.35	28	0.74 (0.50 to 1.09)	0.13
>4.5 units	198	1.26 (0.91 to 1.74)	0.17	248	0.76 (0.63 to 0.90)	<0.01	34	0.83 (0.55 to 1.26)	0.39	27	0.80 (0.54 to 1.19)	0.27

Occasional drinker definition 3

Never drinker	12	1.78 (0.91 to 3.48)	0.09	65	0.98 (0.73 to 1.32)	0.90	19	1.28 (0.74 to 2.23)	0.38	195	1.44 (1.16 to 1.78)	<0.01
Former drinker	30	1.41 (0.87 to 2.29)	0.16	150	1.26 (1.01 to 1.57)	0.04	33	1.53 (0.96 to 2.44)	0.08	164	1.64 (1.31 to 2.04)	<0.01
Not in the last 12 months ^b	4	2.68 (0.94 to 7.61)	0.07	19	1.28 (0.79 to 2.06)	0.31	6	1.68 (0.70 to 4.01)	0.24	20	1.77 (1.11 to 2.83)	0.02

<1-2 occasions/month	46	1.01 (0.65 to 1.54)	0.98	269	1.05 (0.87 to 1.28)	0.60	70	1.03 (0.69 to 1.52)	0.90	388	1.13 (0.94 to 1.37)	0.20
1-2 occasions/month	39	1.00 (reference)		167	1.00 (reference)		40	1.00 (reference)		152	1.00 (reference)	
>2 occasions/month ^e	18	1.17 (0.67 to 2.06)	0.59	92	0.99 (0.77 to 1.28)	0.96	16	1.23 (0.69 to 2.20)	0.49	63	1.32 (0.98 to 1.77)	0.07
0.1-1.5 units	25	0.76 (0.46 to 1.27)	0.30	322	0.90 (0.75 to 1.09)	0.29	39	0.96 (0.62 to 1.50)	0.87	305	1.09 (0.89 to 1.32)	0.40
1.6-3.0 units	76	1.04 (0.71 to 1.54)	0.83	351	0.85 (0.70 to 1.02)	0.08	57	0.83 (0.55 to 1.25)	0.37	192	1.05 (0.85 to 1.31)	0.63
3.1-4.5 units	54	1.27 (0.84 to 1.93)	0.25	169	1.05 (0.84 to 1.30)	0.69	18	0.80 (0.46 to 1.40)	0.43	28	0.84 (0.56 to 1.26)	0.40
>4.5 units	198	1.26 (0.89 to 1.78)	0.19	248	0.80 (0.65 to 0.97)	0.03	34	0.85 (0.54 to 1.35)	0.50	27	0.91 (0.60 to 1.37)	0.64

Sample sizes (weekly)	4,876			3,755			5,444			4,293		
Sample sizes (heaviest day)	9,155			7,096			10,323			7,949		

All analyses adjusted for age, BMI, economic activity, education, ethnicity, government office region, marital status, smoking status, and social class

^a All participants who reported consuming alcohol on ≤2 occasions/month

^b All participants who reported consuming alcohol on <1 occasion/month

^c All participants who reported consuming alcohol on 1-2 occasions/month

^d All participants who reported consuming alcohol on ≤2 occasions/month and who reported average weekly consumption of <1 unit

^e Participants who reported an average annual frequency of >2 occasions/month but who reported not drinking in the week prior to interview

^f Hazard ratio

^g Confidence interval