

Table 1. Characteristics of the four cohorts by alcohol use.

	HeSSup	GAZEL	Whitehall II	FPS
No alcohol use	n=978 (9%)	n=488 (7%)	n=502 (12%)	n=2525 (10%)
Mean age (SD)	43 (10.8)	50 (3.4)	50 (5.8)	49 (8.3)
Men, %	28	41	50	11
Women, %	72	59	50	89
High SES, %	23	24	13	47
Intermediate SES, %	30	59	48	34
Low SES, %	47	17	39	19
Chronic somatic disease, %	13	19	40	17
Psychiatric distress*, %	3	35	26	2
Smokers, %	14	15	14	10
BMI>30, %	14	9	14	16
Mean days of sickness absence/person-year	9.0	14.3	15.2	12.6
Mean follow-up time, years (SD)	6.4 (1.5)	4.2 (2.3)	4.4 (2.5)	5.9 (1.9)
Consistent low-risk drinking	n=8236 (78%)	n=4748 (69%)	n=3146 (76%)	n=18754 (75%)
Mean age (SD)	42 (10.7)	51 (2.9)	49 (5.7)	48 (8.2)
Men, %	44	76	78	20
Women, %	56	24	22	80
High SES, %	33	43	46	58
Intermediate SES, %	32	49	44	28
Low SES, %	35	9	10	14
Chronic somatic disease, %	11	17	31	15
Psychiatric distress*, %	3	26	27	24
Smokers, %	19	16	12	14

BMI>30, %	11	8	8	12
Mean days of sickness absence/person-year	6.4	8.3	7.0	9.9
Mean follow-up time, years (SD)	6.5 (1.2)	3.7 (2.2)	4.5 (2.5)	6.2 (1.7)
Former at-risk drinking	n=431 (3%)	n=422 (6%)	n=175 (4%)	n=1019 (4%)
Mean age (SD)	40 (11.5)	51 (2.8)	48 (5.4)	47 (8.4)
Men, %	30	81	73	20
Women, %	70	19	27	80
High SES, %	29	42	47	58
Intermediate SES, %	32	50	44	27
Low SES, %	39	8	9	15
Chronic somatic disease, %	14	18	35	19
Psychiatric distress*, %	4	28	34	29
Smokers, %	33	21	22	26
BMI>30, %	13	10	10	15
Mean days of sickness absence/person-year	7.8	9.1	8.4	11.7
Mean follow-up time, years (SD)	6.6 (1.2)	3.5 (2.2)	4.4 (2.3)	6.2 (1.7)
Consistent at-risk drinking	n=352 (3%)	n=791 (12%)	n=199 (5%)	n=1382 (6%)
Mean age (SD)	46 (9.0)	52 (2.6)	48 (5.2)	50 (7.2)
Men, %	34	85	73	23
Women, %	66	15	27	77
High SES, %	30	38	38	65
Intermediate SES, %	33	51	57	22
Low SES, %	38	11	5	13
Chronic somatic disease, %	13	19	38	19
Psychiatric distress*, %	7	25	30	29
Smokers, %	39	31	30	25

BMI>30, %	12	9	11	17
Mean days of sickness absence/person-year	9.9	8.7	9.8	11.4
Mean follow-up time, years (SD)	6.4 (1.4)	3.1 (2.1)	4.6 (2.3)	6.1 (1.7)
Current at-risk drinking	n=514 (5%)	n=424 (6%)	n=138 (3%)	n=1290 (5%)
Mean age (SD)	42 (9.3)	51 (3.0)	47 (5.1)	47 (7.9)
Men, %	31	78	75	19
Women, %	69	22	25	81
High SES, %	27	42	51	59
Intermediate SES, %	35	46	43	27
Low SES, %	38	11	6	14
Chronic somatic disease, %	10	22	32	16
Psychiatric distress*, %	5	26	24	30
Smokers, %	39	22	19	25
BMI>30, %	13	9	15	13
Mean days of sickness absence/person-year	7.7	11.4	7.1	11.7
Mean follow-up time, years (SD)	6.6 (1.2)	3.6 (2.2)	4.8 (2.3)	6.3 (1.6)

SES=socioeconomic status; BMI=body mass index; SD=standard deviation