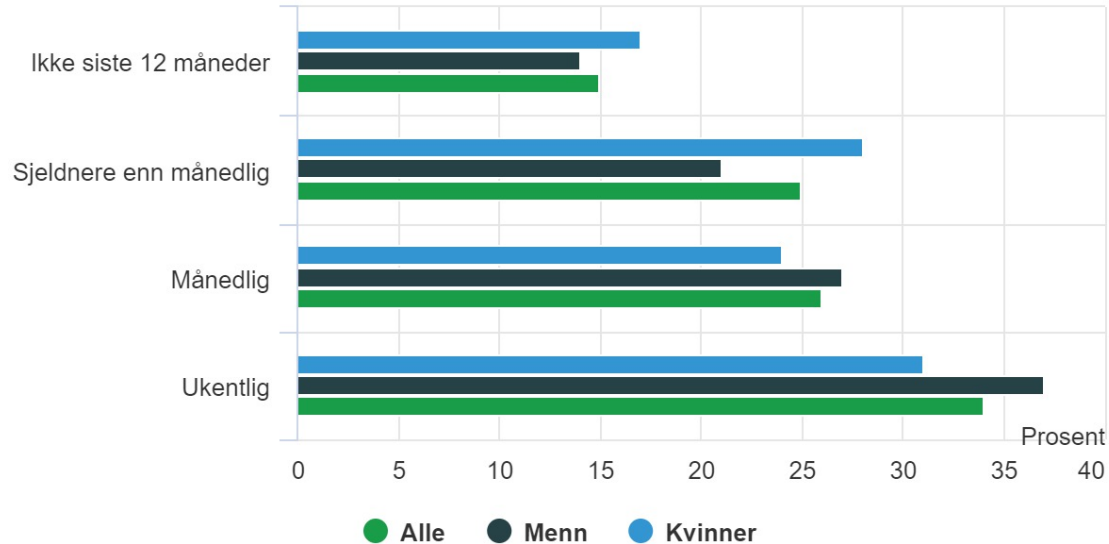NORDAN, 7th of November 2024

DEATH BY A THOUSAND CUTS -
THE SLOW EROSION OF ALCOHOL CONTROL POLICIES
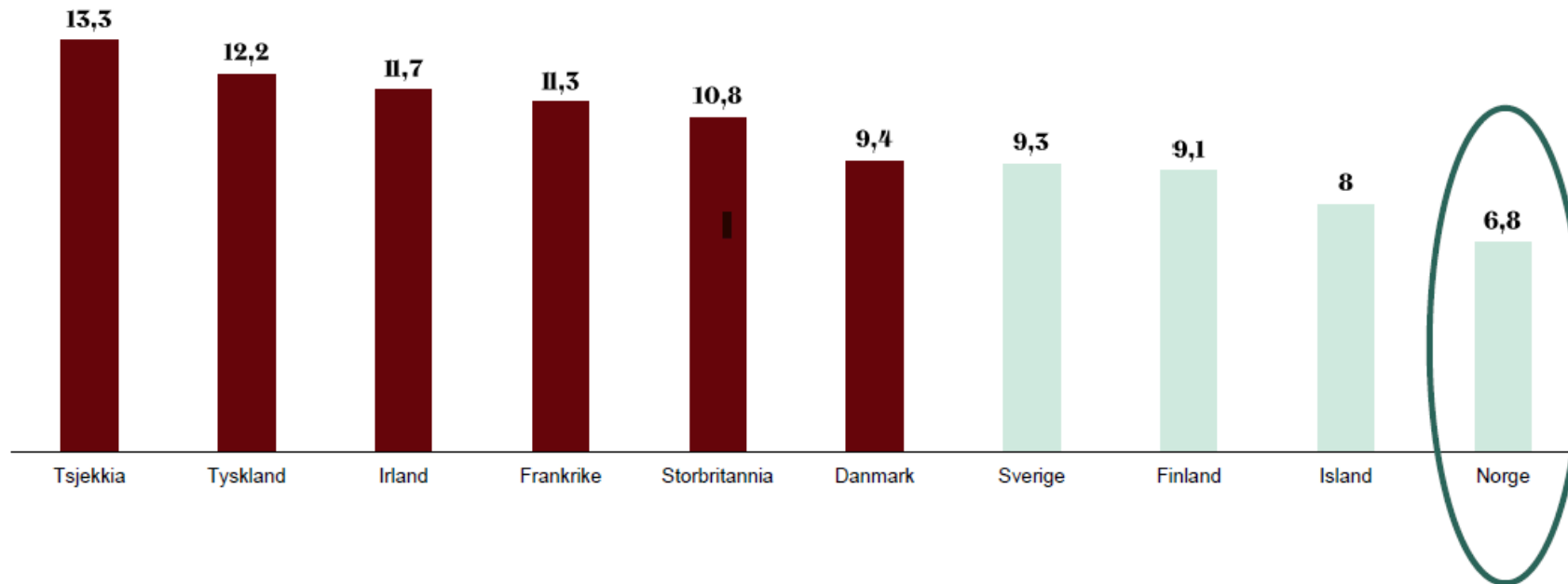
The alcohol consumption in Norway

Figur 1. Andel som har drukket alkohol ukentlig, månedlig, sjeldnere enn månedlig og ikke det siste året, etter kjønn. 2020. Prosent

Kilde: Undersøkelsen om rusmidler og tobakk, Statistisk sentralbyrå.

- 1 out of 3 drinks alcohol every week
- 1 out of 4 aged 16-24 years
- 85 percent have been drinking alcohol at least one time last year.
- 37 % of the male population have been drinking one ore several times a week compared to 31 % of the female population.

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Consumption compared to other countries

Tsjekkia	Tyskland	Irland	Frankrike	Storbritannia	Danmark	Sverige	Finland	Island	Norge
13,3	12,2	11,7	11,3	10,8	9,4	9,3	9,1	8	6,8

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World Health Organisation(WHO) recommends:

- Increase excise taxes on alcoholic beverages
- Ban or restrict alcohol advertising
- Restrict the physical availability of retailed alcohol

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The societal cost of alcohol use

- 80- 100 billions NOK a year...

- 100-150 billions a year drinking at the same level as Finland....
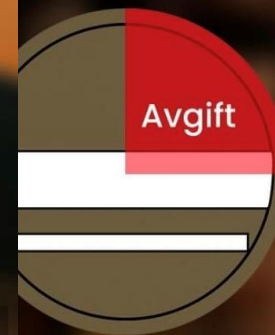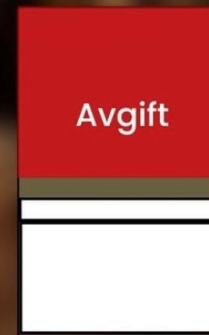
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Youth voices …

Minor, but crucial changes

- 1999: the first self- service monopoly
- Extended opening hours for Vinmonopolet, 10-16, earlier 08.30-15.00
- Enlarged Taxfree quotas which has been reversed the last governmental period
- From 2016: a producer of apple cider can sell directly from the production site within the limit of 22 % alcohol
- Online sale from the wine monopoly
- Increasing numbers of points of sale for the wine monopoly: 230 in 200 to 350 today 2024
- decreasing and increasing taxation

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Yes, please, both!

- The Pooh- mentality: politicians having trouble prioritizing public health...

- *"To have one's cake and eat it too»*

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Changing the local alcohol policy

- Extended opening hours
- Extended pouring time from 02. a.m to 03. a. m.
- More serving areas
- Banning alcohol-free zones

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The political dilemma

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What to expect next parliamentary term

The Conservative paryt(Høyre):

- 8 % alcohol in the grocery stores and extended opening hours
- Local breweries should be able to sell directly from their production site
- All local farmers should also be able to sell directly from their farm
- Modernising the restrictions on advertising
- Extend the tax free quotas

The Liberal Party(Venstre):

- Strict regulations, BUT would like to renew regulations to be more business friendly
    - (cannabis sold in the wine monopoly?)

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What to expect next parliamentary term

The Social Democratic Party(Arbeiderpartiet):

- Extend the possibility for farmers to sell directly from the farm
- (a dissenting motion that suggests that youth can buy alcohol from the 1th of January the year they are turning 18 years old.
- allow drinking in public places, parks and recreation areas
- still strict regulations

The Center Party (Senterpartiet): strict regulations

The Socialist Party (SV): alcohol not mentioned (!)

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Alcohol free zones

- The need for places and zones where serving or buying alcohol is not the norm
- The main- goal: reducing the total alcohol consumption.
- Children and youth need to see and observe that we can celebrate and cheer on our sport stars without a beer in your hand

- SURVEY:
  – 1 out of 3 is feeling excluded not drinking in parties

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The challenges we face

- The lack of health professionals in the future.
- Marginalised people in our society.
- Increasing societal costs
- Increasing youth drinking

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What we need, hope and work for?

- **Keep high excise taxes on alcoholic beverages**
- **Still banning alcohol advertising**
- **Restrict the physical availability of retailed alcohol**
- **Increased awareness on the risks of drinking alcohol**
- **Increased participation in leisure activities for children and youth**
- *Politicians who understands the need to adress public health as the main reason*

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