

**Supplementary material:** Cancer risk by category of alcohol consumption. The results in the left hand side of the table are identical to those presented in Table 2 (the primary results). Analysis 3 uses an alternative approach for imputing categories for participants who reported their consumption to be “atypical” to that presented in analysis 2. Participants in the three drinking categories (>0 units) only changed category if their consumption was within 5 units of the threshold; i.e. someone who reported 10 units/week (less than usual) was promoted into the 15-28 unit/week category but was not if they reported 9 units/week. Whilst this approach produced noticeably different numbers of participants (and person-years) in each alcohol exposure category, the magnitude of the hazard ratios were very similar both to those in the primary analysis and analysis 2 (see table 2) and overall findings and their interpretation remained unaltered.

	Analysis 1 – Typical alcohol consumers only (n=6,721)					Analysis 3 – Analysis with revised imputed alcohol categories (n=8,670)				
	Events	Person-years	Incidence/ 1000 p-ys	Crude hazard ratio (95% CI)	Adjusted hazard ratio* (95% CI)	Events	Person-years	Incidence/ 1000 p-ys	Crude hazard ratio (95% CI)	Adjusted hazard ratio* (95% CI)
<b>Breast cancer</b>										
0	90	43,977	2.0	1.00	1.00	98	49,222	2.0	1.00	1.00
1-14	49	28,588	1.7	0.93 (0.65-1.32)	0.91 (0.63-1.30)	71	42,809	1.7	0.96 (0.71-1.31)	0.93 (0.68-1.28)
15-28	9	2,667	3.4	1.86 (0.94-3.69)	1.80 (0.89-3.63)	10	3,977	2.5	1.57 (0.82-3.02)	1.50 (0.77-2.91)
>28	2	557	3.6	2.32 (0.57-9.46)	2.22 (0.53-9.20)	3	749	4.0	2.81 (0.89-8.89)	2.57 (0.80-8.27)
Continuous (10 units/week)				1.27 (1.03-1.56)	<b>1.27 (1.03 – 1.58)</b>					
<b>Lung cancer (men)</b>										
0	23	16,827	1.4	1.00	1.00	23	18,615	1.2	1.00	1.00
1-14	20	17,821	1.1	0.85 (0.47-1.55)	0.93 (0.50-1.69)	33	28,008	1.2	1.12 (0.66-1.91)	1.28 (0.75-2.20)
15-28	17	8,519	2.0	<b>2.26 (1.20-4.24)</b>	<b>2.23 (1.18-4.24)</b>	19	13,170	1.4	<b>2.06 (1.12-3.80)</b>	<b>2.18 (1.17-4.05)</b>
>28	20	8,154	2.5	<b>3.16 (1.71-5.81)</b>	<b>2.68 (1.42-5.07)</b>	21	12,214	1.7	<b>2.94 (1.61-5.37)</b>	<b>2.63 (1.41-4.90)</b>
Continuous (10 units/week)				<b>1.21 (1.11-1.32)</b>	<b>1.16 (1.06-1.27)</b>					
<b>Lung cancer (women)</b>										
0	42	44,729	0.9	1.00	1.00	43	50,050	0.9	1.00	1.00
1-14	26	29,049	0.9	1.29 (0.79-2.12)	1.21 (0.72-2.03)	27	43,443	0.6	1.08 (0.67-1.76)	1.01 (0.61-1.68)
15-28	0	2,784	0.0	NE	NE	0	4,065	0.0	NE	NE
>28	1	577	1.7	2.91 (0.40-21.2)	1.72 (0.23-12.9)	1	786	1.3	2.79 (0.38-20.4)	1.59 (0.21-11.8)
Continuous (10 units/week)				1.07 (0.69-1.67)	0.84 (0.52-1.34)					
<b>Colorectal cancer (men)</b>										
0	14	16,860	0.8	1.00	1.00	16	18,648	0.9	1.00	1.00

1-14	24	17,853	1.3	1.73 (0.90-3.36)	1.68 (0.86-3.28)	31	28,042	1.1	1.58 (0.86-2.89)	1.52 (0.82-2.80)
15-28	10	8,539	1.2	<b>2.34 (1.04-5.29)</b>	2.26 (0.99-5.17)	12	13,192	0.9	2.07 (0.97-4.39)	2.04 (0.95-4.39)
>28	8	8,170	1.0	<b>2.54 (1.04-6.10)</b>	2.22 (0.89-5.53)	10	12,231	0.8	<b>2.38 (1.06-5.33)</b>	2.10 (0.92-4.79)
Continuous (10 units/week)				1.12 (0.98-1.28)	1.10 (0.96-1.27)					
<b>Colorectal cancer (women)</b>										
0	38	44,813	0.8	1.00	1.00	39	50,134	0.8	1.00	1.00
1-14	21	29,077	0.7	1.31 (0.77-2.25)	1.20 (0.69-2.12)	29	43,481	0.7	1.47 (0.91-2.40)	1.34 (0.81-2.22)
15-28	2	2,748	0.7	1.28 (0.31-5.31)	1.22 (0.29-5.14)	2	4,065	0.5	1.16 (0.28-4.82)	0.97 (0.23-4.12)
>28	0	577	0.0	NE	NE	0	786	0.0	NE	NE
Continuous (10 units/week)				1.07 (0.65-1.77)	0.98 (0.65-1.77)					
<b>Prostate cancer</b>										
0	34	16,712	2.0	1.00	1.00	38	18,478	2.1	1.00	1.00
1-14	33	17,222	1.9	0.94 (0.58-1.52)	0.86 (0.53-1.41)	48	27,844	1.7	0.99 (0.64-1.51)	0.88 (0.57-1.36)
15-28	12	848	1.4	1.14 (0.59-2.20)	1.04 (0.53-2.04)	15	13,117	1.1	1.03 (0.57-1.88)	0.90 (0.49-1.66)
>28	5	812	0.6	0.58 (0.22-1.50)	0.51 (0.20-1.34)	9	12,158	0.7	0.82 (0.39-1.70)	0.72 (0.34-1.52)
Continuous (10 units/week)				0.92 (0.78-1.09)	0.91 (0.76-1.07)					

NE Not estimable, CI confidence interval

\* Adjusted for ethnicity (white/non-white), income, self-rated health (excellent/good/fair/poor), smoking status (4 categories), body mass index (underweight/normal/overweight/obese/severely obese/unknown), exercise (self-rated, enough vs. not enough)

As age of the participant was the unit of time in the above survival analysis (with age at the time of the HALS 1 survey the value at start of follow-up) the crude hazard ratios presented above are intrinsically adjusted for age. For this reason division of the raw incidence rates in the above table by the incidence rate in the reference group will often give very different values to the crude HR.