

**Key Table 17.2 The development of alcohol import 1991-2001. Litres of pure alcohol per person**

Litres of pure alcohol	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Per person	11.0	10.3	9.3	9.6	9.1	9.3	9.3	9.7	9.6	9.7	9.3
Per person older than 14	15.0	14.1	12.8	13.3	12.5	12.8	12.8	13.3	13.2	13.4	12.5

Source: Statistics Greenland

offering courses to help people break the habit of smoking in places of work and in various voluntary associations. Instructors teaching people how to stop smoking have been trained while others instruct the workplaces in how to introduce a new smoking policy in the place of work. These initiatives are beginning to show an effect and an increasing number of initiatives are being launched locally.

The health services and a number of workplaces have held courses both for individuals and for groups instructing people in how to stop smoking. Many workplaces have also started discussions on the harmful effects of smoking, including the introduction of an actual smoking policy. The attitude to the harmful effects of smoking has also become more open and the problem is debated in the media as well as in society at large.

#### Initiatives taken concerning alcohol consumption

The Alcohol and Drugs Council was established in January 1999. The goal is to function as an advisory body for the Greenland Parliament as well as the ministries involved in the question of prevention, treatment and control. The council must also follow the development of and contribute to an improved coordination of the total fight against abuse. The members of the council are appointed for a trial period of two years among people living in Nuuk.

In 2000 the Greenland Parliament passed the *Landsting Act No. 11 of 11th November 2000 on the Sale and Serving of Alcoholic Beverages*. All sales as well as the serving of both the so-called 3.6s with a lower alcohol content and beer with an alcohol percentage of 4.6 or more, now require a licence. In cases of contravention of the regulations of the act the municipal councils may now - even in cases involving the low-alcohol beverages - revoke the licence, temporarily or permanently, to sell or serve alcoholic beverages in shops or restaurants. As a new measure the Cabinet has decided that a licence may be issued for the sale of low-alcohol beverages only. Equal rights for public institutions and private shops, hotels, restaurants and ships have also been established as the former exemption from the demand for a licence for public institutions has been revoked.

In 1991 the Greenland Parliament established the fund *Inuuneq Nakuuneq*, meaning »stronger lives«. The purpose of this fund is to supply grants for pre-

vention activities in order to bring down alcohol consumption. Every year a special theme linked to Inuuneq Nakuuneq main purpose is chosen by the organization. Deadlines for application are 1 February, 1 May and 1 November. The theme for 2000 was »A good life without alcohol«, while the theme for 2001 was »A healthy life - your responsibility and mine.« During these campaigns people are encouraged not to drink alcohol in week 18. At the same time events are arranged focusing on the harmful effects of alcohol. The theme for week 18 in 2002 was »The will to learn is healthy.« The relation between alcohol and dementia has also been brought into focus.

The average import of alcohol per person above 14 years of age was approx. 18 litres pure alcohol during the years prior to the nationwide rationing in force from 1979 to 1982. During this period the fall in import was four to six litres a year, but the exact consumption is not known with any certainty due to changes in stock. After rationing was discontinued, the import of alcohol rose steeply and in 1987 peaked at 22 litres. Since 1987, import has decreased, to a level between 12 and 13 litres of alcohol per person above 14 years of age. In 2001 it was 12.5 litres. The import of alcohol thus is markedly lower than towards the end of the 1970s before the national rationing. The fall from 2000 to 2001 is mainly due to the outphasing of the 3.6 beer.

#### Treatment of alcohol abuse

In 1995 a centre for the treatment of alcohol abusers, *Qaqiffik*, was established in Nuuk. In 1998, a treatment centre was also opened in Ilulissat in accordance with an agreement between *Frederiksberg Centeret A/S*, Denmark and the Greenland Home Rule Government.

These centres use the Minnesota model in their treatment. The centres have places for 245 patients a year. During the period from 1996 to 1999 438 patients have received treatment which is financed by public means.

#### Other initiatives

ESPAD 99 (The European Survey Project on Alcohol and other Drugs) is a study of school children's use of various forms of intoxicants and drugs, including cigarettes, alcohol and drugs for the age groups born in 1983 and 1984 in 30 European countries.