Awareness and knowledge of Canada’s Low Risk Drinking Guidelines (LRDG)

BACKGROUND
Alcohol is a leading risk factor for disease and disability in Canada. This includes: injuries, violence, liver disease, cancer, and other chronic diseases. In 2011, the Canadian Centre of Substance Abuse led the development of Canada’s Low Risk Drinking Guidelines (LRDG) to help Canadians understand how to limit their alcohol intake and lower their risk for alcohol-related harm. The LRDG provide recommendations on drink limits and information on standard drink sizes. However, 39% of Canadian drinkers regularly exceed the LRDG daily limits, and 27% the weekly limits. Adding labels with the number of standard drinks per container is recommended in Canada’s National Alcohol Strategy to provide information at the point-of-pour to improve a drinkers’ ability to monitor their alcohol intake. This infographic presents results of a 2014 Public Health Ontario research study looking at awareness and knowledge of the LRDG and standard drink information. The study was completed by 2,000 drinkers in Ontario who are 19+.

AWARENESS OF LRDG & STANDARD DRINKS
Before participating in this study...

17% had ever heard of the “LRDG”
54% had ever heard of a “standard drink”

KNOWLEDGE OF LRDG & STANDARD DRINKS
Study participants who correctly reported the:

- Number of standard drinks to reach daily LRDG limits for their gender: 19%
- Amount of beer, wine, or spirits in a standard drink: 10%
- Number of standard drinks in a regular container of wine, or spirits, or tallboy can of beer: <1%

SUPPORT FOR STANDARD DRINK LABELS
Do you support standard drink information on alcohol labels?

- Support: 67%
- Unsure: 24%
- Oppose: 9%

UNINTENDED USE OF STANDARD DRINK LABELS
Would you use standard drink labels to compare brands on alcohol for the least amount of money?

- No: 57%
- Yes: 34%
- Don’t know: 9%

For more information about this study please contact Public Health Ontario at hpcdip@oahpp.ca References can be found at publichealthontario.ca/alcohol