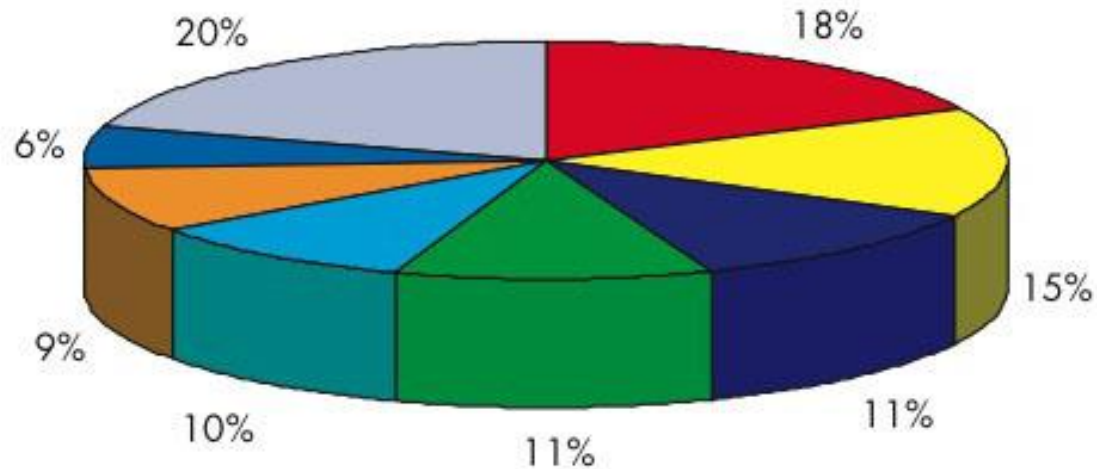


# ALCOHOL ADMISSIONS-PRIMARY REASONS ( > 60 YEARS OLD)



- Acute intoxication
- Falls/collapse/syncope
- Circulatory system
- Alcoholic liver disease
- Mental + behavioural disorders
- Other digestive system problems
- Respiratory system
- Other (musculoskeletal, haematological, endocrine, neurological, genitourinary, ear and skin problems, injury, neoplasm, neglect and malnutrition)

# Signs & Symptoms

- Anxiety
- Blackouts, dizziness
- Depression
- Disorientation
- Mood swings
- Falls, bruises, burns
- Family problems
- Financial problems
- Headaches
- Incontinence
- Increased tolerance
- Legal difficulties
- Memory loss
- New problems in decision making
- Poor hygiene
- Seizures, idiopathic
- Sleep problems
- Social isolation
- Unusual response to medications

# Early v. Late Onset Alcoholism

## Early onset:

- Describes those who have a lifelong pattern of drinking, have probably been alcoholic all their life, and are now elderly.
- More likely to have chronic alcohol-related medical problems such as cirrhosis, organic brain syndrome, and co-morbid psychiatric disorders.

## Late onset:

- Describes those who have become alcoholic in their drinking pattern for the first time late in life.
- Often triggered by a stressful life event.
- Generally represented by milder cases with fewer accompanying medical problems.
- More amenable to treatment, more likely to have spontaneous recovery, but also more likely to be overlooked by health care professionals (Liberto & Oslin, 1995).

# Prevalence

## Alcohol Problems in Older People

- A & E Departments..... 14%
- Medical inpatients..... 6-11%
- Psychiatric inpatients... 20%
- Nursing home patients.. Up to 49%