



# Comparison of alcohol consumption in European countries

And some methodological thoughts

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# Research questions

- How do patterns of alcohol consumption relate to key sociodemographic background variables in European countries?
- How are the substantive results affected by taking into account interviewer effects in alcohol consumption measures?
- Poorly designed measurement instruments, respondents, and **interviewers** contribute to measurement error.
- Difficult questions: interviewers may be enticed or required to intervene
- Sensitive questions: interviewers may signal prevailing social norms
- Interviewer-specific biases affect data quality

# Measuring alcohol consumption

Three dimensions of alcohol consumption:

- Frequency (1 item)
- Quantity (2 items)
- Frequency of binge drinking (1 item)

**ASK ALL**

**E6 CARD 45** In the last 12 months, that is since [MONTH, YEAR], how often have you had a drink containing alcohol? This could be wine, beer, cider, spirits or other drinks containing alcohol. Please choose an answer from this card.

**INTERVIEWER:** Refer to the same month as the interview but of the previous year. For example, if the interview takes place in September 2014, use [September 2013].

Every day	01
Several times a week	02
Once a week	03
2-3 times a month	04
Once a month	05
Less than once a month	06
Never	07
(Refused)	77
(Don't know)	88

**CARD 45**

- Every day
- Several times a week
- Once a week
- 2-3 times a month
- Once a month
- Less than once a month
- Never

**E7 CARD 46** Please think about the last time you were drinking alcohol on a Monday, a Tuesday, a Wednesday or a Thursday.

**INTERVIEWER PAUSE TO ALLOW RESPONDENT TO CONSIDER THE SHOWCARD.**

How many of each of the following drinks did you have on that day?  
Use this card to guide your answer.

**INTERVIEWER PROBE:** any other drinks?

**INTERVIEWER:** If respondent gives an answer that is not on the card, please refer to the box below:

**INTERVIEWER RECORD NUMBER OF EACH TYPE OF DRINK:**

(Never drink alcohol Monday to Thursday) 555

(Don't know) 888

**E8 STILL CARD 46** Now please think about the last time you were drinking alcohol on a Friday, a Saturday or a Sunday.

**INTERVIEWER PAUSE TO ALLOW RESPONDENT TO CONSIDER THE SHOWCARD.**

How many of each of the following drinks did you have on that day?

**INTERVIEWER PROBE:** any other drinks?

**INTERVIEWER:** If respondent gives an answer that is not on the card, please refer to the box below:

**INTERVIEWER RECORD NUMBER OF EACH TYPE OF DRINK:**

(Never drink alcohol Friday to Sunday) 555

(Don't know) 888

**KARTE 46**

	BIER (3 dl)		CHAMPAGNER/ SCHAUMWEIN
	GROSSES BIER (5 dl)		STARKER ALKOHOL, SHOT (Whisky, Kirsch, Grappa)
	APERITIF (Martini, Campari, Sherry, Porto, ...)		DOPPELTER STARKER ALKOHOL, SHOT (Whisky, Kirsch, Grappa)
	LIKÖR (Amaretto, Baileys ...)		LONGDRINK COCKTAIL
	GLAS WEISS- ODER ROTWEIN (1 dl)		ALCOPOP
	FLASCHE WEIN (750 ml)		KRÄUTERSCHNAPS (Fernet, Chrüter, Appenzeller, Jägermeister ...)







**E10 CARD 47** This card shows six different examples of how much alcohol a person might drink on a single occasion.

**INTERVIEWER PAUSE TO ALLOW RESPONDENT TO CONSIDER THE SHOWCARD.**

In the last 12 months, how often have you drunk this amount of alcohol or more on a single occasion? Was it... **READ OUT...**

- ...daily or almost daily,
- weekly,
- monthly,
- less than monthly,
- or, never?
- (Don't know)

CARTE 47b

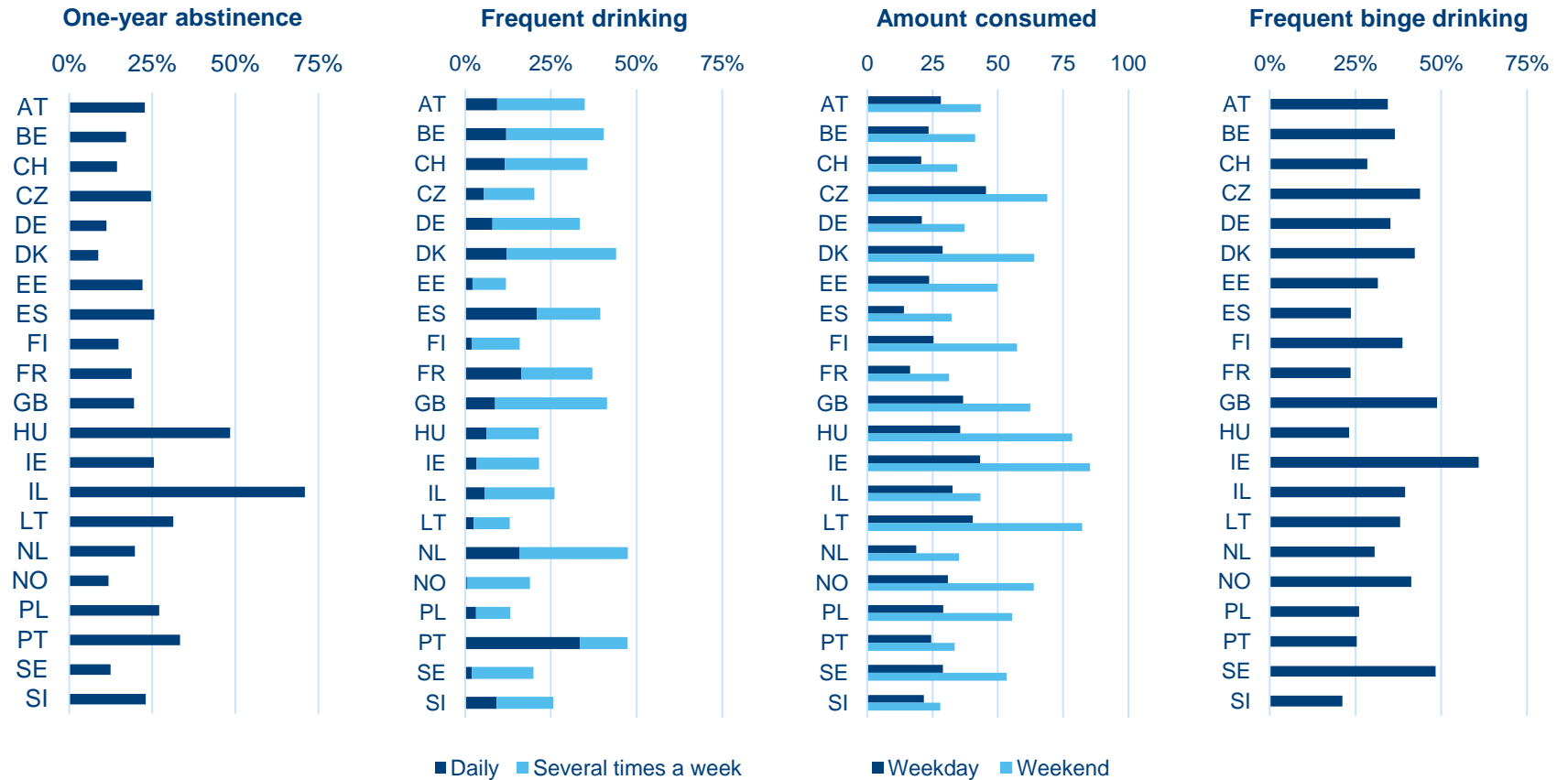
<p>EXEMPLE 1</p>  <p>4 BIERES</p>	<p>EXEMPLE 2</p>  <p>2 FLUTES DE CHAMPAGNE &amp; 3 VERRES DE VIN</p>
<p>EXEMPLE 3</p>  <p>1 APERITIF &amp; 4 VERRES DE VIN</p>	<p>EXEMPLE 4</p>  <p>1 BIERE &amp; 2 LONGDRINKS</p>
<p>EXEMPLE 5</p>  <p>1 FLUTE DE CHAMPAGNE &amp; 2 LONGDRINKS</p> <p>4 VERRES DE VIN &amp; 3 VERRES D'ALCOOL FORT</p>	<p>EXEMPLE 6</p>  <p>3 ALCOPOPS &amp; 3 VERRES D'ALCOOL FORT</p> <p>2 BIERES &amp; 2 LONGDRINKS</p>

# Data and methods

<b>Data</b>	European Social Survey round 7 (21 countries)
<b>Measures</b>	One-year abstinence Frequent drinking Amount consumed when last drinking on a weekday Amount consumed when last drinking on a weekend day Frequent binge drinking
<b>Explanatory</b>	Gender, age (up to 35 years, 36-55 years, over 55 years), education (higher education, no higher education)
<b>Modeling</b>	Step 1: standard fixed effects regression model Step 2: interviewer random intercept regression model

# Results

## Alcohol consumption in European countries

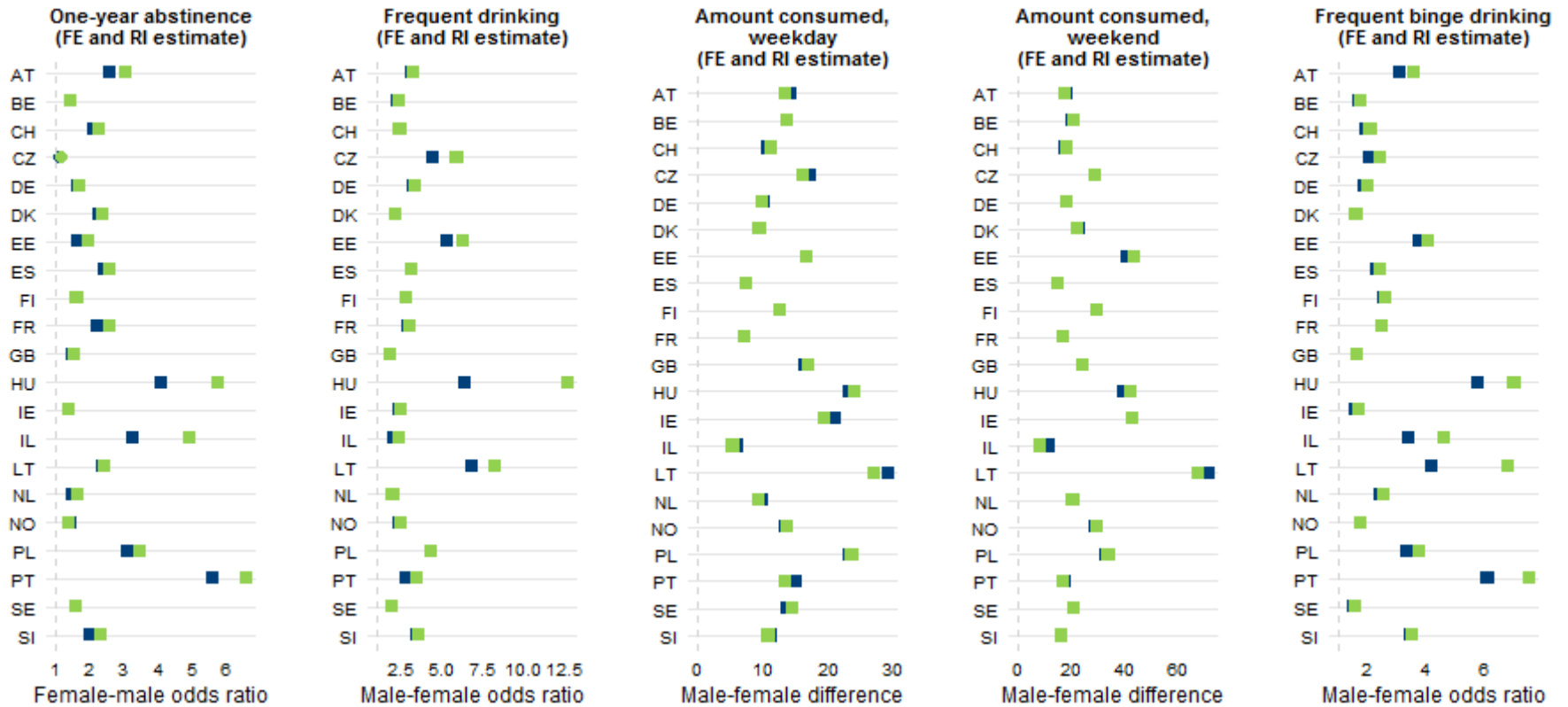




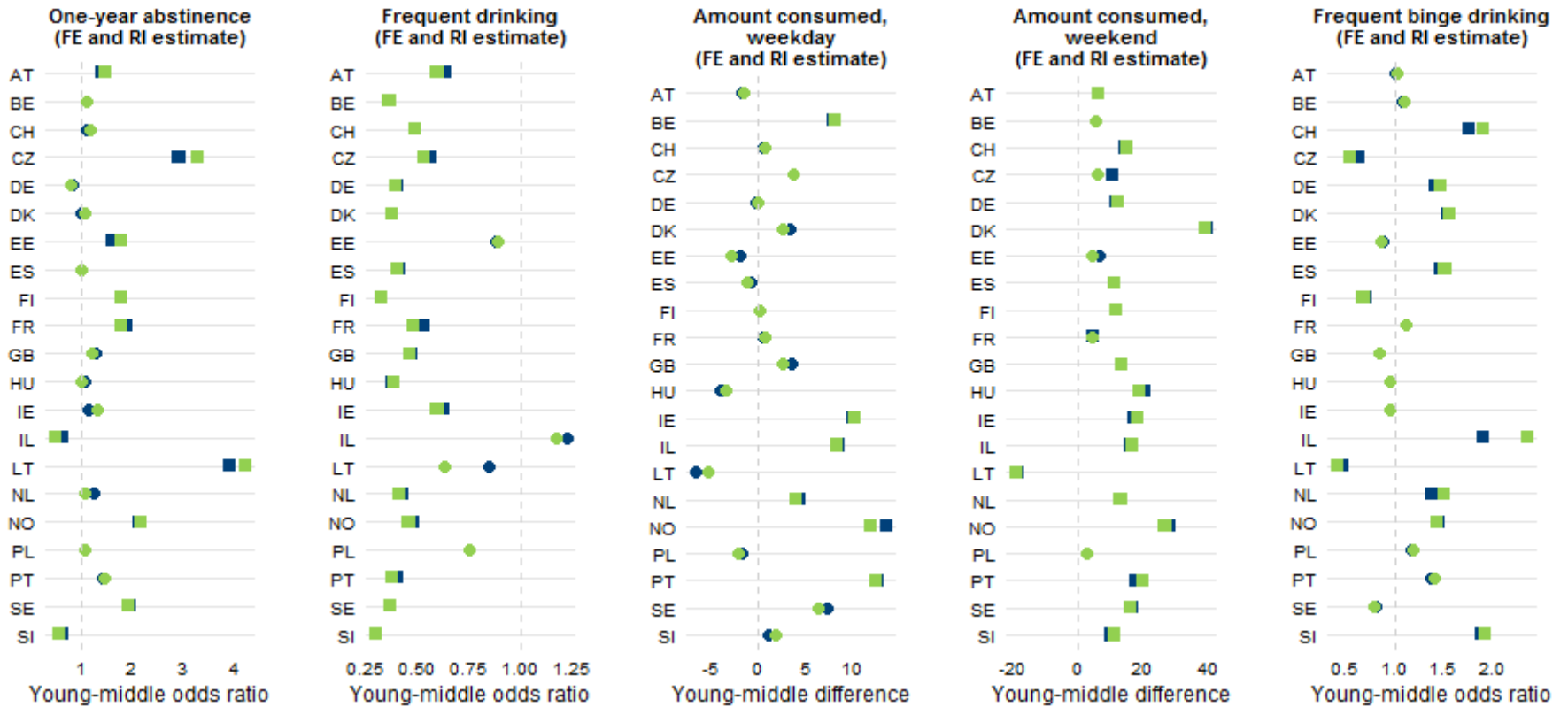
# Interviewer effects in the alcohol consumption measures

	One-year abstinence	Frequent drinking	Amount consumed weekday	Amount consumed weekend	Frequent binge drinking
AT	0.16	0.06	0.16	0.15	0.19
BE	0.11	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.06
CH	0.12	0.01	0.08	0.10	0.10
CZ	0.16	0.22	0.24	0.28	0.24
DE	0.08	0.01	0.03	0.09	0.06
DK	0.14	0.00	0.04	0.03	0.03
EE	0.21	0.10	0.11	0.21	0.15
ES	0.09	0.02	0.08	0.11	0.09
FI	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.05
FR	0.21	0.05	0.06	0.13	0.06
GB	0.16	0.05	0.06	0.05	0.07
HU	0.22	0.36	0.20	0.13	0.25
IE	0.11	0.08	0.18	0.10	0.12
IL	0.48	0.13	0.16	0.26	0.44
LT	0.16	0.31	0.18	0.20	0.36
NL	0.14	0.05	0.06	0.05	0.08
NO	0.06	0.03	0.08	0.10	0.05
PL	0.19	0.00	0.13	0.14	0.15
PT	0.10	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14
SE	0.04	0.01	0.10	0.09	0.06
SI	0.22	0.03	0.09	0.05	0.10

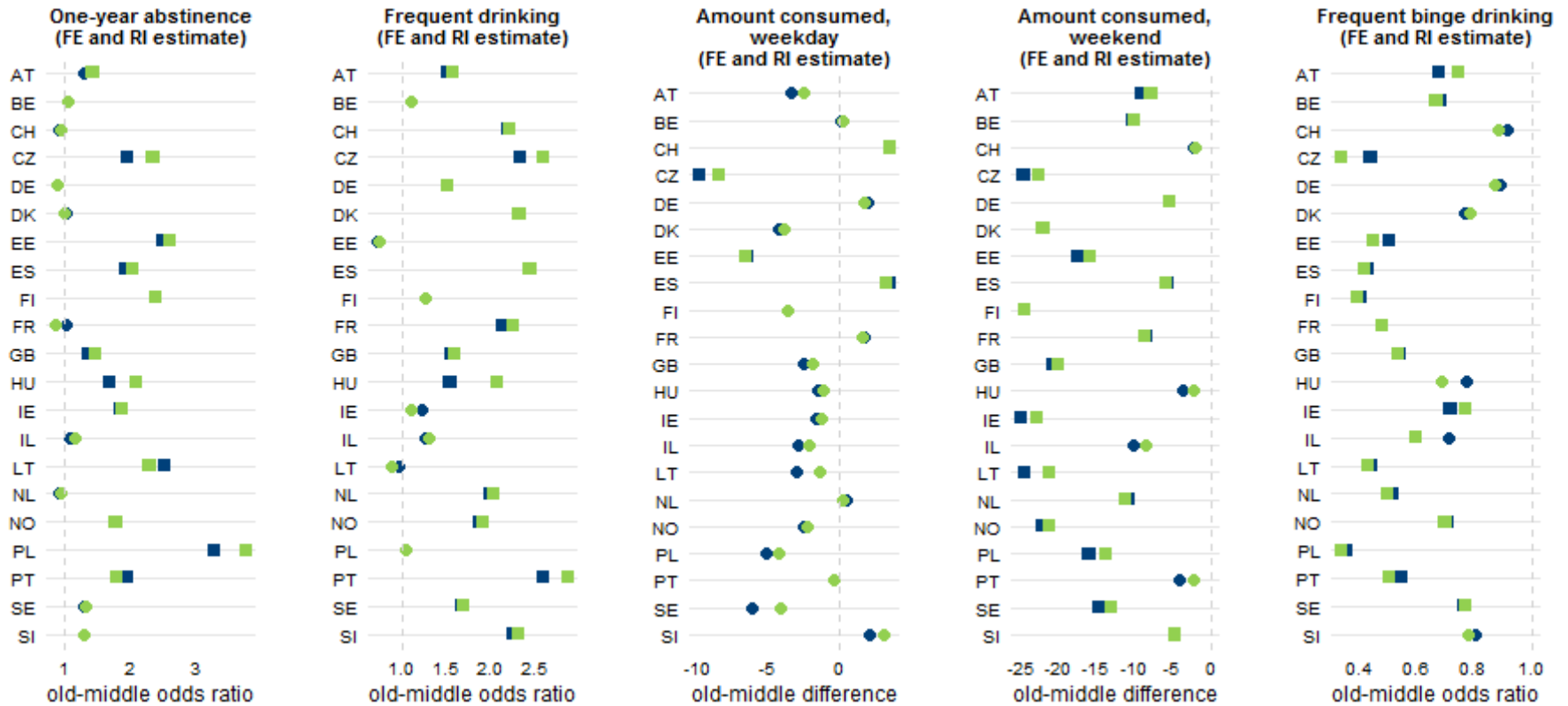
# Gender and alcohol consumption



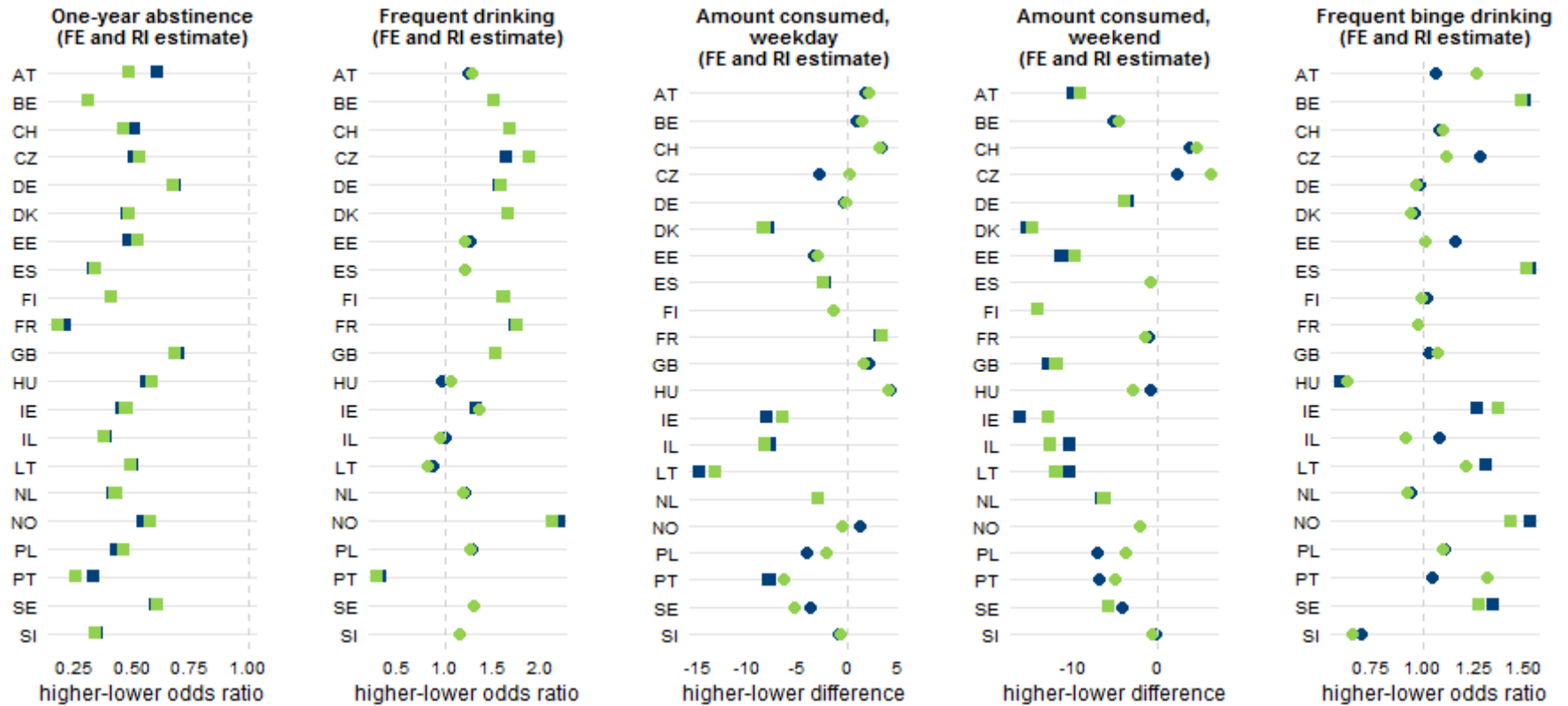
# Age and alcohol consumption



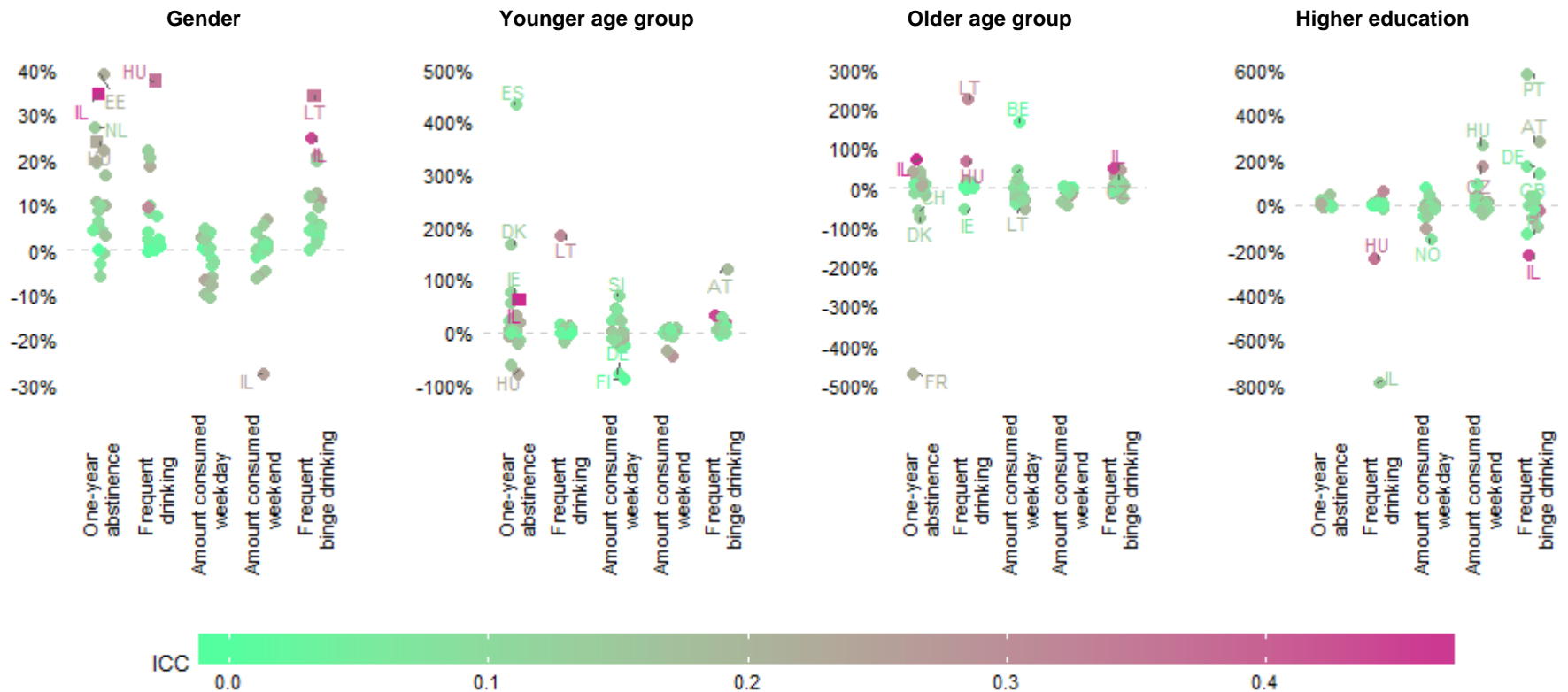
# Age and alcohol consumption (2)



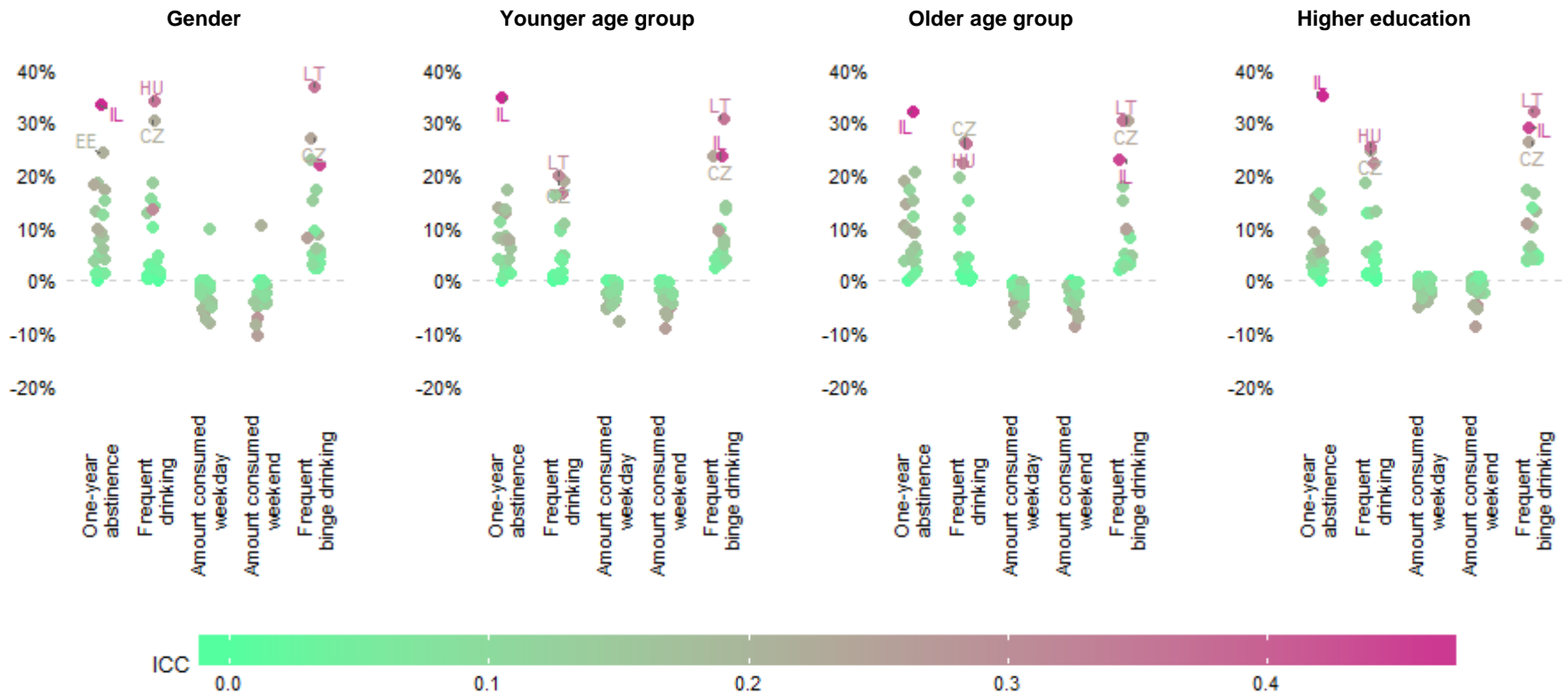
# Education and alcohol consumption



# Change in parameter estimates



# Change in standard errors



# Conclusions

- Substantial variation in alcohol consumption across European countries
- Differences according to gender, age, and education
- Substantial interviewer effects in alcohol consumption measures
- Main conclusions on gender, age, and education hold when potential interviewer effects taken into account
- Estimates and standard errors do change slightly, especially in case of strong interviewer effects