

# **Statistics on Alcohol: England, 2007**



# Summary

This statistical bulletin presents a range of information on alcohol use and misuse which are drawn together from a variety of sources. The bulletin aims to present a broad picture of health issues relating to alcohol in England and covers topics such as drinking habits and behaviours among adults and school children, drinking in pregnancy, European comparisons of alcohol use, drinking-related ill health and mortality and alcohol-related costs. Government plans and recommendations in this area are also summarised in the bulletin.

The bulletin combines data from different sources and presents it in a user-friendly format. Most of the data contained in the bulletin have been published previously including information from the Information Centre, Department of Health, the Office for National Statistics, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Home Office, Department for Transport, the World Health Organisation, and the European School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs.

For the first time the bulletin includes information on types of alcohol consumed by adults, whether adults keep a check on the units they consume, alcohol-related hospital admissions for adults and children presented separately and trends in reported household consumption. For children, the bulletin now includes data on drinking and substance use, and truancy and exclusion, as well as ethnicity and European comparisons.

## Main findings:

### Drinking among adults

- In England in 2005, 73% of men and 58% of women reported drinking an alcoholic drink on at least one day in the week prior to interview. Thirteen per cent of men and 8% of women reported drinking on every day in the previous week.
- Thirty four per cent of men and 20% of women had drunk more than the recommended number of units on at least one day in the week prior to interview. Eighteen per cent of men and 8% of women had drunk more than twice the recommended daily intake.
- Older people were more likely to drink regularly – 28% of men and 18% of women aged 45-64 drank on five or more days in the week prior to interview compared to 10% of men and 5% of women aged 16-24. Younger people were more likely to drink heavily, with 42% of men and 36% of women aged 16-24 drinking above the daily recommendations, compared to 16% of men and 4% of women aged 65 and over.
- Among men, 24% reported drinking on average more than 21 units in a week. For women, 13% reported drinking more than 14 units in an average week.
- In Great Britain in 2006, 69% of adults reported that they had heard of the Government guidelines on alcohol consumption. Of these adults, more than a third said that they did not know what the recommendations were.
- Thirty two per cent of adults in Great Britain had seen units of alcohol displayed on labels of alcoholic drinks, compared to 23% in 2000.
- Across England, in 2005, drinking on five or more days in the week prior to interview was

found to be more prevalent in the south, excluding the London region - which had the lowest prevalence for all drinking behaviours. Drinkers in the northern regions were more likely to exceed the daily recommendations and to binge drink.

- In England in 2005, 45% of pregnant women did not drink during pregnancy, while 39% reported drinking on average less than 1 unit a week and only 8% drank 1 to 2 units.

### Drinking among school children

- In 2006, 21% of pupils in England aged 11-15 reported drinking alcohol in the week prior to interview; continuing the recent decreasing trend since 2001.
- Since 2001, the proportion of pupils who have never drunk alcohol has risen; in 2006, 46% of pupils said they had never had a proper alcoholic drink, compared to 39% in 2001.
- Among pupils who had drunk alcohol in the week prior to interview, the average weekly consumption has almost doubled from 5.3 units in 1990 to 10.4 units in 2000. Weekly consumption has since fluctuated around this level and in 2006 was estimated at 11.4 units. However, consumption among children aged 11-13 has continued to increase, from 5.6 units in 2001 to 10.1 units in 2006. The proportion of pupils in this age group who reported having a drink in the last seven days has decreased in the same time period from 14% in 2001 to 9% in 2006.<sup>†</sup>

### Drinking-related ill health and mortality

- In 2005/06, there were 52,270 NHS hospital admissions of adults in England aged 16 and over with a primary diagnosis specifically related to alcohol. This number has risen by just over 50% from 34,660 in 1995/96. Over two thirds (70%) of admissions with primary diagnosis relating to alcohol were male.
- In 2005/06, in children under 16 there were 4,060 NHS hospital admissions with a primary diagnosis specifically related to alcohol. This shows an overall increase of 29% from 3,150 in 1995/96. Among those aged under 16, 59% admissions with primary diagnosis relating to alcohol were girls.
- In 2005/06, there were 187,640 NHS hospital admissions among adults aged 16 and over with either a primary or secondary diagnosis specifically related to alcohol. This has more than doubled from 89,280 in 1995/96.
- Among children under 16 there were 5,280 NHS hospital admissions in 2005/06 with either a primary or secondary diagnosis specifically related to alcohol. This represents an overall increase of just over a third from 3,870 in 1995/96.
- In 2005, 6,570 people in England and Wales died from causes directly linked to alcohol consumption, of these just under two thirds (4,160) died from alcoholic liver disease. Two thirds (67%) of those dying from alcoholic liver disease were men.

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<sup>†</sup> Figures showing the proportion of 11-13 year olds reporting drinking in the last week have been updated following advice from our contractors. The message remains the same - the proportion of 11-13 year olds reporting having a drink in the last seven days has fallen from 2001 to 2006, although the proportions doing so in each year are lower.

## Alcohol-related costs

- In 2004, the Government estimated that alcohol misuse costs the health service in England between £1.4 and £1.7 billion per year.
- In the United Kingdom, the volume of pure alcohol released for home consumption per person aged 16 and over has increased from 9.4 litres in 1993/94 to 11.4 litres in 2005/06.
- In 2006, alcohol was 65% more affordable in the United Kingdom than it was in 1980. Household expenditure on alcohol has increased steadily since 1980 as has total household expenditure; however expenditure on alcohol as a proportion of total household expenditure has decreased steadily over the same period standing at 5.2% in 2006 compared to 7.5% in 1980.



# Contents

1.	Introduction.....	1
2.	Drinking among adults.....	3
3.	Drinking among school children.....	39
4.	Drinking-related ill health and mortality.....	61
5.	Alcohol-related costs.....	77
	Appendix A: Key sources.....	101
	Appendix B: Government and NHS plans .....	117
	Appendix C: Editorial notes.....	121
	Appendix D: Further information.....	123



# 1 Introduction

This statistical bulletin presents a range of information on drinking habits, health related effects and social costs of alcohol misuse, drawn together from a variety of sources. The data relate to England where possible. Where figures for England are not available, figures for England and Wales, Great Britain or the United Kingdom are provided.

Chapter 2 reports on alcohol consumption among adults, looking at how much and how often people drink, drinking patterns among different groups, and their knowledge of alcohol units and Government guidelines on sensible drinking.

Chapter 3 then reports on alcohol consumption among children and their attitudes towards drinking. This chapter now includes information on drinking and substance use and truancy and exclusion among children, as well as ethnicity and European comparisons.

Chapter 4 looks at the health risks associated with alcohol misuse, with a particular focus on hospital admissions and deaths from illnesses or diseases most commonly caused by alcohol misuse. For the first time, alcohol-related hospital admissions are described separately for adults and children.

Chapter 5 draws together data on different costs to society associated with alcohol. Looking at the affordability, availability and expenditure on alcohol and then the levels of alcohol-related crime and disorder.

A summary highlighting the key findings is presented at the end of each chapter.

Throughout the bulletin, references are given to sources for further information. The bulletin also contains four appendices; Appendix A describes the key sources and conventions used. Government and NHS

plans and guidelines on sensible drinking are outlined in Appendix B. Appendix C provides the editorial notes regarding the conventions used in presenting information. A complete list of sources of further information and useful contacts are presented in Appendix D.

## Drinking recommendations and definitions

Throughout the bulletin a range of terminology is used to define different behaviours and levels of drinking. For clarity, all the different terminology referred to in the bulletin are outlined below.

**Alcohol units:** The definition of one unit of alcohol is 8mg (or 10ml) of pure alcohol. The number of units in an alcoholic drink depends on the type of drink, how strong it is and the size of the measure. As a general guideline one unit of alcohol can be considered to be half a pint of normal strength (3.5% ABV) beer/lager or cider, a small glass (125ml) of 'table' wine (around 9% ABV) or a standard (25ml) measure of spirits (around 40% ABV).

**Daily recommendations:** In 1995 the sensible drinking guidelines were updated to include daily guidelines in recognition of the dangers of excessive drinking in a single session. The daily guidelines are that men should consume no more than 3 to 4 units in a single session and women should consume no more than 2 to 3 units in a single session. After a heavy drinking session it is also recommended that both men and women have two alcohol free days.

Where the daily guidelines for men and women are jointly referred to in this bulletin the upper limits will be used and they will be shown as 4/3 units.

**Binge drinking:** Binge drinking is difficult to define. It is broadly accepted as drinking to excess or drinking with the intention to get drunk, however as alcohol affects different people in different ways, this proves hard to quantify. The best and most widely used measure for binge drinking is drinking over twice the recommended daily guidelines. That is drinking over 8 units for men and drinking over 6 units for women. Using a units-based definition for binge drinking allows for comparisons with previous years as data on consumption of units has already been collected.

Where these limits for men and women are jointly referred to in this bulletin they will be shown as 8/6 units.

**Weekly recommendations:** 'Sensible drinking' levels were defined in the Government's white paper, Health of the Nation, 1992. The recommendations were that men should consume no more than 21 units per week and women should consume no more than 14 units per week.

Where the sensible weekly limits for men and women are jointly referred to in this bulletin they will be shown as 21/14 units per week.

**Chronic drinking:** This is defined as drinking large amounts of alcohol regularly. Again this is difficult to quantify in terms of units. The benchmark generally used is drinking

over 50 units in a week for men and drinking over 35 units in a week for women.

Where chronic drinking for men and women is jointly referred to in this bulletin it will be referred to as drinking over 50/35 units.

**Hazardous drinking:** The World Health Organisation categorises hazardous drinking as drinking above recognised 'sensible' levels (i.e. the daily recommendations in the UK) but not yet experiencing harm. Therefore hazardous drinking can be defined as a pattern of drinking that brings about the risk of harm, which can be either physical or psychosocial harm.

**Harmful drinking:** The World Health Organisation categorises harmful drinking as drinking above recognised 'sensible' limits and experiencing harm.

**Dependent drinking:** The World Health Organisation categorises dependent drinkers as those drinking above 'sensible' levels and experiencing harm and also showing symptoms of dependence.

Sources for further reading on all of these types of drinking behaviours are listed in Appendix D at the end of this bulletin.

In Chapter 2 - Drinking among adults, weekly recommendations, daily recommendations, binge drinking and chronic drinking are discussed. Hazardous, harmful and dependent drinking are considered in Chapter 4 - Ill health and mortality.

## 2 Drinking among adults

### Background

The information presented in this chapter relates to the drinking patterns of adults aged 16 and over. A number of sources are used to cover drinking prevalence and patterns, drinking among different groups of society, knowledge of alcohol units and Government recommendations and the prevalence of drinking among adults across Europe.

The main source of data for drinking prevalence among adults is the General Household Survey (GHS). This is a national survey covering adults aged 16 and over living in private households in Great Britain. The latest GHS report<sup>1</sup> is based on the 2005 survey which ran from April 2005 to December 2005. A sample size of just under 12,300 households was achieved, with a total of around 30,000 individual respondents. All the data presented in the 2005 GHS report and in this bulletin include data from the last quarter of the 2004/05 collection where possible to produce information for the full calendar year. Where the same questions were not asked in the 2004/05 survey the data presented in the 2005 tables have been scaled to represent a full 12 months. Further details are given in Appendix A.

A wide range of topics are covered in the GHS, to provide a comprehensive picture of how we live and the social change we experience in Britain. Each year there are questions on alcohol consumption and drinking habits in the week prior to interview and in some years there are questions on average alcohol consumption in a typical week during the last 12 months.

Additional to the GHS, data on adults' drinking behaviour and knowledge is collected as part of the Office for National

Statistics (ONS) Omnibus Survey. The latest information is reported in *Drinking: Adults' Behaviour and Knowledge in 2006*<sup>2</sup>. The survey was completed by 2,474 adults aged 16 and over living in Great Britain.

For this chapter, the Omnibus Survey provides data on the types of alcohol consumed by adults and where they tend to purchase alcoholic drinks as well as their knowledge of alcohol units and Government recommendations.

Information on drinking during pregnancy is collected as part of the Infant Feeding Survey. This survey is carried out in the United Kingdom every five years with a main focus on the prevalence of breast feeding. The latest report, *Infant Feeding Survey 2005*<sup>3</sup>, is based on data collected from a sample of mothers who registered the birth of a child during August and September 2005. As part of the survey, a sample of 12,290 mothers with babies aged around four to ten weeks old was obtained. These mothers were asked questions about their drinking behaviours before, during and after pregnancy.

A European comparison of alcohol consumption among adults is made using data from the World Health Organisation (WHO). Data on a variety of topics, such as demographics, health and lifestyles is collected from a number of countries, including 27 members of the European Union and stored on the 'Health for All' database<sup>4</sup>. Data on the estimated consumption of alcohol per person is collected and used here to facilitate a European comparison.

### Drinking in the last week

Respondents to the General Household Survey are asked questions about their drinking in the seven days prior to interview.

In England, in 2005, 73% of men and 58% of women (aged 16 and over) reported drinking an alcoholic drink on at least one day in the week prior to interview. Men tended to drink on more days of the week, with 22% reporting drinking on five or more days compared to 13% of women. Thirteen per cent of the men surveyed drank on every day in the previous week while only 8% of the women surveyed reported this.

**17% of adults reported drinking alcohol on five or more days last week**

The proportion of adults reporting drinking in the last week increased with age up to the 65 and over age group where it fell to the lowest level of 54%. Drinking on five or more days also increased with age, with 10% of 16-24 year old men reporting this compared to 28% of 45-64 year olds and 27% aged 65 and over. The same pattern was seen among women with 5% of 16-24 year olds reporting drinking on five or more days compared to 18% of 45-64 year olds and 15% of those aged 65 and over (Table 2.1).

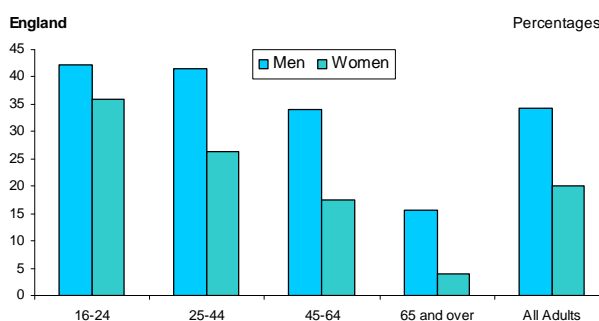
### Drinking above daily recommendations

As outlined in Chapter 1, the daily recommendation is that men drink no more than 4 units of alcohol in one day and women drink no more than 3 units. In 2005, 34% of men reported drinking over 4 units on at least one day in the week prior to interview. The proportion of men reporting this decreased with age from 42% of men aged 16-24 to 16% in the 65 and over age group (Table 2.2, Figure 2.1).

Women were less likely to drink over the recommended daily limit. In 2005, 20% of women reported drinking over 3 units on at least one day last week. As with men,

the proportion reporting this decreased with age from 36% of 16-24 year old women to 4% of those aged 65 and over (Table 2.3, Figure 2.1).

Figure 2.1 Adults whose maximum daily amount last week was more than 4 units (men) or 3 units (women)



Source: General Household Survey, 2005, Office for National Statistics (ONS)  
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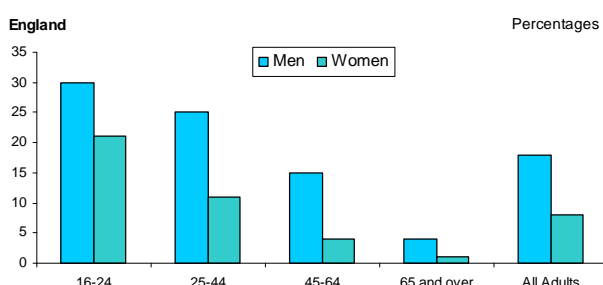
**34% of men and 20% of women drank over the recommended daily limits on at least one day in the last week**

### Binge drinking

Binge drinking, as defined in Chapter 1, is taken to mean drinking more than twice the daily recommendations. That is, drinking over 8 units on one day for men and drinking over 6 units on one day for women.

Eighteen per cent of men and 8% of women reported drinking over twice the recommended daily allowance on at least one day in the week prior to interview. The proportion of adults reporting binge drinking behaviour also decreased with age in 2005. Among men, 30% of those aged 16-24 reported drinking over 8 units compared to 4% of those aged 65 and over. For women, 21% of those aged 16-24 reported drinking over 6 units compared to only 1% of women aged 65 and over (Tables 2.2, 2.3, Figure 2.2).

**Figure 2.2 Adults whose maximum daily amount last week was more than 8 units (men) or 6 units (women)**



Source: General Household Survey, 2005, Office for National Statistics (ONS)  
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Tables 2.2 and 2.3 show that drinking in the week prior to interview and drinking on five or more days in the previous week have remained relatively stable since 1998. The prevalence of drinking above daily recommendations remained at a steady level between 1998 and 2004 among men but has fallen in 2005 for most age groups. There has been little change in the percentage of women drinking above the daily recommendations during the same period.

It is too soon, and the changes too small to predict whether this change in men's drinking will become a long term trend. The changes could reflect a real change in drinking habits or they could be a result of an increased tendency to under-report alcohol consumption. Increased publicity about the dangers of frequent and binge drinking could lead to people moderating their behaviour, but it might equally have made them less inclined to admit how much they have drunk.

### Average weekly consumption

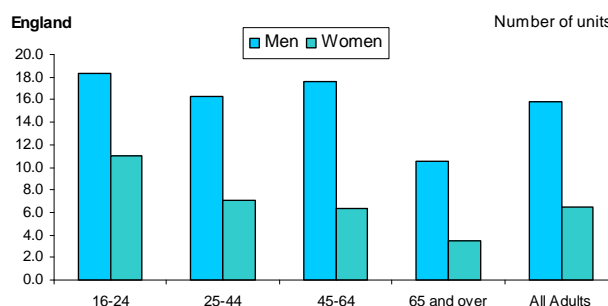
In 2005, respondents to the GHS were asked questions about the different types of alcoholic drinks they had consumed and the usual amount and frequency of consumption for each type of drink over the last 12 months. From this information the respondents' average weekly alcohol consumption was derived. These

questions were not included in the 2004/05 survey and so the data collected only covers the last three quarters of 2005. Therefore the weighted data reported on here have been scaled to represent a full year.

Table 2.4 shows that the average weekly consumption of alcohol over the 12 months prior to interview was recorded at 15.8 units for men and 6.5 units for women in 2005. Among men, 11% were non-drinkers, 8% reported drinking less than 1 unit a week on average, while 36% drank between 1 and 10 units, 21% drank between 11 and 21 units and 24% drank more than 21 units. Among women, 18% were non-drinkers, 17% reported drinking under 1 unit in an average week, 37% drank between 1 and 7 units a week, 14% drank between 8 and 14 units and 13% drank more than 14 units.

For both men and women in 2005, the number of units consumed in an average week decreases with age; from 18.3 units for 16-24 year old men to an average of 10.5 units a week for men aged 65 and over and for women from 11.0 units a week among those aged 16-24 to an average of 3.5 units a week for those aged 65 and over (Figure 2.3).<sup>†</sup>

**Figure 2.3 Average weekly units of alcohol consumed, 2005**



Source: General Household Survey, 2005, Office for National Statistics (ONS)  
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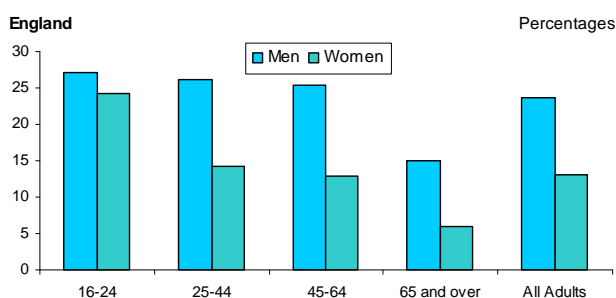
In 1992 the Government defined sensible drinking as no more than 21 units a week for men and no more than 14 units a week for women. In 2005, 24% of males reported

<sup>†</sup> Data not presented in a table.

drinking over 21 units in an average week and 13% of women reported that their average weekly consumption was over 14 units. The proportion of men reporting this behaviour has decreased slightly since 1998 when it was 28%, while the proportion of women reporting this has fluctuated over the same period (Table 2.4).

The proportion of people reporting this behaviour was lower among the oldest age group; 15% of men aged 65 and over compared to 26% of men aged 16-64 and 6% of women aged 65 and over compared to 24% aged 16-24 (Figure 2.4)<sup>†</sup>.

**Figure 2.4 Adults whose average weekly consumption was over 21 units (men) or 14 units (women), 2005**



Source: General Household Survey, 2005, Office for National Statistics (ONS)  
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For men who usually drink in excess of the weekly recommendations (over 21 units) 73% reported consuming more than 4 units on at least one day last week and 45% reported drinking more than 8 units on at least one day in the week prior to interview, showing that those who tended to drink over the recommended daily guidelines also tended to have a higher average weekly consumption (Table 2.5).

For women a similar pattern exists. Those whose average consumption exceeds the weekly guidelines of 14 units were more likely to exceed the daily recommendations on at least one day in the previous week, with 62% reporting

<sup>†</sup> Data not presented in a table.

drinking over 3 units and 32% drinking more than 6 units on at least one day in the previous week (Table 2.6).

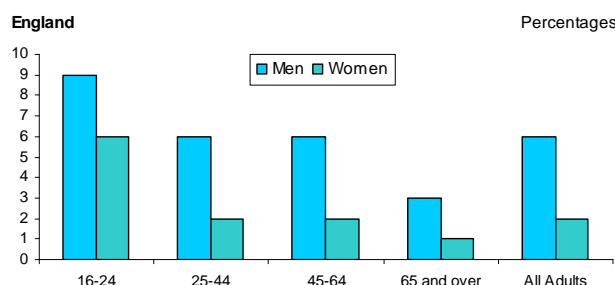
### Chronic Drinking

As defined in Chapter 1, chronic drinking is described as drinking large amounts of alcohol frequently. To give an indication of the prevalence of chronic drinkers, they are classed as men who drink an average of over 50 units a week and women who drink an average of more than 35 units a week. In England, in 2005, 6% of men reported drinking a weekly average of over 50 units and 2% of women reported drinking over 35 units in an average week. For both men and women, the proportion reporting chronic drinking has remained relatively stable since 1998 (Table 2.4).

6% of men and 2% of women reported chronic drinking behaviour

There is some variation with age among chronic drinkers. Men aged 16-24 were more likely to drink in excess of an average of 50 units a week (9%) than men aged 65 and over (3%). This is also true for women with 6% of those aged 16-24 reporting drinking a weekly average in excess of 35 units compared to only 1% of those aged 65 and over (Figure 2.5).<sup>†</sup>

**Figure 2.5 Adults whose average weekly consumption was over 50 units (men) or 35 units (women), 2005**



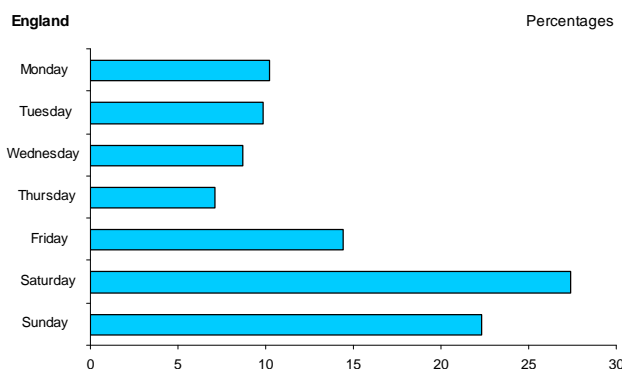
Source: General Household Survey, 2005, Office for National Statistics (ONS)  
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## Heaviest drinking day

Respondents who said they had drunk alcohol in the week prior to interview in the 2005 GHS were asked on what day of the week they had drunk the most. Overall, Saturday was reported to be the heaviest drinking day among adults (27%), followed by Sunday (22%) and then Friday (14%) (Figure 2.6).

There were some variations to this pattern with age. For 16-24 year olds, Saturday was most likely to be the heaviest drinking day with 34% reporting this, followed by Friday (23%) and then Sunday (14%). In contrast, the respondents aged 65 and over were more likely to have drunk the most on the Sunday (30%) (Table 2.7).

Figure 2.6 Heaviest drinking day in the week prior to interview, 2005



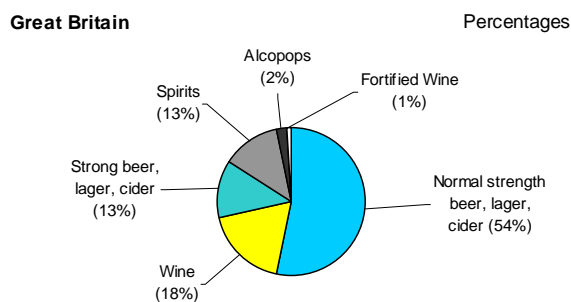
Source: General Household Survey, 2005, Office for National Statistics (ONS)  
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## Types of alcohol consumed

The 2006 Omnibus Survey reports on average weekly alcohol consumption of adult drinkers by recording how many pints, glasses, measures or bottles/cans of different types of alcoholic drink the respondent would usually consume on any one day in the past 12 months and how often each drink type is usually consumed. From this information average weekly alcohol consumption is broken down into the number of units consumed by alcohol type.

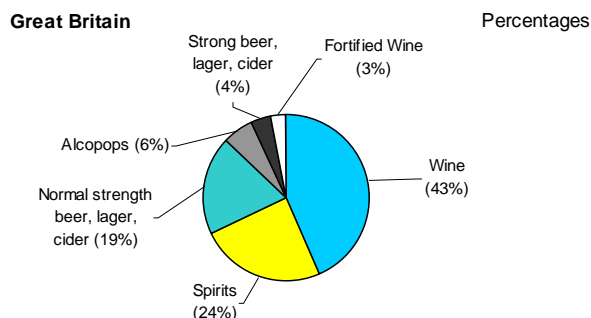
Figures 2.7 and 2.8 show that in 2006 over half (54%) of the units of alcohol consumed by men came from normal strength beer, lager or cider, while for women wine accounted for 43% of the average weekly alcohol consumption.

Figure 2.7 Types of alcohol drank by men in an average week over the last 12 months, 2006



Source: Drinking: Adults' behaviour and know ledge in 2006, Office for National Statistics (ONS)  
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Figure 2.8 Types of alcohol drank by women in an average week over the last 12 months, 2006



Source: Drinking: Adults' behaviour and know ledge in 2006, Office for National Statistics (ONS)  
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Older men aged 65 and over tended to drink less normal strength beer, lager and cider and more wine than younger men. Younger women tended to drink more normal strength beer, lager and cider than older women and this pattern is also seen for consumption of alcopops which account for 29% of the average weekly alcohol consumption among women aged 16 to 24 years old (Table 2.8).

## Drinking and marital status

The General Household Survey collects and reports on a variety of socio-demographic variables and drinking behaviours are reported on against a number of these. Considering drinking by marital status shows that married men and women (including those cohabiting) were slightly more likely to have drunk in the week prior to interview (68%) compared to those who are single, divorced/separated or widowed (64%, 58% and 46% respectively). Married men and women were also more likely to drink on five or more days in the previous week (20%) and single adults least likely to do this (11%) (Figure 2.9).

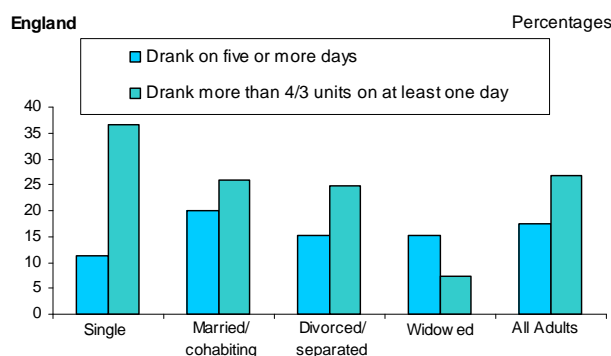
In contrast, single people were more likely to drink over the recommended daily number of units; 41% of single men reported drinking over 4 units on at least one day in the previous week and 32% of single women said they had drunk over 3 units on at least one day in the last week. Widowed adults were least likely to do this. Single people were also more likely to drink over twice the daily recommended limits with 22% of single adults reporting this.

**Married adults were more likely to drink on five or more days a week than single adults, who were more likely to exceed the daily recommendations**

There was a marked difference between widowed men and women; 65% of widowed men reported drinking in the last week compared to 40% of widowed women. Widowed men were also more likely than widowed women to have drunk on five or more days in the last week (23% compared to 13%) and to drink over

the recommended daily limits (20% compared to 4%) (Table 2.9).

Figure 2.9 Drinking last week by marital status, 2005



Source: General Household Survey, 2005, Office for National Statistics (ONS)  
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## Drinking and economic activity status/ socio economic-classification

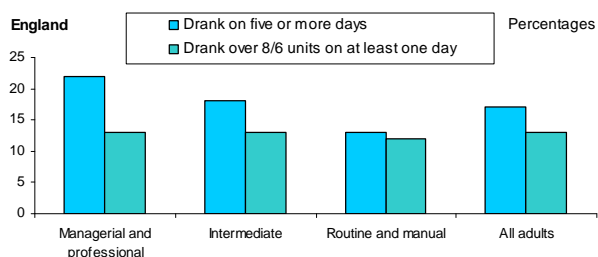
Table 2.10 shows drinking among adults aged 16 to 64 in England, by economic activity status. In 2005, working men were more likely to have drunk in the week prior to interview (77%) and to have drunk on five or more days (22%) than those who were unemployed. However, unemployed men were just as likely to binge drink as working men (22% and 23% respectively).

For women, the pattern was not as obvious. There was no significant difference detected in women who drank last week between those who worked and those who were unemployed. However, women who worked were more likely to have drunk on five or more days (13%) in the previous week than those who were unemployed (5%). Little differences were detected in those drinking above the recommendations between working and unemployed women.

Those working in managerial or professional employment were most likely to report having drunk during the week prior to interview (73%) compared to those working in routine or manual positions who were least likely to report this (57%). The same pattern is seen among those reporting drinking on five or more days in the previous

week, with 22% of managers and professionals reporting this compared to 13% of routine and manual workers. Socio-economic classification appears to have less bearing on the prevalence of drinking over the recommended daily limits. (Table 2.11, Figure 2.10).

**Figure 2.10 Drinking last week by socio-economic classification, 2005**



Source: General Household Survey, 2005, Office for National Statistics (ONS)  
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**Managers and professionals were most likely to have drunk on five or more days in the week prior to interview**

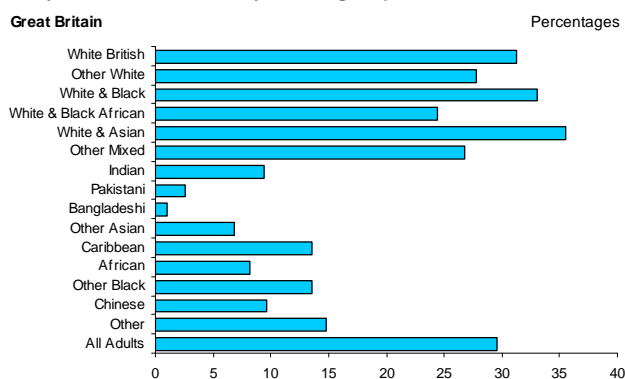
### Drinking and ethnicity

In the General Household Survey, data that has been collected over a five year period (2001 to 2005) on drinking in the previous week has been combined in order to facilitate analysis by ethnic group. These figures are for Great Britain. Respondents of Pakistani or Bangladeshi origin were least likely to have drunk in the week prior to interview (5% and 4% respectively) compared to 68% of those recording their ethnicity as White British and 67% of those recording their ethnicity as 'Other White'. White British and 'Other White' ethnic groups were most likely to drink on five or more days with 18% and 17% stating this respectively.

Figure 2.11 shows that adults of mixed ethnicity, in particular, those who are White and Asian mixed and those who

are White and Black Caribbean mixed were more likely to drink over the recommended daily limits on at least one day in the previous week (35% and 33% respectively), as were the White British (31%) and the Other White (28%) ethnic groups. The same pattern is seen for binge drinking. People of White and Asian mixed ethnicity (21%), those of White and Black Caribbean mixed ethnicity (18%), and those from the White British (16%) and the Other White (14%) ethnic groups were more likely to binge drink. Unsurprisingly, those of Pakistani and Bangladeshi ethnic origin were among the least likely to drink over the recommended daily limits or binge drink in the week prior to interview (Table 2.12).

**Figure 2.11 Adults who had drunk over the recommended daily amount last week by ethnic group, 2001-2005**



Source: General Household Survey, 2005, Office for National Statistics (ONS)  
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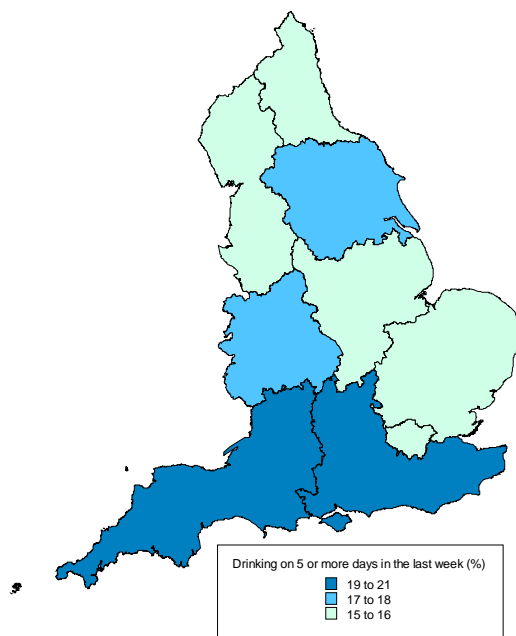
### Drinking and Government Office Region

In 2005, drinking on five or more days in the week prior to interview among adults was more prevalent in the South East (21%) and South West (20%) Government Office Regions (GOR) and least prevalent in London and the North East (both 15%) (Figure 2.12).<sup>†</sup>

Drinking above the daily recommendations was more prevalent in the northern regions; 42% of men in Yorkshire and Humberside, the North East and the North West reported drinking more than 4 units. Around a quarter

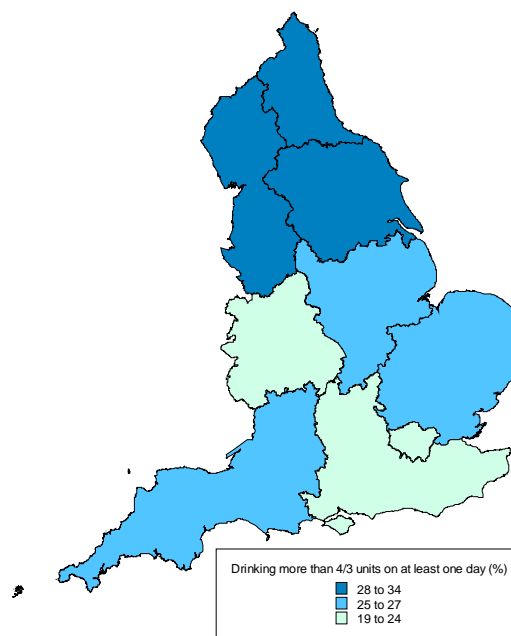
<sup>†</sup> Data not presented in a table

Figure 2.12 Percentage of adults aged 16 and over who reported drinking on 5 or more days in the last week, by Government Office Region, 2005



Source: General Household Survey, 2005. Office for National Statistics (ONS)  
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Figure 2.13 Percentage of adults aged 16 and over who reported drinking more than 4/3 units on at least one day during the last week, by Government Office Region, 2005



Source: General Household Survey, 2005. Office for National Statistics (ONS)  
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of women in these regions reported drinking over 3 units on at least one day last week. London had the lowest prevalence of adults drinking over the daily recommendations (26% of men and 13% of women) (Table 2.13).

A similar pattern is seen among adults who binge drink, with a quarter of men and 13% of women reporting this in the Yorkshire and Humber compared to 12% of men and 5% of women in London (Figure 2.13).

In previous years, there have been fluctuations in the prevalence of those drinking over the daily recommendations and binge drinking in some Government Office Regions. In 2005, the prevalence of these drinking behaviours decreased in most of the regions however not all of these changes are statistically significant. This is inline with observations made

previously about the reduction in the proportion of men and women drinking over daily recommendations in 2005 in England as a whole. It is too early to say whether this is the start of a longer term trend and again it should be noted that increased publicity and awareness of the dangers of drinking irresponsibly could have resulted in both a genuine change in drinking behaviour or increased under reporting.

While survey estimates can provide information on regional variation by GOR, it is not possible to look at prevalence at a smaller geographical level due to sample sizes. To address this information gap, the National Centre for Social Research was commissioned by the Department of Health and the Information Centre, to test and produce model-based estimates for a range of healthy lifestyle behaviours. Estimates were produced at Primary Care Organisation (PCO) level and ward level and included binge drinking among adults. The

methodology used to produce these estimates is relatively new and as a result may be subject to consultation, modification and further development. In view of this ongoing work the estimates have been published as “experimental” statistics. Estimates based on 2000-2002 data are published on the Office for National Statistics, Neighbourhood Statistics website<sup>5</sup>. Updated estimates of prevalence of binge drinking among adults based on 2003-2005 data are expected to be published in summer 2007.

### Drinking and pregnancy

In May 2007 guidelines on drinking during pregnancy were revised. It is now recommended that women who are pregnant or trying to conceive should avoid drinking alcohol. If they do choose to drink, to protect the baby, they should not drink more than 1 to 2 units of alcohol once or twice a week and should not get drunk<sup>6</sup>.

In the 2005 Infant Feeding Survey, mothers were asked whether they had drunk alcohol in the two years prior to interview and whether they had drunk alcohol while they were pregnant. If they had drunk alcohol while they were pregnant they were asked questions about how much and how often they had drunk different types of alcohol. From this an estimation of the number of units consumed a week was made.

In 2005, 83% of mothers in England, who had recently given birth reported drinking alcohol before they were pregnant and 55% said they drank alcohol while they were pregnant. Of the women who drank before pregnancy, 33% gave up while they were pregnant and 62% said they drank less (Table 2.14).

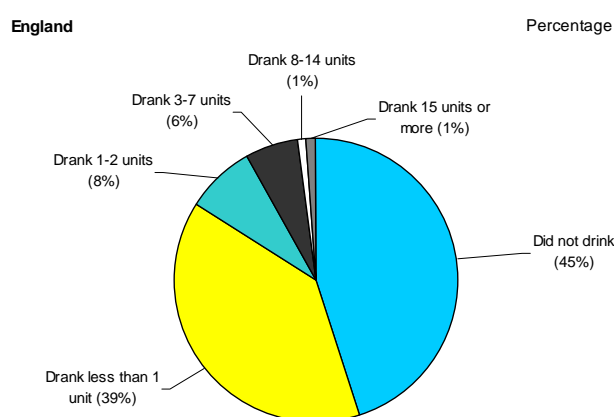
Of all new mothers in the United Kingdom, older women were more likely report drinking alcohol during pregnancy,

with 61% of mothers aged 35 and over reporting this compared to 47% aged under 20. The proportion who gave up drinking during pregnancy decreased with age while the proportion reporting they drank less increased with age.

The percentage of mothers in the United Kingdom who drank during pregnancy has decreased from 66% in 1995 to 54% in 2005. There has also been an increase in the percentage of mothers who gave up drinking while they were pregnant, from 24% in 1995 to 34% in 2005 (Table 2.15).

Figure 2.14 shows the estimated weekly alcohol consumption of all new mothers in the England in 2005. Forty five per cent did not drink during pregnancy, while 39% reported drinking on average less than 1 unit a week and only 8% drank 1 to 2 units<sup>†</sup>.

Figure 2.14 Estimated weekly alcohol consumption of new mothers during pregnancy, 2005



Source: Infant Feeding Survey 2005, The Information Centre

### Where adults buy alcohol

In the 2006 Omnibus Survey, respondents were asked questions on where they had purchased alcohol in the previous week for either themselves or others to consume.

<sup>†</sup> Data not presented in a table

The three most popular places for alcohol purchases were a licensed bar, supermarket or restaurant. In 2006, just over a third of men (36%) in Great Britain reported buying alcohol in a licensed bar in the previous week, while only 18% of women reported this. The same proportion of men and women (24%) said they bought alcohol from a supermarket and 17% of adults said they bought alcohol in a restaurant in the previous week.

**Adults are equally likely to buy alcohol from bars and supermarkets/shops**

The proportion of adults buying alcohol from licensed bars in the last week has decreased from 32% in 2002 to 26% in 2006. There was little change over time in the percentages of people who had bought alcohol from other outlets (Table 2.16).

### Knowledge of alcohol units and daily recommendations

In the Omnibus Survey, all respondents were asked if they were aware of the maximum number of units that people should drink in a day. Those who were aware of daily recommendations were then asked what these are.

In 2006, 69% of adults in Great Britain said they had heard of daily recommendations. Of these only 13% correctly thought the daily recommendation for men was a maximum of 4 units and a quarter thought it was 3 units. Of those who had heard of daily recommendations 11% correctly thought it was within the guidelines for women to drink a maximum of 3 units a day, while just over a third (34%) thought the daily recommendation for women was 2 units. Over a third of those who said they had

heard of daily recommendations admitted they did not know what the recommendations are (Table 2.17).

Respondents who said they drink alcohol and had heard of measuring alcohol in units were asked whether they keep a check on how many units of alcohol they drink. In 2006, 13% of adult drinkers who had heard of units kept a check on the number of units they drank. Since 1997, the number of people keeping a check on the units they consume has remained around this level<sup>†</sup>.

**69% of adults had heard of daily drinking recommendations. Of these more than a third admitted they did not know what they are**

### Awareness of unit labelling

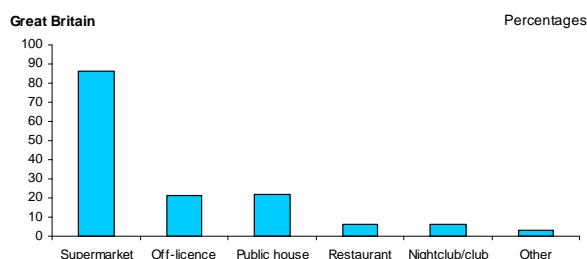
All respondents to the Omnibus Survey who reported drinking alcohol and were aware of measuring alcohol in units, were asked if they had seen alcoholic drinks with the units of alcohol on the label, and if so, where.

In 2006, 32% of adults in Great Britain had seen units of alcohol displayed on labels of alcoholic drinks, compared to 23% in 2000. Men were more likely to have seen unit labelling than women (36% of men compared to 30% of women) (Table 2.18).

The supermarket was reported as the place where most people had seen unit labelling on alcoholic drinks. Of drinkers who had seen unit labelling, 86% had seen it in supermarkets, 21% had seen it in off-licences and 22% in public houses, while only 6% had seen unit labelling in restaurants or in nightclubs. The number of people reporting seeing unit labelling in supermarkets or in off-licences increased in 2006 (Table 2.19, Figure 2.15).

<sup>†</sup> Data not presented in a table

Figure 2.15 Where adults had seen unit labelling, 2006



Source: Drinking: Adults' behaviour and knowledge in 2006, Office for National Statistics  
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## European comparison

Table 2.20 shows the alcohol consumption per person (based on adults aged 15 and over) for members of the European Union from 1993 until 2003. Of these countries Luxembourg had the highest alcohol consumption in 2003 with 18.0 litres of pure alcohol consumed per adult. This is followed by the Czech Republic with a pure alcohol consumption

of 16.2 litres per adult and then Hungary with 13.8 litres.

The United Kingdom had an alcohol consumption of 11.4 litres of pure alcohol per adult in 2003. This is continuing the upwards trend seen since 2000 when it was 10.2 litres, prior to 2000 the data for the UK had been relatively stable, fluctuating slightly around 10 litres since 1993.

Bulgaria had the lowest recorded alcohol consumption among the European Union countries in 2003, with 5.9 litres of pure alcohol per adult, less than a third of Luxembourg's consumption. Bulgaria also had the largest drop in alcohol consumption between 1993 and 2003, with consumption being almost half of what it was in 1993. Over the same period Lithuania had the largest rise in consumption, from 3.8 litres per adult in 1993 to 10.4 litres in 2003.

## Summary: Drinking among adults

The data presented in this chapter have shown that in general in 2005, men drank more frequently and greater volumes than women. Men were also more likely to exceed the daily and weekly Government recommendations on drinking than women. Younger people were less likely to drink frequently but were more likely to drink over the recommended daily amounts than older people.

For most adults their heaviest drinking occurred on a weekend and the most common places for purchasing alcohol were in a licensed bar, a supermarket or a restaurant. The most popular type of drink among men was beer, lager or cider, with women more likely to opt for wine or spirits.

Drinking behaviour is shown to vary when measured by different socio-demographic variables, for instance people who are married or cohabiting were more likely to drink more frequently while single people were more likely to exceed daily guidelines.

Those in employment were more likely to have drunk on five or more days than unemployed people, however whether a person was employed or unemployed had little bearing on those who drank over the daily recommendations. A similar pattern was also seen for socio-economic classification, where those in managerial and professional occupations were more likely to drink more frequently than those in routine and manual occupations, again there was little difference in drinking above the daily recommendations between these two groups.

Prevalence of drinking among some ethnic groups is very low, in particular among groups with Asian ethnicity while people who class their ethnicity as White or of mixed ethnicity tended to drink more frequently and were more likely to exceed the daily guidelines.

Across England, frequent drinking was found to be more prevalent in the south, excluding the London region - which had the lowest prevalence for all drinking behaviours. Drinkers in the northern regions were more likely to exceed the daily recommendations and to binge drink.

Over half the pregnant women in England reported drinking during pregnancy in 2005 but the majority of these drank an average of 2 units or less a week while they were pregnant. Older women were more likely to report drinking during pregnancy than younger women.

In recent years adults in Great Britain have become more aware of measuring alcohol by units and unit labelling on bottles and cans. There is still a large proportion of people who did not know what the daily recommended units are and only a small proportion of people actively kept a check on the number of units they consume.

In a European comparison of alcohol consumption the UK ranked at around the middle of the 27 countries compared.

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## List of tables

- 2.1 Number of drinking days in the week prior to interview, by gender and age, 2005
- 2.2 Drinking in the week prior to interview among men, by age, 1998 to 2005
- 2.3 Drinking in the week prior to interview among women, by age, 1998 to 2005
- 2.4 Alcohol consumption (units per week) among adults, by gender, 1992 to 2005
- 2.5 Maximum daily amount drunk last week among men, by average weekly consumption, 2005
- 2.6 Maximum daily amount drunk last week among women, by average weekly consumption, 2005
- 2.7 Adults heaviest drinking day in the week prior to interview, by age, 2005
- 2.8 Average weekly consumption of different types of drink, by gender and age, 2006
- 2.9 Drinking last week, by marital status and gender, 2005
- 2.10 Alcohol consumption among adults, by maximum daily amount in the week prior to interview by economic activity status and gender, 2005
- 2.11 Adults drinking in the last week, by socio-economic classification and gender, 2005
- 2.12 Adults drinking more than recommended daily levels, by ethnic group and gender, 2001 – 2005
- 2.13 Drinking above the daily recommendations on at least one day, by Government Office Region and gender, 1998 to 2005
- 2.14 All new mothers who drank alcohol before and during pregnancy and those who gave up during pregnancy, by age, 2005
- 2.15 All new mothers who drank alcohol before and during pregnancy and those who gave up during pregnancy, 1995, 2000 and 2005
- 2.16 Where adults purchased alcohol in the last week, by gender, 1998 to 2006
- 2.17 Knowledge of daily recommendations, by gender, 2006
- 2.18 Drinkers who had seen unit labelling, by gender, 2000 to 2006
- 2.19 Where drinkers had seen unit labelling in the last week, by gender, 2000 to 2006
- 2.20 Pure alcohol consumption per Capita in the European Union, 1993 to 2003

**Table 2.1 Number of drinking days in the week prior to interview, by gender and age<sup>1</sup>, 2005**

England	Percentages				
	All ages	16-24	25-44	45-64	65 or over
<b>Drinking days last week: All persons</b>					
0	35	40	32	31	46
1	19	22	20	17	16
2	14	17	16	13	9
3	9	9	10	10	6
4	6	5	7	6	4
5	5	3	5	6	3
6	3	1	3	3	2
7	10	3	7	14	16
<b>Drank on 5 or more days</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Drank in the week prior to interview</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>Drinking days last week: Men</b>					
0	27	36	25	23	33
1	17	20	19	16	16
2	15	18	17	14	11
3	11	11	12	12	7
4	7	6	8	7	5
5	5	4	6	7	4
6	3	2	4	4	2
7	13	3	9	17	22
<b>Drank on 5 or more days</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Drank in the week prior to interview</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>67</b>
<b>Drinking days last week: Women</b>					
0	42	44	37	38	55
1	19	23	22	18	15
2	13	16	15	13	7
3	7	7	9	8	4
4	5	5	6	6	3
5	4	3	4	5	2
6	2	1	2	2	1
7	8	2	5	10	11
<b>Drank on 5 or more days</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Drank in the week prior to interview</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>45</b>
<i>Weighted bases (000s)</i>					
<i>All persons</i>	35,868	4,545	12,786	11,317	7,220
<i>Men</i>	16,798	2,181	5,998	5,433	3,185
<i>Women</i>	19,070	2,364	6,788	5,884	4,035
<i>Unweighted bases</i>					
<i>All persons</i>	18,578	2,048	6,470	6,082	3,978
<i>Men</i>	8,646	953	2,966	2,893	1,834
<i>Women</i>	9,932	1,095	3,504	3,189	2,144

1. Aged 16 and over

2. 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/05 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year

**Source:**

General Household Survey, 2005. Office for National Statistics (ONS)

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**Table 2.2 Drinking in the week prior to interview among men<sup>1</sup>, by age, 1998 to 2005**

England	Percentages				
	Total	16-24	25-44	45-64	65 and over
<b>Drank last week</b>					
1998	75	71	79	78	65
2000	75	70	78	77	68
2001	74	71	78	76	68
2002	73	68	76	76	66
2003	75	70	77	77	69
2004	74	67	76	78	70
2005	73	64	75	77	67
<b>Drank on 5 or more days</b>					
1998	24	14	22	30	26
2000	22	12	20	26	29
2001	22	14	20	26	27
2002	23	12	19	27	29
2003	23	15	20	27	29
2004	24	8	21	30	30
2005	22	10	19	28	27
<b>Drank more than 4 units on at least one day</b>					
1998	39	52	47	37	16
2000	38	49	44	37	16
2001	38	49	46	35	18
2002	37	48	45	37	15
2003	40	49	47	40	19
2004	39	48	48	37	19
2005	34	42	42	34	16
<b>Drank more than 8 units on at least one day</b>					
1998	22	39	29	17	4
2000	21	36	26	16	5
2001	21	35	28	15	5
2002	21	35	27	17	4
2003	23	35	30	19	5
2004	23	33	31	18	6
2005	18	30	25	15	4
<i>Weighted bases (000s)</i>					
1998	16,527	2,047	6,529	5,017	2,934
2000	17,604	2,263	6,955	5,378	3,007
2001	17,205	2,139	6,773	5,261	3,031
2002	16,783	2,103	6,185	5,346	3,149
2003	16,680	2,120	6,059	5,336	3,166
2004	16,818	2,210	6,090	5,385	3,133
2005	16,798	2,181	5,998	5,433	3,185
<i>Unweighted bases</i>					
1998	5,616	600	2,066	1,811	1,139
2000	5,707	669	2,020	1,896	1,122
2001	6,128	666	2,257	1,972	1,233
2002	5,907	662	2,055	1,979	1,211
2003	7,036	813	2,491	2,243	1,489
2004	5,873	675	2,061	1,940	1,197
2005	8,646	953	2,966	2,893	1,834

1. Aged 16 or over

2. 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/05 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year

**Source:**

General Household Survey, 2005. Office for National Statistics (ONS)

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**Table 2.3 Drinking in the week prior to interview among women<sup>1</sup>, by age, 1998 to 2005**

England	Percentages				
	Total	16-24	25-44	45-64	65 and over
<b>Drank last week</b>					
1998	59	62	65	62	46
2000	60	62	67	62	44
2001	60	59	67	61	46
2002	60	59	65	63	47
2003	60	61	65	64	46
2004	59	60	62	63	46
2005	58	56	63	62	45
<b>Drank on 5 or more days</b>					
1998	13	9	12	15	14
2000	13	7	12	16	15
2001	14	8	12	18	16
2002	14	7	12	18	16
2003	14	4	11	18	18
2004	13	5	10	19	17
2005	13	5	11	18	15
<b>Drank more than 3 units on at least one day</b>					
1998	21	42	27	16	4
2000	22	39	30	18	4
2001	22	39	30	18	5
2002	22	40	30	19	5
2003	22	38	30	19	4
2004	22	39	29	20	5
2005	20	36	26	18	4
<b>Drank more than 6 units on at least one day</b>					
1998	8	23	11	4	1
2000	9	26	12	5	1
2001	9	26	13	5	1
2002	9	26	13	5	1
2003	9	25	13	5	1
2004	9	24	12	6	1
2005	8	21	11	4	1
<i>Weighted bases (000s)</i>					
1998	18,512	2,182	6,855	5,376	4,099
2000	18,955	2,248	7,020	5,655	4,032
2001	18,845	2,181	7,070	5,577	4,018
2002	19,154	2,323	6,955	5,732	4,144
2003	18,627	2,174	6,688	5,697	4,068
2004	19,097	2,432	6,815	5,897	3,952
2005	19,070	2,364	6,788	5,884	4,035
<i>Unweighted bases</i>					
1998	6,659	677	2,479	2,006	1,497
2000	6,455	700	2,367	2,028	1,360
2001	7,156	782	2,663	2,168	1,543
2002	6,887	776	2,434	2,215	1,462
2003	7,960	841	2,874	2,479	1,766
2004	6,815	797	2,447	2,214	1,357
2005	9,932	1,095	3,504	3,189	2,144

1. Aged 16 or over

2. 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/05 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year

**Source:**

General Household Survey, 2005. Office for National Statistics (ONS)

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**Table 2.4 Alcohol consumption (units per week) among adults<sup>1</sup>, by gender, 1992 to 2005**

England	Percentages/mean weekly units								
	Unweighted				Weighted <sup>2</sup>				
	1992	1994	1996	1998	1998	2000	2001	2002	2005
<b>Men</b>									
Non-drinker	7	7	7	7	7	9	9	9	11
Under 1 unit	10	9	8	8	7	8	11	8	8
1 - 10 units	36	35	35	37	36	34	31	33	36
11 - 21 units	21	22	23	22	22	22	22	22	21
22 - 35 units	13	14	15	14	14	14	14	14	12
36 - 50 units	7	6	7	6	7	7	6	6	6
51 units and over	6	6	6	6	7	7	7	7	6
<b>More than 21 units</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>24</b>
Mean weekly units	15.7	15.4	16.1	16.4	17.2	17.1	16.9	17.0	15.8
<b>Women</b>									
Non-drinker	12	14	13	14	14	14	15	15	18
Under 1 unit	22	21	20	19	19	17	22	16	17
1 - 7 units	39	37	37	37	37	36	32	37	37
8 - 14 units	15	15	16	16	16	16	15	15	14
15 - 25 units	8	9	9	10	10	11	9	10	8
26 - 35 units	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
36 units and over	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	2
<b>More than 14 units</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>13</b>
Mean weekly units	5.5	5.6	6.3	6.4	6.5	7.1	7.5	7.6	6.5
<i>Weighted bases (000s)<sup>3</sup></i>									
<i>Men</i>	..	..	..	..	16,541	17,594	17,192	16,781	16,704
<i>Women</i>	..	..	..	..	18,518	18,912	18,847	19,160	19,131
<i>Unweighted bases</i>									
<i>Men</i>	7,265	6,603	6,145	5,621	5,621	5,704	6,124	5,906	7,158
<i>Women</i>	8,364	7,832	7,227	6,661	6,661	6,442	7,157	6,889	8,261

1. Aged 16 and over

2. In 2000 the decision was made to weight the data to compensate for under-representation of people in some groups. This table shows weighted and unweighted data for 1998 to give an indication of the effect of weighting. Caution should be exercised when comparing weighted data with unweighted data

3. Questions on weekly alcohol consumption were not asked in 2004/05. In 2005, the survey changed from financial year to calendar year. Therefore unweighted data is based on those questioned between April 2005 and December 2005. Weighted bases are scaled to represent a full year.

**Source:**

General Household Survey 2005, Office for National Statistics (ONS)

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**Table 2.5 Maximum daily amount drunk last week among men<sup>1</sup>, by average weekly consumption, 2005**

England	Percentages				
	Total <sup>2</sup>	Average weekly consumption			
		< 1 unit	1-10 units	11-21 units	22+ units
Drank nothing last week	28	82	26	5	3
Up to 4 units	39	17	58	50	24
More than 4, up to 8 units	16	1	11	25	29
More than 8, up to 12 units	8	0	3	11	19
More than 12 units	9	0	2	8	26
<b>More than 4 units</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>73</b>
<b>More than 8 units</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>45</b>
<i>Weighted bases (000s)<sup>3</sup></i>	<i>16,686</i>	<i>1,293</i>	<i>6,074</i>	<i>3,518</i>	<i>3,972</i>
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>7,150</i>	<i>561</i>	<i>2,625</i>	<i>1,522</i>	<i>1,679</i>

1. Aged 16 and over

2. Total includes non-drinkers

3. Questions on weekly alcohol consumption were not asked in 2004/05. In 2005, the survey changed from financial year to calendar year. Therefore unweighted data is based on those questioned between April 2005 and December 2005. Weighted bases are scaled to represent a full year.

**Source:**

General Household Survey 2005, Office for National Statistics (ONS)

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**Table 2.6 Maximum daily amount drunk last week among women<sup>1</sup>, by average weekly consumption, 2005**

England	Percentages				
	Total <sup>2</sup>	Average weekly consumption			
		< 1 unit	1-7 units	8-14 units	15+ units
Drank nothing last week	43	78	27	8	4
Up to 3 units	37	21	58	54	33
More than 3, up to 6 units	12	1	11	26	30
More than 6, up to 9 units	4	0	2	7	13
More than 9 units	4	0	2	4	19
<b>More than 3 units</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>62</b>
<b>More than 6 units</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>32</b>
<i>Weighted bases (000s)</i>	<i>19,127</i>	<i>3,314</i>	<i>7,103</i>	<i>2,753</i>	<i>2,548</i>
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>8,259</i>	<i>1,430</i>	<i>3,096</i>	<i>1,206</i>	<i>1,090</i>

1. Aged 16 and over

2. Total includes non-drinkers

3. Questions on weekly alcohol consumption were not asked in 2004/05. In 2005, the survey changed from financial year to calendar year. Therefore unweighted data is based on those questioned between April 2005 and December 2005. Weighted bases are scaled to represent a full year.

**Source:**

General Household Survey 2005, Office for National Statistics (ONS)

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**Table 2.7 Adults heaviest drinking day in the week prior to interview, by age<sup>1,2</sup>, 2005**

England	Percentages				
	All ages	16-24	25-44	45-64	65 or over
Sunday	22	14	19	25	30
Monday	10	7	9	10	15
Tuesday	10	7	8	10	14
Wednesday	9	8	7	9	12
Thursday	7	6	7	7	9
Friday	14	23	18	12	6
Saturday	27	34	33	26	14
<i>Weighted base (000s)</i>	23,203	2,733	8,726	7,821	3,923
<i>Unweighted base</i>	12,074	1,219	4,399	4,250	2,206

1. Aged 16 and over
2. Data relate only to those who had an alcoholic drink in the week prior to interview
3. 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/05 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year

**Source:**

General Household Survey, 2005. Office for National Statistics (ONS)

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**Table 2.8 Average weekly consumption of different types of drink, by gender and age<sup>1</sup>, 2006**

**Great Britain**

	Mean number of units per week					Percentages				
	All ages	16-24	25-44	45-54	65 and over	All ages	16-24	25-44	45-54	65 and over
<b>Men</b>										
<b>Total units<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>16.0</b>	<b>16.5</b>	<b>17.0</b>	<b>17.6</b>	<b>10.8</b>					
Strong beer, lager, cider	2.0	1.5	2.4	2.0	1.5	13	9	14	11	14
Normal strength beer, lager, cider	8.7	9.7	10.0	9.8	3.6	54	59	59	56	33
Spirits	2.0	1.9	1.6	2.4	2.3	13	12	9	14	21
Fortified Wine	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	1	1	1	1	2
Wine	2.9	2.1	2.7	3.2	3.1	18	13	16	18	29
Alcopops	0.3	1.1	0.3	0.1	0.0	2	7	2	1	0
<b>Women</b>										
<b>Total units<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>9.0</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>3.8</b>					
Strong beer, lager, cider	0.3	0.2	0.6	0.1	0.2	4	2	7	2	5
Normal strength beer, lager, cider	1.3	1.2	2.5	0.7	0.2	19	14	28	11	5
Spirits	1.7	2.9	1.9	1.4	1.2	24	35	21	23	32
Fortified Wine	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.5	3	1	1	3	13
Wine	3.0	1.4	3.5	3.6	1.8	43	17	39	59	47
Alcopops	0.4	2.4	0.4	0.0	0.0	6	29	4	0	0
<i>Bases</i>										
<i>Men</i>	<i>1,125</i>	<i>114</i>	<i>383</i>	<i>386</i>	<i>212</i>					
<i>Women</i>	<i>1,349</i>	<i>150</i>	<i>489</i>	<i>442</i>	<i>269</i>					

1. Aged 16 and over

2. Includes 'other' drinks such as cocktails

**Source:**

Drinking: Adults' behaviour and knowledge in 2006. Office for National Statistics (ONS)

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**Table 2.9 Drinking last week by, marital status and gender<sup>1</sup>, 2005**

England	Percentages					
	All adults	Men	Women	All adults	Men	Women
	<b>Drank last week</b>			<b>Drank more than 4/3 units on at least one day</b>		
<b>Total</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>20</b>
Single	64	68	59	37	41	32
Married/cohabiting	68	76	61	26	32	20
Divorced/separated	58	68	52	25	34	19
Widowed	46	65	40	7	20	4
	<b>Drank on five or more days last week</b>			<b>Drank more than 8/6 units on at least one day</b>		
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>8</b>
Single	11	14	8	22	26	17
Married/cohabiting	20	25	15	11	16	6
Divorced/separated	15	22	11	11	19	7
Widowed	15	23	13	2	6	1
<i>Weighted bases (000s)</i>						
<i>Total</i>	<i>35,868</i>	<i>16,798</i>	<i>19,070</i>	<i>35,890</i>	<i>16,806</i>	<i>19,084</i>
<i>Divorced/separated</i>	<i>3,155</i>	<i>1,201</i>	<i>1,954</i>	<i>3,154</i>	<i>1,201</i>	<i>1,953</i>
<i>Married/cohabiting</i>	<i>22,261</i>	<i>10,824</i>	<i>11,437</i>	<i>22,263</i>	<i>10,826</i>	<i>11,437</i>
<i>Single</i>	<i>7,846</i>	<i>4,194</i>	<i>3,652</i>	<i>7,867</i>	<i>4,201</i>	<i>3,667</i>
<i>Widowed</i>	<i>2,605</i>	<i>578</i>	<i>2,027</i>	<i>2,605</i>	<i>578</i>	<i>2,027</i>
<i>Unweighted bases</i>						
<i>Total</i>	<i>18,578</i>	<i>8,646</i>	<i>9,932</i>	<i>18,588</i>	<i>8,649</i>	<i>9,939</i>
<i>Single</i>	<i>3,547</i>	<i>1,843</i>	<i>1,704</i>	<i>3,558</i>	<i>1,846</i>	<i>1,712</i>
<i>Married/cohabiting</i>	<i>12,139</i>	<i>5,900</i>	<i>6,239</i>	<i>12,139</i>	<i>5,900</i>	<i>6,239</i>
<i>Divorced/separated</i>	<i>1,557</i>	<i>572</i>	<i>985</i>	<i>1,556</i>	<i>572</i>	<i>984</i>
<i>Widowed</i>	<i>1,335</i>	<i>331</i>	<i>1,004</i>	<i>1,335</i>	<i>331</i>	<i>1,004</i>

1. Adults aged 16 and over

2. 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/05 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year

**Source:**

General Household Survey, 2005. Office for National Statistics (ONS)

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**Table 2.10 Alcohol consumption among adults<sup>1</sup>, by maximum daily amount in the week prior to interview by economic activity status and gender, 2005**

England	Percentages					
	All adults	Men	Women	All adults	Men	Women
	<b>Drank last week</b>			<b>Drank more than 4/3 Units on at least one day</b>		
<b>All adults<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>67</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Total working<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>72</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>28</b>
Full time	74	78	68	37	41	30
Part time	67	71	66	27	36	25
Unemployed	62	65	59	35	37	31
Economically inactive <sup>3</sup>	52	61	47	22	31	17
	<b>Drank on five or more days in the last week</b>			<b>Drank more than 8/6 Units on at least one day</b>		
<b>All adults<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>17</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Total working<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>18</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>11</b>
Full time	19	22	14	19	23	12
Part time	15	21	13	12	19	10
Unemployed	9	12	5	19	22	14
Economically inactive <sup>3</sup>	14	19	12	10	17	6
<i>Weighted bases (000s)</i>						
<i>All adults</i>	28,644	13,612	15,032	28,664	13,618	15,046
<i>Total working</i>	20,964	10,751	10,213	20,960	10,747	10,214
<i>Full time</i>	14,746	9,214	5,533	14,737	9,206	5,531
<i>Part time</i>	5,688	1,218	4,470	5,694	1,222	4,472
<i>Unemployed</i>	849	489	359	851	491	359
<i>Economically inactive</i>	6,832	2,372	4,460	6,853	2,380	4,473
<i>Unweighted bases</i>						
<i>All adults</i>	14,599	6,812	7,787	14,607	6,813	7,794
<i>Total working</i>	10,677	5,441	5,236	10,674	5,438	5,236
<i>Full time</i>	7,418	4,664	2,754	7,412	4,659	2,753
<i>Part time</i>	2,963	599	2,364	2,966	601	2,365
<i>Unemployed</i>	404	227	177	405	228	177
<i>Economically inactive</i>	3,518	1,144	2,374	3,528	1,147	2,381

1. Aged 16 to 64

2. People who do unpaid family work, have inadequately described working hours or are on a government scheme are not included as separate categories but are included in the figures for 'total working' and 'all adults'

3. Economically inactive people are people who are neither working or unemployed by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) measure. For example, this would include those who were looking after a home or retired

4. 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/05 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year

**Source:**

General Household Survey 2005, Office for National Statistics (ONS)

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**Table 2.11 Adults<sup>1</sup> drinking in the last week, by socio-economic classification<sup>2</sup> and gender, 2005**

England	Percentages					
	All adults	Men	Women	All adults	Men	Women
	<b>Drank last week</b>			<b>Drank more than 4/3 units on at least one day</b>		
<b>All adults<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>65</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Managerial and professional</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>22</b>
Large employers and higher managerial	77	82	72	32	36	27
Higher professional	75	80	70	27	32	21
Lower managerial and professional	71	78	65	28	34	22
<b>Intermediate</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>20</b>
Intermediate	65	75	60	26	36	20
Small employers/own account	66	74	59	28	36	20
<b>Routine and manual</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>17</b>
Lower supervisory and technical	61	69	53	27	35	20
Semi-routine	56	65	50	23	32	16
Routine	53	64	43	24	33	16
	<b>Drank on five or more days in the last week</b>			<b>Drank more than 8/6 units on at least one day</b>		
<b>All adults<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>17</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Managerial and professional</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>8</b>
Large employers and higher managerial	25	29	21	14	18	9
Higher professional	24	29	19	11	14	8
Lower managerial and professional	20	26	15	13	19	7
<b>Intermediate</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>7</b>
Intermediate	16	22	13	12	19	7
Small employers/own account	20	25	14	13	19	7
<b>Routine and manual</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>7</b>
Lower supervisory and technical	13	17	10	14	20	8
Semi-routine	13	17	10	11	16	7
Routine	12	17	8	12	18	6
<i>Weighted bases (000's)</i>						
<i>Managerial and professional</i>	14,601	7,080	7,539	14,609	7,080	7,530
<i>Intermediate</i>	6,434	2,920	3,514	6,447	2,929	3,518
<i>Routine and manual</i>	12,838	5,964	6,874	12,836	5,960	6,876
<i>All adults<sup>3</sup></i>	35,867	16,798	19,070	35,890	16,806	19,084
<i>Unweighted bases</i>						
<i>Managerial and professional</i>	7,829	3,773	4,056	7,832	3,772	4,060
<i>Intermediate</i>	3,311	1,490	1,821	3,317	1,494	1,823
<i>Routine and manual</i>	6,538	3,022	3,516	6,537	3,020	3,517
<i>All adults<sup>3</sup></i>	18,578	8,646	9,932	18,588	8,649	9,939

1. Aged 16 and over

2. Based on the current or last job of the house

3. From April 2001 the National Statistics Socio-economic Classification (NS-SEC) was introduced for all official statistics and surveys. It has replaced Social Class based on Occupation and Socio-economic Groups (SEG). Full-time students, persons in inadequately described occupations, persons who have never worked and the long term unemployed are not shown as separate categories, but are included in the figure for 'All adults'

4. 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/05 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year

**Source:**

General Household Survey 2005, Office for National Statistics (ONS)

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**Table 2.12 Adults<sup>1</sup> drinking more than recommended daily levels, by ethnic group and gender, 2001 - 2005<sup>2</sup>**

Great Britain										Percentages		
	All adults	Men	Women	All adults	Men	Women	All adults	Men	Women	All adults	Men	Women
	<b>Drank last week</b>						<i>Weighted bases (000s)</i>			<i>Unweighted bases</i>		
	<b>Drank on 5 or more days in the last week</b>											
<b>All Adults</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>13</b>	<i>41,364</i>	<i>19,314</i>	<i>22,051</i>	<i>83,644</i>	<i>38,683</i>	<i>44,961</i>
<b>White</b>												
White British	68	77	61	18	23	14	36,771	17,148	19,622	74,946	34,674	40,272
White Other	67	75	61	17	22	12	1,413	644	770	2,700	1,206	1,494
<b>Mixed</b>												
White & Black Caribbean	58	56	60	6	9	5	95	39	56	179	75	104
White & Black African <sup>3</sup>	45	45	44	5	8	0	49	26	23	92	47	45
White & Asian	62	63	60	12	9	15	81	44	37	155	79	76
Other Mixed	57	62	54	11	16	7	80	32	48	150	59	91
<b>Asian or Asian British</b>												
Indian	31	41	20	5	8	1	646	323	323	1,296	637	659
Pakistani	5	8	2	1	2	0	436	217	219	858	420	438
Bangladeshi	4	5	2	1	2	0	135	659	69	245	120	125
Other Asian	27	34	20	6	9	4	266	130	135	496	239	257
<b>Black or Black British</b>												
Caribbean	52	65	42	7	11	4	421	178	243	782	322	460
African	26	36	18	2	3	0	416	192	223	734	322	412
Other Black <sup>3</sup>	41	59	29	5	11	2	52	21	32	89	33	56
<b>Chinese or other ethnic group</b>												
Chinese	37	51	23	3	5	2	168	83	84	294	139	155
Other	40	48	40	8	10	5	336	170	166	628	311	317
	<b>Drank more than 3/4 Units on at least one day</b>			<b>Drank more than 6/8 units on at least one day</b>			<i>Weighted bases (000s)</i>			<i>Unweighted bases</i>		
<b>All Adults</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>9</b>	<i>41,358</i>	<i>19,309</i>	<i>22,048</i>	<i>83,631</i>	<i>38,674</i>	<i>44,957</i>
<b>White</b>												
White British	31	40	23	16	23	10	36,764	17,144	19,620	74,931	34,664	40,267
White Other	28	37	20	14	19	9	1,414	644	770	2,702	1,207	1,495
<b>Mixed</b>												
White & Black Caribbean	33	38	30	18	25	13	94	38	56	178	74	104
White & Black African <sup>3</sup>	24	29	20	10	12	8	49	26	23	91	46	45
White & Asian	35	43	26	21	26	13	81	44	37	155	79	76
Other Mixed	27	32	24	13	19	10	80	32	48	150	59	91
<b>Asian or Asian British</b>												
Indian	9	14	5	5	7	3	646	323	323	1,296	637	659
Pakistani	3	5	0	1	1	0	436	217	219	858	420	438
Bangladeshi	1	2	0	1	2	0	135	66	69	245	120	125
Other Asian	7	10	4	3	4	2	266	130	135	496	239	257
<b>Black or Black British</b>												
Caribbean	14	19	10	4	5	3	420	177	243	781	321	460
African	8	13	4	3	6	1	416	193	223	735	323	412
Other Black <sup>3</sup>	14	19	10	6	10	4	52	21	32	89	33	56
<b>Chinese or other ethnic group</b>												
Chinese	10	17	3	3	7	0	168	84	84	295	140	155
Other	15	21	9	7	10	4	336	171	166	629	312	317

1. Aged 16 and over

2. Due to small sample sizes for some ethnic groups data collected each year from 2001 to 2005 has been combined

3. All percentages shown for these ethnic groups are unreliable due to small sample sizes and any analysis using these figures may be invalid

4. 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/05 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year

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General Household Survey 2005, Office for National Statistics (ONS)

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**Table 2.13 Drinking above the daily recommendations on at least one day, by Government Office Region and gender<sup>1</sup>, 1998 to 2005**

England Government Office Region	1998 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005							1998 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005							Percentages	
	Drank more than 4 units on at least one day last week							Drank more than 8 units on at least one day last week							Weighted base 2005 (000's)	Unweighted sample 2005
<b>Men</b>																
England	39	38	39	37	40	39	34	22	21	22	21	23	22	18	16,798	8,646
North East	46	44	47	49	47	48	42	24	25	29	29	25	29	21	843	426
North West	46	45	49	42	45	46	42	28	24	29	24	28	28	24	2,269	1,186
Yorkshire and the Humber	41	42	44	44	47	47	42	25	23	27	26	28	30	25	1,733	898
East Midlands	42	43	43	41	45	39	36	21	22	22	22	27	23	19	1,593	839
West Midlands	42	35	34	36	42	39	31	26	17	18	18	23	22	16	1,657	879
East of England	35	31	34	31	35	35	33	15	18	20	15	20	18	17	1,857	994
London	33	31	36	32	32	32	26	19	17	20	19	18	18	12	2,261	1,013
South East	37	39	34	33	35	36	31	20	22	18	17	18	20	15	2,851	1,486
South West	37	35	38	37	38	37	33	20	20	20	21	22	21	19	1,734	925
<b>Women</b>																
England	21	22	22	22	22	22	20	8	9	10	10	9	10	8	19,070	9,932
North East	23	25	29	32	26	25	25	8	13	15	17	9	11	9	1,048	538
North West	26	28	28	27	26	28	26	11	13	13	11	13	14	11	2,627	1,403
Yorkshire and the Humber	19	23	25	26	26	32	27	7	10	12	14	13	15	13	1,992	1,026
East Midlands	21	23	27	18	25	26	19	8	8	12	8	9	11	7	1,714	918
West Midlands	21	19	17	19	21	19	17	9	7	7	8	9	7	6	1,822	981
East of England	18	20	20	19	17	15	18	7	8	8	6	6	6	7	2,082	1,129
London	17	19	18	18	15	15	13	7	7	8	8	5	6	5	2,641	1,188
South East	20	22	21	22	23	22	18	7	10	7	8	9	9	6	3,165	1,677
South West	21	21	23	23	24	24	22	8	9	9	9	9	9	8	1,980	1,072

1. Adults aged 16 and over

2. 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/05 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year

**Source:**

General Household Survey 2005, Office for National Statistics (ONS)

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**Table 2.14 All<sup>1</sup> new mothers<sup>2</sup> who drank alcohol before and during pregnancy and those who gave up during pregnancy, by age, 2005**

United Kingdom and England						Percentages	
	under 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35 and over	All new mothers	All new mothers (England only)
<b>All new mothers who:</b>							
Drank before pregnancy <sup>3</sup>	85	81	80	86	86	83	83
Drank during pregnancy	47	48	49	60	61	54	55
<i>Base</i>	905	2,397	3,179	3,487	2,287	12,290	6,075
<b>Mothers who drank before pregnancy who:</b>							
Gave up drinking	44	40	38	30	28	34	33
Drank less	50	55	58	65	67	61	62
No change/drank more	5	4	3	4	4	4	4
<i>Base</i>	768	1,945	2,532	3,013	1,964	10,244	5,014

1. Includes some mothers whose age was not known

2. Mothers whose babies were 4 to 10 weeks old

3. In the two years before the birth of their baby

**Source:**

Infant Feeding Survey 2005. The Information Centre

**Table 2.15 All<sup>1</sup> new mothers<sup>2</sup> who drank alcohol before and during pregnancy and those who gave up during pregnancy, 1995, 2000 and 2005**

United Kingdom	Percentages		
	1995	2000	2005
<b>All new mothers who:</b>			
Drank before pregnancy <sup>3</sup>	86	87	83
Drank during pregnancy	66	61	54
<i>Base</i>	5,165	9,492	12,290
<b>Mothers who drank before pregnancy who:</b>			
Gave up drinking	24	30	34
<i>Base</i>	4,446	8,267	10,244

1. Includes some mothers whose age was not known

2. Mothers whose babies were 4 to 10 weeks old

3. In the two years before the birth of their baby

**Source:**

Infant Feeding Survey 2005, The Information Centre

Infant Feeding 2000, The Department of Health

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**Table 2.16 Where adults<sup>1</sup> purchased alcohol in the last week, by gender, 1998 to 2006**

Great Britain	Percentages <sup>2</sup>				
	1998	2000	2002	2004	2006
<b>All adults</b>					
Licensed bar	32	33	32	29	26
Supermarket/shop	22	26	26	25	24
Restaurant	12	15	15	17	17
Off-licence	8	9	8	5	6
Non-retail	0	0	1	1	1
Abroad/duty free	2	2	2	2	2
<b>Men</b>					
Licensed bar	45	44	43	38	36
Supermarket/shop	22	25	26	26	24
Restaurant	15	19	19	18	19
Off-licence	10	12	10	8	8
Non-retail	1	1	1	1	1
Abroad/duty free	2	2	2	2	2
<b>Women</b>					
Licensed bar	21	24	22	22	18
Supermarket/shop	22	26	26	24	24
Restaurant	10	12	12	16	16
Off-licence	5	6	6	4	4
Non-retail	0	0	0	1	1
Abroad/duty free	2	2	1	2	1
<b>Bases</b>					
<i>All adults</i>	5,510	3,451	3,613	3,529	2,475
<i>Men</i>	2,550	1,618	1,729	1,581	1,125
<i>Women</i>	2,960	1,833	1,884	1,948	1,350

1. Aged 16 and over

2. Percentages may total more than 100 as respondents could give more than one answer

**Source:**

Drinking: Adults' behaviour and knowledge in 2006. Office for National Statistics (ONS)

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**Table 2.17 Knowledge of daily recommendations, by gender<sup>1</sup>, 2006**

Great Britain	Percentages		
	All adults	Men	Women
<b>Heard of daily recommendations</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>69</b>
<i>Base</i>	<i>2,472</i>	<i>1,125</i>	<i>1,347</i>
<b>Number of units for men<sup>2</sup></b>			
1	1	2	0
2	9	11	7
3	25	22	28
4	13	15	12
5 or more	15	14	15
Don't know	37	36	37
<b>Number of units for women<sup>2</sup></b>			
1	8	10	6
2	34	28	40
3	11	13	9
4 or more	10	10	10
Don't know	36	39	34
<i>Base</i>	<i>1,697</i>	<i>770</i>	<i>927</i>

1. Aged 16 and over

2. Data relate to only those who said they had heard of daily benchmarks

**Source:**

Drinking: Adults' behaviour and knowledge in 2006. Office for National Statistics (ONS)

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**Table 2.18 Drinkers<sup>1,2</sup> who had seen unit labelling, by gender, 2000 to 2006**

Great Britain	Percentages			
	2000	2002	2004	2006
All Adults <sup>2</sup>	23	27	31	32
Men	24	28	35	36
Women	23	26	28	30
<i>Bases</i>				
All Adults	2,555	2,170	2,646	1,946
Men	1,210	1,340	1,211	912
Women	1,345	1,370	1,435	1,034

1. Aged 16 and over

1. Data relate to only those who said they had heard of alcohol units

**Source:**

Drinking: Adults' behaviour and knowledge in 2006. Office for National Statistics (ONS)

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**Table 2.19 Where drinkers<sup>1,2</sup> had seen unit labelling in the last week, by gender, 2000 to 2006**

Great Britain	Percentages <sup>3</sup>			
	2000	2002	2004	2006
<b>All adults</b>				
Supermarket	77	76	71	86
Off-licence	17	14	12	21
Public house	16	25	21	22
Restaurant	4	5	6	6
Nightclub/club	3	5	4	6
Can't remember/Don't know	10	4	10	3
<b>Men</b>				
Supermarket	78	74	74	85
Off-licence	19	16	14	25
Public house	14	25	20	23
Restaurant	4	5	6	6
Nightclub/club	3	5	5	6
Can't remember/Don't know	11	4	10	5
<b>Women</b>				
Supermarket	76	78	68	88
Off-licence	15	12	10	17
Public house	19	24	23	22
Restaurant	3	5	6	6
Nightclub/club	3	5	3	6
Can't remember/Don't know	10	5	10	2
<b>Bases</b>				
All adults	3,451	3,613	3,529	2,475
Men	1,618	1,729	1,581	1,125
Women	1,833	1,884	1,948	1,350

1. Aged 16 and over

2. Data relate only to those who had seen unit labelling

3. Percentages may total more than 100 as respondents could give more than one answer

**Source:**

Drinking: Adults' behaviour and knowledge in 2006. Office for National Statistics (ONS)

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**Table 2.20 Pure alcohol consumption per Capita<sup>1</sup> in the European Union, 1993 to 2003**

European Union	Litres										
	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Luxembourg	18.08	16.45	17.06	16.22	18.47	17.76	17.65	17.73	17.56	17.20	18.00
Czech Republic	15.71	15.93	15.83	16.06	16.47	16.37	16.48	16.33	16.21	15.95	16.15
Hungary	14.26	13.81	12.69	12.73	12.45	12.96	13.07	13.46	13.53	13.50	13.81
Ireland	11.24	11.17	11.45	12.21	12.81	13.16	13.82	14.22	14.44	14.34	13.47
Germany	14.33	14.34	13.92	13.69	13.50	13.23	13.25	12.98	12.86	12.92	12.66
Austria	13.79	13.45	13.41	13.26	13.03	12.76	12.79	12.73	12.25	12.47	12.57
France	15.02	14.86	14.87	14.49	14.03	13.97	13.82	13.57	13.55	13.30	12.25
Denmark	12.20	12.45	12.56	12.59	12.51	11.98	11.91	11.98	11.93	11.94	12.08
Spain	11.97	11.63	11.35	11.08	11.98	11.88	11.61	11.43	11.43	11.21	11.70
Estonia	7.90	7.97	9.42	6.43	8.14	8.60	8.02	8.98	9.97	10.96	11.68
Slovenia	12.59	14.39	12.13	13.49	14.26	11.06	10.18	11.35	11.66	11.80	11.66
Slovakia	12.20	13.18	12.70	13.00	13.23	12.28	12.26	12.19	12.05	12.03	11.58
<b>United Kingdom</b>	<b>9.96</b>	<b>10.21</b>	<b>9.71</b>	<b>9.93</b>	<b>10.23</b>	<b>9.91</b>	<b>10.25</b>	<b>10.23</b>	<b>10.73</b>	<b>11.13</b>	<b>11.37</b>
Cyprus	9.29	9.45	9.46	8.55	8.47	8.91	9.25	9.67	10.27	11.69	11.36
Portugal	14.85	14.64	14.44	13.90	13.16	12.92	12.79	12.59	12.06	11.31	11.13
Belgium	11.93	11.36	11.30	11.19	11.19	10.07	10.24	10.36	10.48	10.72	10.86
Italy	11.11	10.79	10.45	9.88	9.82	9.55	9.36	9.32	9.14	9.23	10.45
Lithuania	3.83	3.55	5.95	6.91	7.07	6.05	6.39	7.74	8.40	9.38	10.44
Latvia	8.75	10.10	9.53	8.72	8.88	8.91	9.57	9.41	9.31	9.52	9.92
Netherlands	9.75	9.74	9.86	9.91	9.96	9.88	9.91	9.81	9.76	9.61	9.56
Finland	8.39	8.16	8.31	8.24	8.56	8.60	8.62	8.59	8.95	9.24	9.31
Greece	11.15	10.87	10.55	10.12	9.96	9.45	9.92	9.43	9.30	9.14	8.99
Romania	9.14	7.95	8.33	8.16	8.84	7.32	7.68	7.69	8.62	8.80	8.88
Poland	8.35	8.42	8.12	8.07	8.69	8.52	8.43	8.37	7.70	8.06	8.15
Sweden	7.59	7.82	7.45	7.04	7.28	6.98	7.07	6.97	6.86	6.95	6.88
Malta	7.05	6.98	7.04	7.10	6.37	6.60	6.72	6.95	6.74	6.57	6.58
Bulgaria	10.24	10.08	9.91	9.61	8.58	8.34	8.15	7.77	7.13	6.38	5.89

1. Aged 15 and over

**Source:**

World Health Organisation (WHO): Regional Office for Europe - Health for All database

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## 3 Drinking among school children

### Background

Most information in this chapter is taken from the survey Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use among Young People in England (SDD). The most recent results available are from SDD 06<sup>1</sup>. Around 8,200 secondary school children aged 11 to 15, from 290 schools in England, were surveyed in the autumn term of 2006 about their smoking, drinking and drug use behaviours. Headline results from the survey were published in March 2007 with the full report due to be published in August 2007.

SDD 06 is the most recent survey in a series that began in 1982. Since 1998 each survey has included a core section of questions on smoking, drinking and drug use. From 2000, the remainder of the questionnaire has focused in alternate years on either smoking and drinking or on drug use. The emphasis of the 2006 survey was on smoking and drinking. Fewer questions were asked about alcohol use and behaviours in the 2005 survey<sup>2</sup> than in the 2004 survey so the most recent full report published which focuses on drinking behaviours is SDD 04<sup>3</sup>. Hence, some information in this chapter is taken from the most recent headline report (SDD 06), while some more detailed information is from the 2004 report.

This chapter also reports on the alcohol consumption among children aged 15 and 16 in European countries. These data are collected from school surveys as part of the European School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs (ESPAD 2003)<sup>4</sup>.

### Drinking in the week prior to interview

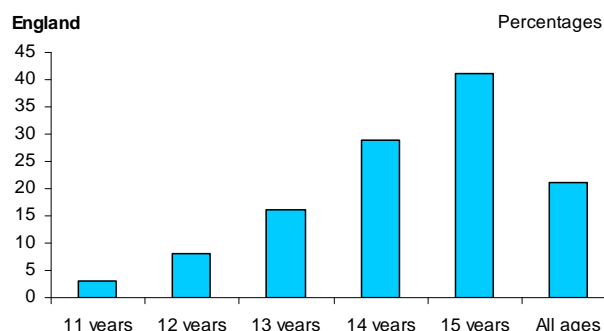
In the Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use survey, pupils are asked about their alcohol consumption in the last seven days. In 2006, 21% of pupils aged 11-15 said they had drunk alcohol in the previous week. The

proportions were similar for boys and girls (21% and 20% respectively). The prevalence of drinking alcohol in the last week increases with age, with 3% of pupils aged 11 reporting this compared to 41% of 15 year olds. Figures were similar for boys and girls at each age.

**21% of pupils reported drinking alcohol in the last week**

The proportion of pupils drinking alcohol in the previous week has fallen since 2001, when it was 26%. This fall can be seen in most age groups and is evident for both boys and girls (Table 3.1, Figure 3.1).

**Figure 3.1 Proportion of pupils who reported drinking alcohol in the last week, by age, 2006**



Source: Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use among Young People in England in 2006. The Information Centre

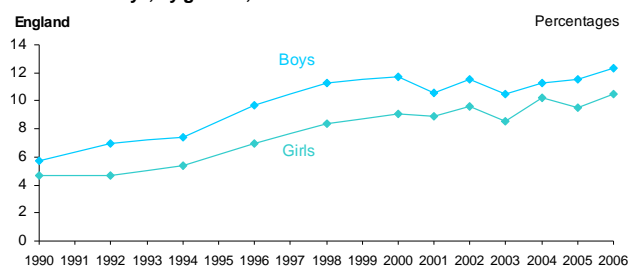
### Average weekly consumption

In 2006, the average consumption among pupils who had drunk alcohol in the week prior to interview was 11.4 units. This average weekly consumption increased from 5.3 units in 1990 to 10.4 units in 2000, and has remained around this level since then, showing no clear pattern overall. However, among children aged 11-13 who drank in the previous week average consumption has continued to increase, from 5.6 units in 2001

to 10.1 units in 2006. The proportion of pupils in this age group who reported having a drink in the last seven days has decreased in the same time period from 14% in 2001 to 9% in 2006<sup>†</sup>.

As in previous years, boys tended to drink more than girls. The average consumption of boys who had drunk in the last seven days was 12.3 units compared to 10.5 for girls. Average alcohol consumption was also higher among older pupils: 15 year old drinkers had drunk an average of 12.3 units in the last seven days compared with 10.1 units among 11-13 year olds (Table 3.2, Figure 3.2).

Figure 3.2 Mean alcohol consumption of those who had drunk in the last seven days, by gender, 1990 to 2006



Source: Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use among Young People in England in 2006. The Information Centre

### Drinking frequency

Since 2001, the proportion of pupils who have never drunk alcohol has risen; in 2006, 46% of pupils said they had never had a proper alcoholic drink, compared to 39% in 2001. As mentioned earlier, 21% of pupils reported drinking in the last week and the remaining 33% had drunk an alcoholic drink but not in the last week (Table 3.3).

**46% of pupils reported never having had a proper alcoholic drink**

Pupils who reported ever having had an alcoholic drink (59% overall in 2004) were

<sup>†</sup> Data not presented in a table. Figures have been updated - see summary for further details

also asked how often they usually drank alcohol. In 2004, similar proportions of boys and girls usually drank at least once a week (17% and 16% respectively). In surveys prior to 2004, the difference between boys and girls has been greater: historically, boys have been more likely than girls to report usually drinking at least once a week.

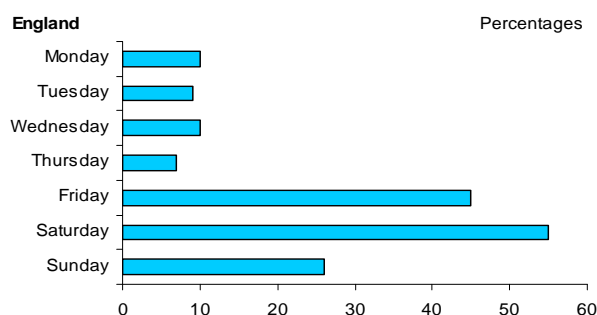
As in previous surveys, the proportion of pupils who usually drank at least once a week increased with age, from 3% of 11 year olds to 36% of 15 year olds. This pattern existed for boys and girls. In addition, those pupils who reported that they had ever had an alcoholic drink also increased with age, from 24% of 11 year olds, to 86% of 15 year olds (Table 3.4).

### Drinking days

As in previous surveys, weekends were the most popular times for drinking alcohol. In 2004, 45% of pupils who had drunk in the week prior to interview had done so on Friday, 55% on Saturday and 26% on Sunday.

Among those who had drunk in the week prior to interview, the proportion who had drunk on Fridays increased with age, from 26% of 11-12 year olds to 53% of 15 year olds. There was a similar but less marked increase among those who had drunk on Saturdays; 49% of 11-12 year olds compared with 59% of 15 year olds. Pupils aged 11-12 were the most likely to report drinking on a Sunday (Table 3.5, Figure 3.3).

Figure 3.3 Days on which pupils drank last week, 2004



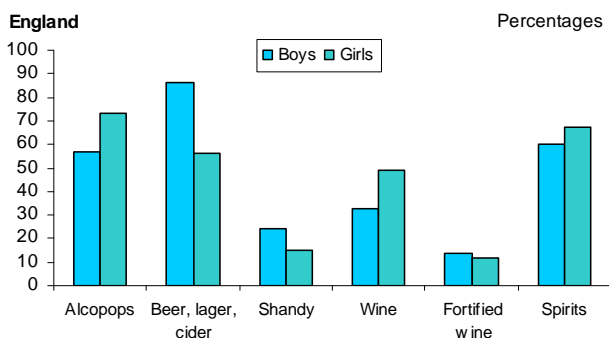
Source: Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use among Young People in England in 2004. The Information Centre

## Types of alcohol consumed

In 2004, as with previous years, beer, lager and cider remained the most commonly consumed types of drink. Seventy one per cent of pupils who drank in the week prior to interview reported drinking this type of alcohol. Alcopops and spirits were the next most frequently consumed types of drink (65% and 63% respectively). Boys were most likely to drink beer, lager or cider (86%), with girls preferring alcopops (73%).

Consumption of beer, lager and cider has fluctuated since 1990 with between 67% and 76% of pupils reporting drinking this type of alcohol. Consumption of spirits however has risen steadily among secondary school children from 35% in 1990 to 64% in 2003 and remained stable in 2004, at 63% (Table 3.6, Figure 3.4).

**Figure 3.4 Types of alcohol drunk by pupils in the last seven days, by gender, 2004**



Source: Smoking, Drinking and Drug use among Young People in England in 2004, The Information Centre

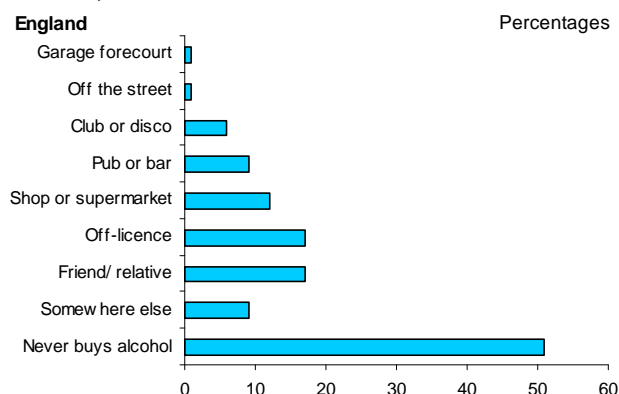
## Where children buy alcohol

In 2004, the most popular places where pupils purchased alcohol were at off-licences or from friends or relatives. Seventeen per cent of secondary school children reported that they usually bought alcohol from each of these two places. In recent years, there appears to have been a noticeable shift towards buying from friends or relatives and away from buying from off-licences. Purchasing from off-licences fell from 27% in 1996 to 17% in 2000 and has since remained stable. Buying from friends

or relatives increased from 9% in 1998 to 17% in 2000, and has since remained at this level (Table 3.7, Figure 3.5).

**Pupils were most likely to purchase alcohol from an off-licence or from a friend or relative**

**Figure 3.5 Where pupils who drink now usually buy alcohol, 2004**



Source: Smoking, Drinking and Drug use among Young People in England in 2004, The Information Centre

## Who children drank alcohol with

Pupils were asked who they usually drink with in the SDD 04 survey. Among the youngest pupils (aged 11 years), two thirds (65%) reported drinking with their parents and relatively few drank with friends of the same sex (10%) or of both sexes (8%). At age 15, the pattern had changed completely and 63% usually drank with friends of both sexes, 33% usually drank with parents and 22% drank with friends of the same sex. Boys were less likely to report usually drinking with friends of both sexes than girls (41% compared to 50%) (Table 3.8).

## Drinking and truancy or exclusion

Pupils were asked whether they had ever stayed away from school without permission (truanted) or been excluded from school. For the first time, the 2004 survey also asked about the number of truancies or exclusions

in the last 12 months. Recorded levels of truancy and exclusions should be viewed with caution as they are based on self-reported data. Also despite an additional visit being undertaken if four or more pupils were absent when the survey was first administered, it is likely that regular truants and those excluded from school during the fieldwork period will be underrepresented in the sample.

In 2004, pupils who had played truant in the last year were more likely than those who had last truanted more than 12 months ago to have drunk alcohol in the last week (55% and 43% respectively). Both groups of truants were more likely to report drinking in the last week than those who had never truanted (17%).

There was also a relationship between exclusions and drinking. Pupils who had never been excluded were less likely to have had an alcoholic drink in the week prior to interview (21%) than those who had been excluded recently or more than 12 months ago (both 45%) (Table 3.9).

### Drinking and other substance use

As the survey also collects information on smoking habits and use of drugs it is informative to look at drinking alongside smoking and drug use. Overall, three in ten pupils (29%) had recently smoked, drank alcohol or used drugs, with 13% of all pupils reporting drinking alcohol only. In addition, 3% reported drinking and smoking, 2% drinking and taking drugs and 4% drinking, smoking and taking drugs.

**11% of 15 year olds had recently smoked, drunk alcohol and taken drugs**

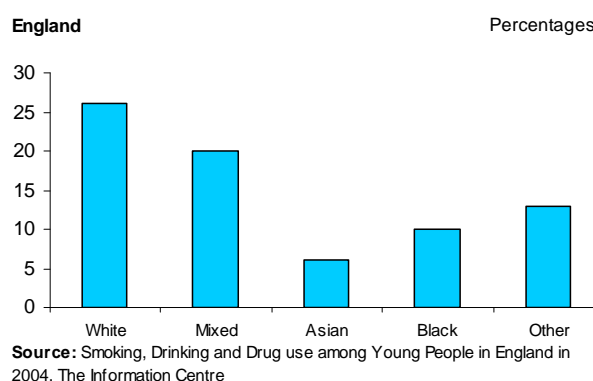
As the prevalence of each of these behaviours generally increases with age, so does the likelihood that pupils will have done

more than one. For example, only 1% of 12 year olds reported drinking, smoking and taking drugs compared with 11% of 15 year olds (Table 3.10).

### Drinking among different ethnic groups

Analysis by ethnic group has been conducted by combining the 2002, 2003 and 2004 surveys, because of the small numbers of pupils in the sample from minority ethnic groups. Pupils were asked to select one of the following categories that best described their ethnicity: White, Mixed, Asian or Asian British, Black or Black British, Chinese and Other. Due to the small number of pupils describing their ethnicity as Chinese, this group was combined with those answering 'Other'.

**Figure 3.6 Proportion of pupils reporting drinking alcohol in the last week, by ethnic group, 2002 - 2004**



Among the different ethnic groups, White pupils and pupils of Mixed ethnicity were more likely to have drunk alcohol in the last week than pupils in other ethnic groups. Around a quarter of White pupils (27% boys and 25% girls) and around a fifth of pupils of Mixed ethnicity (20% boys and 21% girls) reported having drunk alcohol in the week prior to interview. Among Black pupils, 8% of boys and 11% of girls had drunk alcohol in the last week, as had 6% of both Asian boys and girls (Table 3.11, Figure 3.6).

## Children's attitudes to drinking

Results from SDD 04 indicate that 62% of secondary school children believe that it is 'OK to try drinking alcohol to see what it's like'; with 39% saying it is 'OK to drink alcohol once a week'. Acceptability of drinking alcohol increased with age. For example, 29% of 11 year olds and 47% of 12 year olds thought it was 'OK to try drinking alcohol to see what it's like', compared with 84% of 15 year olds.

**14% of pupils thought it was 'OK to get drunk once a week'**

Pupils were less likely to think it was 'OK to try getting drunk to see what its like' (24% for both boys and girls), although almost half (48%) of 15 year olds thought this was OK. Similarly, the same percentage of boys and girls thought it was 'OK to get drunk once a week' (14%). Around a third (32%) of 15 year olds agreed with this statement (Table 3.12).

## Drinking and mental health

Mental Health of Children and Young People in Great Britain, 2004<sup>5</sup> is a survey that was carried out by the Office for National Statistics on behalf of the Department of Health and the Scottish Executive. The aim

of the survey was to provide information about the prevalence of mental disorders among young people in Great Britain. The survey examined the relationship between mental disorder and aspects of children's lives, including the use of alcohol. It was carried out between March and June 2004 and a sample size of around 8,000 children and young people aged 5 to 16 was achieved.

Results from this survey show that young people aged 11-16 with emotional disorders were more likely to drink regularly than other young people. This was also the case for young people with conduct disorders but is not true of children with hyperkinetic disorders.

## European comparison

Table 3.13 presents the frequency of drinking alcohol in the last 30 days, among children aged 15 and 16, in European countries. Among the countries that showed a high prevalence of frequent alcohol consumption, were Netherlands, Austria, Belgium, Malta and the UK where 17% or more of pupils reported drinking 10 times or more in the last 30 days. The highest prevalence of children reporting not drinking an alcoholic drink in the last 30 days was Turkey with 80% of pupils reporting this, followed by Iceland (63%).

## Summary: Drinking among school children

Unlike adults, a similar proportion of boys and girls reported drinking alcohol in the week prior to interview. Similar proportions of boys and girls also reported drinking at least once a week. Older pupils were more likely to have consumed alcohol in the week prior to interview.

The prevalence of drinking alcohol among school children has decreased since 2001, which is reflected in the recent increase in the number of children who reported never having a proper alcoholic drink.

However, among those who do drink, between 1990 and 2000 the average consumption doubled but has remained at a similar level in more recent years with the exception of younger children where consumption has continued to increase.

As with previous surveys, weekends were the most popular time for drinking among pupils; Saturday was the most popular day, followed by Friday, and Sunday.

Among the places where children bought their alcohol, off licences and friends or family were the most likely places. With

regards to whom children drank alcohol with, younger pupils tended to drink with their parents, whilst older pupils were more likely to drink with friends.

As in previous years, beer, lager and cider remained the most commonly consumed type of alcohol, followed by alcopops and spirits. However, consumption of spirits has risen between 1990 and 2003.

Prevalence among the different ethnic groups showed similar results to adults' consumption. Those of White and Mixed ethnic origin were more likely to report drinking in the last week than other ethnic groups. Asian pupils were least likely to consume alcohol.

Those children who reported truancy or exclusion were more likely to report drinking in the last week, than children who had never truanted or been excluded.

Among students in different European countries, the UK had one of the highest proportions of 15 and 16 year old students who reported drinking alcohol more than 10 times in the last 30 days.

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## List of tables

- 3.1 Proportion of pupils who drank alcohol in the last week, by gender and age, 1988 to 2006
- 3.2 Mean alcohol consumption of pupils who had drunk in the last seven days, by gender and age, 1990 to 2006
- 3.3 When pupils last drank alcohol, by gender, 1988 to 2006
- 3.4 Usual drinking frequency, by gender and age, 2004
- 3.5 Days on which pupils drank last week, by gender and age, 2004
- 3.6 Types of alcohol drunk by pupils in the last seven days, by gender, 1990 to 2004
- 3.7 Where pupils usually buy alcohol, by gender, 1996 to 2004
- 3.8 Who pupils usually drink with, by gender and age, 2004
- 3.9 Pupils who drank in the last week, by gender, self-reported truanting and self-reported exclusion, 2004
- 3.10 Summary of whether recently smoked, drank alcohol or taken drugs, by age, 2004
- 3.11 Whether pupils drank last week, by gender and ethnic group, 2002 – 2004
- 3.12 Attitudes to drinking among pupils, by gender and age, 2004
- 3.13 Frequency of use of any alcoholic beverage among students aged 15 and 16 during the last 30 days, in European countries, 2003

**Table 3.1 Proportion of pupils<sup>1</sup> who drank alcohol in the last week, by gender and age, 1988 to 2006**

England	Percentages													
	1988	1990	1992	1994	1996	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
<b>All pupils</b>														
<b>All ages</b>	20	21	21	24	27	21	21	24	26	24	25	23	22	21
11 years	5	6	6	6	7	3	6	5	6	5	6	4	3	3
12 years	9	8	10	9	11	10	9	10	12	11	11	10	8	8
13 years	16	18	13	19	24	15	16	19	22	20	21	18	18	16
14 years	22	32	29	30	36	29	28	32	35	34	33	33	32	29
15 years	40	40	45	50	53	44	45	48	52	47	49	45	46	41
<b>Boys</b>														
<b>All ages</b>	24	22	24	26	27	23	22	25	28	25	26	23	22	21
11 years	7	8	8	8	7	4	7	5	8	7	8	5	4	5
12 years	12	9	13	10	12	14	10	11	14	12	12	11	7	8
13 years	20	17	15	22	27	16	16	18	22	20	22	17	18	16
14 years	25	32	32	34	37	28	28	34	35	34	32	32	31	29
15 years	45	42	49	52	50	48	48	51	54	49	49	44	46	40
<b>Girls</b>														
<b>All ages</b>	17	20	17	22	26	18	20	23	25	23	24	23	23	20
11 years	4	4	5	4	6	2	4	5	4	4	5	3	2	2
12 years	7	6	7	9	9	6	8	9	11	9	9	9	9	7
13 years	11	19	11	16	22	14	17	19	22	21	19	19	18	15
14 years	19	32	25	26	35	29	28	31	35	34	34	33	33	30
15 years	36	39	40	48	55	40	41	45	50	45	48	46	45	41
<i>All pupils</i>														
<i>All ages</i>	3,018	3,082	3,271	3,020	2,823	4,617	9,374	7,031	9,232	9,630	10,290	9,572	9,068	7,893
11 years	458	598	588	497	535	577	1,763	1,176	1,614	1,664	1,750	1,681	1,463	1,236
12 years	598	617	690	611	568	702	1,913	1,421	1,897	1,981	2,128	1,947	1,844	1,647
13 years	613	602	685	630	552	675	1,872	1,433	1,893	1,970	2,141	1,948	1,896	1,591
14 years	621	598	608	615	582	1,254	1,854	1,441	1,840	1,896	2,000	1,894	1,891	1,572
15 years	725	660	683	667	586	1,409	1,972	1,560	1,988	2,119	2,271	2,102	1,974	1,847
<i>Boys</i>														
<i>All ages</i>	1,473	1,623	1,652	1,509	1,432	2,256	4,816	3,635	4,611	4,961	5,204	4,947	4,609	3,857
11 years	227	309	284	266	269	285	882	612	814	866	894	861	735	600
12 years	279	340	335	307	296	336	1,017	740	930	1,003	1,052	1,024	957	818
13 years	312	312	351	304	275	293	947	737	937	1,035	1,084	1,007	977	765
14 years	306	300	310	306	297	597	921	750	898	950	1,017	977	938	805
15 years	348	358	366	326	295	745	1,049	796	1,032	1,107	1,157	1,078	1,002	869
<i>Girls</i>														
<i>All ages</i>	1,518	1,459	1,614	1,511	1,391	2,362	4,558	3,396	4,621	4,669	5,086	4,625	4,459	4,036
11 years	225	289	304	231	266	291	881	564	800	798	856	820	728	636
12 years	312	277	354	304	272	365	896	681	967	978	1,076	923	887	829
13 years	296	290	333	326	277	383	925	696	956	935	1,057	941	919	826
14 years	311	298	298	309	285	657	933	691	942	946	983	917	953	767
15 years	374	302	317	341	291	666	923	764	956	1,012	1,114	1,024	972	978

1. Children in secondary school years 7 to 11, mostly aged 11-15

**Source:**

Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use among Young People in England in 2006. The Information Centre

**Table 3.2 Mean alcohol consumption of pupils who had drunk in the last seven days, by gender and age<sup>1</sup>, 1990<sup>2</sup> to 2006**

England	Units of alcohol											
	1990	1992	1994	1996	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
<b>All pupils</b>												
<b>All ages</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>8.4</b>	<b>9.9</b>	<b>10.4</b>	<b>9.8</b>	<b>10.6</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>10.7</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>11.4</b>
Aged 11-13	..	3.4	4.1	5.5	6.3	6.4	5.6	6.8	7.1	7.8	8.2	10.1
Aged 14	..	4.7	6.1	7.7	9.9	9.8	9.6	10.3	9.0	9.9	10.3	10.9
Aged 15	..	8.1	7.7	10.4	11.5	12.9	12.3	13.0	11.3	12.9	11.8	12.3
<b>Boys</b>												
<b>All ages</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>9.7</b>	<b>11.3</b>	<b>11.7</b>	<b>10.6</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>11.3</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>12.3</b>
Aged 11-13	..	3.6	5.2	7.1	6.2	8.3	5.5	7.3	7.7	8.1	8.6	11.9
Aged 14	..	5.3	6.7	7.3	12.3	9.5	10.0	10.7	9.4	10.1	11.1	10.1
Aged 15	..	9.6	8.8	12.9	12.9	14.5	13.8	14.3	12.9	13.9	13.1	13.9
<b>Girls</b>												
<b>All ages</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>8.4</b>	<b>9.1</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>10.5</b>
Aged 11-13	..	3.1	3.0	4.0	6.4	4.6	5.7	6.3	6.4	7.3	7.9	8.4
Aged 14	..	3.8	5.5	8.2	8.1	10.1	9.3	10.0	8.7	9.7	9.5	11.7
Aged 15	..	6.0	6.6	8.0	9.7	11.2	10.7	11.4	9.8	12.1	10.5	10.9
<i>Bases</i>												
<i>All pupils</i>												
<i>All ages</i>	423	641	606	585	686	1,411	2,026	1,915	2,136	1,813	1,670	1,328
<i>Aged 11-13</i>	..	176	177	157	108	347	557	512	604	463	403	307
<i>Aged 14</i>	..	170	154	165	282	392	532	533	558	527	504	380
<i>Aged 15</i>	..	290	276	263	487	672	937	870	974	823	763	641
<i>Boys</i>												
<i>All ages</i>	231	376	329	292	351	719	1,027	973	1,069	888	822	638
<i>Aged 11-13</i>	..	104	101	78	55	163	283	256	312	237	189	150
<i>Aged 14</i>	..	98	87	85	122	205	253	254	267	256	238	190
<i>Aged 15</i>	..	169	140	129	266	351	491	463	490	395	395	298
<i>Girls</i>												
<i>All ages</i>	192	264	277	293	334	692	999	942	1,067	925	848	690
<i>Aged 11-13</i>	..	71	76	79	53	184	274	256	292	226	214	157
<i>Aged 14</i>	..	72	66	80	160	187	279	279	291	271	266	190
<i>Aged 15</i>	..	121	135	134	221	321	446	407	484	428	368	343

1. Children in secondary school years 7 to 11, mostly aged 11-15

2. Data by age group not available for 1990

**Source:**

Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use among Young People in England in 2006. The Information Centre

**Table 3.3 When pupils last drank alcohol, by gender, 1988 to 2006**

England	Percentages													
	1988	1990	1992	1994	1996	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
<b>All pupils</b>														
During the last week	20	21	21	24	27	21	21	24	26	24	25	23	22	21
One to four weeks ago	18	15	12	15	14	15	16	14	15	14	15	15	14	14
One to six months ago	12	13	13	11	12	13	12	11	11	12	12	11	11	10
More than six months ago	11	15	13	10	9	11	11	10	8	10	10	10	10	9
Never had a drink	38	36	41	39	38	40	40	40	39	39	39	41	42	46
<b>Boys</b>														
During the last week	24	22	24	26	27	23	22	25	28	25	26	23	22	21
One to four weeks ago	19	15	12	14	15	15	16	13	14	14	14	14	13	13
One to six months ago	12	13	13	11	12	12	12	11	11	12	12	12	11	11
More than six months ago	11	15	14	10	9	12	11	11	9	11	10	10	10	10
Never had a drink	35	35	37	39	37	38	38	40	38	38	38	41	43	46
<b>Girls</b>														
During the last week	17	20	17	22	26	18	20	23	25	23	24	23	23	20
One to four weeks ago	17	14	12	16	13	15	17	15	17	15	16	16	15	15
One to six months ago	13	13	14	12	13	13	12	11	11	12	12	11	12	10
More than six months ago	11	15	12	10	10	11	10	10	8	9	9	10	11	9
Never had a drink	41	38	44	40	38	42	41	41	40	40	39	41	40	46
<b>Bases</b>														
All pupils	3,015	3,082	3,252	3,009	2,823	4,609	9,374	7,065	9,232	9,630	10,290	9,572	9,068	7,893
Boys	1,427	1,619	1,646	1,503	1,432	2,249	4,816	3,656	4,611	4,961	5,204	4,947	4,609	3,857
Girls	1,518	1,456	1,606	1,506	1,391	2,362	4,558	3,409	4,621	4,669	5,086	4,625	4,459	4,036

1. Children in secondary school years 7 to 11, mostly aged 11-15

**Source:**

Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use among Young People in England in 2006. The Information Centre

**Table 3.4 Usual drinking frequency, by gender and age<sup>1</sup>, 2004**

<b>England</b>	<b>Percentages</b>					
	All ages	11	12	13	14	15
<b>All pupils</b>						
<b>Ever had alcoholic drink</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>86</b>
<b>At least once a week</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>36</b>
Almost every day	1	0	0	1	2	3
About twice a week	7	1	2	5	9	16
About once a week	9	1	3	6	13	17
About once a fortnight	8	3	4	7	12	15
About once a month	9	2	5	9	13	13
Only a few times a year	21	13	20	28	24	19
Doesn't drink now	4	4	4	4	4	3
Never had a drink	41	76	61	40	23	14
<b>Boys</b>						
<b>Ever had alcoholic drink</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>83</b>
<b>At least once a week</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>37</b>
Almost every day	2	-	0	1	2	4
About twice a week	7	2	3	5	9	15
About once a week	9	2	3	6	13	17
About once a fortnight	8	3	5	7	12	13
About once a month	8	3	6	8	12	11
Only a few times a year	21	14	21	28	23	19
Doesn't drink now	4	4	4	5	4	3
Never had a drink	41	73	58	39	24	17
<b>Girls</b>						
<b>Ever had alcoholic drink</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>89</b>
<b>At least once a week</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>35</b>
Almost every day	1	0	0	1	2	2
About twice a week	7	0	2	5	10	16
About once a week	8	1	4	7	12	17
About once a fortnight	9	2	4	7	12	17
About once a month	9	1	4	9	15	14
Only a few times a year	21	13	20	28	25	19
Doesn't drink now	4	5	4	4	4	3
Never had a drink	41	78	63	40	21	11
<b>Bases</b>						
<i>All pupils</i>	9,562	1,678	1,949	1,949	1,889	2,097
<i>Boys</i>	4,950	861	1,025	1,014	976	1,074
<i>Girls</i>	4,612	817	924	935	913	1,023

1. Children in secondary school years 7 to 11, mostly aged 11-15

**Source:**

Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use among Young People in England in 2004. The Information Centre

**Table 3.5 Days on which pupils<sup>1</sup> drank last week, by gender and age, 2004**

England	Percentages				
	All ages	11 - 12	13	14	15
<b>All pupils</b>					
Sunday	26	31	24	24	27
Monday	10	10	9	8	11
Tuesday	9	9	7	9	10
Wednesday	10	7	8	10	11
Thursday	7	7	6	6	9
Friday	45	26	35	46	53
Saturday	55	49	54	53	59
<b>Boys</b>					
Sunday	28	29	24	25	30
Monday	12	11	12	9	14
Tuesday	10	10	6	8	12
Wednesday	11	6	6	12	13
Thursday	8	9	8	5	9
Friday	42	22	33	45	50
Saturday	53	48	51	48	58
<b>Girls</b>					
Sunday	25	35	24	22	24
Monday	8	9	7	7	9
Tuesday	9	7	7	9	9
Wednesday	8	7	9	8	8
Thursday	7	4	4	7	9
Friday	48	32	38	48	55
Saturday	58	51	57	58	60
<i>Bases</i>					
<i>All pupils</i>	2,170	271	351	617	931
<i>Boys</i>	1,110	159	172	312	467
<i>Girls</i>	1,060	112	179	305	464

1. Children in secondary school years 7 to 11, mostly aged 11-15

**Source:**

Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use among Young People in England in 2004, The Information Centre

**Table 3.6 Types of alcohol drunk by pupils<sup>1</sup> in the last seven days, by gender, 1990 to 2004**

England	Percentages									
	1990	1992	1994	1996	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
<b>All pupils</b>										
Beer, lager, cider	67	76	76	74	71	75	70	71	69	71
Alcopops <sup>2</sup>	..	..	..	55	37	62	68	68	68	65
Spirits	35	37	39	45	54	59	57	61	64	63
Wine	50	52	48	40	51	44	42	43	43	41
Shandy	31	25	24	20	18	20	22	19	21	20
Fortified wine	18	17	15	15	20	19	12	14	13	13
<b>Boys</b>										
Beer, lager, cider	76	81	82	81	78	85	83	85	85	86
Alcopops <sup>2</sup>	..	..	..	52	33	55	59	61	61	57
Spirits	33	38	37	42	52	55	54	55	60	60
Wine	44	46	44	38	47	38	33	34	35	33
Shandy	38	26	27	22	19	23	21	22	28	24
Fortified wine	14	15	12	11	16	17	10	13	14	14
<b>Girls</b>										
Beer, lager, cider	56	67	70	67	63	63	57	55	53	56
Alcopops <sup>2</sup>	..	..	..	58	42	69	77	76	76	73
Spirits	38	36	42	48	56	63	61	68	68	67
Wine	56	60	52	43	55	52	51	53	52	49
Shandy	22	23	21	18	18	15	15	15	14	15
Fortified wine	22	20	18	19	24	21	14	15	13	12
<b>Bases</b>										
<i>Total</i>	623	669	699	721	856	1,704	2,026	2,346	2,552	2,182
<i>Boys</i>	339	394	375	372	446	914	1,027	1,253	1,335	1,118
<i>Girls</i>	284	275	324	349	410	790	999	1,093	1,217	1,064

1. Children in secondary school years 7 to 11, mostly aged 11-15

2. Alcopops were first asked about in the 1996 Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use Among Young People survey

**Source**

Smoking, Drinking and Drug use among Young People in England in 2004, The Information Centre

**Table 3.7 Where pupils<sup>1,2</sup> usually buy alcohol, by gender, 1996 to 2004**

England	Percentages <sup>4</sup>					
	1996	1998	1999	2000	2002	2004
<b>All pupils</b>						
Friend/ relative <sup>3</sup>	..	9	9	17	17	17
Off-licence	27	20	21	17	16	17
Shop or supermarket	13	10	12	9	10	12
Pub or bar	10	9	9	9	8	9
Club or disco	6	6	5	7	5	6
Off the street <sup>3</sup>	..	..	..	..	..	1
Garage forecourt <sup>3</sup>	..	..	..	..	..	1
Somewhere else	8	6	8	8	8	9
Never buys alcohol	49	53	49	46	48	51
<b>Boys</b>						
Friend/ relative <sup>3</sup>	..	10	9	16	15	16
Off-licence	26	22	22	17	16	17
Shop or supermarket	12	11	11	8	9	11
Pub or bar	8	9	8	9	8	7
Club or disco	4	6	4	5	3	4
Off the street <sup>3</sup>	..	..	..	..	..	1
Garage forecourt <sup>3</sup>	..	..	..	..	..	1
Somewhere else	10	7	8	9	8	9
Never buys alcohol	51	51	48	48	51	53
<b>Girls</b>						
Friend/ relative <sup>3</sup>	..	9	9	19	20	19
Off-licence	28	18	21	17	16	17
Shop or supermarket	14	10	12	9	10	14
Pub or bar	12	9	10	10	9	11
Club or disco	8	6	7	9	6	8
Off the street <sup>3</sup>	..	..	..	..	..	0
Garage forecourt <sup>3</sup>	..	..	..	..	..	1
Somewhere else	6	6	7	7	8	9
Never buys alcohol	47	56	47	44	45	49
<b>Bases</b>						
All pupils	1,640	2,827	5,299	3,952	5,514	5,184
Boys	838	1,427	2,772	2,070	2,854	2,666
Girls	802	1,400	2,527	1,882	2,660	2,518

1. Children in secondary school years 7 to 11, mostly aged 11-15

2. Pupils who had ever had an alcoholic drink were asked how often they usually had an alcoholic drink. Those who gave an answer other than 'I never drink alcohol now' were categorised as pupils who 'drink now'. Analysis of alcohol purchase is based on all pupils who 'drink now'. This was the base used in previous reports and retaining the base allows for analysis of trends

3. 'Friends/ relatives' was introduced as a separate answer category in 1998. 'Off the street' and 'Garage forecourt' were introduced as a separate answer categories in 2004

4. Percentages total more than 100, because pupils could give more than one answer

**Source:**

Smoking, Drinking and Drug use among Young People in England in 2004, The Information Centre

**Table 3.8 Who pupils<sup>1</sup> usually drink with, by gender and age, 2004**

England	Percentages <sup>2</sup>					
	All ages	11	12	13	14	15
<b>All pupils</b>						
Girlfriend or boyfriend	9	2	7	5	8	15
Friends of same sex	17	10	12	15	17	22
Friends of opposite sex	6	1	3	5	5	10
Friends of both sexes	45	8	24	35	51	63
Parents	43	65	56	52	38	33
Brothers/ sisters or other relatives	20	24	25	22	19	18
Other people	4	5	3	4	4	4
Alone	1	2	3	1	1	2
<b>Boys</b>						
Girlfriend or boyfriend	8	3	7	7	8	11
Friends of same sex	17	9	12	14	19	20
Friends of opposite sex	6	1	3	5	5	9
Friends of both sexes	41	7	22	32	49	58
Parents	43	64	55	52	36	34
Brothers/ sisters or other relatives	19	23	23	22	17	16
Other people	4	4	3	3	4	5
Alone	2	3	4	1	2	2
<b>Girls</b>						
Girlfriend or boyfriend	10	1	6	3	9	18
Friends of same sex	18	11	13	15	16	23
Friends of opposite sex	7	2	4	5	5	11
Friends of both sexes	50	10	26	39	54	67
Parents	43	68	56	52	41	33
Brothers/ sisters or other relatives	22	25	27	22	21	20
Other people	4	6	4	4	4	3
Alone	1	1	1	1	0	1
<b>Bases</b>						
All pupils	5,234	340	685	1,086	1,387	1,736
Boys	2,690	198	383	557	697	855
Girls	2,544	142	302	529	690	881

1. Children in secondary school years 7 to 11, mostly aged 11-15

2. Percentages total more than 100, because pupils could give more than one answer

**Source:**

Smoking, Drinking and Drug use among Young People in England in 2004, The Information Centre

**Table 3.9 Pupils<sup>1</sup> who drank in the last week, by gender, self-reported truanting and self-reported exclusion, 2004**

England	Percentages							
	Truancy				Exclusion			
	Never truanted	More than 12 months ago	Within last 12 months	Total <sup>2</sup>	Never excluded	More than 12 months ago	Within last 12 months	Total <sup>2</sup>
All pupils	17	43	55	23	21	45	45	23
Boys	17	42	50	23	20	41	41	23
Girls	17	44	60	23	21	58	55	23
<i>Bases</i>								
All pupils	7,974	420	1,062	9,715	8,589	293	552	9,715
Boys	4,061	250	547	5,035	4,229	210	401	5,035
Girls	3,913	170	515	4,680	4,360	83	151	4,680

1. Children in secondary school years 7 to 11, mostly aged 11-15

2. The total column includes those who did not answer the questions about playing truant and having been excluded

**Source:**

Smoking, Drinking and Drug use among Young People in England in 2004, The Information Centre

**Table 3.10 Summary of whether recently<sup>1</sup> smoked, drank alcohol or taken drugs, by age<sup>2</sup>, 2004**

England	Percentages					
	All pupils	11	12	13	14	15
Smoked only	3	1	2	3	4	4
Drank alcohol only	13	3	8	12	19	22
Taken drugs only	2	2	2	2	2	2
Smoked and drank	3	0	1	2	5	7
Smoked and taken drugs	1	0	0	1	3	3
Drank and taken drugs	2	0	1	1	3	4
Smoked, drank and taken drugs	4	0	1	3	6	11
None of these	71	93	86	76	59	47
<i>Base</i>	<i>9,715</i>	<i>1,722</i>	<i>1,976</i>	<i>1,982</i>	<i>1,915</i>	<i>2,120</i>

1. Alcohol consumption and smoking has been taken in the week prior to interview and drug use has been taken in the month prior to interview

2. Children in secondary school years 7 to 11, mostly aged 11-15

**Source:**

Smoking, Drinking and Drug use among Young People in England in 2004, The Information Centre

**Table 3.11 Whether pupils<sup>1</sup> drank last week, by gender and ethnic group, 2002 - 2004**

England	Percentages				
	White	Mixed	Asian <sup>2</sup>	Black <sup>3</sup>	Other <sup>4</sup>
All pupils	26	20	6	10	13
Boys	27	20	6	8	14
Girls	25	21	6	11	11
<i>Bases</i>					
All pupils	25,487	1,055	1,702	843	596
Boys	12,958	559	952	448	315
Girls	12,529	496	750	395	281

1. Children in secondary school years 7 to 11, mostly aged 11-15
2. The full category specified on the questionnaire was 'Asian or Asian British'
3. The full category specified on the questionnaire was 'Black or Black British'
4. This includes some pupils who identified themselves as Chinese, as numbers were insufficient for separate analysis

**Source:**

Smoking, Drinking and Drug use among Young People in England in 2004, The Information Centre

**Table 3.12 Attitudes to drinking among pupils<sup>1</sup>, by gender and age, 2004**

England	Percentages					
	All ages	11	12	13	14	15
<b>All pupils</b>						
OK to try drinking alcohol to see what it's like	62	29	47	65	80	84
OK to try getting drunk to see what it's like	24	3	9	19	36	48
OK to drink alcohol once a week	39	13	23	36	54	64
OK to get drunk once a week	14	2	5	9	21	32
<b>Boys</b>						
OK to try drinking alcohol to see what it's like	62	34	47	62	78	82
OK to try getting drunk to see what it's like	24	4	9	18	37	47
OK to drink alcohol once a week	40	16	26	36	55	64
OK to get drunk once a week	14	3	4	8	22	32
<b>Girls</b>						
OK to try drinking alcohol to see what it's like	63	24	46	69	81	86
OK to try getting drunk to see what it's like	24	2	9	21	34	49
OK to drink alcohol once a week	38	11	21	36	53	63
OK to get drunk once a week	14	2	5	11	20	31
<i>Bases</i>						
<i>All pupils</i>	1,684	1,945	1,938	1,893	2,096	9,556
<i>Boys</i>	861	1,023	1,003	974	1,073	4,934
<i>Girls</i>	823	922	935	919	1,023	4,622

1. Children in secondary school years 7 to 11, mostly aged 11-15

**Source:**

Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use among Young People in England in 2004, The Information Centre

**Table 3.13 Frequency of use of any alcoholic beverage among students aged 15 and 16<sup>1</sup> during the last 30 days, in European countries, 2003**

Europe	Percentages						
	Number of occasions in last 30 days <sup>2</sup>						
	0	1-2	3-5	6-9	10-19	20-39	40+
Austria	18	23	23	15	13	5	3
Belgium	27	22	18	13	12	5	3
Bulgaria	35	30	17	10	6	2	1
Croatia	37	25	16	9	7	3	3
Cyprus	38	27	15	10	7	2	2
Czech Rep.	23	30	21	13	9	3	1
Denmark	19	27	27	14	8	3	2
Estonia	39	32	16	8	4	1	1
Faroe Isl.	38	27	24	7	2	1	1
Finland	46	32	15	5	2	0	0
France	42	27	14	9	5	1	1
Germany	22	30	23	14	8	2	1
Greece	25	29	20	12	8	3	2
Greenland	49	31	11	5	1	1	1
Hungary	44	31	13	7	4	1	1
Iceland	63	24	9	3	1	0	0
Ireland	27	23	22	13	10	3	3
Isle of man	21	28	23	13	11	3	1
Italy	36	25	18	10	7	3	2
Latvia	39	34	17	6	4	1	1
Lithuania	23	37	20	12	5	3	0
Malta	25	22	19	14	12	5	3
Netherlands	27	17	17	13	15	6	4
Norway	49	30	14	5	2	0	1
Poland	35	30	18	9	6	2	2
Portugal	52	23	12	7	5	1	1
Romania	45	31	13	7	3	1	1
Russia	38	25	15	10	8	2	2
Slovak Rep.	37	28	17	8	6	2	1
Slovenia	40	30	16	8	4	2	1
Sweden	49	33	12	4	1	0	0
Switzerland	25	34	18	11	8	3	2
Turkey	80	10	5	3	2	1	1
Ukraine	42	31	15	7	3	1	1
United Kingdom	26	24	18	14	12	3	2
Spain <sup>3</sup>	45			55 <sup>3</sup>			
USA	65	19	9	4	2	1	1

1. Data were collected mainly during Spring 2003 and the target population was students born in 1987. Thus the age group turned 16 during the year of collection

2. Percentages may not sum to 100 due to people who did not answer the question

3. In the Spanish survey, pupils were given the option of answering 'never' or 'sometimes'

**Source:**

ESPAD Report 2003 - Alcohol and Other Drug Use Among Students in 35 European Countries. ESPAD

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## 4 Drinking-related ill health and mortality

### Background

Alcohol misuse can cause serious harm to a person's health. This chapter aims to quantify the incidence of these harms by considering the prevalence of alcohol dependence in Great Britain, the number of hospital admissions in England and the number of deaths in England and Wales that are linked to alcohol.

Data on hazardous or harmful drinking and alcohol dependence are presented from the findings of a survey of psychiatric morbidity carried out by the Office for National Statistics (ONS)<sup>1</sup>. The survey was carried out in 2000 with a sample size of around 8,600 respondents aged 16-74 living in private households in Great Britain completed questions from which their alcohol dependence was assessed. Detailed findings from the survey on substance misuse are reported on in Tobacco, alcohol and drug misuse and mental health<sup>2</sup>, published by ONS.

Data on NHS hospital admittance are available from the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) databank<sup>3</sup>. This chapter presents NHS hospital admissions in England where either the primary or secondary diagnosis was specifically alcohol-related. These data are based on the tenth revision of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD 10) for diseases, illnesses or injuries that are specifically alcohol-related, such as alcoholic liver disease. The most recent data available is for the financial year 2005/06.

Data on deaths from causes linked to alcohol consumption in England and Wales are produced by ONS in Mortality Statistics – Cause<sup>4</sup>, the most recent being for the calendar year 2005. These are classified by ICD 10 code and only causes of death that

are defined by ONS as being linked to alcohol consumption are presented here.

### Hazardous, harmful and dependent drinking

The 2000 Psychiatric Morbidity Survey identified the prevalence of hazardous or harmful drinking and dependent drinking. Hazardous drinking, defined in Chapter 1 as a pattern of drinking which brings about the risk of physical or psychosocial harm and harmful drinking, defined as a pattern of drinking which is actually causing physical or psychosocial harm, were assessed in the survey using the Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test (AUDIT). This test, developed by the World Health Organisation (WHO) consists of ten questions with four predefined answers, each scoring one to four points. The Tobacco, alcohol and drug misuse report gives the overall AUDIT scores, classifying all persons scoring over eight in the AUDIT questionnaire as hazardous or harmful drinkers.

In 2000, a quarter (26%) of adults in Great Britain were assessed as being hazardous or harmful drinkers. The prevalence of hazardous or harmful drinking was higher among men (38%) than women (15%). The prevalence of hazardous or harmful drinking generally decreased with age (Table 4.1, Figure 4.1).

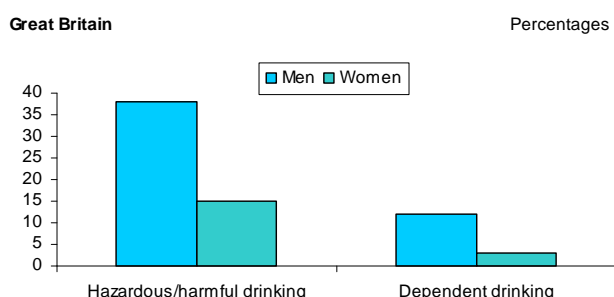
**A quarter of adults in Great Britain were assessed as being hazardous or harmful drinkers in 2000**

Dependent drinking was assessed in the Psychiatric Morbidity Survey using the Severity of Alcohol Dependence

questionnaire. This consists of 20 questions covering a range of symptoms of dependence. Again, respondents score points for each answer and the level of dependence is classed as none, mild, moderate or severe depending on the overall score.

Seven per cent of adults were assessed as being dependent on alcohol.<sup>†</sup> In nearly all cases the level of dependence was assessed as mild. Prevalence rates were 69 per 1,000 population for mild dependence, four per 1,000 for moderate dependence and one per 1,000 for severe dependence. Men were more likely to show signs of dependence than women. Younger people were generally more likely to show signs of mild or moderate dependence while all cases of severe dependence were found among people aged 30 to 65 (Table 4.2, Figure 4.1).

**Figure 4.1 Prevalence of hazardous/harmful and dependent drinking among adults, by gender, 2000**



Source: Tobacco, alcohol and drugs misuse and mental health, Office for National Statistics.  
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A survey in 1997 of psychiatric morbidity among prisoners<sup>5</sup> shows prevalence figures of drinking among people before being sentenced to prison. Similar surveys of adults living in institutions<sup>6</sup>, homeless people<sup>7</sup> and people with psychotic disorders<sup>8</sup> have also been carried out. An overview of alcohol dependence in these surveys was published in 1998<sup>9</sup>.

<sup>†</sup> Data not presented in a table

## Alcohol-related hospital admissions

This section describes admissions to NHS hospitals where alcohol was specifically related to either the primary or secondary diagnosis. Details for admissions among adults aged 16 or over are given in the commentary and the tables as well as some information for children under 16. Due to small numbers, tables for children are not presented. Admissions where alcohol was specifically related to the primary diagnosis are described first, followed by trends in these admissions over time. Admissions where alcohol was specifically related to either the primary or secondary diagnosis are then presented.

Table 4.3 shows that in 2005/06 a total of 52,270 adults aged 16 and over, were admitted to NHS hospitals with a primary diagnosis of an illness or disease that specifically related to alcohol consumption. Of these admissions, over two thirds (70%) were for men. Among children aged under 16, there were a total of 4,060 admissions to hospital with a primary diagnosis of this nature and of these 59% were girls.

The most common admissions to NHS hospitals where alcohol was specifically related to the primary diagnosis involved mental and behavioural disorders due to alcohol consumption. In 2005/06, there were 35,570 NHS hospital admissions in England of adults with a primary diagnosis of this nature.

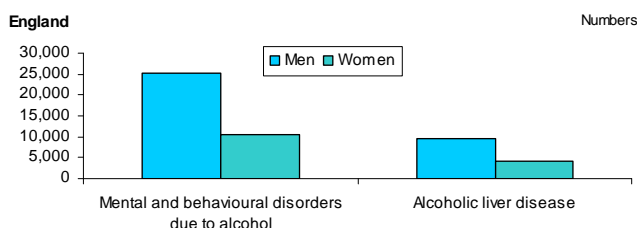
**In 2005/06, 52,270 adults were admitted to NHS hospitals with a primary diagnosis specifically related to the consumption of alcohol**

The second most common admissions to NHS hospitals where alcohol was specifically related to the primary diagnosis involved alcoholic liver disease. For adults, there were 13,720 admissions where alcoholic

liver disease was recorded as the primary diagnosis.

Toxic effect of alcohol was the third most common cause of alcohol-related hospital admissions of adults. In 2005/06, 1,080 adults were admitted with a primary diagnosis of the toxic effect of alcohol (Figure 4.2).

**Figure 4.2 NHS hospital admissions for the most common types of primary diagnosis of alcohol specific diseases among adults aged 16 and over, 2005/06**



Source: Hospital Episode Statistics, The Information Centre

Among children aged under 16, the most common cause of admissions was mental and behavioural disorders due to alcohol with 3,580 in 2005/06. The second largest alcohol-related cause of admissions of children being toxic effect of alcohol which accounted for 470 admissions. Other admissions where the primary diagnosis specifically related to alcohol consumption were relatively uncommon among children.

While the three causes of admissions discussed above are the most common causes of hospital admissions that are specifically related to alcohol, there are other diseases or illnesses that occur as a specific result of alcohol consumption as identified by work recently carried out by the North West Public Health Observatory<sup>10</sup>. These include degeneration of the nervous system due to alcohol, alcoholic polyneuropathy, myopathy, cardiomyopathy and gastritis and alcohol-induced pseudo-Cushing's syndrome. In 2005/06, the numbers of admissions for each of these illnesses among adults were small (less than 250 for each), except for alcoholic gastritis where there were 1,300

admissions with this as the primary diagnosis (Table 4.3).

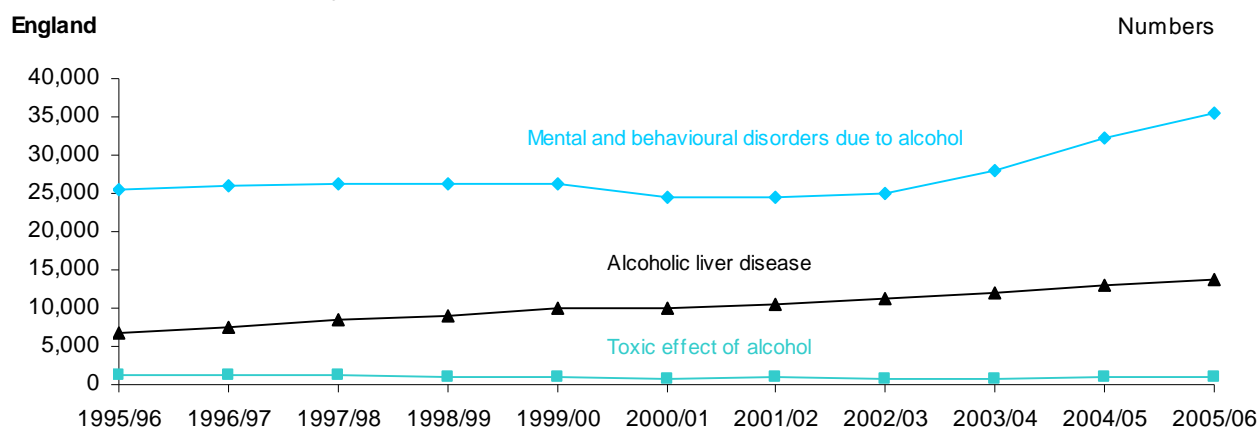
Table 4.4 shows the numbers of admissions with a primary diagnosis specifically related to alcohol consumption for adults from 1995/96 to 2005/06. The total number of admissions of adults with a primary diagnosis relating to alcohol has increased by 51% from 34,660 in 1995/96. There was also an overall increase of 29% in the hospital admissions for children from 3,150 in 1995/96.

Overall, the number of hospital admissions of adults with a primary diagnosis of mental and behavioural disorders due to alcohol has increased by 39% since 1995/96 when there were 25,570 admissions. The admissions for this diagnosis were at a low of 24,380 in 2000/01 and have been increasing each year since. The numbers of children admitted to hospital with a primary diagnosis of this illness are much less than those for adults, but show an overall increase of just under two thirds (64%) between 1995/96, when there were 2,180 admissions and 2005/06.

The number of adults admitted to hospital with a primary diagnosis of alcoholic liver disease more than doubled between 1995/96, when there were 6,760 admissions, and 2005/06.

The number of adults admitted to hospital with a primary diagnosis of toxic effect due to alcohol has fluctuated since 1995/96 showing an overall decrease between 1997/98, when there were 1,160 admissions, and 2002/03, when there were 720 admissions, and has increased again since. In contrast, in the number of under 16s admitted to hospital with this primary diagnosis there was a slight increase between 1995/96 and 1997/98. Since then, there has been a steady decrease of 56% overall in admissions since the peak of 1,080 admissions in 1997/98 (Table 4.4, Figure 4.3).

**Figure 4.3 All adults admitted to NHS hospitals with a primary diagnosis of the most common diseases that specifically relate to alcohol consumption, 1995/96 to 2005/06**



Source: Hospital Episode Statistics, The Information Centre

As well as being identified as a primary diagnosis, illnesses or diseases relating to alcohol consumption can also be recorded as a secondary diagnosis. In 2005/06, there were 187,640 adults admitted to NHS hospitals with either a primary or secondary diagnosis of an illness or disease that specifically related to alcohol consumption. As with the primary diagnosis figures, over two thirds (70%) of these admissions were men. The number of children admitted to hospital with either a primary or secondary diagnosis of an alcohol-related illness or disease was much lower at 5,280 in 2005/06. Again 59% of these were girls.

In 2005/06, there were 139,680 admissions of adults where mental and behavioural disorders due to the use of alcohol was either the primary or secondary diagnosis. Among those aged under 16 there were 4,360 admissions in 2005/06 where either the primary or secondary diagnosis was mental and behavioural disorders due to the use of alcohol. There were 39,180 admissions of adults where alcoholic liver disease was either the primary or secondary diagnosis. For admissions where there was either a primary or secondary diagnosis of toxic effect of alcohol, there were 25,210

adults admitted and 940 children in 2005/06 (Table 4.5).

Table 4.6 shows that the number of admissions with either a primary or secondary diagnosis specifically alcohol-related has increased since 1995/96 among adults, more than doubling from 89,280 in 1995/96. Figures for children show an increase of just over a third (37%) from 3,870 in 1995/96.

The number of adult admissions where mental and behavioural disorders due to the use of alcohol was either the primary or secondary diagnosis more than doubled since 1995/96 when it was 63,900. The number of admissions for children with this illness has increased by two thirds (66%) from 2,620 in 1995/96. The number of admissions for adults with a primary or secondary diagnosis of alcoholic liver disease almost tripled since 1995/96 when it was 13,650. The number of adults admitted to hospital with either a primary or secondary diagnosis of toxic effect due to alcohol has almost doubled since 1995/96 when it was 13,050, however for those under 16 the number admitted with either a primary or secondary diagnosis of toxic effect of alcohol

has decreased by a quarter (25%) over the same period from 1,250 in 1995/96.

The numbers of adults admitted to hospital with either a primary or secondary diagnosis of the other, less prominent, alcohol-specific illnesses mentioned previously have generally increased since 1995/96. In particular, those adults admitted with a primary or secondary diagnosis of degeneration of the nervous system due to alcohol has increased three-fold from 420 in 1995/96 to 1,210 in 2005/06 and those admitted with alcoholic gastritis have almost doubled over the same period from 970 to 1,810 (Table 4.6).

The North West Public Health Observatory has recently carried out some work to produce a national alcohol indicator set<sup>11</sup>. This work includes data on hospital admissions recorded by ICD 10 codes that are specifically linked to alcohol consumption. A wider picture of hospital admissions that may be related to alcohol is also covered which looks at other accidents, injuries and illnesses that may be attributable to alcohol such as admissions from road accidents, fall injuries, and certain types of cancer, where alcohol can be a contributory factor. Each of the ICD 10 codes relating to these types of admissions have been assigned an attributable fraction, which estimates the percentage of these admissions that can be attributed to alcohol. This is then used to estimate the number of hospital admissions where alcohol may be contributory factor. A report on this work is due to be published later this year.

### Deaths linked to alcohol consumption

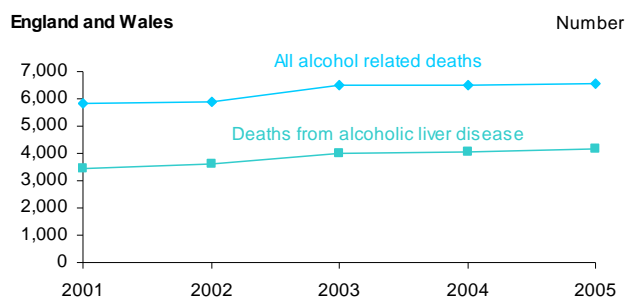
Alcohol misuse can be directly linked to deaths from certain types of diseases, such as cirrhosis of the liver, and in some cases, it may be associated with other causes of death, such as a stroke. The Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy for England<sup>12</sup> estimates that up to 22,000 premature deaths per year are associated in some way with alcohol misuse.

Table 4.7 shows deaths from causes linked to alcohol consumption as defined in Health Statistics Quarterly<sup>13</sup> by the Office for National Statistics. These causes are chosen because they are regarded as being a direct result of alcohol consumption. Overall in England and Wales, there were 6,570 deaths directly linked to alcohol in 2005. The most common alcohol-related cause of death is alcoholic liver disease; 4,160 deaths were recorded in 2005 with this as the cause. Deaths from fibrosis and cirrhosis of the liver were also high among the causes linked to alcohol consumption, with 1,510 deaths in 2005. More men than women died from each of the alcohol linked causes except for chronic hepatitis, where the reverse was true.

**In 2005, 6,570 deaths in England and Wales were linked to the consumption of alcohol**

The total number of deaths linked to alcohol consumption has increased each year since 2001. This is mainly due to the increase in the number of deaths from alcoholic liver disease in each year, which accounts for the majority of deaths linked to alcohol consumption (Figure 4.4).

**Figure 4.4 Total number of alcohol related deaths and deaths from alcoholic liver disease, 2001 to 2005**



Source: DH2 Mortality Statistics -Cause no.s 28, 29, 30, 31 and 32, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005, ONS  
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The number of deaths from alcoholic-induced chronic pancreatitis, although small,

has also increased every year since 2001. The number of deaths where alcoholic cardiomyopathy (heart disease) was recorded as the cause of death has decreased every year since 2001. Deaths

occurring from other alcohol linked causes have fluctuated during the same period, each showing a slight decrease between 2004 and 2005 (Table 4.7).

## Summary: Drinking-related ill health and mortality

This chapter has shown that in 2000, men were more likely to put themselves at risk of causing harm or actually causing harm to themselves through irresponsible drinking. Men were also more likely to show signs of dependence on alcohol than women were.

Younger people were more at risk of causing themselves harm by drinking and of exhibiting mild dependence on alcohol whereas older people were more likely to show signs of severe alcohol dependence.

Men were also more likely to be admitted to hospital with an alcohol-related illness or disease than women and the majority of these admissions were as a result of mental or behavioural disorders due to the use of alcohol. However among children, girls were slightly more likely to be admitted to hospital for an alcohol-related cause than boys. The overall number of admissions for a disease or illness related to alcohol has increased

among both men and women and among boys and girls since 1995/96, with the admittance of adults with alcoholic liver disease increasing at the fastest rate over this period.

In 2006, alcoholic liver disease was the most common cause of deaths linked to alcohol consumption. The number of deaths from this illness has also been increasing in recent years. As with hospital admissions, men were again more likely to die from causes linked to alcohol consumption than women were.

The findings in this chapter can be linked to those from the previous two chapters. Chapter 2 showed that men were much more likely to drink more frequently and drink over the daily recommendations than women and in Chapter 3 the prevalence and frequency of drinking was similar among both boys and girls.

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## List of tables

- 4.1 Hazardous or harmful drinking of people living in private households, by gender and age, 2000
- 4.2 Alcohol dependence of people living in private households, by gender and age, 2000
- 4.3 NHS hospital admissions for adults where there was a primary diagnosis of selected alcohol-related diseases, by gender, 2005/06
- 4.4 NHS hospital admissions for adults where there was a primary diagnosis of selected alcohol-related diseases, 1995/96 to 2005/06
- 4.5 NHS hospital admissions for adults where there was a primary or secondary diagnosis of selected alcohol-related diseases, by gender, 2005/0
- 4.6 NHS hospital admissions for adults where there was either a primary or secondary diagnosis of selected alcohol-related diseases, 1995/96 to 2005/06
- 4.7 Deaths from causes linked to alcohol consumption, by gender, 2001 to 2005

**Table 4.1 Hazardous or harmful drinking<sup>1</sup> of people<sup>2</sup> living in private households, by gender and age, 2000**

Great Britain											Percentages		
Audit score	All ages	16-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70-74
<b>All persons</b>													
Score: 0-7	74	61	55	62	72	71	75	76	79	80	86	85	91
Score: 8-15	23	32	35	32	24	24	22	22	19	18	13	13	9
Score: 16-40	4	6	9	6	4	4	3	2	2	2	1	1	1
<b>Hazardous or harmful drinking (score 8 and over)</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Mean Audit Score</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Men</b>													
Score: 0-7	62	55	38	49	59	59	64	63	70	68	80	76	86
Score: 8-15	32	37	48	40	33	35	32	34	27	29	18	22	13
Score: 16-40	6	8	14	10	7	6	4	3	3	3	2	2	1
<b>Hazardous or harmful drinking (score 8 and over)</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Mean Audit Score</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Women</b>													
Score: 0-7	85	68	71	77	83	84	86	89	87	92	92	94	95
Score: 8-15	14	27	24	21	16	14	13	10	12	8	8	6	5
Score: 16-40	2	5	5	2	1	2	1	1	1	-	-	0	-
<b>Hazardous or harmful drinking (score 8 and over)</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Mean Audit Score</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
<i>Bases</i>													
All persons	8,580	334	460	730	953	1,006	842	723	822	703	739	668	600
Men	3,852	183	202	332	379	442	382	360	387	314	332	295	244
Women	4,728	151	258	398	574	564	460	363	435	389	407	373	356

1. The Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test is used to identify hazardous and harmful drinking

2. Aged 16 to 74 years

**Source:**

Tobacco, Alcohol and Drug use and Mental Health, Office for National Statistics

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**Table 4.2 Alcohol dependence<sup>1</sup> of people<sup>2</sup> living in private households, by gender and age, 2000**

Great Britain	Rate per thousand population in last six months												
	All ages	16-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70-74
<b>All persons</b>													
Mild	69	124	150	137	66	96	56	36	41	42	14	17	9
Moderate	4	14	3	3	4	5	7	2	3	-	1	-	-
Severe	1	-	-	-	1	1	2	1	1	-	1	-	-
<b>Men</b>													
Mild	111	164	237	206	105	158	93	62	63	78	24	29	20
Moderate	7	26	7	5	6	9	12	3	6	-	2	-	-
Severe	1	-	-	-	3	3	2	-	3	-	2	-	-
<b>Women</b>													
Mild	28	74	71	53	30	33	18	10	18	7	6	7	-
Moderate	1	-	-	-	2	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Severe	0	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Bases</b>													
All persons	8,580	334	460	730	953	1,006	842	723	822	703	739	668	600
Men	3,852	183	202	332	379	442	382	360	387	314	332	295	244
Women	4,728	151	258	398	574	564	460	363	435	389	407	373	356

1. The Severity of Alcohol Dependence questionnaire was used to provide a standardised measure of dependence. Questions refer to a typical period of heavy drinking in the last 6 months

2. Aged 16 to 74 years

3. Rates rounded to the nearest one per thousand population

**Source**

Tobacco, Alcohol and Drug use and Mental Health, Office for National Statistics

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**Table 4.3 NHS<sup>1</sup> hospital admissions<sup>2</sup> for adults<sup>3</sup> where there was a primary diagnosis<sup>4</sup> of selected alcohol-related diseases, by gender, 2005/06<sup>5</sup>**

England		Number of admissions		
ICD 10 code <sup>6</sup>		All persons <sup>7</sup>	Males	Females
<b>Total</b>		<b>52,271</b>	<b>36,709</b>	<b>15,546</b>
<b>F10</b>	<b>Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol</b>	<b>35,574</b>	<b>25,157</b>	<b>10,403</b>
F10.0	Acute intoxication	11,968	8,109	3,856
F10.1	Harmful use	2,823	1,966	856
F10.2	Dependence syndrome	9,025	6,185	2,833
F10.3	Withdrawal state	9,321	7,071	2,248
F10.4	Withdrawal state with delirium	1,089	847	242
F10.5	Psychotic disorder	428	336	92
F10.6	Amnesic syndrome	194	150	44
F10.7	Residual and late-onset psychotic disorder	137	92	45
F10.8	Other mental and behavioral disorders due to use of alcohol	58	39	19
F10.9	Unspecified mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol	531	362	168
<b>K70</b>	<b>Alcoholic liver disease</b>	<b>13,723</b>	<b>9,461</b>	<b>4,261</b>
K70.0	Alcoholic fatty liver	197	120	77
K70.1	Alcoholic hepatitis	1,317	876	441
K70.2	Alcoholic fibrosis and sclerosis of liver	96	68	28
K70.3	Alcoholic cirrhosis of liver	4,198	3,023	1,174
K70.4	Alcoholic hepatic failure	979	643	336
K70.9	Alcoholic liver disease, unspecified	6,936	4,731	2,205
<b>T51</b>	<b>Toxic effect of alcohol</b>	<b>1,083</b>	<b>610</b>	<b>472</b>
T51.0	Toxic effect of ethanol	694	398	295
T51.1	Toxic effect of methanol	19	12	7
T51.2	Toxic effect of 2-Propanol	35	15	20
T51.3	Toxic effect of fusel oil	37	16	21
T51.8	Toxic effect of other alcohols	15	9	6
T51.9	Toxic effect of alcohol, unspecified	283	160	123
E24.4	Alcohol-induced pseudo-Cushing's syndrome	4	2	2
G31.2	Degeneration of nervous system due to alcohol	248	179	69
G62.1	Alcoholic polyneuropathy	127	92	35
G72.1	Alcoholic myopathy	47	36	11
I42.6	Alcoholic cardiomyopathy	165	155	10
K29.2	Alcoholic gastritis	1,300	1,017	283

1. The data include private patients in NHS hospitals (but not private patients in private hospitals)

2. A finished in-year admission is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider, excluding admissions beginning before 1 April at the start of the data year. Please note that admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year

3. Aged 16 and over

4. The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 14 (7 prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was in hospital

5. Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data

6. See Appendix A for further information about International Classification of Disease

7. "All persons" includes those whose gender was not known

**Source:**

Hospital Episode Statistics. The Information Centre, 2007

Table 4.4 NHS<sup>1</sup> hospital admissions<sup>2</sup> for adults<sup>3</sup> where there was a primary diagnosis<sup>4</sup> of selected alcohol-related diseases, 1995/96 to 2005/06<sup>5,6</sup>

Diagnosis (ICD 10) <sup>7</sup>	Number of admissions										
	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06
<b>England</b>	<b>34,659</b>	<b>36,039</b>	<b>37,332</b>	<b>37,492</b>	<b>38,412</b>	<b>36,591</b>	<b>37,338</b>	<b>38,660</b>	<b>42,470</b>	<b>48,082</b>	<b>52,271</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,565</b>	<b>26,094</b>	<b>26,315</b>	<b>26,250</b>	<b>26,127</b>	<b>24,380</b>	<b>24,415</b>	<b>25,074</b>	<b>27,917</b>	<b>32,280</b>	<b>35,574</b>
<b>F10 Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol</b>	5,378	5,295	5,476	5,827	5,959	5,119	4,858	4,827	6,564	9,129	11,968
F10.1 Harmful use	2,394	2,487	2,700	2,515	2,506	2,376	2,252	2,257	2,381	2,805	2,823
F10.2 Dependence syndrome	12,731	12,274	12,301	11,481	10,820	9,808	9,615	9,802	9,865	9,970	9,025
F10.3 Withdrawal state	2,688	3,408	3,485	3,906	4,374	4,810	5,380	5,831	6,747	8,025	9,321
F10.4 Withdrawal state with delirium	872	1,034	932	939	941	993	901	897	961	979	1,089
F10.5 Psychotic disorder	471	485	511	504	514	457	506	454	403	423	428
F10.6 Amnesic syndrome	245	213	247	218	228	185	225	255	203	211	194
F10.7 Residual and late-onset psychotic disorder	187	243	192	191	197	158	144	174	172	154	137
F10.8 Other mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol	57	63	49	54	53	51	58	49	58	53	58
F10.9 Unspecified mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol	542	592	422	615	535	423	476	528	563	531	531
<b>K70 Alcoholic liver disease</b>	<b>6,760</b>	<b>7,613</b>	<b>8,578</b>	<b>8,950</b>	<b>9,885</b>	<b>10,089</b>	<b>10,580</b>	<b>11,323</b>	<b>12,117</b>	<b>12,983</b>	<b>13,723</b>
K70.0 Alcoholic fatty liver	78	113	113	115	136	127	134	139	163	204	197
K70.1 Alcoholic hepatitis	692	734	842	850	987	1,044	960	1,098	1,226	1,239	1,317
K70.2 Alcoholic fibrosis and sclerosis of liver	43	50	67	92	75	82	56	71	100	111	96
K70.3 Alcoholic cirrhosis of liver	2,142	2,268	2,487	2,557	2,742	2,814	2,877	3,083	3,392	3,787	4,198
K70.4 Alcoholic hepatic failure	409	456	535	525	561	540	676	758	788	872	979
K70.9 Alcoholic liver disease, unspecified	3,396	3,992	4,534	4,811	5,384	5,482	5,877	6,174	6,448	6,770	6,936
<b>T51 Toxic effect of alcohol</b>	<b>1,140</b>	<b>1,149</b>	<b>1,160</b>	<b>1,017</b>	<b>1,005</b>	<b>822</b>	<b>987</b>	<b>722</b>	<b>833</b>	<b>1,043</b>	<b>1,083</b>
T51.0 Toxic effect of ethanol	639	635	661	532	504	453	557	401	502	684	694
T51.1 Toxic effect of methanol	19	16	20	13	16	11	14	25	22	21	19
T51.2 Toxic effect of 2-Propanol	28	26	23	24	15	11	20	21	19	17	35
T51.3 Toxic effect of fusel oil	45	26	42	47	40	22	37	20	22	27	37
T51.8 Toxic effect of other alcohols	14	10	18	14	15	6	15	11	13	19	15
T51.9 Toxic effect of alcohol, unspecified	395	436	396	387	415	319	344	244	255	275	283
E24.4 Alcohol-induced pseudo-Cushing's syndrome	4	7	0	3	1	1	2	4	6	1	4
G31.2 Degeneration of nervous system due to alcohol	147	137	154	153	186	180	201	240	248	244	248
G62.1 Alcoholic polyneuropathy	73	91	107	89	115	75	69	96	103	140	127
G72.1 Alcoholic myopathy	24	29	34	32	33	24	34	43	50	28	47
I42.6 Alcoholic cardiomyopathy	233	191	208	239	229	181	192	219	211	206	165
K29.2 Alcoholic gastritis	713	728	776	759	831	839	858	939	985	1,157	1,300

1. The data include private patients in NHS hospitals (but not private patients in private hospitals)  
 2. A finished in-year admission is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider, excluding admissions beginning before 1 April at the start of the data year. Please note that admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year  
 3. Aged 16 and over  
 4. The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 14 (7 prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was in hospital  
 5. Data not available for ICD10 prior to 1995/96  
 6. Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data  
 7. See Appendix A for further information about International Classification of Disease

**Source:**  
Hospital Episode Statistics. The Information Centre, 2007

**Table 4.5 NHS<sup>1</sup> hospital admissions<sup>2</sup> for adults<sup>3</sup> where there was a primary or secondary diagnosis<sup>4</sup> of selected alcohol-related diseases, by gender, 2005/06<sup>5</sup>**

England		Number of admissions		
ICD 10 code <sup>6</sup>		All persons <sup>7</sup>	Males	Females
<b>Total<sup>9</sup></b>		<b>187,643</b>	<b>130,543</b>	<b>57,071</b>
<b>F10<sup>8</sup></b>	<b>Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol</b>	<b>139,675</b>	<b>102,324</b>	<b>37,327</b>
F10.0	Acute intoxication	37,992	28,108	9,880
F10.1	Harmful use	33,008	24,025	8,976
F10.2	Dependence syndrome	58,020	42,151	15,859
F10.3	Withdrawal state	15,848	12,025	3,821
F10.4	Withdrawal state with delirium	1,503	1,171	332
F10.5	Psychotic disorder	660	520	140
F10.6	Amnesic syndrome	773	586	187
F10.7	Residual and late-onset psychotic disorder	539	388	151
F10.8	Other mental and behavioral disorders due to use of alcohol	124	86	38
F10.9	Unspecified mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol	1,234	827	406
<b>K70<sup>8</sup></b>	<b>Alcoholic liver disease</b>	<b>39,177</b>	<b>27,430</b>	<b>11,744</b>
K70.0	Alcoholic fatty liver	981	699	282
K70.1	Alcoholic hepatitis	2,621	1,745	875
K70.2	Alcoholic fibrosis and sclerosis of liver	255	177	78
K70.3	Alcoholic cirrhosis of liver	11,365	8,154	3,210
K70.4	Alcoholic hepatic failure	1,671	1,138	533
K70.9	Alcoholic liver disease, unspecified	23,193	16,132	7,060
<b>T51<sup>8</sup></b>	<b>Toxic effect of alcohol</b>	<b>25,206</b>	<b>11,728</b>	<b>13,473</b>
T51.0	Toxic effect of ethanol	20,591	9,548	11,038
T51.1	Toxic effect of methanol	33	17	16
T51.2	Toxic effect of 2-Propanol	59	26	33
T51.3	Toxic effect of fusel oil	79	32	47
T51.8	Toxic effect of other alcohols	90	47	43
T51.9	Toxic effect of alcohol, unspecified	4,391	2,078	2,313
E24.4	Alcohol-induced pseudo-Cushing's syndrome	9	4	5
G31.2	Degeneration of nervous system due to alcohol	1,206	879	327
G62.1	Alcoholic polyneuropathy	515	403	112
G72.1	Alcoholic myopathy	158	124	34
I42.6	Alcoholic cardiomyopathy	1,081	976	105
K29.2	Alcoholic gastritis	1,814	1,373	441

1. The data include private patients in NHS hospitals (but not private patients in private hospitals)

2. A finished in-year admission is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider, excluding admissions beginning before 1 April at the start of the data year. Please note that admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year

3. Aged 16 and over

4. These figures represent a count of all finished in-year admissions where the diagnosis was mentioned in any of the 14 (7 prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in a HES record

5. Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data

6. See Appendix A for further information about International Classification of Disease

7. "All persons" includes those whose gender was not known

8. The "Primary and Secondary diagnosis" summary data for ICD codes F10, K70 and T51 are less than the sum of the data for the subdivisions of F10, K70 and T51, because a patient may be admitted with more than one diagnosis within the subdivisions of F10, K70 and T51

9. Total figures are based on the count of episodes where F10, K70, T51, E24.4, G31.2, G62.1, G72.1, I42.6 OR K29.2 recorded in any of the diagnosis fields and an episode that include any of these episodes are counted once and therefore is less than the sum of the breakdowns of these codes

**Source:**

Hospital Episode Statistics. The Information Centre, 2007

Table 4.6 NHS<sup>1</sup> hospital admissions<sup>2</sup> for adults<sup>3</sup> where there was either a primary or secondary diagnosis<sup>4</sup> of selected alcohol-related diseases, 1995/96 to 2005/06<sup>5,6</sup>

England Diagnosis (ICD 10) <sup>7</sup>	Number of admissions										
	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06
<b>Total<sup>9</sup></b>	<b>89,282</b>	<b>98,088</b>	<b>105,252</b>	<b>107,173</b>	<b>113,654</b>	<b>111,798</b>	<b>116,329</b>	<b>122,963</b>	<b>141,855</b>	<b>164,787</b>	<b>187,643</b>
<b>F10<sup>8</sup></b>	<b>63,899</b>	<b>69,835</b>	<b>73,753</b>	<b>75,881</b>	<b>80,101</b>	<b>78,920</b>	<b>82,467</b>	<b>85,284</b>	<b>103,343</b>	<b>122,117</b>	<b>139,675</b>
F10.0 Acute intoxication	18,815	19,742	20,668	21,260	21,730	19,533	19,516	19,518	24,836	31,362	37,992
F10.1 Harmful use	10,024	12,210	13,293	13,892	15,854	17,387	18,935	20,883	23,912	28,741	33,008
F10.2 Dependence syndrome	27,726	29,731	31,613	31,843	33,285	32,853	34,239	37,634	44,001	51,349	58,020
F10.3 Withdrawal state	4,496	5,403	5,873	6,486	7,277	8,058	9,130	9,930	11,661	13,827	15,848
F10.4 Withdrawal state with delirium	1,264	1,434	1,322	1,346	1,296	1,344	1,266	1,266	1,334	1,378	1,503
F10.5 Psychotic disorder	670	678	695	690	751	663	719	660	599	637	660
F10.6 Amnesic syndrome	444	426	486	504	535	497	533	634	660	672	773
F10.7 Residual and late-onset psychotic disorder	400	459	408	428	476	442	448	488	500	505	539
F10.8 Other mental and behavioral disorders due to use of alcohol	99	108	89	110	105	103	101	108	101	120	124
F10.9 Unspecified mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol	1,037	1,007	866	1,149	1,084	894	958	1,014	1,124	1,082	1,234
<b>K70<sup>8</sup></b>	<b>13,652</b>	<b>15,818</b>	<b>17,732</b>	<b>19,126</b>	<b>22,086</b>	<b>23,324</b>	<b>25,242</b>	<b>28,079</b>	<b>31,507</b>	<b>35,332</b>	<b>39,177</b>
K70.0 Alcoholic fatty liver	189	269	324	330	399	432	451	519	643	888	981
K70.1 Alcoholic hepatitis	1,090	1,199	1,407	1,450	1,713	1,764	1,709	1,872	2,169	2,291	2,621
K70.2 Alcoholic fibrosis and sclerosis of liver	114	118	132	172	148	178	200	192	229	260	255
K70.3 Alcoholic cirrhosis of liver	4,707	5,146	5,448	5,821	6,645	6,759	6,853	7,805	8,704	10,073	11,365
K70.4 Alcoholic hepatic failure	695	757	844	820	891	918	1,102	1,192	1,313	1,524	1,671
K70.9 Alcoholic liver disease, unspecified	7,171	8,695	9,976	10,928	12,774	13,781	15,415	17,032	19,021	21,052	23,193
<b>T51<sup>8</sup></b>	<b>13,045</b>	<b>14,639</b>	<b>16,467</b>	<b>15,374</b>	<b>15,621</b>	<b>14,772</b>	<b>15,186</b>	<b>15,069</b>	<b>17,554</b>	<b>20,653</b>	<b>25,206</b>
T51.0 Toxic effect of ethanol	9,510	10,902	12,953	11,708	11,916	11,251	11,807	11,611	13,567	16,216	20,591
T51.1 Toxic effect of methanol	77	55	25	22	26	20	27	39	27	85	33
T51.2 Toxic effect of 2-Propanol	38	38	31	35	27	24	32	38	35	44	59
T51.3 Toxic effect of fusel oil	75	50	81	89	71	49	73	33	49	69	79
T51.8 Toxic effect of other alcohols	41	19	39	50	62	34	48	71	48	121	90
T51.9 Toxic effect of alcohol, unspecified	3,320	3,589	3,359	3,491	3,536	3,415	3,221	3,307	3,855	4,147	4,391
E24.4 Alcohol-induced pseudo-Cushing's syndrome	12	13	5	4	5	4	6	8	6	9	9
G31.2 Degeneration of nervous system due to alcohol	422	461	545	549	647	670	732	884	961	1,141	1,206
G62.1 Alcoholic polyneuropathy	215	252	328	268	331	325	277	345	396	477	515
G72.1 Alcoholic myopathy	65	72	79	88	110	87	96	113	128	110	158
I42.6 Alcoholic cardiomyopathy	694	697	809	833	839	779	790	927	950	1,039	1,081
K29.2 Alcoholic gastritis	971	996	1,044	1,032	1,111	1,169	1,227	1,335	1,379	1,672	1,814

1. The data include private patients in NHS hospitals (but not private patients in private hospitals)

2. A finished in-year admission is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider, excluding admissions beginning before 1 April at the start of the data year. Please note that admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year

3. Aged 16 and over

4. These figures represent a count of all finished in-year admissions where the diagnosis was mentioned in any of the 14 (7 prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in a HES record.

5. Data not available for ICD10 prior to 1995/96

6. Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data

7. See Appendix A for further information about International Classification of Disease

8. The "Primary and Secondary diagnosis" summary data for ICD codes F10, K70 and T51 are less than the sum of the data for the subdivisions of F10, K70 and T51, because a patient may be admitted with more than one diagnosis within the subdivisions of F10, K70 and T51

9. Total figures are based on the count of episodes where F10, K70, T51, E244.4, G31.2, G62.1, G72.1, I42.6 OR K29.2 recorded in any of the diagnosis fields and an episode that include any of these episodes are counted once and therefore is less than the sum of the breakdowns of these codes

Source:  
Hospital Episode Statistics. The Information Centre, 2007

**Table 4.7 Deaths<sup>1,2</sup> from causes linked to alcohol consumption, by gender, 2001 to 2005**

England and Wales		Numbers				
ICD 10 code <sup>4</sup>		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
<b>All persons</b>		<b>5,845</b>	<b>5,914</b>	<b>6,491</b>	<b>6,526</b>	<b>6,567</b>
F10	Mental and behavioural disorders due to alcohol	477	435	469	538	523
I42.6	Alcoholic cardiomyopathy	120	119	108	92	80
K70	Alcoholic liver disease	3,464	3,617	3,991	4,037	4,160
K73	Chronic hepatitis - not elsewhere specified	78	77	60	69	66
K74	Fibrosis and cirrhosis of the liver (excluding K74.3-K74.5)	1,519	1,506	1,649	1,561	1,510
K86.0	Alcoholic induced chronic pancreatitis	33	34	37	49	55
X45	Accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol	139	103	159	160	151
	Other causes <sup>3</sup>	15	23	18	20	22
<b>Men</b>		<b>3,807</b>	<b>3,836</b>	<b>4,299</b>	<b>4,244</b>	<b>4,340</b>
F10	Mental and behavioural disorders due to alcohol	332	311	339	384	386
I42.6	Alcoholic cardiomyopathy	103	90	97	75	64
K70	Alcoholic liver disease	2,292	2,418	2,700	2,641	2,789
K73	Chronic hepatitis - not elsewhere specified	23	17	14	18	14
K74	Fibrosis and cirrhosis of the liver (excluding K74.3-K74.5)	934	894	1,002	959	926
K86.0	Alcoholic induced chronic pancreatitis	20	26	25	42	44
X45	Accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol	94	60	110	110	100
	Other causes <sup>3</sup>	9	20	12	15	17
<b>Women</b>		<b>2,038</b>	<b>2,078</b>	<b>2,192</b>	<b>2,282</b>	<b>2,227</b>
F10	Mental and behavioural disorders due to alcohol	145	124	130	154	137
I42.6	Alcoholic cardiomyopathy	17	29	11	17	16
K70	Alcoholic liver disease	1,172	1,199	1,291	1,396	1,371
K73	Chronic hepatitis - not elsewhere specified	55	60	46	51	52
K74	Fibrosis and cirrhosis of the liver (excluding K74.3-K74.5)	585	612	647	602	584
K86.0	Alcoholic induced chronic pancreatitis	13	8	12	7	11
X45	Accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol	45	43	49	50	51
	Other causes <sup>3</sup>	6	3	6	5	5

1. Deaths occurring in each calendar year

2. Data may include non-residents

3. Based on causes linked to alcohol consumption as identified by ONS, however where the causes resulted in a small number of deaths in a year (less than ten) these have been grouped together and listed as 'other causes'

4. See Appendix A for further information about International Classification of Disease

**Source:**

DH2 Mortality Statistics - Cause, No.s 28, 29, 30 and 31, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005, Office for National Statistics

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## 5 Alcohol-related costs

### Background

As well as the harm to an individual's health, alcohol misuse can also cause great costs to society. This chapter focuses on the affordability and availability of alcohol, the levels of alcohol-related crime and the costs to society of alcohol misuse.

Data on alcohol price and retail price indices are taken from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) publication: Focus on Consumer Price Indices<sup>1</sup>. Households' disposable income data are published by ONS in Economic Trends<sup>2</sup>. The availability of alcohol is shown as the volumes of alcohol released for home consumption, taken from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs statistical bulletins<sup>3</sup>. Data on expenditure on alcohol are taken from two sources; the ONS Consumer Trends<sup>4</sup> and the Expenditure and Food Survey<sup>5</sup> (EFS). ONS Consumer Trends give annual figures for UK household expenditure on beer, wines and spirits as well as total household expenditure. The EFS is commissioned by ONS and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), and is a continuous household survey that provides data on individuals' weekly expenditure on alcoholic drinks consumed both within and outside of the home.

To give an indication of the levels of alcohol-related crime, data on violent offenders who were perceived to be under the influence of alcohol are taken from the Home Office publication Crime in England and Wales 2005/06<sup>6</sup>, a report combining police recorded crime and findings from the British Crime Survey<sup>7</sup>. The British Crime Survey collects information about levels of crime and people's attitudes to crime, including crime that is not reported to the police, from the perspective of the victim. Criminal Statistics England and Wales 2005<sup>8</sup>, also published by the Home Office, provides data on the

number of people cautioned and found guilty of drunkenness.

Criminal offences committed by young people are reported on in the Offending, Crime and Justice Survey (OCJS) published by the Home Office. This collects information on self-reported offending in order to examine the extent of offending, anti-social behaviour and drug use among those aged 10 to 25 living in private households in England and Wales. The latest survey report, OCJS 2005<sup>9</sup>, provides data on criminal offences where the young offender was under the influence of drugs or alcohol and also where young offenders were driving while thought to be over the legal alcohol limit. The survey results are based on a sample of 4,980 respondents aged 10 to 25 and data on alcohol and drug use were collected using computer-assisted self interviewing. In addition, in 2006, a report was published from the OJCS 2004 findings focusing on crime and underage drinking<sup>10</sup>.

Data on casualties in road traffic accidents involving illegal alcohol levels for Great Britain are taken from the Department for Transport's annual report: Road Casualties Great Britain 2005<sup>11</sup>. Information on breath test screening and drink-driving offences is taken from Home Office statistical bulletins.

### Costs to society

The Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy<sup>12</sup> set out the Government's strategy for tackling the harms and costs of alcohol misuse in England. In 2004, the Government estimated that alcohol misuse costs the health service between £1.4 and £1.7 billion per year, while the costs associated with alcohol-related crime and anti-social behaviour are estimated to be up to £7.3 billion each year. It also estimated that workplace costs of alcohol misuse are as

high as £6.4 billion per year through loss in productivity.

**Alcohol misuse costs the health service an estimated £1.7 billion each year**

Alcohol misuse also places a burden and associated costs on family and social networks, although due to limitations in the data available, these were not assigned a financial estimate. More details of these estimated costs can be found in the Government's Strategy Unit report – Alcohol Misuse: How much does it cost?<sup>13</sup>

### Alcohol prices

In the UK, prices of alcoholic drink, as measured by the Alcohol Price Index, have increased more than the Retail Price Index, since 1980 (an arbitrarily chosen base year). In more recent years the difference between the Retail Price Index and the Alcohol Price Index has fallen, meaning that the rate of increase of the price of alcoholic drinks, relative to all retail items, has decreased. Between 1980 and 2002 the price of alcohol increased by 25% more than retail prices

generally, whereas in 2006 the equivalent was 21%. However, households' disposable income continues to increase and has doubled in real terms (that is taking inflation into account) between 1980 and 2006. This means that in 2006 alcohol was 65% more affordable than it was in 1980, highlighting the trend of increasing alcohol affordability (Table 5.1, Figure 5.1).

Further details of the alcohol affordability calculations and a worked example are presented in Appendix A.

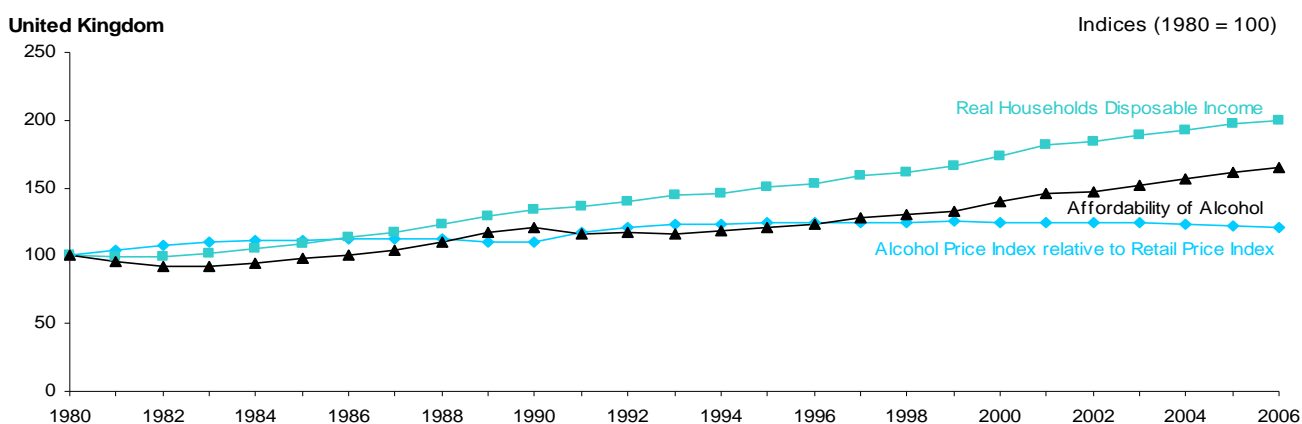
**In 2006 alcohol was 65% more affordable than it was in 1980**

### Alcohol availability

Information on the volume of alcohol released for home consumption is collected by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs and relates to the United Kingdom as a whole. The data on alcohol released for home consumption exclude personal imports (both legal and illegal).

Releases of beer have fluctuated in recent years but have shown a slight decrease

**Figure 5.1 Indices of Alcohol Price Relative to Retail Price Index, Real Households' Disposable income and affordability of alcohol, 1980 to 2006**



Source: Focus on Consumer Price Indices, Office for National Statistics and Economic Trends, Office for National Statistics  
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overall since the early 1990s. Releases of cider and perry have more than doubled and releases of wine have almost doubled since 1990. Releases of spirits initially fell in the early 1990s then increased between 1997/98 and 2004/05, falling slightly in more recent years. In April 2002 the classification of spirit-based coolers changed, causing these types of drinks to be grouped with spirits rather than wine as was done previously. This could in part account for changes in the recorded release of wines and spirits from 2002/03 which saw a drop in the volume of wine released and a corresponding increase in the amount of spirits (Table 5.2).

While the overall volume of alcohol released has increased slightly since 1990/91, the volume of pure alcohol released per person has shown a more substantial rise indicating a trend of increasing strength of alcoholic drinks. The volume of pure alcohol released for home consumption per person aged 16 and over fell in the early 1990s but has been increasing since, from 9.4 litres of pure alcohol in 1993/94 to 11.4 litres in 2005/06 (Table 5.3).

The availability of alcohol may be affected by relaxation of the British Licensing Act 2003<sup>14</sup>. The Act came into force in November 2005 and allows retailers of alcohol, such as public houses, bars, clubs, restaurants, shops and supermarkets to apply for later licences covering sales of alcohol for up to 24 hours. This potentially makes alcohol available to purchase for longer periods during the day, particularly in the evenings past the traditional closing times. At present there is little data that is nationally representative or of a high enough quality to ascertain whether changes to the Licensing Act 2003 have resulted in a change in alcohol-related costs.

The Home Office publication, Crime in England and Wales 2005/06<sup>5</sup> shows the percentages of violent offences and criminal damage that occurred between 11pm and 2am over the period October 2004 to March 2006. This shows that the proportions of

these types of offences occurring between 11pm and 2am were consistent with the same months in the previous year and so indicating that the initial impact of the Licensing Act 2003 on violent crime and criminal damage was low.

A short report by the Violence Research Group at Cardiff University on accident and emergency attendances for violence-related injuries<sup>15</sup> shows that there has been a decrease in attendances to A&E for violent-related injuries between 2005 and 2006, continuing the downward trend seen since 2000. This suggests that the Licensing Act 2003 has had a low initial impact on the rates of violence-related visits to A&E.

The research charity Action on Addiction<sup>16</sup> is currently carrying out a study that aims to ascertain the impact of the change in licensing laws on alcohol-related admittance to A&E departments across the country. It is planned to compare such A&E attendances over a three month period prior to the changes in the licensing law to those occurring over a three month period after the relaxation of the law came into effect.

### Expenditure on alcohol

In 2006, total UK household expenditure on alcohol was estimated at £41.6 billion. This figure excludes legitimate cross-border shopping, which is included in tourist expenditure, but includes estimates of the value of smuggled alcohol. The estimations are based on volume of sales and average prices of individual types of alcoholic drinks for 'off-licence' trade (such as shops and supermarkets) and 'licensed trade' (such as restaurants, public houses, bars etc.).

**UK households spent an estimated £41.6 billion on alcohol in 2006**

Expenditure on beer, at £19.1 billion in 2006, was higher than expenditure on both wine

(£14.6 billion) and spirits (£7.9 billion) (Table 5.4).

Household expenditure on alcohol has increased steadily since 1980 as has total household expenditure; however expenditure on alcohol as a proportion of total household expenditure has decreased steadily over the same period standing at 5.2% in 2006 compared to 7.5% in 1980. Expenditure on wine (which includes cider and perry) has increased at a higher rate over this period than expenditure on beer or spirits. Wine accounted for 19% of total household expenditure on alcohol in 1980, compared to 35% in 2006.

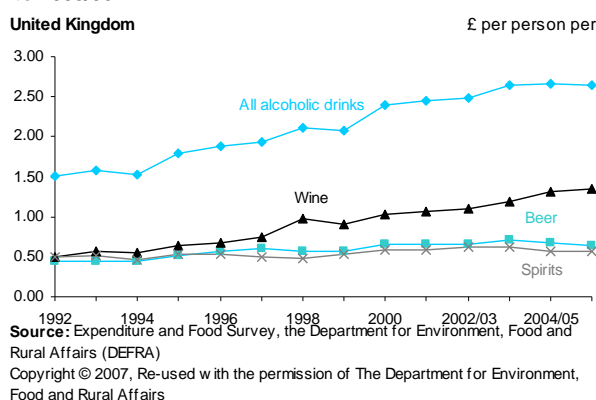
The Expenditure and Food Survey (EFS) collects information on the volumes consumed and the amount spent on alcoholic drinks. The respondents to the survey are required to keep a two week diary of consumption and expenditure. As diary based surveys can have problems with under-reporting, the data is used here to give an indication of changing trends of alcohol consumption and expenditure over time.

Consumption of alcoholic drinks in the home, as reported by survey respondents, has generally increased since 1992, however consumption of all types of alcoholic drinks have decreased slightly since 2003/04, except for wine, which has continued to increase since 1992, reflecting the increase in household expenditure on wine seen in the consumer trends data shown in the previous section. Volumes of alcoholic drinks consumed outside the home have decreased overall each year since this type of data was first collected in 2001/02 (Table 5.5).

**Expenditure on wine has increased from £0.49 per person per week in 1992 to £1.34 in 2005/06**

Household expenditure on alcoholic drinks generally increased between 1992 and 2003/04 and has since remained at the same level. Again, expenditure on wine has increased at a greater rate than expenditure on beer and spirits in recent years, reflecting findings from the consumer trends data (Table 5.6, Figure 5.2).

**Figure 5.2 Household expenditure on alcoholic drinks, 1992 to 2005/06**



## Alcohol and violent criminal offences

Linking alcohol consumption to crime can be difficult due to the contention of causal links between alcohol consumption and most types of crime. For the purpose of this bulletin, alcohol-related criminal offences that involve violence and traffic incidents are considered as they are more directly related to alcohol and are most likely to also contribute to costs to the health service.

Results from the British Crime Survey 2005/06 show that in England and Wales 44% of violent offenders were perceived to be under the influence of alcohol by their victims. Victims of a violent attack by one or more strangers were the most likely to believe their attacker(s) were under the influence of alcohol with 54% of the victims stating this whereas out of those adults who were victims of muggings, 21% thought their attacker(s) had consumed alcohol prior to the attack (Table 5.7).

44% of the victims of violent attacks believe their attacker was under the influence of alcohol

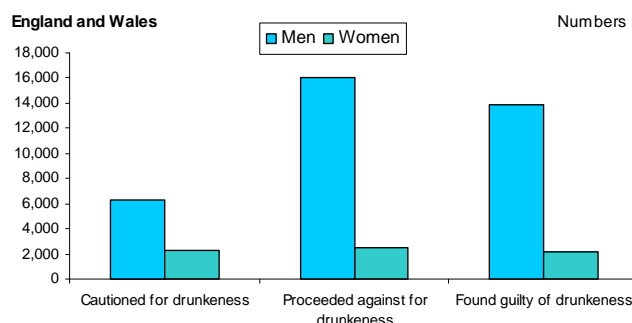
There has been no real trend since 1998 in victims' perception of the involvement of alcohol for all these types of violent offences with the figures fluctuating around current levels over the last seven years.

In England and Wales just over 16,000 people were found guilty of drunkenness in 2005, this continues the downward trend seen since 2003 and is considerably less than the 42,900 found guilty of drunkenness in 1989. A similar pattern is seen for the number of people cautioned for drunkenness with around 8,600 people cautioned in 2005 compared to approximately 49,900 in 1989. In all years, considerably more men were cautioned, proceeded against or found guilty of drunkenness than women and the majority of offences were classed as drunkenness with aggravation (Table 5.8, Figure 5.3).

The recent decreasing trend coincides with the introduction in 2003/04 of Penalty Notices for Disorder (PND), which includes drunkenness and drunk and disorderly behaviour. The police can now issue a fine for drunkenness or drunk and disorderly behaviour rather than arresting the perpetrator, which may lead to considerably less cautions, proceedings and convictions for these offences. The Home Office collects statistics on PNDs and aims to produce regular publications; the latest data available relates to England and Wales 2004<sup>17</sup>. In 2004 there were around 3,000 penalty notices issued for drunkenness or consuming alcohol in a designated public place and 26,600 penalty notices issued for drunk and disorderly behaviour.<sup>†</sup>

<sup>†</sup> Data not presented in a table.

Figure 5.3 Number of cautions, proceedings and convictions for drunkenness, 2005



Source: Criminal Statistics England and Wales. Supplementary Tables 2005 volumes 1 and 3. Home Office  
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### Young people, alcohol and criminal offences

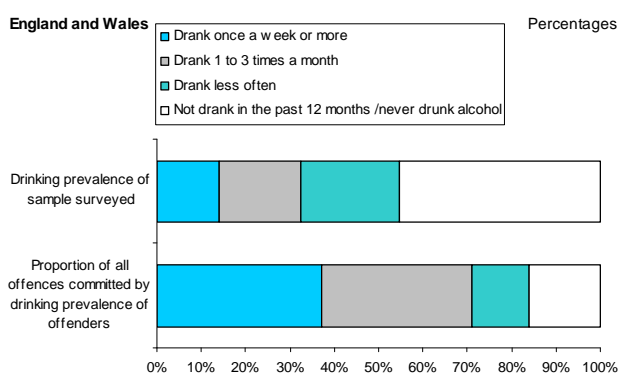
In the 2005 Offending, Crime and Justice Survey<sup>9</sup> (OCJS) report, data are presented on the use of alcohol and drugs among offenders aged 10-25. Of all violent offences committed in England and Wales by the 10-25 year olds surveyed 18% of the offenders reported being under the influence of alcohol only and 3% under the influence of drugs and alcohol, at the time of the offence. For property offences, 10% of offenders reported being under the influence of alcohol only and 4% were under the influence of drugs and alcohol. Almost a third (32%) of the young people surveyed reported being under the influence of alcohol at the time of committing criminal damage offences and over a quarter (27%) were under the influence of drugs and alcohol while being involved in vehicle related thefts (Table 5.9).

The 2005 OCJS also reports on driving related problem behaviours in the 12 months prior to interview. This includes driving while the respondent thought they may be over the legal alcohol limit. For all people aged 16-25 surveyed who had driven a motor vehicle in the last 12 months, 17% reported driving when they thought they might have been over the legal alcohol limit, this is higher than those who drove without a licence or insurance (11%) and those who were found guilty of speeding (7%). Men in this age

group were twice as likely as women to report driving when they thought they had been over the legal limit (22% and 11% respectively). The prevalence of driving whilst thought to be over the legal alcohol limit increased with age, with 9% of 16-17 year olds reporting this, compared to 23% of 24-25 year olds (Table 5.10).

Underage drinking: findings from the 2004 Offending, Crime and Justice Survey<sup>10</sup> reports on the relationship between the number of crimes committed by young people, aged 10-17, and their drinking patterns. The report shows that 10-17 year olds who reported drinking alcohol once a week or more (14%) committed a disproportionate volume of crime, accounting for 37% of all offences reported by the respondents, while those who had never drunk alcohol or had not drunk alcohol in the past year, comprised 45% of respondents and only committed 16% of all the offences reported (Figure 5.4).<sup>†</sup>

Figure 5.4 Proportion of offences committed and sample aged 10 to 17 accounted for by drinking, 2004



Source: Underage drinking: findings from the 2004 Offending, Crime and Justice Survey, The Home Office  
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### Alcohol-related traffic incidents

Alcohol-related traffic incidents reported on here include the number of road side breath tests carried out, the number of people proceeded against and convicted of drink-

driving and the number of casualties in road accidents involving illegal levels of alcohol.

There are three reasons for the police to require a person to take a screening breath test. They must have reasonable cause to suspect that the person has been driving or attempting to drive with alcohol in their system, that they have committed a moving traffic offence, or that they have been involved in an accident.

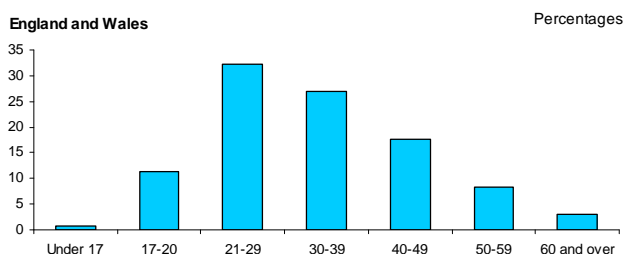
Home Office statistical bulletins on motoring offences and breath test statistics<sup>18</sup> show that the number of breath tests in 2004 was 577,600 and of these 18% were either positive or refused. The number of breath tests required has risen dramatically since 1980 when around 180,100 tests were required, peaking at around 815,500 in 1998. Despite this increase in the number of tests conducted, the number which either proved positive or were refused has remained relatively stable ranging from around 80,600 to 111,700 between 1980 and 2004. In 2004, there were 103,000 positive or refused tests. This has resulted in an overall decrease in the percentage of tests which were positive or were refused from 49% in 1980 to 18% in 2004<sup>†</sup>.

Table 5.11 shows the number of people proceeded against at magistrate's court and the number of people convicted in all courts for driving or being in charge of a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or drugs. The latest data currently available is for 2004<sup>18</sup> and this shows that there were 107 thousand proceedings and 96 thousand convictions for driving offences while under the influence of alcohol or drugs in England and Wales that year. Although the number of proceedings and convictions in 2004 were lower than in 1990, when there were 128 thousand proceedings and 113 thousand convictions, the numbers have been increasing since 2001. People aged 21 to 29 accounted for the largest proportion (32%) of those convicted of driving offences while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

<sup>†</sup> Data not presented in a table

The majority of those convicted were men<sup>†</sup> (Figure 5.5).

Figure 5.5 Number of convictions for offences of driving after consuming alcohol or taking drugs, by age 2004



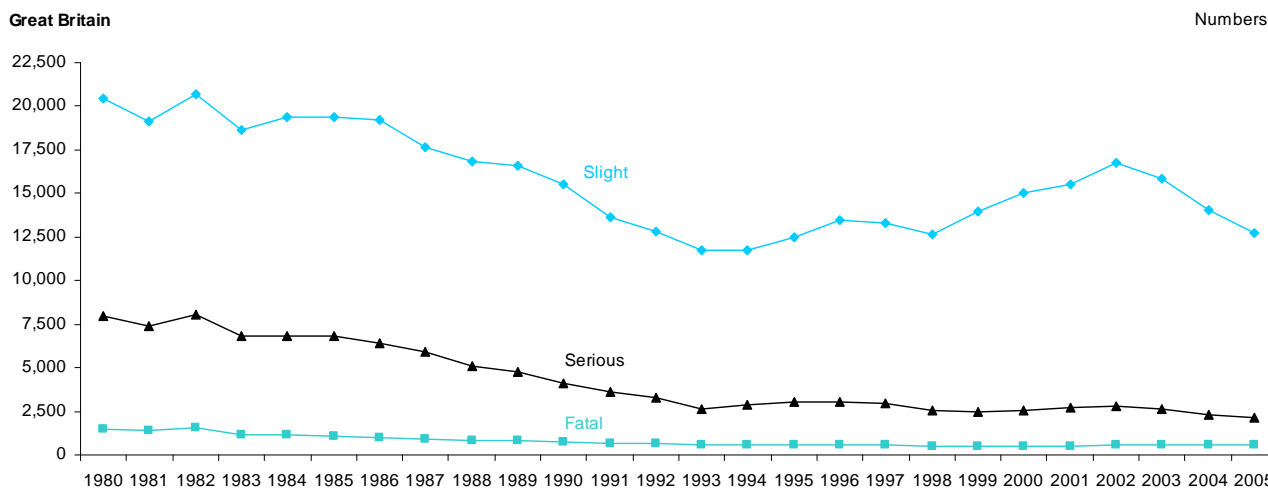
Source: Offences relating to motor vehicles, England and Wales 2004, supplementary tables<sup>†</sup> The Home Office  
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Provisional estimates from Road Casualties Great Britain 2005<sup>11</sup> suggest that 6% of road traffic accidents in 2005 involved illegal alcohol levels. The proportion of road casualties involving illegal levels of alcohol has remained relatively stable at around 6% for a number of years but has shown an overall decrease since 1980 when the proportion was 9%.

6% of all road traffic accidents in 2005 involved illegal levels of alcohol

Fatalities from drinking related road accidents are much lower now than in 1980 (estimated at 560 in 2005 compared to 1,450 in 1980), but showed an increase between 1990 and 2003. The number of serious injuries resulting from traffic accidents involving illegal alcohol levels has generally decreased since 1980 when it was recorded at 7,970 serious injuries to an estimate of 2,100 in 2005. The number of slight injuries resulting from alcohol-related traffic accidents has also reduced over the same period, from 20,420 in 1980 to an estimated 12,740 in 2005, though this figure has fluctuated during this time, reaching a low of 11,780 in both 1993 and 1994 (Table 5.12, Figure 5.6).

Figure 5.6 Estimates of casualties, in road accidents involving illegal alcohol levels, 1980 to 2005



Source: Road Casualties Great Britain: 2005 - Annual Report. Department for Transport  
1. Data for 2005 are provisional  
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<sup>†</sup> Data not presented in a table

In 2005, the provisional data<sup>11</sup> suggests that the proportion of fatalities and serious casualties is higher for alcohol-related accidents than for all road traffic accidents. Seventeen per cent of the total number of casualties involving illegal alcohol levels were either fatal or serious. This compares to 12% of all road traffic accidents which were either fatal or serious. As the 2005 road casualties data is provisional a more detailed breakdown is given of alcohol-related road casualties for 2004.

Out of 16,980 casualties where at least one of the drivers or riders was over the legal limit, around a third (5,930) were car drivers found to be over the limit and there were more than twice as many male casualties than female casualties. Of all car driver casualties, 81% of drivers aged 16-24 were over the limit compared to 62% of the driver casualties aged 25-59 and 34% of elderly drivers aged 60 and over.<sup>†</sup>

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<sup>†</sup> Data not presented in a table

## Summary: Alcohol-related costs

This chapter has shown that alcohol is increasingly more affordable and in general, households continue to spend more each year on alcoholic drinks. Most recent trends from self-completion diaries show some decline in household expenditure and consumption of alcoholic drinks apart from wine which continues to increase.

Nearly a half of violent attackers were believed to be under the influence of alcohol, by their victims, at the time of the incident and there has been little change in this number in recent years. Young people who reported drinking regularly were shown to be

more likely to commit a criminal offence than those who drink less often or don't drink at all. The number of people proceeded against and convicted in court for drunkenness has decreased in recent years, however this may not necessarily be due to a change in behaviour and could be linked to changes in police powers to deal with drunkenness such as issuing penalty notices rather than court proceedings.

The number of fatalities and casualties in alcohol-related road accidents have fallen over the last 25 years.

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## List of tables

- 5.1 Indices of alcohol price, retail prices, alcohol price index relative to retail prices index (all items), real households' disposable income, and affordability of alcohol, United Kingdom, 1980 to 2006
- 5.2 Alcoholic drink released for home consumption, by type of drink, 1990/91 to 2006/07
- 5.3 Drink (pure alcohol) released for home consumption, per person, 1990/91 to 2005/06
- 5.4 Total household expenditure on alcohol, 1980 to 2006
- 5.5 Household consumption of alcoholic drinks, 1992 to 2005/06
- 5.6 Household expenditure on alcoholic drinks, 1992 to 2005/06
- 5.7 Whether offender/s perceived by victims to be under the influence of alcohol in violent incidents, by type of incident, 1998 to 2005/06
- 5.8 Persons found guilty, proceeded against and those cautioned of drunkenness, by gender, 1989, 2000 to 2005
- 5.9 Whether offender had taken drugs or alcohol at the time of incident, 2005
- 5.10 Prevalence of driving-related problem behaviours in the last 12 months, 2005
- 5.11 Proceedings and convictions for offences of driving after consuming alcohol or taking drugs, 1990 to 2004
- 5.12 Estimates of casualties, in road accidents involving illegal alcohol levels, 1980 to 2005

**Table 5.1 Indices of alcohol price, retail prices, alcohol price index relative to retail prices index (all items), real households' disposable income, and affordability of alcohol, United Kingdom, 1980 to 2006**

United Kingdom	Indices (1980 = 100)				
	Alcohol price index	Retail prices index (all items)	Alcohol price index relative to Retail price index (all items)	Real households' disposable income	Affordability of alcohol index <sup>1</sup>
1980	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1981	116.9	111.9	104.5	99.5	95.2
1982	130.2	121.5	107.2	99.2	92.5
1983	140.0	127.1	110.1	101.2	91.9
1984	148.1	133.4	111.0	105.0	94.6
1985	157.4	141.5	111.2	108.6	97.6
1986	164.5	146.3	112.4	113.0	100.6
1987	171.2	152.4	112.3	117.2	104.3
1988	179.9	159.9	112.5	123.6	109.9
1989	190.1	172.3	110.3	129.4	117.4
1990	208.4	188.6	110.5	133.8	121.1
1991	234.3	199.7	117.3	136.5	116.4
1992	249.4	207.2	120.3	140.5	116.7
1993	260.4	210.5	123.7	144.2	116.6
1994	266.7	215.6	123.7	146.3	118.3
1995	276.8	223.1	124.1	150.1	121.0
1996	284.8	228.4	124.7	153.7	123.3
1997	292.7	235.6	124.2	159.5	128.4
1998	302.7	243.7	124.2	161.9	130.3
1999	310.6	247.4	125.5	166.4	132.5
2000	315.4	254.8	123.8	173.8	140.4
2001	322.0	259.3	124.2	181.3	145.9
2002	329.3	263.6	124.9	184.4	147.6
2003	336.3	271.2	124.0	188.9	152.3
2004	342.8	279.3	122.7	192.1	156.5
2005	349.6	287.2	121.7	197.0	161.8
2006	358.0	296.4	120.8	199.5	165.1

1. See Appendix A for affordability calculations

**Sources:**

Alcohol Price and Retail Prices (all items) Indices: derived from Focus on Consumer Price Indices: tables 4.1 and 4.10 (Codes CBAA, CBAB, CHBD, CHAW). Office for National Statistics

Real Households Disposable Income: Economic Trends: table 2.5 (Code NRJR). Office for National Statistics

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**Table 5.2 Alcoholic drink released for home consumption, by type of drink, 1990/91 to 2006/07<sup>1</sup>**

United Kingdom	Thousand hectolitres <sup>2</sup>			
	Beer <sup>3</sup>	Cider & perry	Wine	Spirits <sup>4</sup>
1990/91	64,541	3,777	7,342	987
1991/92	62,975	3,912	7,391	888
1992/93	60,462	4,162	7,737	863
1993/94	59,372	4,593	8,117	851
1994/95	59,420	4,916	8,434	887
1995/96	60,400	5,581	8,920	814
1996/97	59,545	5,677	9,997	823
1997/98	60,483	5,536	10,095	810
1998/99	58,761	5,603	10,476	840
1999/00	59,979	6,291	12,118	926
2000/01	56,139	5,943	13,047	937
2001/02 <sup>5</sup>	58,763	5,900	14,795	978
2002/03	59,791	5,872	12,757	1,158
2003/04	60,594	5,966	12,643	1,210
2004/05	58,845	6,126	13,777	1,213
2005/06	57,596	6,462	13,988	1,171
2006/07 <sup>1,6</sup>	55,441	7,863	13,784	1,155

1. Data for 2006/07 are provisional

2. Numbers rounded to the nearest thousand hectolitres of alcohol: a hectolitre is one hundred litres

3. The figures for beer prior to 1993/94 have been adjusted to make them comparable with those of later years

4. Data for spirits are for thousand hectolitres of pure alcohol (only the data for spirits relate to pure alcohol)

5. Up to 28 April 2002, wine includes wine of fresh grape, made wine and wine and spirit-based coolers (coolers or ready-to-drink products are alcoholic lemonade and similar products). From that date, duty on spirit-based 'coolers' has been charged at the same rate as spirits, so spirit-based coolers are now included under spirits. This change in classification explains, at least in part, the decrease in wine and increase in spirits from 2002/03

6. In 2006/06, wine based 'coolers' accounted for 566 thousand hectolitres of the total for "wine"

**Source:**

HM Revenue & Customs Statistical Bulletins: Beer and cider, Made wine, Wine of fresh grape, Spirits, which can be accessed on the internet via the HM Revenue & Customs UK Trade Information Site at: <http://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=bulletins>

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**Table 5.3 Drink (pure alcohol)<sup>1</sup> released for home consumption, per person<sup>2</sup>, 1990/91 to 2005/06<sup>3</sup>**

United Kingdom	Litres of pure alcohol				
	Total <sup>4</sup>	Beer	Cider & Perry	Wine	Spirits
1990/91	10.01	5.62	0.43	1.81	2.15
1991/92	9.65	5.47	0.44	1.81	1.93
1992/93	9.45	5.24	0.47	1.87	1.87
1993/94	9.41	5.09	0.52	1.96	1.84
1994/95	9.71	5.21	0.55	2.03	1.91
1995/96	9.75	5.29	0.62	2.09	1.75
1996/97	9.99	5.27	0.63	2.30	1.78
1997/98	10.14	5.37	0.62	2.40	1.75
1998/99	10.14	5.25	0.62	2.47	1.81
1999/00	10.74	5.31	0.69	2.76	1.98
2000/01	10.51	5.01	0.64	2.86	2.00
2001/02	11.02	5.17	0.63	3.15	2.07
2002/03 <sup>4,5</sup>	11.35	5.24	0.62	3.06	2.44
2003/04	11.57	5.31	0.63	3.10	2.53
2004/05	11.65	5.14	0.64	3.36	2.52
2005/06	11.40	4.94	0.67	3.39	2.41

1. Clearances of pure alcohol are calculated using estimated average strengths for wine, beer and cider

2. Aged 16 and over

3. Totals may not sum, due to rounding

4. Up to 28 April 2002, wine includes wine of fresh grape, made wine and wine and spirit-based coolers (coolers or ready-to-drink products are alcoholic lemonade and similar products). From that date, duty on spirit-based 'coolers' has been charged at the same rate as spirits, so spirit-based coolers are now included under spirits

5. In 2002/03, spirit based 'coolers' accounted for 121 thousand hectolitres of the total for "spirits". Prior to 2002/03 this would have been included in the total for "wine". This change in classification explains, at least in part, the decrease in wine and increase in spirits between 2001/02 and 2002/03

**Source:**

HM Revenue & Customs. Statistical factsheet: Alcohol Duties, which can be accessed on the internet via the HM Revenue & Customs UK Trade Information Site at:  
<http://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=bulletins>

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**Table 5.4 Total household expenditure<sup>1</sup> on alcohol, 1980 to 2006**

United Kingdom	£ million at current prices					
	Beer	Spirits	Wine	Total household expenditure on alcohol <sup>2</sup>	Total household final consumption expenditure	Expenditure on alcohol as percentage of total household final consumption expenditure
1980	5,320	2,720	1,913	9,953	132,128	7.5
1981	5,971	2,908	2,274	11,153	146,508	7.6
1982	6,450	3,003	2,550	12,003	160,266	7.5
1983	7,138	3,265	2,867	13,270	175,908	7.5
1984	8,085	3,471	3,111	14,667	188,586	7.8
1985	8,762	3,831	3,404	15,997	205,737	7.8
1986	9,248	3,947	3,555	16,750	227,812	7.4
1987	9,886	4,145	3,773	17,804	250,274	7.1
1988	10,562	4,550	3,894	19,006	282,777	6.7
1989	11,216	4,611	4,117	19,944	310,168	6.4
1990	12,345	4,985	4,471	21,801	336,265	6.5
1991	13,274	5,296	4,848	23,418	358,107	6.5
1992	13,432	5,243	5,311	23,986	377,780	6.3
1993	13,605	5,524	5,650	24,779	399,875	6.2
1994	14,507	5,820	5,879	26,206	419,825	6.2
1995	14,842	5,284	6,529	26,655	441,085	6.0
1996	15,713	5,460	7,980	29,153	472,711	6.2
1997	16,703	5,911	8,168	30,782	501,290	6.1
1998	17,029	6,062	9,386	32,477	534,153	6.1
1999	17,230	6,769	9,667	33,666	567,994	5.9
2000	17,062	6,795	10,782	34,639	600,826	5.8
2001	17,342	6,971	11,690	36,003	632,496	5.7
2002	18,077	7,431	12,766	38,274	664,562	5.8
2003	18,878	7,738	12,240	38,856	697,160	5.6
2004	18,928	7,939	13,463	40,329	732,531	5.5
2005	18,936	8,165	13,820	40,921	760,032	5.4
2006	19,128	7,876	14,557	41,561	793,322	5.2

1. Excludes legitimate cross-border shopping which is included in tourists' expenditure

2. Total household expenditure on alcohol may not sum due to rounding

3. 'Spirits' includes spirits and liqueurs, 'Wine' includes grape and fruit wines, alcopops, cider and perry, 'Beer' includes beers, ales, lagers, porters, shandies and low alcohol beverages

4. In 2006, the data for expenditure on alcohol in 2003, 2004 and 2005 were revised by ONS. The data for total final household consumption were also revised for every year going back to 1948 by ONS mainly for benchmarking retail goods derived from the Annual Business Enquiry, 2004

**Source:**

Consumer Trends (Table ALC.CS: codes CCEL, CCSA, CCSB, CCRY; Table OGS.CS: code ABJQ), Office for National Statistics

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**Table 5.5 Household consumption of alcoholic drinks, 1992 to 2005/06**

United Kingdom							ml per person per week	
	All alcoholic drinks	Beer <sup>1</sup>	Cider and perry	Wine <sup>2</sup>	Spirits <sup>3</sup>	Alcopops	Other <sup>4</sup>	
<b>Consumption within the home</b>								
1992	527	298	47	152	30	0	.	
1993	536	297	44	164	32	0	.	
1994	552	311	52	163	28	0	.	
1995	627	338	77	180	32	0	.	
1996	656	351	82	188	34	0	.	
1997	653	365	58	196	32	2	.	
1998	645	340	61	212	30	1	.	
1999	640	329	60	213	35	4	.	
2000	725	388	58	232	37	10	.	
2001/02	735	386	55	236	39	18	.	
2002/03	726	380	50	239	39	18	.	
2003/04	792	416	64	251	41	19	.	
2004/05	763	395	55	261	38	14	.	
2005/06	739	377	52	262	38	11	.	
<b>Consumption outside the home<sup>5</sup></b>								
2001/02	733	623	21	20	21	34	15	
2002/03	704	592	20	20	21	36	15	
2003/04	665	557	20	21	22	25	21	
2004/05	616	515	18	22	20	20	22	
2005/06	597	499	16	22	20	15	25	

1. 'Beer' includes beers, lagers and continental beers
2. 'Wine' includes table wine, champagne and fortified wines
3. 'Spirits' includes spirits and mixer, liqueurs and cocktails
4. 'Other' includes rounds of alcohol drinks bought and alcohol not otherwise specified
5. Data on volumes consumed outside of the homes from 1992 to 2000 is not available

**Source:**

Expenditure and Food Survey, DEFRA, historic trend data can be accessed on the internet via the DEFRA website, available at:  
<http://statistics.defra.gov.uk/esg/publications/efs/default.asp>

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**Table 5.6 Household expenditure<sup>1</sup> on alcoholic drinks, 1992 to 2005/06<sup>2</sup>**

United Kingdom	£ per person per week					
	All alcoholic drinks	Beer <sup>3</sup>	Cider and perry	Wine <sup>4</sup>	Spirits <sup>5</sup>	Alcopops
1992	1.51	0.44	0.07	0.49	0.40	0.00
1993	1.58	0.45	0.06	0.56	0.42	0.00
1994	1.52	0.45	0.07	0.55	0.36	0.00
1995	1.80	0.52	0.10	0.65	0.43	0.00
1996	1.87	0.56	0.11	0.67	0.43	0.00
1997	1.93	0.60	0.08	0.75	0.40	0.01
1998	2.11	0.58	0.09	0.97	0.40	0.00
1999	2.08	0.56	0.08	0.90	0.44	0.01
2000	2.39	0.66	0.08	1.03	0.49	0.03
2001/02	2.44	0.65	0.07	1.07	0.51	0.06
2002/03	2.49	0.65	0.06	1.10	0.51	0.06
2003/04	2.65	0.71	0.08	1.18	0.54	0.06
2004/05	2.66	0.67	0.07	1.31	0.49	0.04
2005/06	2.65	0.64	0.07	1.34	0.49	0.04

1. Data includes expenditure on alcohol consumed both within and outside the home
2. Data from 1992 to 2000 was collected from the national food survey and has been adjusted to allow comparisons to data collected from 2001/02 onwards from the Expenditure and Food Survey
3. 'Beer' includes beers, lagers and continental beers
4. 'Wine' includes champagne and fortified wines
5. 'Spirits' includes spirits and mixer, liqueurs and cocktails

**Source:**

Expenditure and Food Survey, DEFRA, historic trend data can be accessed on the internet via the DEFRA website, available at:  
<http://statistics.defra.gov.uk/esg/publications/efs/default.asp>

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**Table 5.7 Whether offender/s perceived by victims to be under the influence of alcohol in violent incidents, by type of incident, 1998 to 2005/06**

England and Wales	Percentages						
	1998	2000	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06
<b>All violence<sup>1</sup></b>							
Yes	42	40	47	44	50	48	44
No	48	50	44	45	40	43	47
Don't know	10	9	9	11	10	9	8
<b>Domestic<sup>2</sup></b>							
Yes	33	43	45	42	47	53	46
No	60	55	49	56	48	45	53
Don't know	7	2	5	2	5	2	1
<b>Acquaintance<sup>3</sup></b>							
Yes	45	37	51	41	51	46	44
No	50	53	43	51	43	49	53
Don't know	4	10	6	8	6	5	3
<b>Stranger<sup>4</sup></b>							
Yes	59	53	59	60	62	60	54
No	30	34	31	26	25	28	34
Don't know	11	13	10	14	14	12	12
<b>Mugging<sup>5</sup></b>							
Yes	15	17	19	20	18	17	21
No	53	70	62	58	61	58	59
Don't know	32	13	18	22	21	25	20
<b>Bases</b>							
<i>All violence</i>	946	1,052	1,340	1,455	1,465	1,529	1,567
<i>Domestic</i>	195	229	243	259	258	256	251
<i>Acquaintance</i>	347	390	426	492	460	483	504
<i>Stranger</i>	250	308	452	458	517	535	544
<i>Mugging</i>	150	125	219	245	230	255	268

1. The BCS does not cover crimes against those aged under 16 or those not living in private households

2. Domestic violence comprises common assaults and woundings which involve partners, ex-partners, household members or other relatives

3. Acquaintance violence comprises common assault and woundings in which the victim knew one or more of the offenders, at least by sight. In 1998 there was one incident of acquaintance violence where the offender was said to be under school age

4. Stranger violence includes common assaults and woundings, in which the victim did not know any of the offenders in any way. In 2001/02 there was one incident of stranger violence for which the offender was under school age

5. Mugging comprises robbery, attempted robbery, and snatch theft from the person

**Source:**

Young people and crime: findings from the 2005 offending, crime and justice survey. Home Office

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**Table 5.8 Persons found guilty, proceeded against and those cautioned of drunkenness, by gender, 1989, 2000 to 2005**

England and Wales	Numbers								
	All adults			Men			Women		
	Drunkenness, simple <sup>1</sup>	Drunkenness, with aggravation <sup>2</sup>	Total	Drunkenness, simple <sup>1</sup>	Drunkenness, with aggravation <sup>2</sup>	Total	Drunkenness, simple <sup>1</sup>	Drunkenness, with aggravation <sup>2</sup>	Total
<b>Persons found guilty</b>									
1989	5,623	37,287	42,910	5,334	34,715	40,049	289	2,572	2,861
2000	2,969	24,213	27,182	2,740	21,809	24,549	229	2,404	2,633
2001	2,741	23,505	26,246	2,511	21,230	23,741	230	2,275	2,505
2002	2,510	24,388	26,898	2,255	21,893	24,148	255	2,495	2,750
2003	2,299	25,398	27,697	2,069	22,617	24,686	230	2,781	3,011
2004	1,948	19,185	21,133	1,729	16,929	18,658	219	2,256	2,475
2005	1,691	14,376	16,067	1,545	12,381	13,926	146	1,995	2,141
<b>Persons proceeded against</b>									
1989	6,187	42,186	48,373	5,861	39,141	45,002	326	3,045	3,371
2000	3,375	30,688	34,063	3,108	27,457	30,565	267	3,231	3,498
2001	3,196	30,057	33,253	2,917	26,918	29,835	279	3,139	3,418
2002	2,867	31,066	33,933	2,566	27,670	30,236	301	3,396	3,697
2003	2,640	31,635	34,275	2,375	27,967	30,342	265	3,668	3,933
2004	2,251	22,904	25,155	1,991	20,100	22,091	260	2,804	3,064
2005	1,932	16,639	18,751	1,762	14,269	16,031	170	2,370	2,540
<b>Persons cautioned</b>									
1989	36,143	13,769	49,912	33,240	12,611	45,851	2,903	1,158	4,061
2000	2,435	15,616	18,051	2,106	12,655	14,761	329	2,961	3,290
2001	1,692	14,947	16,639	1,459	11,993	13,452	233	2,954	3,187
2002	1,190	15,041	16,231	1,023	11,912	12,935	167	3,129	3,296
2003	1,336	16,796	18,132	1,137	13,253	14,392	199	3,543	3,742
2004	1,009	12,447	13,456	828	9,562	10,390	181	2,915	3,096
2005	770	7,819	8,589	625	5,676	6,301	145	2,143	2,288

1. Simple drunkenness - the majority are offences under the Licensing Act 1872, section 12 (Being found drunk in a highway or other public place or on licensed premises)

2. Drunkenness with aggravation - the majority are offences under the Criminal Justice Act 1967, section 91 (Being guilty while drunk of disorderly behaviour)

**Source:**

Criminal Statistics England and Wales. Supplementary Tables 2005, 2004, 2003, 2002, 2001, 2000 and 1989 volumes 1 and 3. Home Office

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**Table 5.9 Whether offender had taken drugs or alcohol at the time of incident<sup>1</sup>, 2005**

	Violent Offences			Property Offences				Percentages
	Assault without injury	Assault with injury	All violent offences <sup>2</sup>	Vehicle related thefts	Criminal damage	Other thefts	All property offences <sup>3</sup>	
Drugs only	1	3	3	2	4	2	2	
Alcohol only	16	22	18	7	32	6	10	
Drugs and alcohol	3	4	3	27	5	1	4	
Neither	80	71	75	64	58	92	84	
<i>Base</i>	<i>406</i>	<i>367</i>	<i>775</i>	<i>74</i>	<i>147</i>	<i>500</i>	<i>753</i>	

1. Incidents committed by offenders aged 10 to 25

2. Total includes robberies

3. Total includes burglaries

**Source:**

Young people and crime: Findings from the 2005 Offending, Crime and Justice Survey. Home Office

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**Table 5.10 Prevalence<sup>1</sup> of driving related problem behaviours in the last 12 months, 2005**

England and Wales				Percentages
	Driving without valid insurance/licence	Driving whilst thought to be over alcohol limit	Being fined or found guilty of speeding	Base
<b>All persons<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>11</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1,685</b>
Men	14	22	8	839
Women	7	11	7	846
16-17	17	9	2	340
18-19	14	14	4	471
20-21	11	16	12	305
22-23	11	20	7	280
24-25	6	23	9	289

1. Data relate only to respondents who had driven a motor vehicle in the 12 months prior to interview

2. Aged 16 to 25

**Source:**

Young people and crime: Findings from the 2005 Offending, Crime and Justice Survey. Home Office

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**Table 5.11 Proceedings<sup>1</sup> and convictions<sup>2</sup> for offences of driving after consuming alcohol or taking drugs<sup>3</sup>, 1990 to 2004**

England and Wales	Thousands	
	Proceedings	Convictions
1990	127.6	113.2
1991	118.6	103.8
1992	110.2	95.2
1993	105.2	91.2
1994	104.7	89.7
1995	105.4	92.5
1996	107.9	95.7
1997	112.1	100.2
1998	104.0	93.1
1999	99.5	89.4
2000	96.2	85.8
2001	96.0	84.8
2002	102.0	90.5
2003	105.7	93.7
2004	107.1	96.2

1. At magistrates' court

2. At all courts

3. These data relate to driving, attempting to drive or in charge of a motor vehicle on a road or other public place after consuming alcohol or taking drugs

**Sources:**

Statistical Bulletin 'Motoring Offences and Breath Test Statistics, England and Wales' 2004 and 2000. Home Office

Statistical Bulletin 'Motoring Offences England and Wales' 1995 and 1992. Home Office

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**Table 5.12 Estimates of casualties<sup>1</sup>, in road accidents involving illegal alcohol levels, 1980 to 2005<sup>2</sup>**

Great Britain	Total of all casualties	Casualties in accidents involving illegal alcohol levels				Numbers
		Total	Fatal	Serious	Slight	
1980	326,732	29,830	1,450	7,970	20,420	
1981	324,840	27,950	1,420	7,370	19,160	
1982	334,331	30,220	1,550	8,010	20,660	
1983	308,584	26,520	1,110	6,800	18,610	
1984	324,314	27,390	1,170	6,820	19,410	
1985	317,524	27,220	1,040	6,810	19,380	
1986	321,489	26,650	990	6,440	19,220	
1987	311,473	24,470	900	5,900	17,670	
1988	322,305	22,740	790	5,100	16,860	
1989	341,592	22,220	810	4,790	16,620	
1990	341,141	20,400	760	4,090	15,550	
1991	311,368	17,880	660	3,610	13,610	
1992	310,753	16,710	660	3,280	12,770	
1993	306,135	14,980	540	2,660	11,780	
1994	315,359	15,160	540	2,840	11,780	
1995	310,687	16,000	540	3,000	12,450	
1996	320,578	17,040	580	3,010	13,450	
1997	327,803	16,800	550	2,940	13,310	
1998	325,212	15,590	460	2,520	12,610	
1999	320,310	16,910	460	2,470	13,980	
2000	320,283	18,060	530	2,540	14,990	
2001	313,309	18,770	530	2,690	15,550	
2002	302,605	20,100	550	2,790	16,760	
2003	290,607	18,990	580	2,590	15,820	
2004	280,840	16,980	580	2,340	14,060	
2005 <sup>2</sup>	271,017	15,400	560	2,100	12,740	

1. Estimates are adjusted for under reporting

2. The data for 2005 are provisional

**Source:**

Road Casualties Great Britain: 2005 - Annual Report. Department for Transport

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## Appendix A: Key sources

### General Household Survey

The General Household Survey (GHS) is a continuous survey carried out by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). It collects information on a range of topics from people living in private households in Great Britain. Questions about drinking were included in the survey every two years from 1978 to 1998. Following a review of the GHS, questions on alcohol consumption have been included in the questionnaire every year from 2000 onwards.

Since 1998, the GHS has used two measures of alcohol consumption:

- Maximum daily amount drunk in the week prior to interview
- Average weekly alcohol consumption.

Questions on the maximum daily amount drunk in the week prior to interview have been included in the GHS since 1998, following an inter-departmental review of the effects of drinking. This review concluded that it was more appropriate to set benchmarks for daily than for weekly consumption of alcohol. This is in line with the Government's advice on sensible drinking which is based on the same daily benchmarks and GHS data are used to monitor the extent to which people are following the advice given.

Questions to establish average weekly alcohol consumption have been included on the GHS, in their current form, periodically since 1986. This measure was developed in response to earlier medical guidelines on drinking related to maximum recommended weekly amounts of alcohol. Respondents are asked how often over the last year they have drunk a range of alcoholic drinks and how much of these they have usually drunk on any one day. This information is combined to give an estimate of the respondent's weekly alcohol consumption. The questions were asked in the 2005 survey and in the 2002 survey prior to that.

Previous GHS reports were based on data collected over a full financial year from April to the following March. In 2005, the timeframe for the survey was changed from a financial year basis to calendar year basis. Where questions were the same in 2005 as in 2004/05, the final quarter of the 2004/05 collection has been added to the nine months of the 2005 survey data in order to provide estimates based on a full calendar year, and to ensure any seasonal variation is accounted for. However, questions on weekly alcohol consumption were not asked in 2004/05. As the 2004/05 survey ran from April 2004 to March 2005 any new questions introduced in the 2005 survey were only asked from April 2005. Thus data for these questions cannot be combined with estimates from the last quarter of the previous survey to give seasonally representative data. In order to assess the effect of this on the estimates of alcohol consumption, data for 2002, the last survey in which the questions covered the full year, were examined. The GHS 2005 report concluded that there was no statistically significant difference in average weekly consumption between April to December 2002 and January to March 2003. The GHS therefore assumes that the absence of data for January to March 2005 has not significantly affected the estimates of average weekly alcohol consumption. The bases shown in the GHS 2005 report for such questions (including weekly alcohol consumption) have been scaled to account for this. Future GHS surveys will run from January to December.

The majority of information published using GHS data on drinking relate to Great Britain, and therefore differ from those shown in this bulletin, which covers England only where possible. Most of the England figures presented in Chapter 2 of this bulletin – Drinking among adults, have been obtained by re-analysing the GHS data set.

A unit of alcohol is 8mg (or 10ml) of pure alcohol. The General Household Survey uses the approximations shown in [Table A.1](#) to estimate the number of units drunk.

General Household Survey 2005: Smoking and Drinking among Adults, 2005. Office for National Statistics. December 2005.

Available at:

[http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme\\_compedia/GHS05/GHS2005\\_SmokingandDrinking\\_Report.pdf](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_compedia/GHS05/GHS2005_SmokingandDrinking_Report.pdf)

### ONS Omnibus Survey

The Omnibus Survey is a multi-purpose survey carried out by the Office for National Statistics in most months of the year on behalf of a range of Government departments, and other bodies. In 2006, interviews were conducted with around 2,474 adults aged 16 or over, throughout Great Britain, during the period in which questions on alcohol were included.

Questions on drinking are included on an ad-hoc basis, usually for two months. In 2006, data on drinking was collected during February and March and included: alcohol consumption by type of drink; frequency of drinking; maximum daily amount last week; drinking-related knowledge and behaviour; and places where people buy alcohol. In this bulletin information on drinking-related knowledge and places where adults buy alcohol and what type of alcohol they drink is reported on in Chapter 2 – Drinking among adults.

Drinking: Adults' Behaviour and Knowledge in 2006. Office for National Statistics, 2006.

Available at:

[http://www.statistics.gov.uk/articles/nojournal/Drinking\\_2006.pdf](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/articles/nojournal/Drinking_2006.pdf)

### Infant Feeding Survey

Statistics on drinking during pregnancy are taken from Infant Feeding Survey (IFS) 2005. The IFS covers the population of new mothers in the United Kingdom, and is carried out every 5 years, the first in 1975. In 2005, the survey was conducted by the British Market Research Bureau (BMRB) with a sample size of around 12,290. The main aim of the survey is to provide figures on the incidence, prevalence and duration of breastfeeding and other feeding practises. The survey also collects information on the smoking and drinking behaviours of women before, during and after pregnancy. Drinking during pregnancy is reported on in Chapter 2 of this bulletin – Drinking among adults.

Infant Feeding 2005. The Information Centre. May 2007.

Available at:

[www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/ifs2005](http://www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/ifs2005)

## World Health Organisation (WHO)

The World Health Organisation Statistical Information System (WHOSIS) alcohol database collates estimates of the level of alcohol consumption per adult (15 years of age and older) of pure alcohol in litres. The estimates are taken in the relevant country during a calendar year, as calculated from official statistics on production, sales, import and export, taking into account stocks whenever possible. There are two different resources within WHO where data on alcohol consumption in European countries can be found, the Global Alcohol Database and the European Regional Office Health for All database.

For the Global Alcohol Database a set of indicators were chosen to assess the most important aspects of the alcohol situation in WHO Member States as they relate to public health. The indicators are grouped into eight broad categories. Under each broad category there are “topics” and a number of “sub-topics”. The broad categories are as follows:

- Production and Availability
- Levels of Consumption
- Patterns of Consumption
- Harms and Consequences
- Economic Aspects
- Alcohol Control Policies
- Resources for Prevention and Treatment
- Indicators for Comparative Risk Assessment Analysis

For the Health for All Database, data is collected on basic health statistics/indicators from the 53 member states of the WHO European Region. The database is a useful tool for international comparisons of health situations and trends. It is updated twice a year in January and June and there are around 600 indicators in the database, organised into the following groups:

- Demographic and socio-economic statistics
- Mortality-based indicators
- Morbidity, disability and hospital discharges
- Lifestyles
- Environment
- Health care resources
- Health care utilisation and costs
- Maternal and child health

Data on the alcohol consumption of adults in European Union member countries were taken from the Health for All database as this data source only focuses on European countries. Data on alcohol consumption in European countries is reported on in this bulletin in Chapter 2 – Drinking among adults.

<<http://www.euro.who.int/hfadb>>

## Smoking, Drinking & Drug Use among Young People in England

Between 1982 and 2003, surveys of secondary school children in England were carried out for the Department of Health. This was done by the Office of Population Census and Surveys (OPCS) between 1982 and 1994, by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) between 1994 and 1999 and by the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen) and the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) between 2000 and 2003. Since 2004, the survey has been run by NatCen and NFER on behalf of The Information Centre for health and social care.

From 1982 to 1988, the survey was solely concerned with monitoring trends of young people and smoking. In 1988, questions on alcohol consumption were added and have been included in the survey ever since. The 1998 survey was also expanded to include questions on drug use. The core of the questionnaire comprises of questions about the prevalence of drug use, smoking and drinking and, since 2000, the remainder of the questionnaire focuses, in alternate years, on either smoking and drinking or drug taking. The most recent survey in the series is Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use among Young People in England in 2006 (SDD06). Headline figures from this survey were published in March 2007 with the full report due out in August 2007.

The target population for the survey is secondary school children in England, in years 7 to 11, from almost all types of school (comprehensive, secondary modern, grammar and other secondary schools), both state and public. Only special schools and hospital schools are excluded from the survey.

The survey uses a stratified design in which every eligible child has an equal chance of inclusion in the study. The survey is conducted using a confidential questionnaire, which the pupils fill in individually. Fieldwork of the most recent survey (SDD06) was carried out during the autumn term of 2006 and 290 schools agreed to take part in the survey, resulting in more than 8,200 completed questionnaires.

Some of the data in this bulletin uses results from the 2004 survey, and some are from the 2006 headline figures. This is because the headline figures report only contains data on a small number of alcohol topics and the 2005 survey focus was on drugs and only included core questions about drinking.

The approximations used in Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use among Young People in England to estimate the number of units drunk are shown in [Table A.2](#). The prevalence, patterns and behaviours of children and drinking are reported on in Chapter 3 of this bulletin – Drinking among school children.

Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use among Young People in England in 2006: Headline Figures. The Information Centre. March 2006.

Available at:

[www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/sdd06headlines](http://www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/sdd06headlines)

## Mental health of children and young people in Great Britain, 2004

Mental Health of Children and Young People in Great Britain, 2004 carried out by the Office for National Statistics on behalf of the Department of Health and the Scottish Executive provides information about the prevalence of mental disorders among young people aged 5 to 16 in Great

Britain living in private households. The survey examines the relationship between mental disorder and aspects of children's lives, including alcohol consumption. It was carried out between March and June 2004 and a sample size of around 8,000 children and young people aged 5 to 16 was achieved. It also provides profiles of children in each of the main disorder categories; emotional, conduct, hyperkinetic and autistic spectrum disorders, including comparisons with alcohol consumption.

The report uses the term 'mental disorders' as defined by the International Classification of Diseases, tenth revision (ICD-10).

A discussion of the findings from the Mental Health of Children and Young People in Great Britain, 2004 can be found in Chapter 3 – Drinking among school children.

Available at:

[http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme\\_health/GB2004.pdf](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_health/GB2004.pdf)

### European School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs (ESPAD) Report 2003

This is the third report published within the ESPAD project. It presents data on more than 100,000 European students in numerous diagrams and maps and around 150 tables. The surveys are planned to be repeated every fourth year, thus providing long-term data on changes in alcohol and drug consumption among young people. The next survey is due to be carried out in 2007.

A main purpose of the ESPAD project is to collect comparable data on alcohol, tobacco and drug use among 15 and 16 year old students in European countries. The studies are conducted as school surveys by researchers in each participating country, during the same period of time and with a common methodology. By adopting this ESPAD format, comprehensive and comparable data on alcohol, tobacco and drug use among European students are produced. As in earlier studies, the surveys were conducted with a standardised methodology and a common questionnaire to provide data which are as comparable as possible. Data were mainly collected during spring 2003 and the target population was students born in 1987. Thus, the age group studied turned 16 during the year of data collection. At the time of the data collections the average age of the students was 15.8 years.

Data were collected by group-administered questionnaires in schools on nationally representative samples of classes, except in Russia, Germany and Turkey where there were some restrictions. Students answered the questionnaires anonymously in the classroom under written test conditions. Samples sizes varied between countries, from 555 in Greenland to nearly 6,000 in Poland. Teachers or research assistants collected the data.

Data from the ESPAD Report 2003 can be found in Chapter 3 – Drinking among school children. Available at:

[http://www.espad.org/documents/Espad/ESPAD\\_reports/The\\_2003\\_ESPAD\\_report.pdf](http://www.espad.org/documents/Espad/ESPAD_reports/The_2003_ESPAD_report.pdf)

### ONS Psychiatric Morbidity Surveys

A series of national surveys of psychiatric morbidity were commissioned by the Department of Health, the Scottish Executive and the National Assembly for Wales and carried out by ONS (previously Office for Population Censuses and Surveys, OPCS). Each survey covered a

different population group for example, adults aged 16 to 64 living in private households, prisoners, adults living in institutions, homeless people, people with psychotic disorders, children and adolescents, and young people looked after by local authorities.

The survey of psychiatric morbidity among adults in private households in Great Britain first carried out in 1993 with a second survey conducted in 2000.

The survey assessed the prevalence of hazardous and harmful drinking using the Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test (AUDIT). This is a questionnaire consisting of ten questions, which can each score a maximum of four points. For the purpose of the survey anyone who scored a total of over eight on the AUDIT test was considered to be a hazardous drinker, while those scoring over 16 were considered to be harmful drinkers. For the purpose of this bulletin, and based on information published in the AUDIT manual, those with an AUDIT score of eight or over in the Psychiatric Morbidity Survey are considered to be hazardous or harmful drinkers.

The AUDIT test was designed by the World Health Organisation as a tool to identify hazardous, harmful and dependent drinkers. [Table A.3](#) shows which questions are designed to identify hazardous, harmful and dependent drinking. The AUDIT manual for primary care workers suggests that a cut-off score of eight will capture most of the drinkers who can be classed as hazardous or harmful. The identification of these types of drinking behaviours is based on which of the ten questions in the test the respondent scored points on. Therefore it would be possible to score less than 16 points on the test, yet score most of the points on the harmful drinking questions.

The survey assessed alcohol dependence from answers to a different self-completion questionnaire (Severity of Alcohol Dependence Questionnaire) which consists of 12 questions focusing on the three components of dependence: loss of control, symptomatic behaviour and binge drinking.

Harmful or hazardous drinking and dependent drinking are covered in Chapter 4 of this bulletin – Drinking-related ill health and mortality.

Psychiatric morbidity among adults living in private households, 2000. Office for National Statistics. 2001. Available at:

[http://www.dh.gov.uk/PublicationsAndStatistics/Publications/PublicationsStatistics/PublicationsStatisticsArticle/fs/en?CONTENT\\_ID=4019414&chk=EqHYm9](http://www.dh.gov.uk/PublicationsAndStatistics/Publications/PublicationsStatistics/PublicationsStatisticsArticle/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=4019414&chk=EqHYm9)

## Hospital Episode Statistics

NHS hospital admissions in England have been recorded using the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) system since April 1987. Under the HES system, discharges are identified as Finished Consultant Episodes (FCEs). A FCE is a period of care under one consultant and patients may experience more than one FCE in a single admission. Figures presented in Chapter 4 – Drinking-related ill health and mortality, represent hospital admissions and not the actual number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission in a year.

HES data are classified using International Classification of Diseases (ICD). The ICD is the international standard diagnostic classification for all general epidemiological and many health management purposes. It is used to classify diseases and other health problems recorded on many types of health and vital records including death certificates and hospital records. The

International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD 10), published by the World Health Organisation (WHO) is currently in use.

The statistics on hospital activity in England are derived from data collected on NHS hospital in-patient care. Thus, they do not fully reflect hospital treatment of patients with alcohol-related diagnoses or conditions, as local choice might favour outpatient treatment, for which detailed information is not available.

HES data also includes cause codes, which are supplementary ICD 10 codes that indicate the nature of any external cause of injury, poisoning or other adverse effects. X45 is the cause code directly relating to accidental poisoning due to alcohol. However the recording of cause codes may also coincide with the recording of primary or secondary diagnoses of the alcohol specific ICD 10 codes listed in this bulletin and so can lead to double counting. The number of adults admitted to a NHS hospital with the cause code X45 is shown in [Table A.4](#) as well as the number of these who also have a primary or secondary diagnosis that specifically relates to alcohol. As these number are relatively small and the majority of them are already counted within the alcohol-specific ICD 10 codes covered in Chapter 4 – Drinking-related ill health and mortality they have not been included in the admissions tables ([Tables 4.3 – 4.6](#)) or discussed in the chapter.

### International Classification of Diseases and related health problems (ICD)

The Tenth Revision of the ICD codes is the latest in a series of classifications started in 1993, and incorporates a major reorganisation of the structure and groupings used in the ninth revision. An alphanumeric coding scheme replaced the numeric one, e.g. alcohol dependence syndrome changed from 303 in ICD 9 to F10.2 in ICD 10. The regrouping of classifications means that classifications may not map precisely between the two revisions - the nearest equivalent to ICD 9 571.1 (acute alcoholic hepatitis), is the ICD 10 code K70.1 (alcoholic hepatitis) and ICD 10 code K70.9 (alcoholic liver disease, unspecified).

Deaths in England and Wales were classified using ICD 9 to 2000 and by ICD 10 for 1999, and 2001 onwards. Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) have been classified using ICD 10 for 1995/96 onwards.

ICD 10 codes are used in this bulletin in Chapter 4 – Drinking-related ill health and mortality and are shown in [Table A.5](#).

### Expenditure and Food Survey

The Expenditure and Food Survey (EFS) is a combination of the Family Expenditure and the National Food Surveys (FES and NFS). The EFS provides data on spending and food consumption since the 1950s. In 2005/06, around 6,780 households in Great Britain took part in the EFS which was conducted by the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

Historical estimates of household purchases between 1974 and 2000 have been adjusted to align with the level of estimates from the Family Expenditure Survey in 2000. These estimates of household purchases are broadly comparable with estimates of household purchases from the Expenditure and Food Survey which commenced in April 2001.

The aligned estimates are generally higher than the original ones and indicate that the scaling has partially corrected for under-reporting in the National Food Survey. Under-reporting is likely to be lower in the Expenditure and Food Survey because it does not focus on diet but on expenditure across the board and is largely based on till receipts. However it is necessary to be aware that there is a change in methodology which makes the estimate of the year on year change unreliable between 2000 and 2001/02. The largest adjustments were for confectionery, alcoholic drinks, beverages and sugar and preserves. Details of the adjustments to the National Food Survey estimates can be found in Family Food 2002/03.

The latest consumption and expenditure data on alcoholic drinks from the 2005/06 EFS can be found in two publications; Family Food 2005/06 published by the Department for Food, Agriculture and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), and Family Spending 2005/06, published by the Office for National Statistics and also available to download on the DEFRA website. Data from the Expenditure and Food Survey can be found in Chapter 5 – Alcohol-related costs.

Family Food 2005-06. Department for Food, Agriculture and Rural Affairs, 2007. Available at: <http://statistics.defra.gov.uk/esg/publications/efs/2006/default.asp>

Family Spending 2006 edition. Office for National Statistics, 2007. Available at: [http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme\\_social/Family\\_Spending\\_2005-06/Familyspending2005-06.pdf](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_social/Family_Spending_2005-06/Familyspending2005-06.pdf)

## Affordability data

The Alcohol Price Index in [Table 5.1](#) in Chapter 5 – Alcohol-related costs, shows how much the average price of alcohol has changed compared with the base price (1980 in this bulletin).

The Retail Prices Index (RPI) shows how much the prices of all items have changed compared with the base price (1980).

The Relative Alcohol Price Index is calculated in the following way:

$$(\text{Alcohol Price Index} / \text{Retail Prices Index}) * 100$$

This shows how the average price of alcohol has changed since the base (1980) compared with prices of all other items. A value greater than 100 shows that the price of alcohol has increased by more than inflation during that period, for example between Jan 1980 and 2006, the price of alcohol increased by 258.0%. After considering inflation (at 196.4%), alcohol prices increased by 20.8% over the period, as shown by the relative index of 120.8.

Real Households' Disposable Income is an index of the total households' income, minus payments of income tax and other taxes, social contributions and other current transfers, converted to real terms (i.e. after dividing by a general price index to remove the effect of inflation).

Affordability of Alcohol gives a measure of the relative affordability of alcohol, by comparing the relative changes in the price of alcohol, with changes in Households' Disposable Income over the same period (with both allowing for inflation). It is now calculated in the following way:

$$(\text{Real Households' Disposable Income Index} / \text{Relative Alcohol Price Index}) * 100$$

If the affordability index is above 100, then alcohol is relatively more affordable than in the base year, 1980. For example, in 2006 alcohol prices were 258.0% higher than in 1980 but, after taking inflation and households' disposable income into account, alcohol was 65.1% more affordable, as shown by the affordability index of 165.1.

The affordability data can be found on Chapter 5 – Alcohol-related costs.



## List of Tables

- A.1 Approximations used in the General Household Survey to calculate alcohol consumption
- A.2 Approximations used in Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use among Young People to calculate alcohol consumption
- A.3 Domains and item content of Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test
- A.4 NHS hospital admissions for adults where the cause code X45 - 'Accidental poisoning by or exposure to alcohol' was recorded and percentage of double counting, 1995/96 to 2005/06
- A.5 International Identification of Disease (ICD) codes tenth revision

**Table A.1 Approximations used in the General Household Survey to calculate alcohol consumption**

Types of drink and measures asked about	Alcohol units
<b>Normal strength beer, lager, stout cider or shandy (excluding cans and bottles of shandy)</b>	
Half pint	1 unit
Small can	1 unit
Large can	1.5 units
Bottle (size and brand obtained)	half pint=1.5 units
<b>Strong beer, lager, stout or cider (6% abv or greater)</b>	
Half pint	1.5 units
Small can	1.5 units
Large can	2.25 units
Bottle (size and brand obtained)	half pint=1.5 units
<b>Spirits or liqueurs, such as gin, whisky, brandy, rum, vodka, advocaat, cocktails</b>	
Single	1 unit
<b>Sherry or martini, including port, vermouth, cinzano and dubonnet</b>	
Glass	1 unit
<b>Wine<sup>1</sup>, including Babycham and champagne</b>	
Glass	1 unit (1 bottle=6 glasses, 1 litre=8)
<b>Alcopops, such as alcoholic lemonade, alcoholic cola or other alcoholic fruit or herb flavoured drinks</b>	
Bottle	1.5 units

**Table A.2 Approximations used in Smoking, Drinking and Drug use among Young People, to calculate alcohol consumption**

Types of drink and measures asked about		Alcohol units
<b>Beer, Lager, Cider</b>		
	Less than half pint	0.5 unit
	Half pint	1 unit
	Small can	1 unit
	Bottle	1 unit
	Large can	1.5 units
	Pint	2 units
<b>Shandy</b>		
	Less than half pint	0.25 units
	Half pint	0.5 units
	Small can	0.5 units
	Bottle	0.5 units
	Large can	0.75 units
	Pint	1 unit
<b>Wine<sup>1</sup></b>		
	Less than 1 glass	0.5 units
	Glass	1 unit
<b>Martini and Sherry</b>		
	Less than 1 glass	0.5 units
	Glass	1 unit
<b>Spirits (e.g. whisky, vodka, gin) and liquers</b>		
	Less than 1 glass	0.5 units
	Glass	1 unit
<b>Alcopops (e.g. hooch etc.) or pre-mixed alcoholic drinks (e.g. Barcardi Breezer, Metz, Smirnoff Ice etc.)</b>		
	Less than 1 bottle	0.5 units
	Can	1 unit
	Bottle	1 unit

1. In calculating alcohol consumption, a 125ml glass of wine is treated as containing one unit of alcohol

**Table A.3 Domains and item content of Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test**

Domains	Question number	Item Content
Hazardous alcohol use	1	Frequency of drinking
	2	Typical Quantity
	3	Frequency of heavy drinking
Dependence syndromes	4	Impaired control onver drinking
	5	Increased salience of drinking
	6	Morning drinking
Harmful alcohol use	7	Guilt after drinking
	8	Blackouts
	9	Alcohol-related injuries
	10	Others concerned about drinking

**Table A.4 NHS<sup>1</sup> hospital admissions<sup>2</sup> for adults<sup>3</sup> where the cause code X45 - 'Accidental poisoning by or exposure to alcohol' was recorded and double counting, 1995/96 to 2005/06**

England	Numbers										
	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06
X45 <sup>4</sup>	863	709	529	445	439	322	315	264	344	413	407
Number of double counted admissions <sup>5</sup>	758	633	463	374	396	279	254	214	294	353	351

1. The data include private patients in NHS hospitals (but not private patients in private hospitals)

2. A finished in-year admission is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider, excluding admissions beginning before 1 April at the start of the data year. Please note that admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year

3. Aged 16 and over

4. The cause code is a supplementary code that indicates the nature of any external cause of injury, poisoning or other adverse effects. Some of the episodes with X45 cause code also can include a primary or secondary diagnosis code that is specifically related to alcohol and therefore the counts for cause codes and other ICD-10 codes used in this bulletin can not be add up as this would result in double counting some episodes. Counts of overlapping episodes are included in this table below the counts for X45 cause code.

5. Counts where X45 was recorded as a cause code simultaneously within the same episode with the other listed codes

**Table A.5 International Classification of Disease (ICD) codes tenth revision**

ICD 10 code and definition	
E24.4	Alcohol-Induced pseudo-Cushing's syndrome
F10	Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol
F10.0	Acute intoxication
F10.1	Harmful use
F10.2	Dependence syndrome
F10.3	Withdrawal state
F10.4	Withdrawal state with delirium
F10.5	Psychotic disorder
F10.6	Amnesic syndrome
F10.7	Residual and late-onset psychotic disorder
F10.8	Other mental and behavioural disorder
F10.9	Unspecified mental and behavioural disorder
G31.2	Degeneration of nervous system due to alcohol
G62.1	Alcoholic polyneuropathy
G72.1	Alcoholic myopathy
I42.6	Alcoholic cardiomyopathy
K29.2	Alcoholic gastritis
K70	Alcoholic liver disease
K70.0	Alcoholic fatty liver
K70.1	Alcoholic hepatitis
K70.2	Alcoholic fibrosis and sclerosis of liver
K70.3	Alcoholic cirrhosis of liver
K70.4	Alcoholic hepatic failure
K70.9	Alcoholic liver disease, unspecified
K73	Chronic hepatitis, not elsewhere specified
K74	Fibrosis and cirrhosis of liver
T51	Toxic effect of alcohol
T51.0	Toxic effect of ethanol
T51.1	Toxic effect of methanol
T51.2	Toxic effect of 2-propanol
T51.3	Toxic effect of fusel oil
T51.8	Toxic effect of other alcohols
T51.9	Toxic effect of alcohol, unspecified

# Appendix B: Government and NHS plans

## Sensible Drinking Guidelines

In 1992, the Government introduced weekly guidelines that men should consume no more than 21 units per week and women should consume no more than 14 units per week. These recommendations were based upon considerations of harm and benefits of drinking at various levels. In December 1995, Sensible Drinking: the Report of an Interdepartmental Working Group was published which advised that drinking guidelines be amended to focus upon daily levels of consumption. The revised benchmarks stated that regular consumption of between 3 to 4 units per day for men and 2 to 3 units per day for women does not pose significant health risks.

[www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/08/47/02/04084702.pdf](http://www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/08/47/02/04084702.pdf)

## Government Plans

Tackling alcohol misuse was emphasised as a key priority in the NHS Plan in July 2000. The Government's strategy consists of a wide range of measures to address alcohol misuse and encourage sensible drinking.

[www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/05/57/83/04055783.pdf](http://www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/05/57/83/04055783.pdf)

## Alcohol Strategy

The Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy for England was published in March 2004, following on from the commitment made by the Government in the NHS Plan. It encompasses a co-ordinated national strategy, where the responsibility of implementation spans Government departments; namely the Department of Health and the Home Office. The main aims of the strategy are to

- tackle alcohol-related disorder in towns and city centres;
- improve treatment and support for people with alcohol problems;
- clamp down on irresponsible promotions by the industry;
- provide better information to consumers about the dangers of alcohol misuse;
- change attitudes to irresponsible drinking and behaviour.

The research carried out for the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy can be found in the interim analytical report:

[www.strategy.gov.uk/output/page3669.asp](http://www.strategy.gov.uk/output/page3669.asp)

Other research papers and methodology information are available at:

[www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/strategy/work\\_areas/alcohol\\_misuse/background.asp](http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/strategy/work_areas/alcohol_misuse/background.asp)

The strategy itself is available at:

[www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/strategy/work\\_areas/alcohol\\_misuse/index.asp](http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/strategy/work_areas/alcohol_misuse/index.asp)

Safe. Sensible. Social. The next steps in the National Alcohol Strategy, published in 2007, reviews the progress since the publication of the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy and outlines further national and local action to achieve long-term reductions in alcohol-related ill health and crime.

[www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH\\_075218](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_075218)

## Choosing Health

The white paper Choosing Health: Making Healthier Choices Easier was published in November 2004. It builds upon the recommendations set out in the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy through

- guidance and training to ensure all health professionals are able to identify alcohol problems early;
- piloting approaches to targeted screening and brief intervention in both primary care and hospital settings;
- similar initiatives in criminal justice settings with the aim of reducing repeat offending, by ensuring that alcohol treatment needs are met alongside drug misuse treatment needs;
- developing a programme for improvement for alcohol treatment services.

[www.dh.gov.uk/PublicationsAndStatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidanceArticle/fs/en?CONTENT\\_ID=4094550&chk=aN5Cor](http://www.dh.gov.uk/PublicationsAndStatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidanceArticle/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=4094550&chk=aN5Cor)

## Alcohol Needs Assessment Research Project (ANARP)

The ANARP report, published in 2005, provides a national assessment concerning alcohol misuse in England and details services that are responsive to these needs. The primary aim of the study was to measure the gap between the demand for, and provision of, specialist alcohol treatment services in England.

[www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/12/22/39/04122239.pdf](http://www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/12/22/39/04122239.pdf)

## The Licensing Act 2003

The Licensing Act 2003 came into force in November 2005. The Act establishes a single integrated scheme for licensing premises, which are used for the supply of alcohol. One of the key measures contained within the Act include flexible opening hours for premises, with the potential of 24 hour opening. The four key licensing objectives that were set are:

- Prevention of crime and disorder
- Prevention of public nuisance
- Public safety
- Prevention of harm to children

[www.opsi.gov.uk/ACTS/acts2003/20030017.htm](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/ACTS/acts2003/20030017.htm)

## Drinking During Pregnancy

In 2007, the Department of Health updated its advice to women on drinking during pregnancy. The new guidance states that pregnant women and those trying to conceive should avoid drinking alcohol altogether. However, if they do choose to drink they should not drink more than one to two units of alcohol once or twice a week and they should not get drunk.

[www.gnn.gov.uk/environment/fullDetail.asp?ReleaseID=287152&NewsAreaID=2&NavigatedFromDepartment=False](http://www.gnn.gov.uk/environment/fullDetail.asp?ReleaseID=287152&NewsAreaID=2&NavigatedFromDepartment=False)



## Appendix C: Editorial notes

For the purpose of clarity, figures in the bulletin are shown in accordance with the Information Centre publication conventions.

These are as follows:

- . not applicable
- .. not available
- zero
- 0 less than 0.5

Numbers greater than or equal to 0.5 are rounded to the nearest integer. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

Most data in the bulletin discussed in the text are presented in a table; the relevant table number is given at the end of the last paragraph in the discussion around each table.

For data where no table is presented this is indicated using a footnote at the bottom of the relevant page.

The recommended number of units and sensible drinking guidelines differ for men and women. In some of the tables and the text these are referred to jointly, giving the number of units relevant to men first and then the number of units relevant to women as follows:

Daily guidelines:	4/3 units per day
Binge drinking level:	over 8/6 units per day
Sensible weekly limits:	21/14 units per week
Chronic drinking level:	over 50/35 units per week



## Appendix D: Further information

This annual bulletin draws together statistics on alcohol. It is expected the next bulletin will be published in 2008. This bulletin forms part of a suite of statistical reports. Other bulletins cover smoking, drug use and obesity, nutrition and physical activity.

Constructive comments on this bulletin would be welcomed. Questions concerning any data in this publication, or requests for further information, should be addressed to:

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Telephone: 0845 300 6016  
Email: [enquiries@ic.nhs.uk](mailto:enquiries@ic.nhs.uk)

Hard copies of this publication can be obtained from The Contact Centre.

This bulletin is available on the internet:  
<[www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/alcohol07](http://www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/alcohol07)>

The 2006 bulletin, also published by the Information Centre can be found at:  
<[www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/alcohol06](http://www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/alcohol06)>

Previous editions of this bulletin were published by the Department of Health. Information about their statistics and surveys is available on the Department of Health's website at:  
<[http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Statistics/StatisticalWorkAreas/Statisticalpublichealth/DH\\_4032542](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Statistics/StatisticalWorkAreas/Statisticalpublichealth/DH_4032542)>

Readers may also find the following organisations and publications useful resources for further information on alcohol use.

### Alcohol Concern

Alcohol Concern is a national agency working to reduce the level of alcohol misuse. It has a library in which most of the source documents cited in this bulletin are available.  
<[www.alcoholconcern.org.uk/](http://www.alcoholconcern.org.uk/)>

## Department for Transport

The Department for Transport website contains material for local government, the transport sector, passengers and motorists.

[<www.dft.gov.uk/>](http://www.dft.gov.uk/)

## Drinking Behaviours

Information on the Government's recommended drinking levels can be found in the 1995 report Sensible Drinking

Available at:

[<www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/08/47/02/04084702.pdf>](http://www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/08/47/02/04084702.pdf)

Further information on drinking patterns, including binge and chronic drinking can be found in the Interim Analytical Report for the Alcohol Harm Reduction Project:

[<www.strategy.gov.uk/output/page3669.asp>](http://www.strategy.gov.uk/output/page3669.asp)

Up to date information on the Government's strategy on alcohol and drinking can be found in Appendix B – Government and NHS plans.

Hazardous, harmful and dependent drinking are defined by the World Health Organisation in the Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test (AUDIT) manual.

Available at:

[<whqlibdoc.who.int/hq/2001/WHO\\_MSD\\_MSB\\_01.6a.pdf>](http://whqlibdoc.who.int/hq/2001/WHO_MSD_MSB_01.6a.pdf)

## HM Revenue and Customs

HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) is the new department responsible for the business of the former Inland Revenue and HM Customs and Excise.

[<www.hmrc.gov.uk/>](http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/)

HMRC data sets and statistical bulletins and fact sheets are published on the internet at:

[<www.uktradeinfo.com>](http://www.uktradeinfo.com)

## The Home Office: Research Development and Statistics Directorate (RDS)

This directorate produces a variety of publications on a wide range of Home Office issues. Downloads of recent publications are available.

[<rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/>](http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/)

## Hospital Episode Statistics

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) is the national statistical data warehouse for England of the care provided by NHS hospitals and for NHS hospital patients treated elsewhere. HES is the data source for a wide range of healthcare analysis for the NHS, Government and many other organisations and individuals.

[<www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/hospital-care/hospital-activity-hes>](http://www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/hospital-care/hospital-activity-hes)

## The Institute of Alcohol Studies

The Institute of Alcohol Studies (IAS) is an educational body with the basic aims of increasing knowledge of alcohol and the social and health consequences of its misuse, encouraging and supporting the adoption of effective measures for the management and prevention of alcohol-related problems. The Institute is financially independent of both Government and the drinks industry, limited by guarantee and is supported by the Alliance House Foundation, a registered educational charity.

[www.ias.org.uk](http://www.ias.org.uk)

## Office for National Statistics

The Office for National Statistics is the Government department responsible for collecting and publishing official statistics about the UK's society and economy.

[www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk)

## The Portman Group

The Portman Group is a pan-industry organisation whose purpose is to help prevent misuse of alcohol and to promote sensible drinking. An independent company, limited by guarantee, The Portman Group was set up in 1989 by the UK's leading drinks manufacturers, which together supply about 95% of the alcohol sold in the UK.

[www.portman-group.org.uk](http://www.portman-group.org.uk)

## Public Health Observatories

The Association of Public Health Observatories (APHO) represents and co-ordinates the work of 12 Public Health Observatories (PHOs) working across England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. In England there are nine PHOs and each one has a national lead role in a key policy area to:

- Develop expertise and in-depth knowledge
- Provide a single point of contact and information source
- Publicise significant work
- develop training programmes for health intelligence staff and public health researchers and practitioners

The North West Public Health Observatory has the lead role on alcohol and has information about local alcohol indicators, the Alcohol Needs Assessment Research Project and an evidence based information tool for public service agreements.

[www.nwph.net/alcohol](http://www.nwph.net/alcohol)



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