



TRENDS IN ALCOHOL

A compilation of data
from across the UK

INTRODUCTION

Background

The consumption of alcohol, and particularly the impact of its misuse, remains a key consideration in terms of public policy making at both local and national levels. The diverse nature of harms and patterns of consumption means public policy has the ability to impact on a range of stakeholders beyond industry including local authorities, health professionals, the emergency services, community groups and the public.

To fulfil the demand for information and data about trends in these areas there are a wide variety of data sources that cover various different aspects of alcohol consumption and harms. With no universal source of data available statistics are often quoted in isolation without considering the wider context in which they are set. It is vital that the facts on the scale of the problem are presented clearly and in the appropriate context to enable the debate to focus on the issues that remain.

Methodology

This document aims to provide a single point of reference by pulling together the latest comparable data on alcohol consumption, underage issues, health harms and crime from official Government sources. While this does not include all available data and some data included has queries associated with it, this has been highlighted as appropriate.

- For '**consumption**', where possible, data has been shown for the whole of the UK but where data is only available for a smaller area e.g. Great Britain, then this has been clearly marked.
- Due to the difficulties of comparing data across the UK, data for England has been used as a case study for subsequent sections including '**underage**' and '**harms - health and crime**'. In some instances data is only available in aggregated form e.g. England and Wales. Geographic coverage has been specified on each chart.

For clarity on chart labels:

- **United Kingdom** includes data from England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland
- **Great Britain** includes data from England, Scotland and Wales

Where possible data used is from a base year of 2000 to the most recent data available. If data collection started later than 2000 or data is no longer collected, the most recent data samples are labelled and included for information.

All data referenced is published by independent organisations and is not financed or commissioned by the alcohol industry. Where the BBPA Statistical handbook or the BBPA has been referenced this is analysis of existing data, for example HMRC customs clearance. All data is correctly reproduced to best knowledge of all associations. All data and narrative is intended to be used for illustrative purposes only and for all other purposes the original source should be used.

Authored by:



KEY FIGURES

Consumption

- The UK consumed an average of 9.4 litres of alcohol per adult (15+) in 2013 down 19% from the 2004 peak and 10% lower than 2000.
- 2013 consumption is twice as high as in the 1950s and 30% lower than the 1900s.
- According to the most recent OECD analysis of 24 European countries (2011) the average per capita consumption is 10.4 litres – the UK was just below this in 2011 at 10 litres per capita.
- The percentage of frequent drinkers fell between 2005-2012. Men dropped from 22% to 14% and women from 13% to 9%.
- The percentage of those drinking over the recommended guidelines on their heaviest drinking day also fell from 2005-2012. Men dropped from 41% to 34% and the women from 34% to 26%.

Underage issues

- The proportion of young people in England (11-15 year olds) that have tried alcohol fell from 59% in 2000 to 43% in 2012.
- The proportion of young people in England (11-15 years olds) who think it is ok to drink alcohol once a week fell from 46% in 2003 to 28% in 2012.
- The proportion of young people in England (11-15 year olds) who think that everyone their age drinks has fallen from 9% to 4%.
- The proportion of young people in England (11-15 year olds) that do not think alcohol is used by their peers has increased from 12% to 20%.

Health harms

- In England, since 2002, alcohol-related hospital admissions (primary diagnosis whether partially or wholly attributable to alcohol) measured have risen by 41% from 142,000 to 200,900. As a proportion of total admissions have remained broadly flat since 2004 at around 1.3% of total admissions. (Public Health England caution against highlighting definite trends in admissions data due to changes in admissions coding methodology).
- The number of alcohol-related deaths increased 36% between 2000 and a 2008 peak, before falling 4% between 2008 and 2012.
- Alcohol-related deaths in England and Wales make up 1.4% of total deaths.
- In Great Britain drink driving casualties fell by 47% between 2002 and 2012.

Crime

- The number of alcohol-related violent crimes in England and Wales (perceived) has fallen by 26% since 2001 when data was first consistently collected.
- Convictions and cautions for drunkenness in England and Wales are down 51% since 2000.
- Since 2000 in England and Wales there has been a 47% reduction in drivers testing positive after a roadside breath test
- Since 2000 in England and Wales there has been a 33% reduction in drink driving conviction

CONTENTS

LIST OF TABLES	5
CONSUMPTION	6
1 UK Alcohol consumption	7
2 Alcohol consumption: International comparison	8
3 'Binge drinking'	9
4 Frequency of drinking	10
5 Harmful drinking	11
6 Alcohol consumption by group	12
UNDERAGE ISSUES	15
7 Underage consumption	15
8 Perceptions and attitudes	16
9 Access	17
HARMS - HEALTH	18
10 Alcohol-related hospital admissions	18
10.1 Causes of alcohol-related hospital admissions	20
10.2 Alcohol-related hospital admissions by age	21
11 Alcohol-related deaths	22
11.1 Drink driving casualties	24
HARMS - CRIME	25
12 Violent crime	25
13 Anti-social behaviour	26
14 Alcohol-related convictions and cautions	27
14.1 Underage selling	27
14.2 Penalty notices issued	28
14.3 Drink driving convictions	29
SOURCES	30
PRESS CONTACTS	31

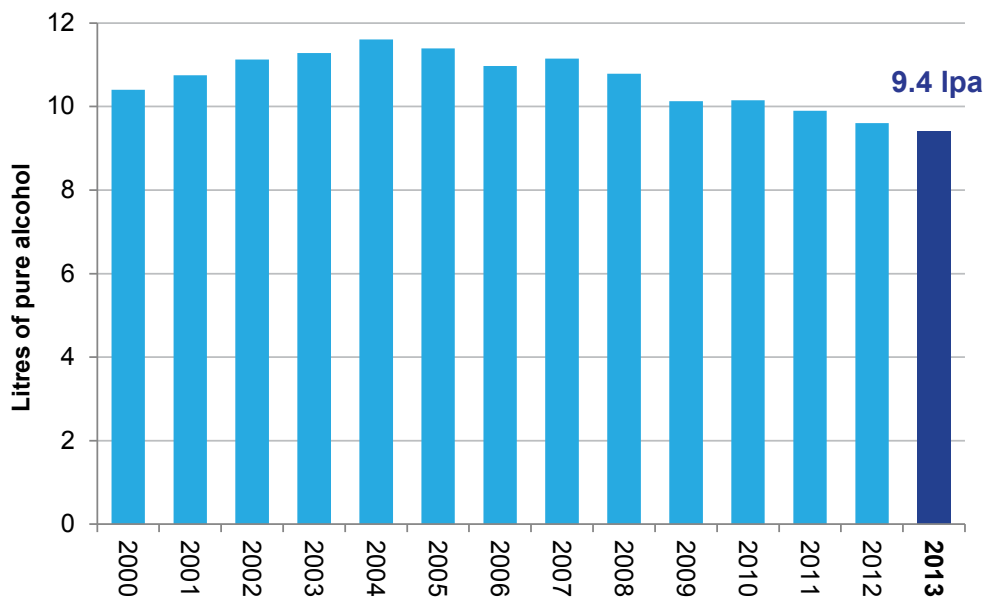
LIST OF TABLES

Consumption	Coverage	Page
Alcohol consumption per adult (15+)	UK	6
International alcohol consumption among adults	UK	7
Percentage of people binge drinking weekly	Great Britain	8
Binge drinking among men, by age group	Great Britain	9
Binge drinking among women, by age group	Great Britain	9
Men drinking on 5 or more days a week	Great Britain	10
Women drinking on 5 or more days a week	Great Britain	10
Men drinking more than 50 units a week	Great Britain	11
Women drinking more than 35 units a week	Great Britain	11
Drinking patterns by age group	Great Britain	12
Drinking patterns by gender	Great Britain	12
Drinking patterns by employment status	Great Britain	13
Drinking patterns by employment type	Great Britain	13
Drinking patterns by weekly household income quintile	Great Britain	14
Underage issues		
Drinking among 11 to 15 year olds	England	15
Average consumption of 11 to 15 year olds (units per week)	England	15
Attitudes to drinking among 11 to 15 year olds	England	16
Perceptions of prevalence of drinking among peers	England	16
How young people obtain alcohol	England	17
Percentage of pupils purchasing alcohol by proxy	England	17
Harms - Health		
Alcohol-related hospital admissions - primary diagnoses	England	18
Alcohol-related hospital admissions - secondary diagnoses	England	19
Causes of admissions - primary	England	20
Causes of alcohol related admissions primary and secondary	England	20
Alcohol-related hospital admissions - by age	England	21
Primary and secondary admissions - by age	England	21
Alcohol-related deaths	England & Wales	22
Causes of alcohol-related deaths	England & Wales	22
International death rate - alcohol use disorders, per 100,000	UK	23
Alcohol-related deaths - by age	England & Wales	23
Drink driving casualties	Great Britain	24
Harms - Crime		
Violent crime: offenders perceived to be under the influence of alcohol	England & Wales	25
Perceptions of anti-social behaviour: People being drunk or rowdy in public places (aged 16+)	England & Wales	26
Perceptions of anti-social behaviour: All indicators (aged 16+)	England & Wales	27
Drunkenness - convictions/cautions	England & Wales	27
Penalty Notices issued - England & Wales	England & Wales	28
Number of drivers who tested positive in a breath test after accident	England & Wales	29
Drink driving convictions	England & Wales	29

1 UK alcohol consumption

Enjoying a drink remains a part of British culture, exemplified by the fact that 85% of British people report having an alcoholic drink at least once a year.¹ That being said, since the recent peak in 2004 alcohol consumption per capita has consistently and significantly declined although remains higher than it was during the middle of the twentieth century ([view historic levels](#)). HMRC data from 2013 shows that consumption has now declined by 19% since a peak in 2004 and 10% in total since 2000.

Alcohol consumption per adult (15+) - United Kingdom



Source: BBPA – Analysis of HMRC customs clearance ([.xls](#))

Note: 15+ used as consistent with WHO and other international consumption measures

National estimates of alcohol consumption come from two sources; HMRC clearance data gives an accurate measure of the alcohol released onto the market, and the General Household Survey records people's views about their patterns and styles of consumption.

¹ Drinking: adult's behaviour and knowledge in 2009, ONS. Averaged across men and women

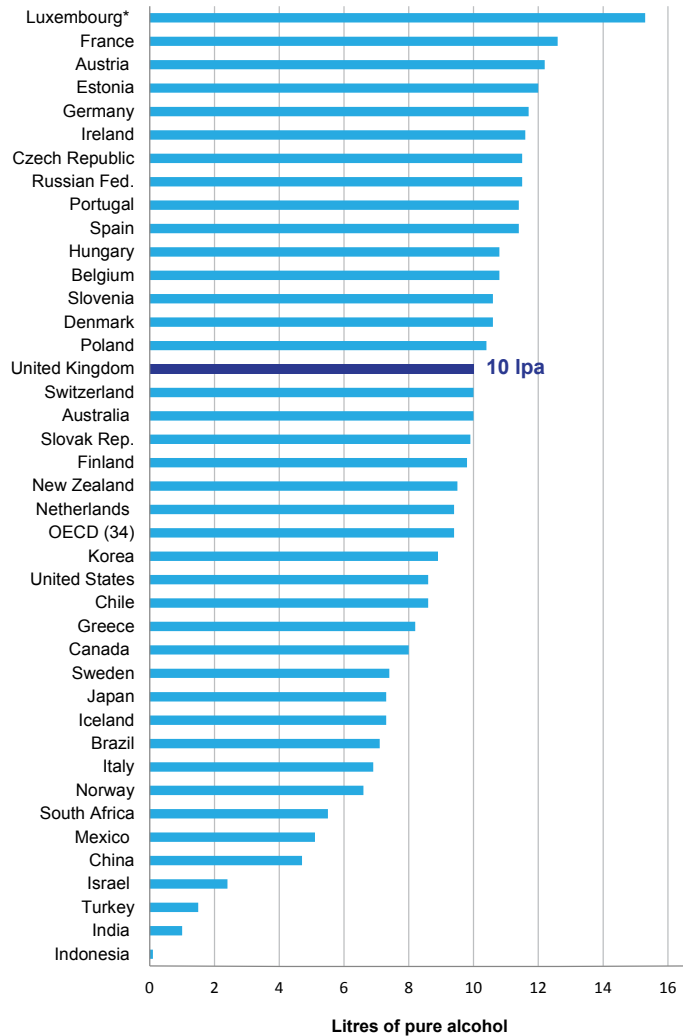
CONSUMPTION

2 Alcohol consumption: International comparison

European alcohol consumption is generally higher than the rest of the world with countries such as the USA, Canada and Australia all showing lower levels of consumption in the OECD.

The average consumption among the 24 European countries included in the OECD data is 10.4 litres per capita* which is above the UK's level at 10 litres per capita.²

Alcohol consumption among adults 2011 (litres of pure alcohol per 15+)



Source: OECD ([.xls](#))

Note: The OECD warns that due to the effect of cross-border trading, this may not accurately represent Luxembourg's consumption rates.

It is difficult to make comparisons of the alcohol consumption between different countries due to differences in data collection and the ways in which consumption is measured. These estimates often end up with variations in the levels recorded for each country. However, the data above is supported by the data from the WHO which can be viewed [here](#).

² Health at a Glance: Europe 2012, OECD <http://www.oecd.org/health/healthataglanceeurope.htm>

*Note: European average calculated as the crude average of the available European data points (excluding Russia). A weighted estimate using 2011 population figures from the OECD was calculated but did not differ from the crude average at the level of one decimal place.

CONSUMPTION

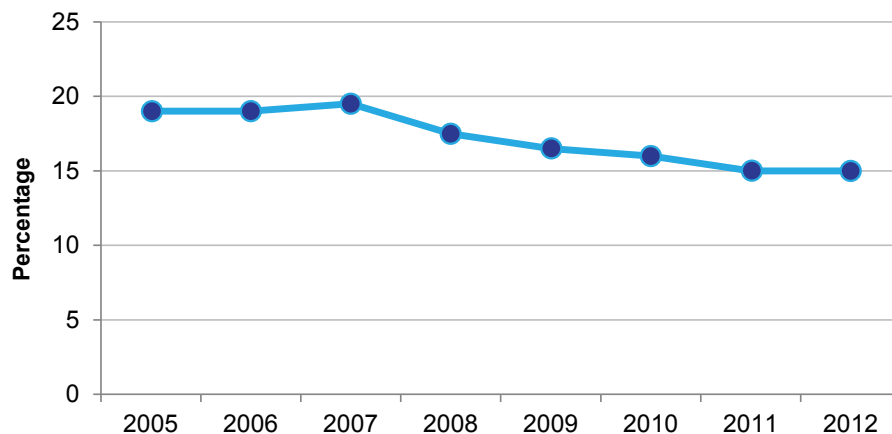
3 'Binge drinking'

While population level data is important for the context, it cannot give us a picture of patterns in alcohol consumption. To address this gap the Office of National Statistics conducts large surveys of the population that ask questions related to alcohol consumption by various age, gender, regional and socio-economic groups.

In the UK 'binge drinking' is defined by the NHS as consuming double the daily guidelines in one day/ session. For men this would be equivalent to 8 units of alcohol, and 6 units for women. Unfortunately, the concept of 'binge drinking' lacks a standard definition and varies from country to country³. For this reason robust international comparisons of binge drinking are not routinely published.

ONS data shows that the number of people defined as 'binge drinking' weekly has declined from 19% to 15% with a peak of 19.5% in 2007.

Percentage of people binge drinking weekly - Great Britain



Source: *Opinions and Lifestyle Survey, Drinking Habits Amongst Adults, 2012* ([.xls](#))

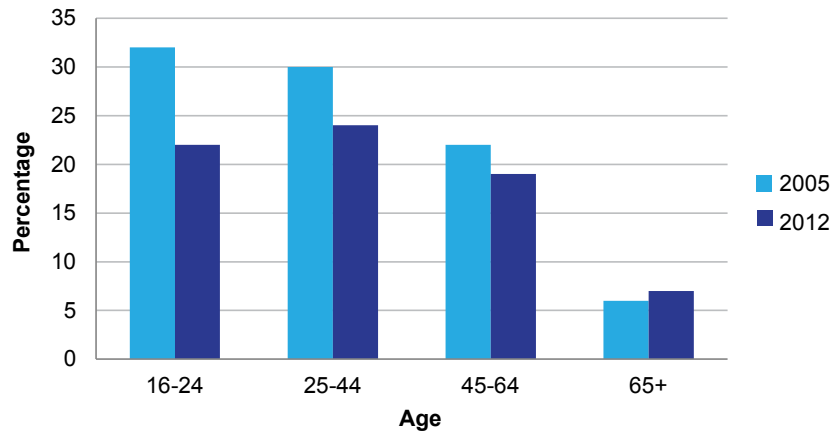
Note: Base year chosen as first year data was collected

When this trend is broken down further we find that the groups who have made the largest declines in binge drinking are young people. The proportion of men aged 16-24 'binge drinking' declined 31% between 2005 and 2012 while for women of the same age the drop was 37%. The only increase was in those aged 65 and above.

³ Alcohol Guidelines - Science and Technology Select Committee <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201012/cmselect/cm-sctech/1536/153605.htm#a5>

CONSUMPTION

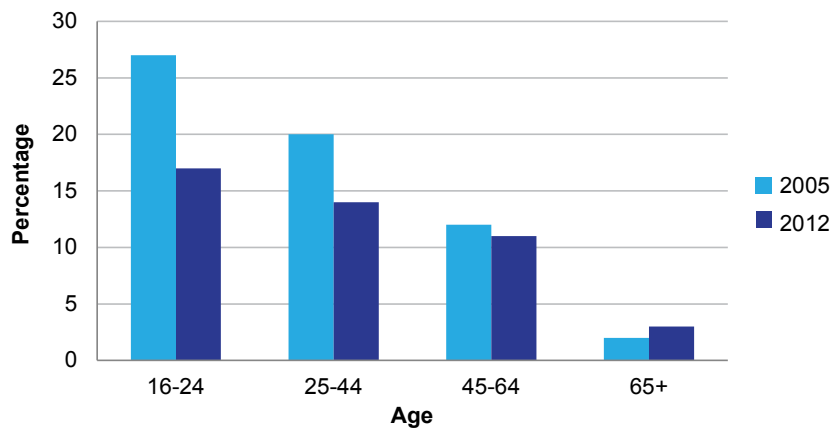
Binge drinking among men, by age group - Great Britain



Source: *Opinions and Lifestyle Survey, Drinking Habits Amongst Adults, 2012* ([.xls](#))

Note: Base year chosen as first year data was collected

Binge drinking among women, by age group - Great Britain



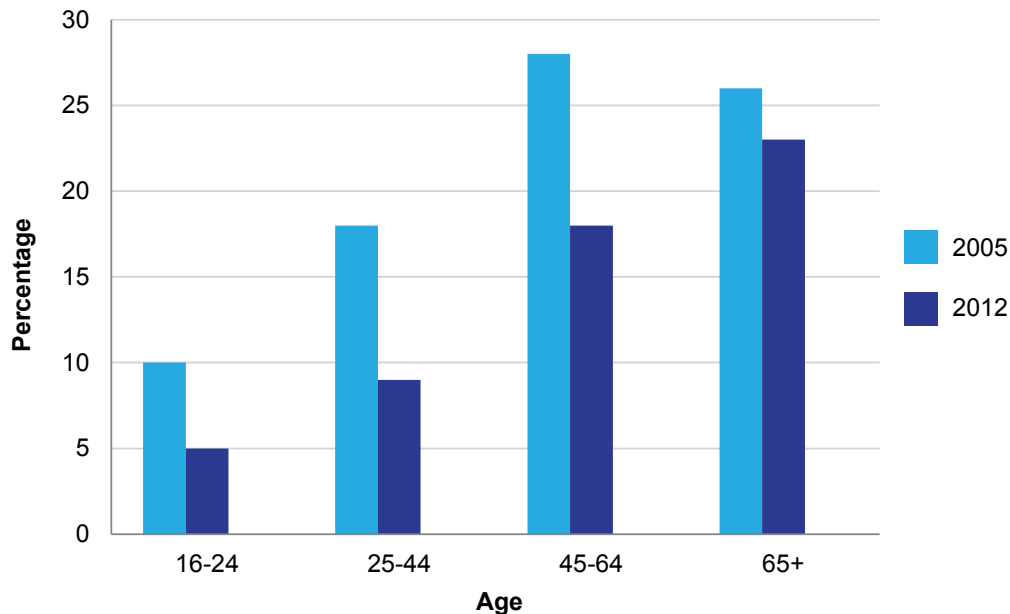
Source: *Opinions and Lifestyle Survey, Drinking Habits Amongst Adults, 2012* ([.xls](#))

Note: Base year chosen as first year data was collected

4 Frequency of drinking

Survey data also shows that among both men and women the frequency of alcohol consumption has declined since 2005. Similarly to binge drinking, the largest declines have been among those aged 16-24 with the proportion of men and women consuming alcohol on five or more days a week halving between 2005 and 2012.

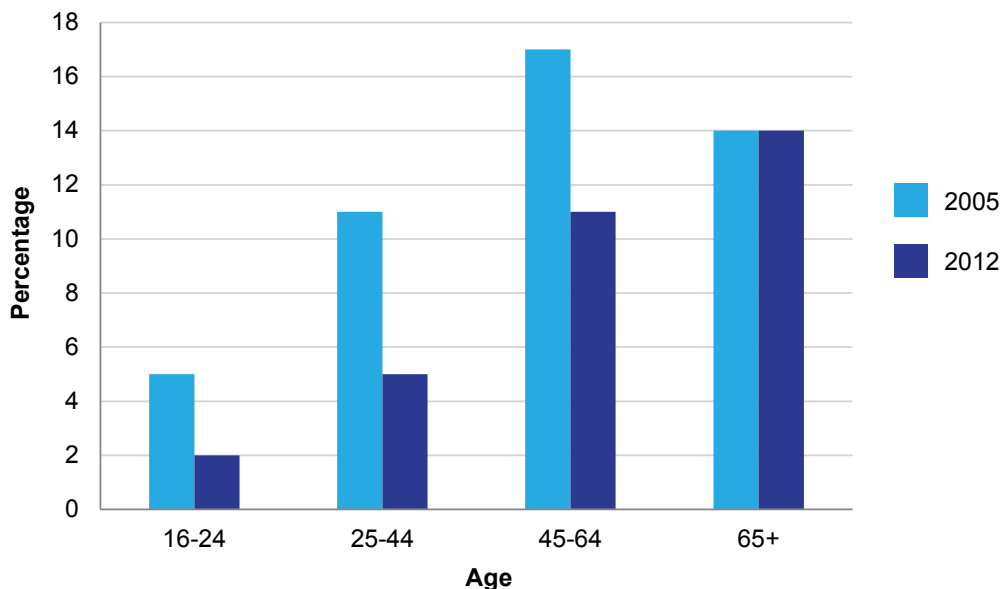
Men drinking on 5 or more days a week - Great Britain



Source: *Opinions and Lifestyle Survey, Drinking Habits Amongst Adults, 2012* ([.xls](#))

Note: Base year chosen as first year data was collected

Women drinking on 5 or more days a week - Great Britain



Source: *Opinions and Lifestyle Survey, Drinking Habits Amongst Adults, 2012* ([.xls](#))

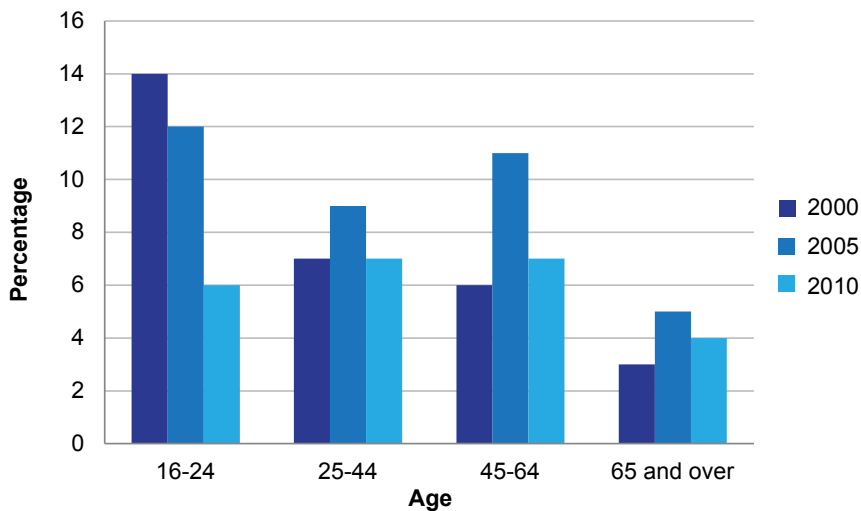
Note: Base year chosen as first year data was collected

5 Harmful drinking

'Binge drinking', as defined above, tends to focus on the amount of alcohol consumed in the heaviest drinking session per week. However another important indicator in alcohol consumption is 'harmful drinking' which is defined as more than 50 units of alcohol for men a week, or 35 for women.

The graphs below show that the proportion of harmful drinkers has declined significantly for both men and women since 2005, and that the largest decreases have been among those aged 16-24.

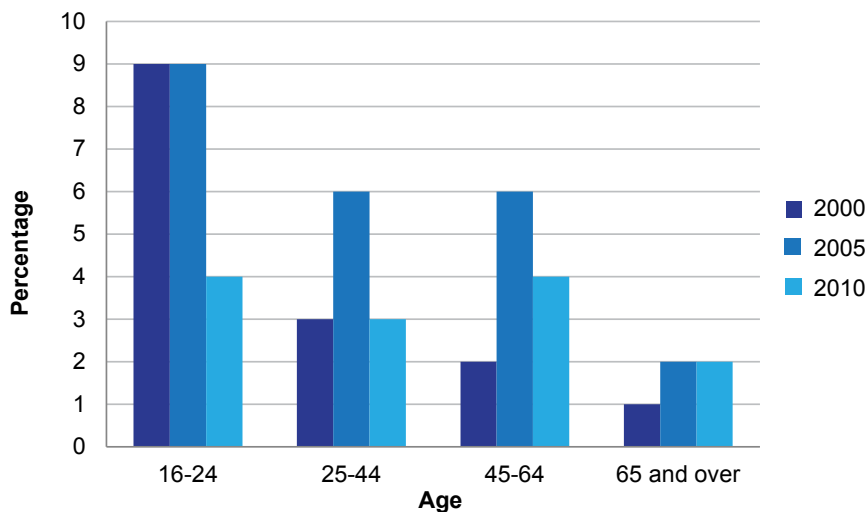
Men drinking more than 50 units a week - Great Britain



Source: General Lifestyle Survey, 2010 ([.xls](#))

Note: This measure ceased to be recorded after 2010 when survey data began its focus on daily guidelines.

Women drinking more than 35 units a week - Great Britain



Source: General Lifestyle Survey, 2010 ([.xls](#))

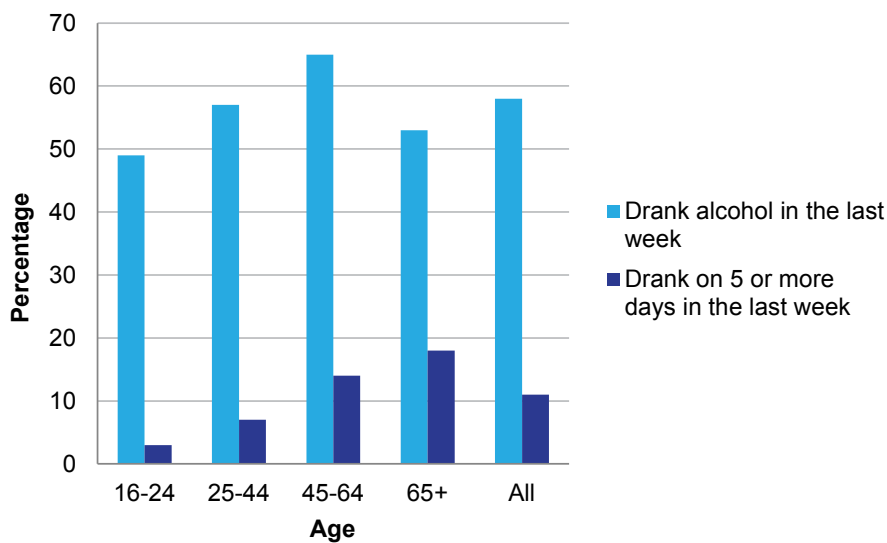
Note: This measure ceased to be recorded after 2010 when survey data began its focus on daily limits.

6 Alcohol consumption by group

Because not everyone chooses to drink alcohol in the same way it is important to break down population level consumption statistics and examine drinking patterns among different age, gender, profession and income groups.

When we break consumption down by age group we find that those aged 16-24 were the least likely both to have drunk alcohol in the last week, and to have drunk on more than 5 days. For elderly people, although only 1 in 2 drank, of those that did a third drank alcohol on nearly every day of the week. Overall the most likely group to consume alcohol in a given week are those aged 45-64.

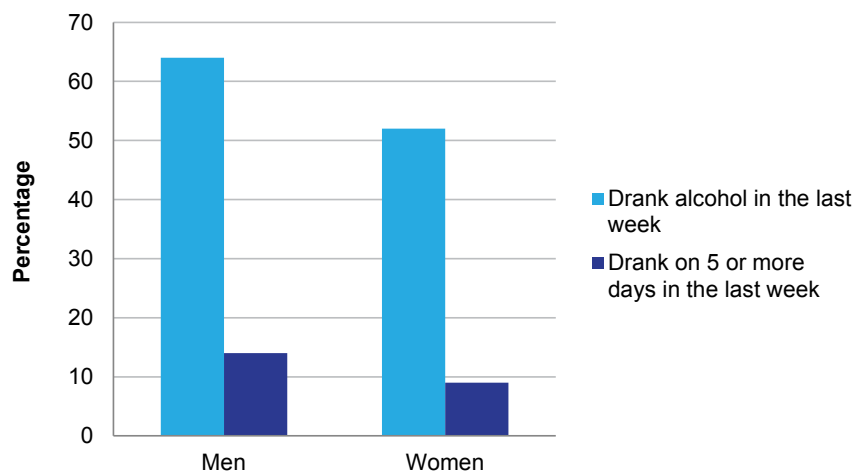
Drinking patterns by age group - Great Britain



Source: Opinions and Lifestyle Survey 2012, ONS ([.xls](#))

Men continue to consume more alcohol than women, both in absolute numbers and average level of consumption, however there is some evidence that the gap is closing. Nearly two thirds of men drank alcohol in the last week, compared to a little over half of women.

Drinking patterns by gender - Great Britain

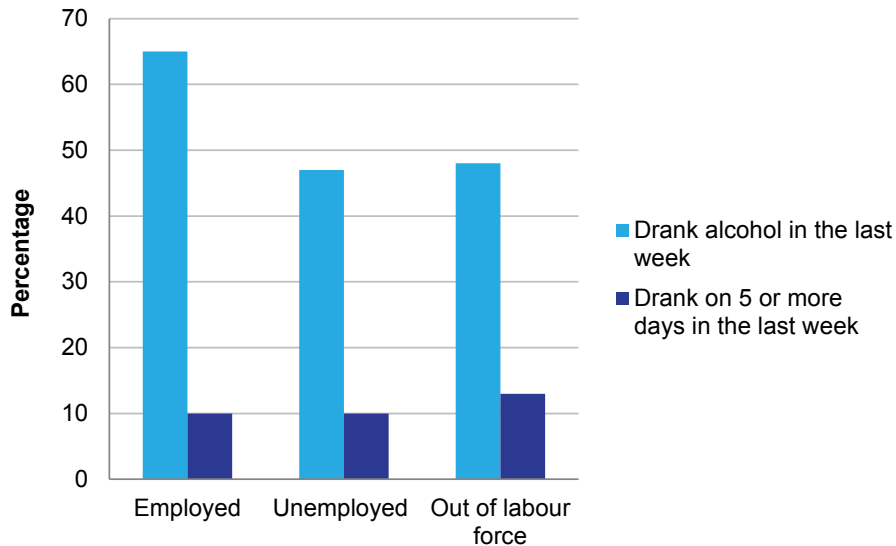


Source: Opinions and Lifestyle Survey 2012, ONS ([.xls](#))

CONSUMPTION

Employment status also appears to have an impact on alcohol consumption with 65% of those employed reporting drinking in the last week compared to 47% of unemployed people.

Drinking patterns by employment status - Great Britain

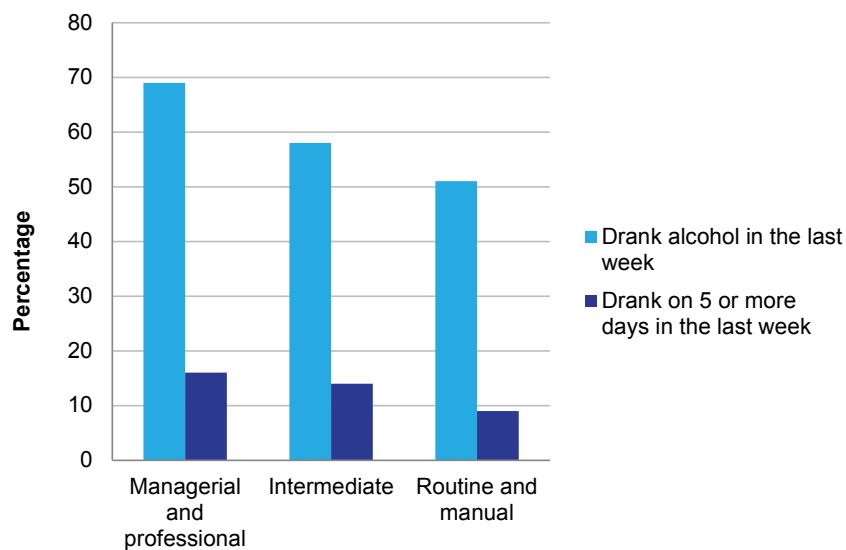


Source: General Lifestyle Survey 2011, ONS ([.xls](#))

Note: Last measured in 2011

Furthermore, of those that are in employment, two thirds of those employed in managerial and professional roles will drink in a given week compared to half of those working in lower skilled manual roles. Nearly a quarter of those white-collar workers who drink will drink on most days of the week.

Drinking patterns by employment type - Great Britain



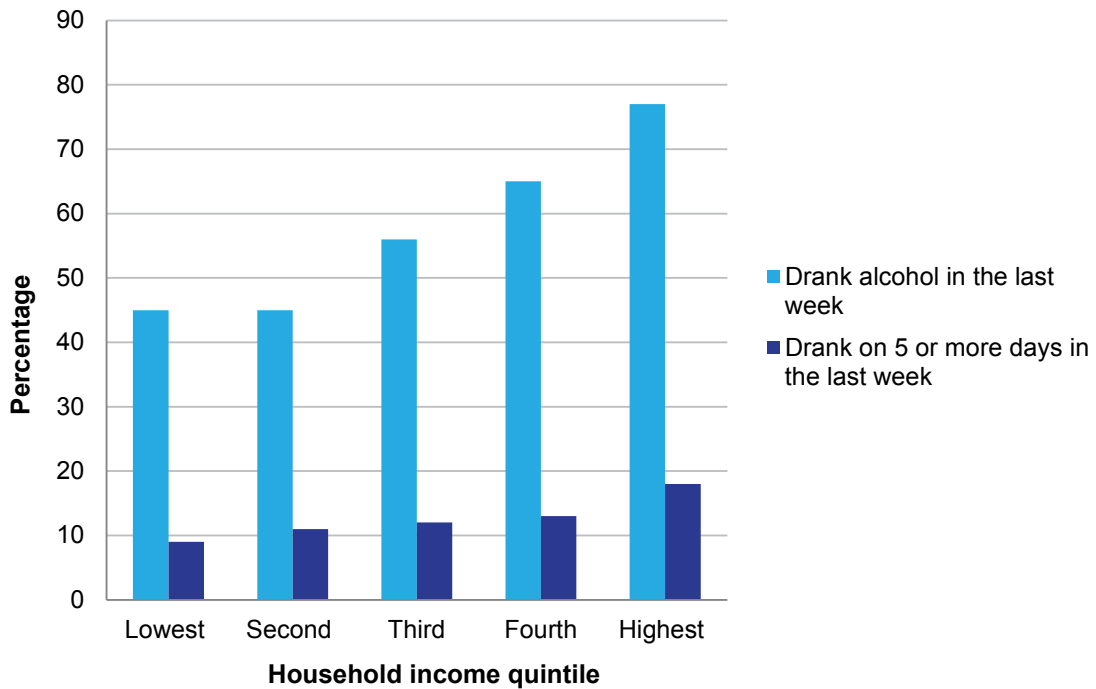
Source: General Lifestyle Survey 2011, ONS ([.xls](#))

Note: Last measured in 2011

CONSUMPTION

This translates into an increased propensity for people on higher incomes to drink, with more than three quarters of those in the top 20% of earners reporting drinking in the last week compared to less than half of those in the bottom 20%. Those in the highest income bracket are also more likely to drink alcohol on most days of the week than any other income quintile.

Drinking patterns by weekly household income quintile - Great Britain



Source: General Lifestyle Survey 2011, ONS ([.xls](#))

UNDERAGE ISSUES - ENGLAND

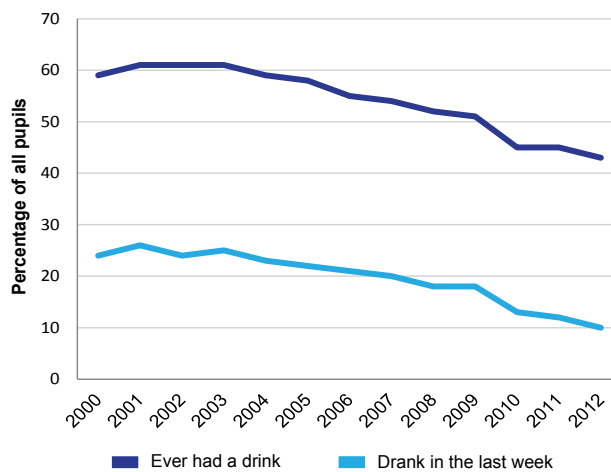
7 Underage consumption

Measures of underage drinking rates are significant as young people are at an increased risk both in terms of alcohol's impact on developing bodies, and in relation to its link to risky behaviour.

As outlined in the graph below, the proportion of children aged 11-15 who have ever tried alcohol has dropped from 61% to 43% since the early 2000s. In 2012 fewer than half the children surveyed reported trying alcohol, the lowest proportion since the national survey began in 1988.

Not only are fewer children trying alcohol, but those who are consuming it are doing so less frequently. There has been a decline in the proportion of children who report drinking in the last week. Since a peak in 2001, the proportion of children drinking in the past week had dropped from 26% to 10%.

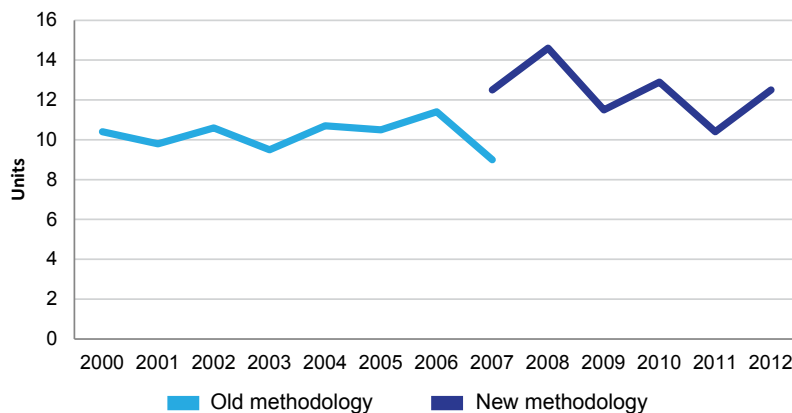
Drinking among 11 - 15 year olds - England



Source: *Smoking, drinking and drug use among young people in England in 2012*, ONS, Health and Social Care Information Centre ([.xls](#))

Whilst there is a significant degree of fluctuation from year to year, average consumption amongst those that do drink has remained relatively stable.

Average consumption of 11 to 15 year olds (units per week) - England



Source: *Smoking, drinking and drug use among young people in England in 2012*, ONS, HSCIC ([.xls](#))

Note: The increase in average consumption is due to the fact that ONS updated its methodology to better reflect average strengths.⁴

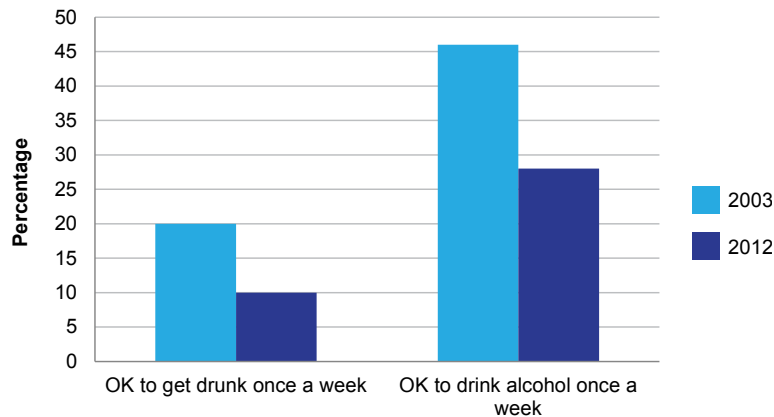
⁴ Estimating alcohol consumption from survey data: updated method of converting volumes to units, Eileen Goddard, ONS 2007 <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/method-quality/specific/gss-methodology-series/gss-methodology-series--37--estimating-alcohol-consumption-from-survey-data--updated-method-of-converting-volumes-to-units.pdf>

UNDERAGE ISSUES - ENGLAND

8 Perceptions and attitudes

While alcohol consumption has been declining among young people for almost a decade, alongside this change in behaviour there appears to also have been a change in young people's attitudes towards alcohol. When researchers ask young people about their opinions of alcohol they find that drinking is not only becoming less common, but that it is also perceived as less acceptable.

Attitudes to drinking among 11 - 15 year olds - England

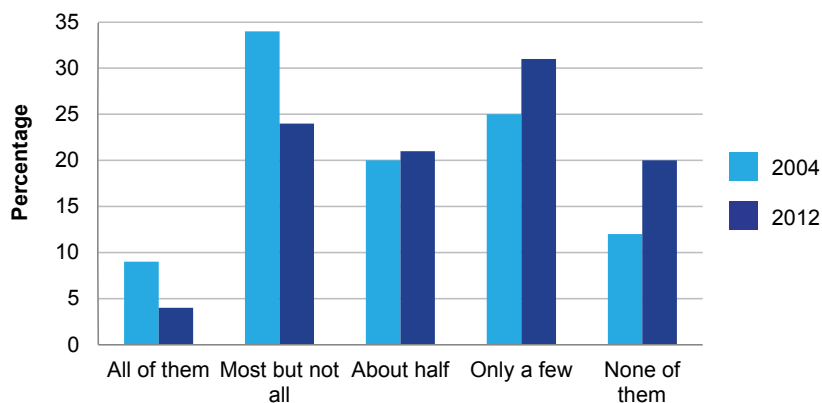


Source: *Smoking, drinking and drug use among young people in England in 2012*, ONS, HSCIC ([.xls](#))

Note: Base year was chosen as the first year this question was asked

Reduced consumption and acceptability is also having an impact on the perceived prevalence of drinking among young people's peers. It has been established that overestimating alcohol consumption among a peer group may increase the tendency to drink and to drink more⁵, so lower perceptions of alcohol consumption may reinforce downward trends. Since 2004 the proportion of young people who think that everyone their age drinks has fallen from 9% to 4%, while the proportion of those that do not think alcohol is used by their peers has increased from 12% to 20%.

Perceptions of the prevalence of drinking among peers - England



Source: *Smoking, drinking and drug use among young people in England in 2012*, ONS, HSCIC ([.xls](#))

Note: Base year was chosen as the first year this question was asked

5 i. M. Martens et al., Differences Between Actual and Perceived Student Norms: An Examination of Alcohol Use, Drug Use, and Sexual Behavior, *Journal of American College Health*, Volume 54, Issue 5, 2006.

ii. H. Perkins, Social Norms and the Prevention of Alcohol Misuse in Collegiate Contexts, *Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs*, Supplement 14, 2002.

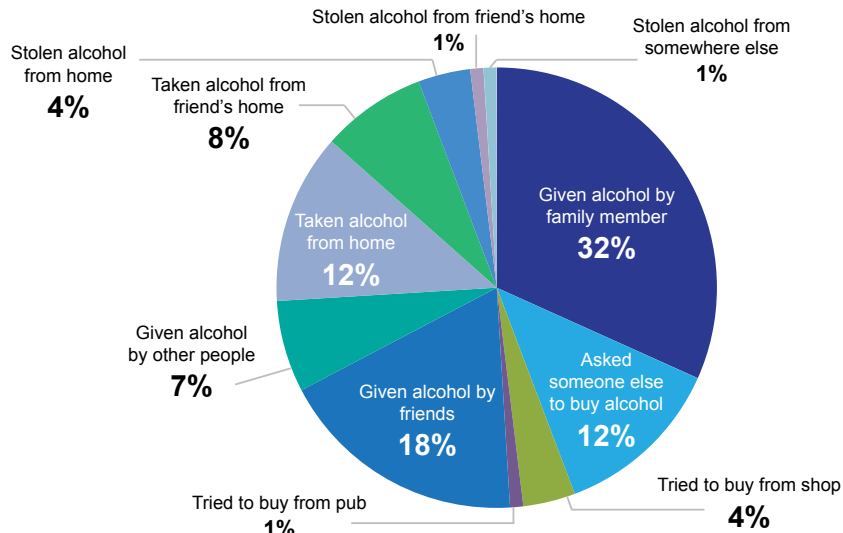
iii. J. Mattern, C. Neighbours, Social Norms Campaigns: Examining the Relationship between Changes in Perceived Norms and Changes in Drinking Levels, *Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs*, Volume 65, Issue 4, 2005.

UNDERAGE ISSUES - ENGLAND

9 Access

The method by which young people obtain alcohol is also of importance to public policy makers and the graph below shows the ways that young people obtain alcohol.

How young people obtain alcohol - England

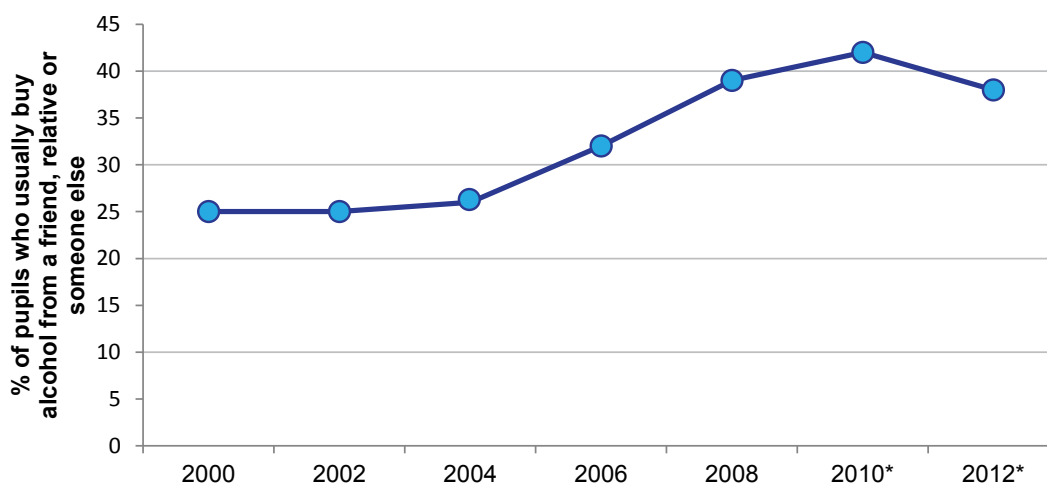


Source: Smoking, drinking and drug use among young people in England in 2012, ONS, HSCIC ([.xls](#))

As can be seen the most common means by which young people obtained alcohol was via a family member. Nearly one in three of all young people who drink report being given alcohol by a family member.

The graph below shows how young people have increasingly relied upon adults to obtain alcohol for them, a method known as proxy purchasing. The percentage of young people purchasing alcohol by proxy has risen from 25% in 2000 to 38% in 2012 with a peak of 42% in 2010.

Percentage of pupils purchasing alcohol by proxy - England



*Estimates since 2010 are based on weighted data

Source: Smoking, drinking and drug use among young people in England in 2012, ONS, HSCIC ([.xls](#))

Note: Pupils defined as: secondary school pupils in England in years 7 to 11 (mostly aged 11 to 15). These figures show the % of pupils buying alcohol from friends, relatives or someone else – however they cannot confirm what proportion is truly defined as proxy purchasing and what proportion is purchased for a pupil but consumed or handed over within the home.

10 Alcohol-related hospital admissions

Alcohol-related hospital admissions continue to be a source of attention and concern with much debate over the cost to the NHS. Statistics are often quoted citing over a million alcohol related hospital admissions and a significant increase in recent years. Figures put the cost to the NHS of alcohol abuse at £3.5 billion.⁶

Public Health England (PHE) is the primary source of data on hospital admissions in England. There have been a number of changes in the way that hospital admissions are recorded and reported by local health delivery bodies. This means that trend data needs to be treated with caution. Public Health England says, 'While a welcome development, the improvement in diagnostic coding over time means that figures produced using the current methodology cannot easily be used to get a picture of the trend in alcohol-related admissions.'⁷

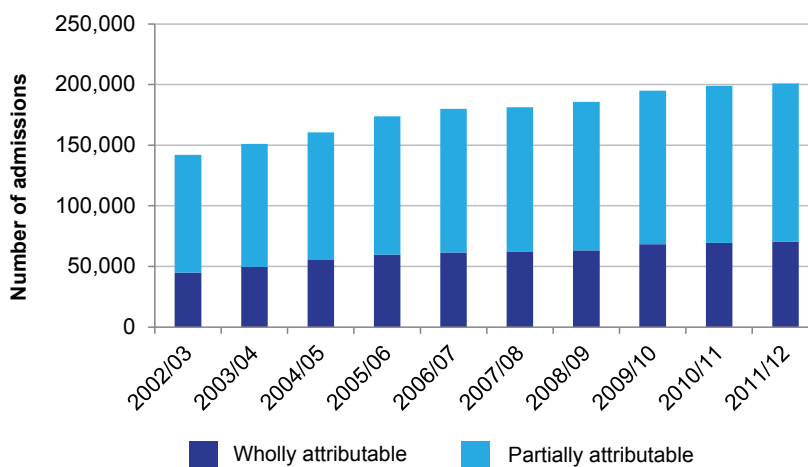
Admissions are categorised by a single primary diagnosis and up to nineteen secondary diagnoses to reflect other issues that may have been a factor in the incident. Calculations known as alcohol-attributable fractions (AAFs) are then used to calculate how much of a certain type of admission is counted as alcohol related to establish whether the admission is wholly or partially related to alcohol.

The charts below reflect this methodology and therefore initially show just primary diagnoses and then primary and secondary diagnoses.

PHE consulted in 2012 on the methodology used to calculate admissions and put forward a number of options on which data they should publish going forward, alongside the existing data published they will publish a new measure which uses primary diagnoses plus mentions of alcohol-related external causes in secondary diagnosis fields.

As can be seen from the chart below the rate of alcohol related admissions where an alcohol related condition is the primary diagnosis has risen in the last 10 years with the number of admissions wholly and partially attributable to alcohol rising roughly at the same rate driven predominantly by partially attributable admissions.

Alcohol-related hospital admissions - primary diagnoses - England



Source: Statistics on Alcohol – England, 2013 - Health & Social Care Information Centre (.xls)

⁶ Alcohol Treatment in England 2011-2012, NHS <http://www.nta.nhs.uk/uploads/alcoholcommentary2013final.pdf>

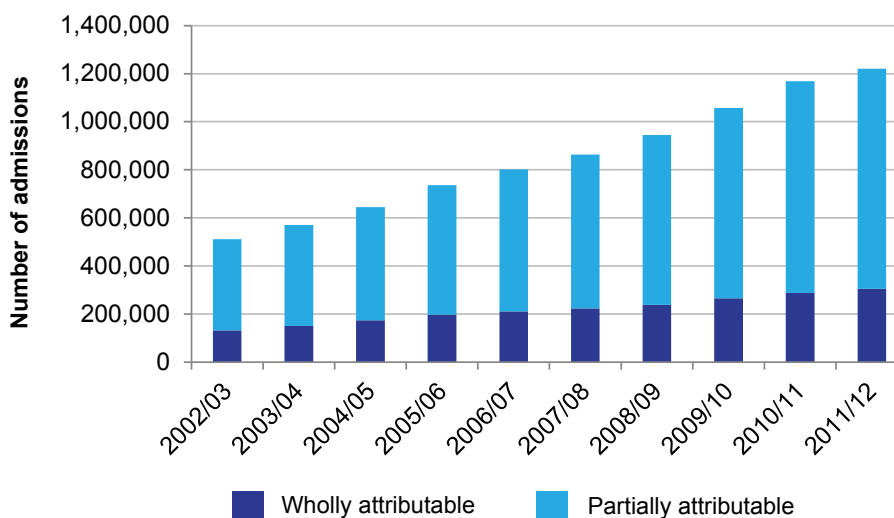
⁷ Public Health England – Summary of responses to alcohol admissions consultation http://www.lape.org.uk/downloads/Admissions_consultation_nov8.pdf

HARMS - HEALTH

However, when secondary diagnoses are included the total number of admissions rises steeply bringing us to the figure of 1.2 million admissions which has often featured in the media.

Whilst it has been argued that this broad measure captures a wider range of the factors involved in admissions, the changes in coding methodology make it difficult to report trends in admissions accurately.

Alcohol-related hospital admissions - secondary diagnoses - England



Source: *Statistics on Alcohol – England, 2013 - Health & Social Care Information Centre (.xls)*

It should be noted that the Department of Health recently commissioned an update of the alcohol-attributable fractions which will impact future revisions of these figures. The review can be found [here](#).

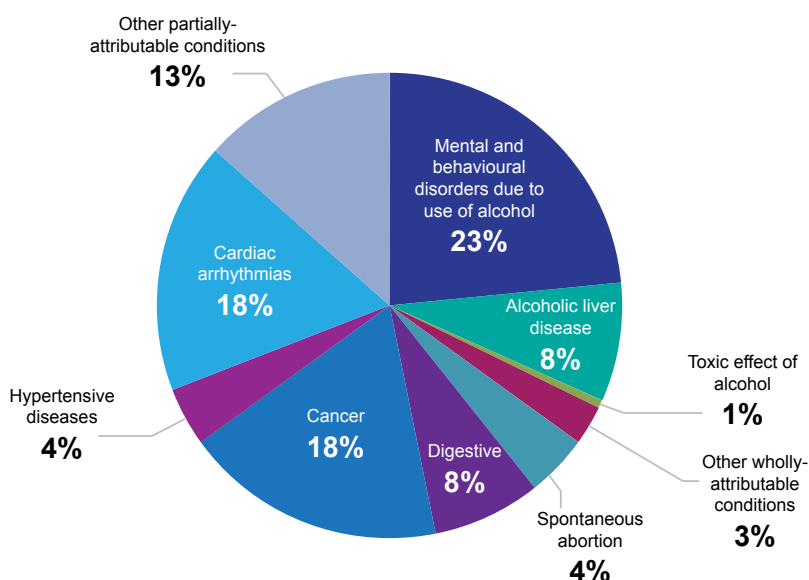
NB: Revised estimates of admission numbers using HSCIC's new methodology are scheduled to be released in June. This document will be updated when these new figures are available.

As part of the Public Health Outcomes framework, Public Health England has published a new, narrower, [measure of alcohol related hospital admissions](#). The new measure only takes into account admissions where the primary admission code has an alcohol attributable fraction, or where a secondary code which is an external cause code has an alcohol attributable fraction. A fuller explanation of the new measure can be found on the Public Health England [website](#).

10.1 Causes of alcohol-related hospital admissions

When looking at the primary causes for alcohol related admissions it can be seen that the biggest cause of admissions is mental and behavioural disorders followed by cancer and cardiac arrhythmias. These include conditions which are partially alcohol attributable.

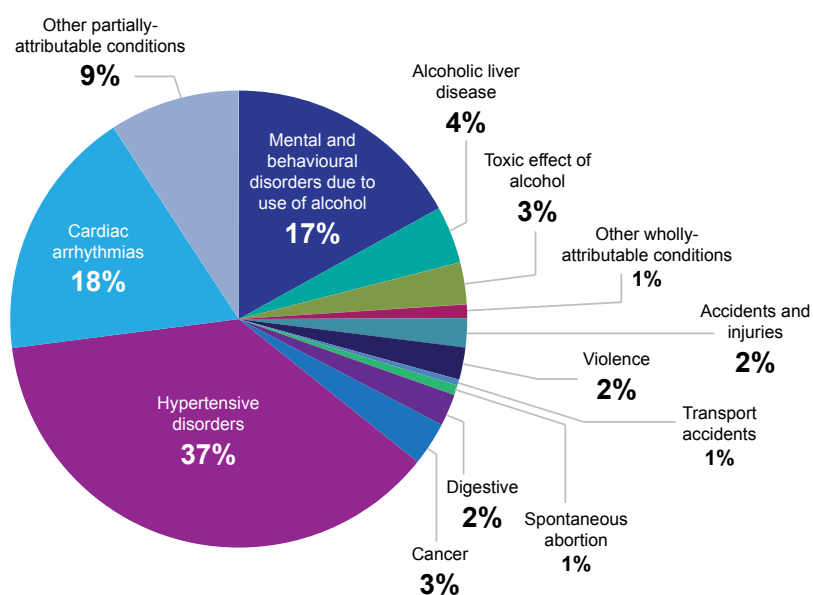
Causes of admissions - primary - England



Source: *Statistics on Alcohol – England, 2013 - Health & Social Care Information Centre* ([.xls](#))

However, when the secondary diagnoses are factored in hypertensive disease becomes the largest cause, reflecting the fact that this is a common condition in total admissions and has an alcohol attributable fraction.

Causes of admissions - primary and secondary - England

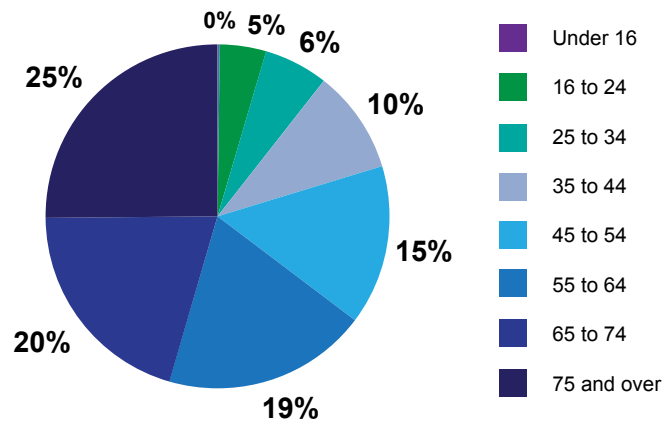


Source: *Statistics on Alcohol – England, 2013 - Health & Social Care Information Centre* ([.xls](#))

10.2 Alcohol-related admissions by age

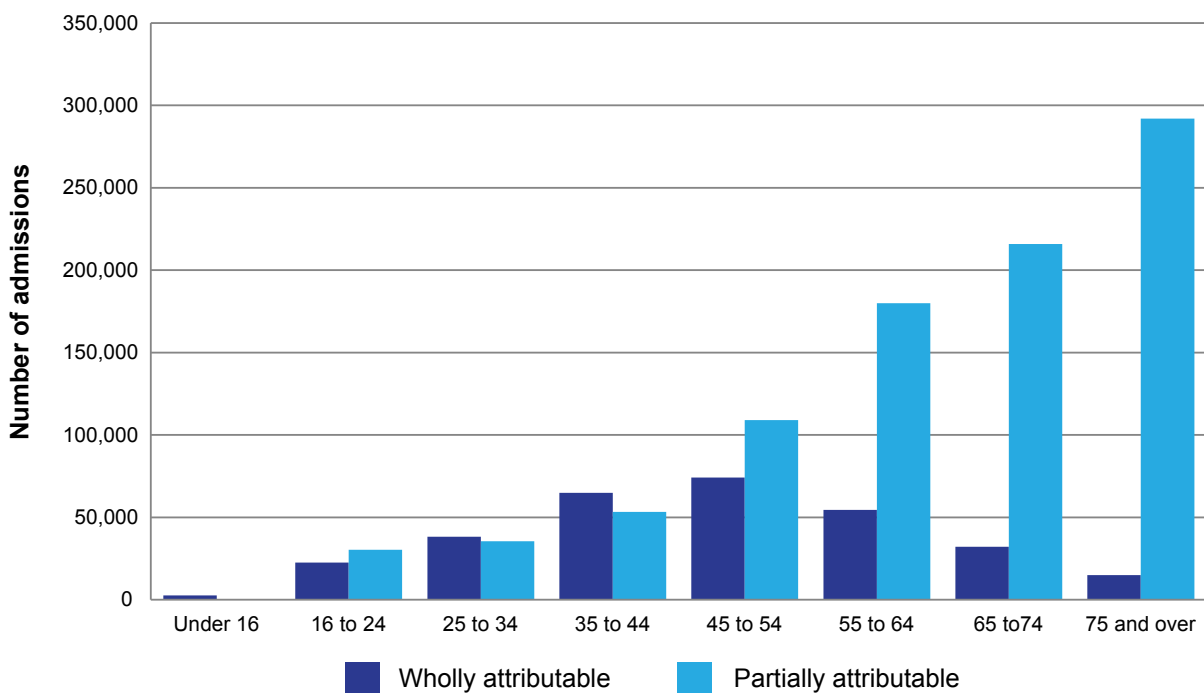
As would be expected the highest proportions of total admissions by age are older people with over 60% aged 55 and over. This should also be viewed alongside the data on the causes of hospital admissions. This reflects the fact that older people are more likely to be admitted with a secondary admissions code that is alcohol related, such as high blood pressure.

Alcohol-related admissions - by age - England



Source: Statistics on Alcohol – England, 2013 - Health & Social Care Information Centre ([.xls](#))

Primary and secondary admissions - by age - England

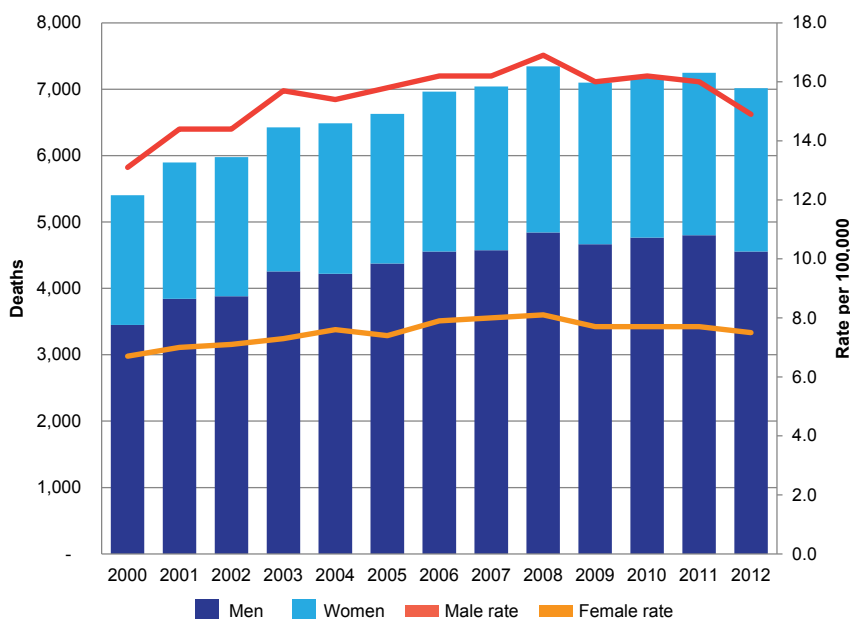


Source: Statistics on Alcohol – England, 2013 - Health & Social Care Information Centre ([.xls](#))

11 Alcohol-related deaths

Alcohol related deaths in England and Wales rose from 2000 to 2008 before entering a period of decline continuing in 2012. The alcohol-related death rate in England and Wales for men in 2012 was 14.9 deaths per 100,000 people down 7% since 2011. For women it was 7.5 deaths per 100,000 representing a fall of 3% compared to 2011. Alcohol related deaths in England and Wales make up 1.4% of total deaths.⁸

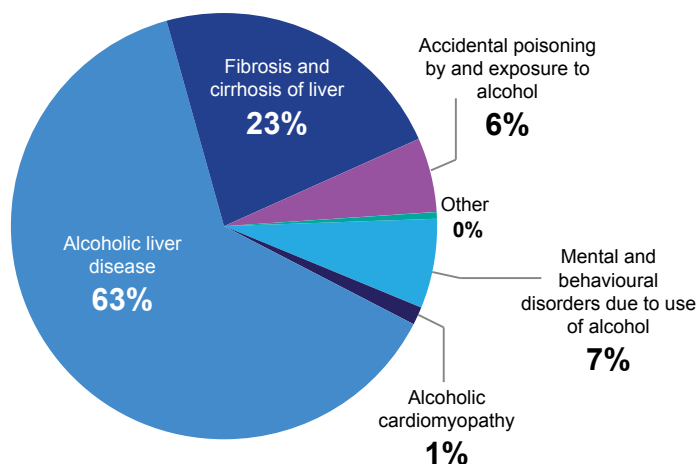
Alcohol-related deaths - England and Wales



Source: Alcohol-related deaths in the United Kingdom, ONS 2013 ([.xls](#))

Consistently around double the number of men than women are dying from alcohol-related causes which include alcohol hepatitis, liver cirrhosis and alcohol poisoning.

Causes of alcohol-related deaths - England and Wales



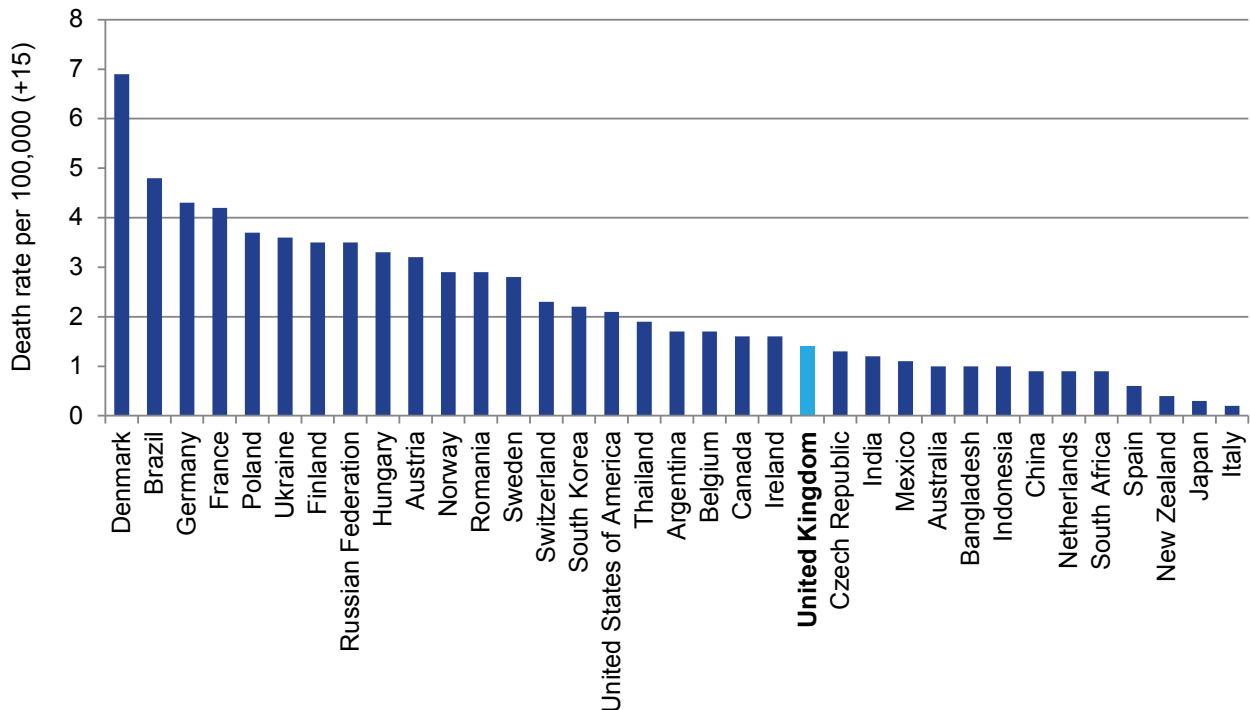
Source: Alcohol-related deaths in the United Kingdom, ONS 2013 ([.xls](#))

Note: Definition of alcohol-related death included in the definition of the latest release of Alcohol-related deaths in the United Kingdom, deaths registered 1991 to 2012.

HARMS - HEALTH

From an international perspective, the number of alcohol related deaths in the UK are relatively low and lower than a number of other nations in Europe.'

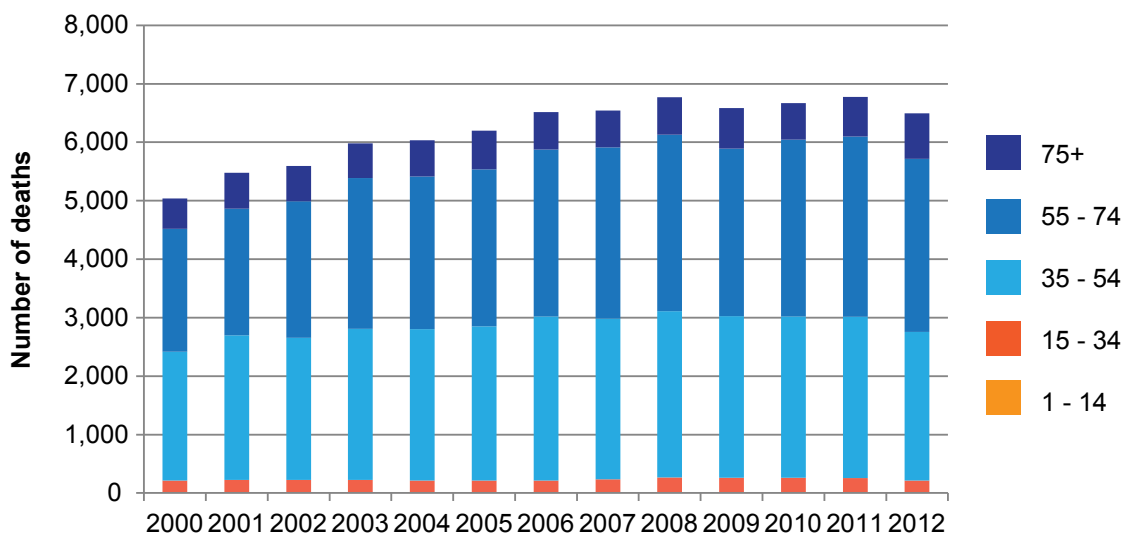
Alcohol-related deaths - International



Source: World Health Organisation Mortality Data and statistics, 2008 (.xls)

Note: List has been shortened to the top 35 EU and Major countries (out of 186) for simplicity

Alcohol-related deaths - by age - England and Wales

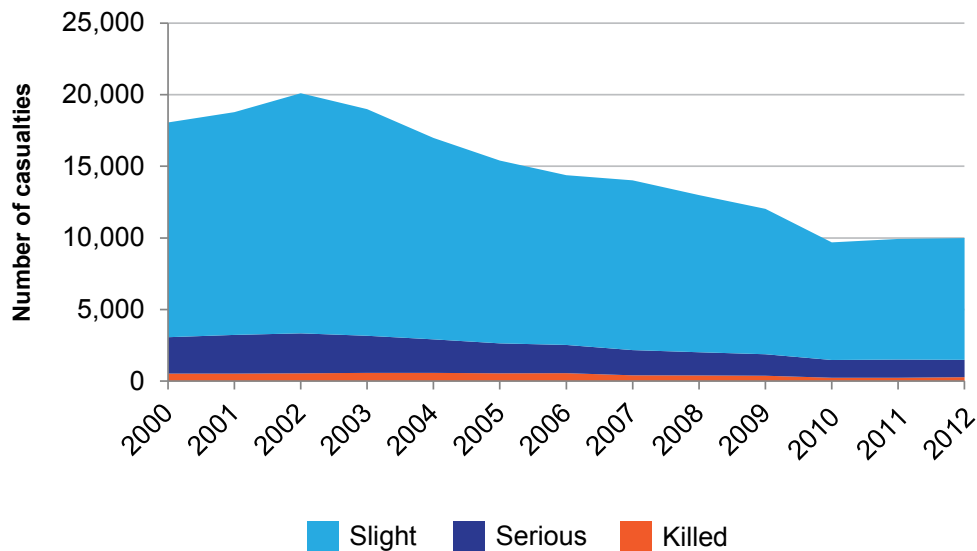


Source: Alcohol-related deaths in the United Kingdom, ONS 2013 (.xls)

11.1 Drink driving

Injuries and casualties from drink driving have seen a marked decline overall since 2000, a likely result of increased enforcement of drink driving laws including tougher penalties, alongside public awareness campaigns about the dangers.

Drink driving casualties - Great Britain



Source: *Reported Drinking and Driving*, Department for Transport, 2014 ([.xls](#))

Alcohol-related crime

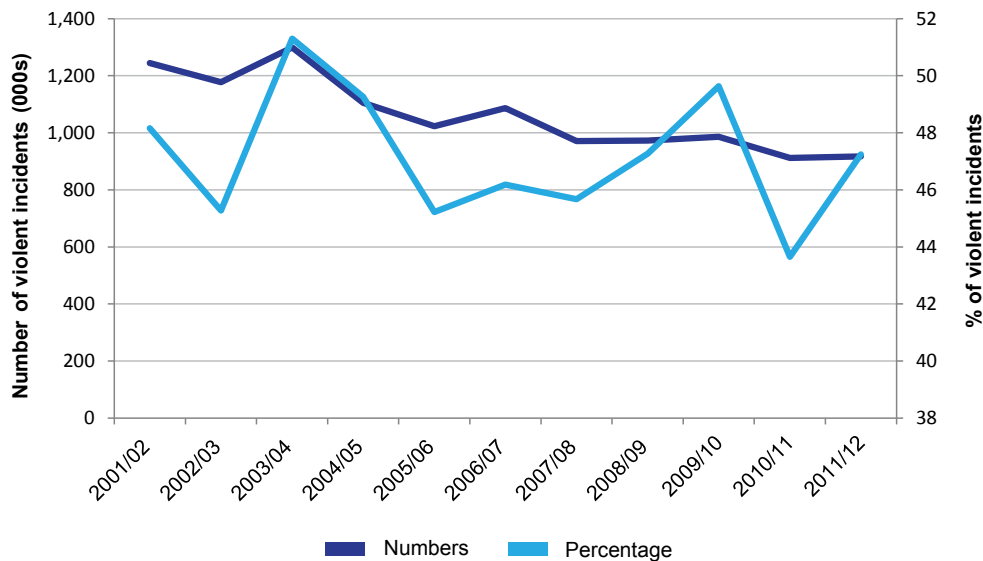
Although alcohol-related crime has made up a significant proportion of recorded violent crime over the last 10 years, statistics demonstrate a consistent downward trend. The widely accepted sources for national estimates of crime in England and Wales come from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) and police-recorded crime statistics. Police-recorded crime statistics cover a wider variety of crimes, whilst CSEW surveys households and so is able to capture unrecorded crimes and perceptions. Although both measures may be subject to different methods of reporting, they are both demonstrating a steady fall in alcohol-related crime.

It should be noted that the data for violent crime and anti-social behaviour is based on whether victims believe their assailant was under the influence of alcohol rather than whether alcohol is definitely a factor.

12 Violent crime

There were 327,000 fewer alcohol-related violent crimes in 2011/12 than in 2001/02, a fall of 26%. The proportion of violent incidents has also shown an underlying downward trend of 2% over a ten year period, despite year on year fluctuations. These fluctuations are likely to be due to variations in the proportion of other violent crimes over the years and as such, a 2% decrease would suggest that the proportion of violent crimes that are alcohol-related has decreased.

Violent crime: offenders perceived to be under the influence of alcohol - England and Wales



Source: Crime Survey for England and Wales 2011/2012 ([.xls](#))

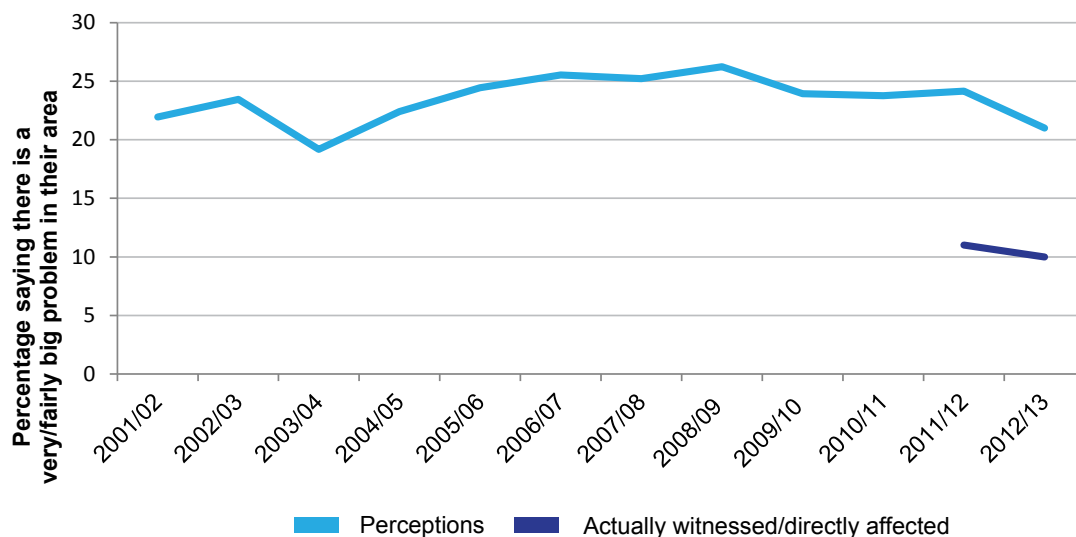
Note: Base year chosen as data first consistently collected from 2001/2002

1. 'All violence' includes wounding, assault with minor injury, assault without injury and robbery#
2. Questions asked only if the victim was able to say something about the offender(s), and if there was more than one offender, victims were asked if any of the offenders were perceived to be under the influence. Questions were not asked if any offender(s) were perceived to be under school age.

13 Anti-social behaviour

The table below shows the perceptions of drunken and rowdy behaviour in public places. It demonstrates that the percentage of respondents who found drink-related behaviour to be a very or fairly big problem in their area has remained fairly stable, with an underlying decrease of 1% over the whole period, and a drop of 3% between 2012 and 2013.

Perceptions of anti-social behaviour: People being drunk or rowdy in public places (aged 16+) - England and Wales



Source: Crime Survey for England and Wales 2011/2012 ([.xls](#)), Crime statistics, March 2013 ([.xls](#))

Note: Base year chosen as data first consistently collected from 2001/2002

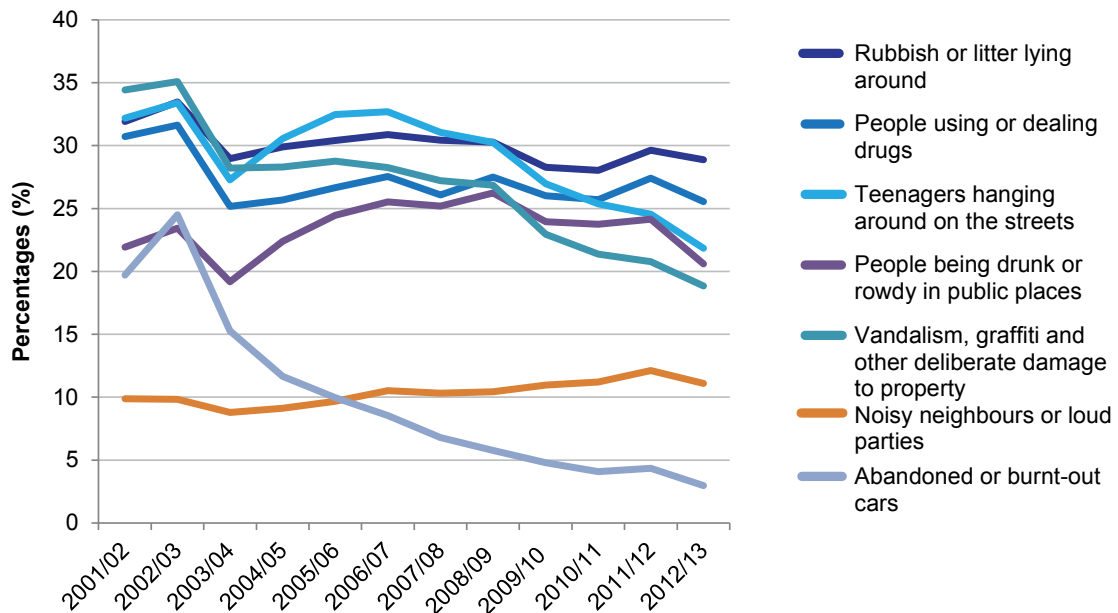
New questions about respondents' actual experiences of ASB in their local area were added to the 2011/12 CSEW. These questions ask whether the respondent had personally experienced or witnessed ASB in their local area and, if so, what types⁹. There is a difference between the numbers who perceive alcohol to be a problem in their area and those who have actually witnessed or were directly affected by drink-related problems, suggesting perception may differ from actual experience.

If we look at perceptions of people being drunk or rowdy in the context of the other ASB indicators, it is seen as less of a problem than litter, people using/dealing drugs or teenagers hanging around in streets, despite significant drops in all of these indicators.

⁹ ONS crime statistics at: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/method-quality/specific/crime-statistics-methodology/2012-13-crime-survey-for-england-and-wales-technical-report--volume-one.pdf>

HARMS - CRIME

Perceptions of anti-social behaviour: All indicators (aged 16+) - England and Wales



Source: Crime Statistics - Short Story on Anti-Social Behaviour, 2011/12 (.xls)

Crime in England and Wales, year ending March 2013, ONS

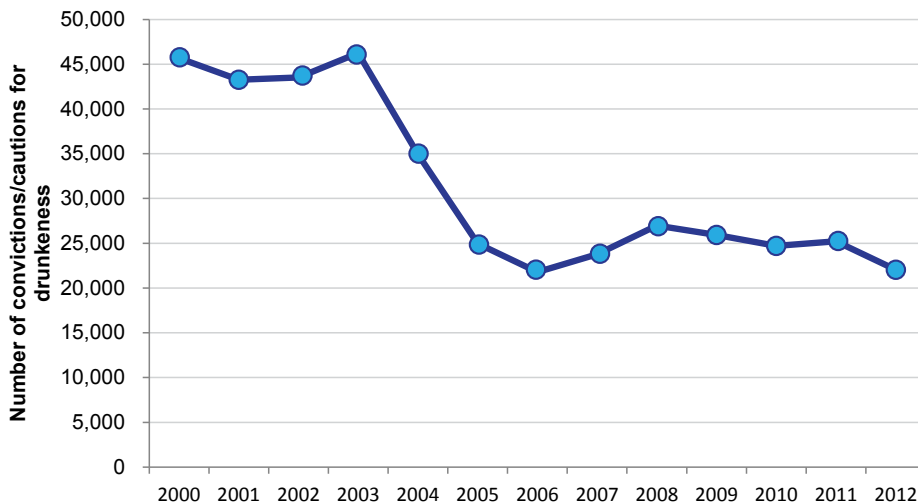
Note: Base year chosen as data first consistently collected from 2001/2002

14 Alcohol-related convictions and cautions

Alongside a decrease in alcohol-related violent crimes and anti-social behaviour, the number of cautions and convictions given out by police for other alcohol-specific offences has also fallen.

14.1 Drunkenness - England and Wales

The number of cautions and convictions for drunkenness in England and Wales has fallen by 52% since its peak in 2003. Some of this decline is likely to be due to the introduction of Penalty Notices.



Source: Criminal justice statistics, Ministry of Justice 2012 (.xls - table 4.13)

14.2 Penalty Notices issued – England and Wales

The chart below demonstrates the wide range of measures used to tackle alcohol related issues. These give the authorities a wider range of tools to deal with alcohol-related crime. The data is only indicative and trends are difficult to establish. The low number of Penalty Notices for Disorder (PNDs) issued may be influenced by the different methods of enforcement used in different areas.

Penalty Notices issued						
Year	Drunkenness	Sale of alcohol to drunks	Underage selling	Supply of alcohol to a person under 18	Purchasing alcohol for a person under 18	Purchasing alcohol for a person under 18 for consumption on the premises
2005	34,987	7	417	-	125	51
2006	40,754	47	3,402	34	328	72
2007	45,584	54	3,480	55	483	58
2008	46,516	82	3,043	65	562	57
2009	44,781	75	2,934	104	437	47
2010	39,783	88	2,463	78	409	38
2011	35,909	63	1,866	53	275	26
2012	35,106	91	1,469	40	213	32
2013	30,150	81	1,215	47	127	6

Penalty Notices issued						
Year	Delivery of alcohol to a person under 18 or allowing such delivery	Drunk in a highway	DPPO breaches	Consumption of alcohol by a person under 18 on relevant premises	Allowing consumption of alcohol by a person under 18 on relevant premises	Buying or Attempting to buy alcohol by a person under 18
2005	111	3,255	698	36	16	5
2006	273	2,945	766	93	25	47
2007	386	2,382	1,248	88	11	122
2008	357	1,824	1,712	53	10	140
2009	224	1,198	1,810	36	6	87
2010	150	850	1,283	14	-	58
2011	111	720	1,236	19	4	33
2012	73	586	796	17	1	20
2013	59	431	497	8	-	15

Source: Criminal justice statistics, Ministry of Justice 2013 ([.xls](#))

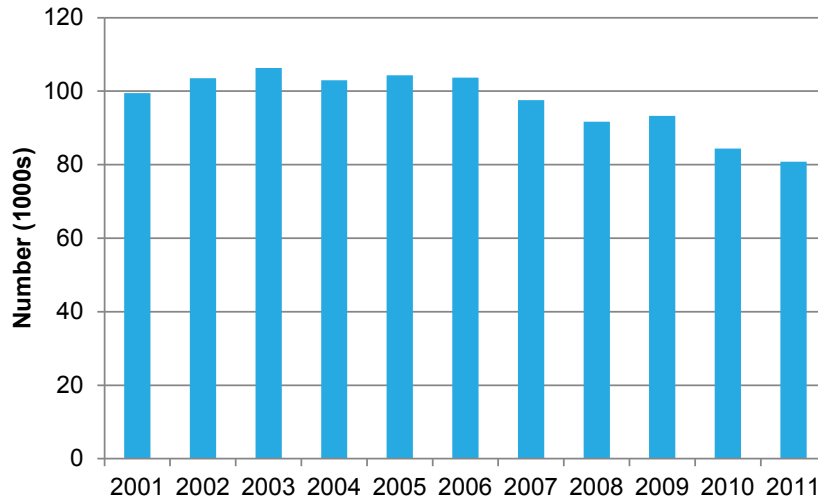
Note: Data recorded from when PNDs first introduced

14.3 Drink driving

In the last 20 years policy has been focussed on reducing drink driving including greater penalties and tougher enforcement in conjunction with campaigns to reduce the social acceptance of drink driving.

The graph below shows a steady drop in the number of drivers that tested positive in a roadside breath test. This number has dropped 45% since 2000, with a substantial decrease from 2004.

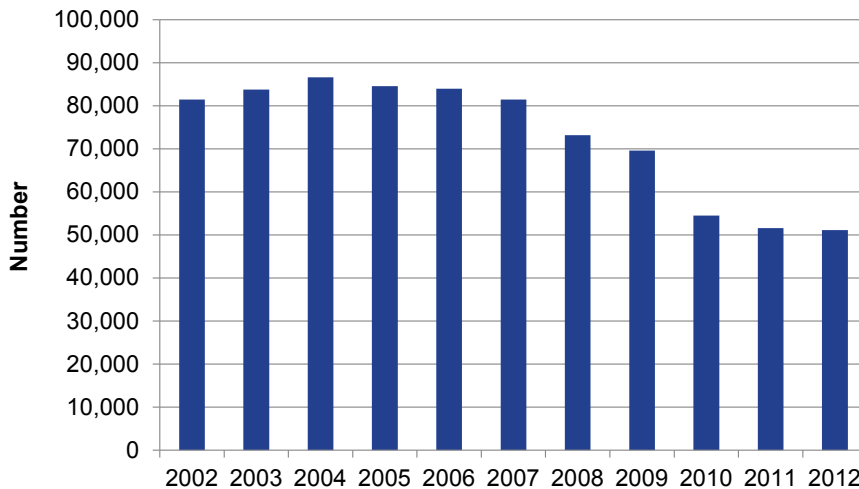
Number of drivers who tested positive in a breath test - England and Wales



Source: Department for Transport statistics, 2013 ([.xls](#))

As the numbers of casualties, accidents and positive breath tests declines there has also been a reduction in drink driving convictions. The graph below shows a 41% decrease in convictions since its peak in 2004. As this graph is of total drink driving convictions, it shows a real fall in all drink driving situations, not just accidents.

Drink driving convictions - England and Wales



Source: Criminal justice statistics, Ministry of Justice 2012 ([.xls - table 4.12](#))

Consumption

Alcohol Consumption – OECD Statistics

<http://stats.oecd.org/index.aspx?queryid=30126>

British Beer and Pub Association Statistical Handbook 2013

<http://www.beerandpub.com/shop/statistics>

General Lifestyle Survey 2010, ONS

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/ghs/general-lifestyle-survey/2010/index.html>

General Lifestyle Survey 2011, ONS

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/ghs/general-lifestyle-survey/2011/index.html>

HM Revenue and Customs - Alcohol Bulletin - February 2014

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/hub/release-calendar/index.html?newquery=*&u day=0&u month=0&u year=0&title=Alcohol+Bulletin&pagetype=calendar-entry&lday=&lmonth=&lyear=

Opinions and Lifestyles Survey 2012, ONS

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/ghs/opinions-and-lifestyle-survey/drinking-habits-amongst-adults--2012/index.html>

Underage issues

Smoking, drinking and drug use among young people in England in 2012, ONS, Health and Social Care Information Centre

<http://www.hscic.gov.uk/catalogue/PUB11334>

Health

Alcohol-related deaths in the United Kingdom, registered in 2012, ONS, 2014

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/publications/re-reference-tables.html?edition=tcm%3A77-306939>

Reported Drinking and Driving, Department for Transport, 2014

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/ras51-reported-drinking-and-driving>

Statistics on Alcohol – England, 2013 - Health & Social Care Information Centre

<http://www.hscic.gov.uk/catalogue/PUB10932>

World Health Organisation Alcohol Mortality Data - Global Information System on Alcohol and Health: Harms and Consequences

<http://apps.who.int/gho/data/view.main.58100>

Crime

Crime Statistics: Short Story on Anti-Social Behaviour, 2011/12

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/publications/re-reference-tables.html?edition=tcm%3A77-297901>

Crime Survey for England and Wales 2011/2012

http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/dcp171778_273169.pdf

Criminal Justice Statistics, Ministry of Justice

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/criminal-justice-statistics--2>

Methodological note: Analysis of variation in crime trends, 24 January 2013, ONS: John Flatley and Jenny Bradley, Crime, Regional and Data Access Division.

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/method-quality/specific/crime-statistics-methodology/index.html>

Reported Road Casualties in Great Britain: 2012 Annual Report

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/244914/rrcgb2012-03.pdf

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