



Centre for Public Health

Faculty of Health and Applied Social Sciences

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Local Alcohol Profiles for England reveal North - South Divide

New profiles of alcohol related harms for every Local Authority in England have been published online for the first time today by the Centre for Public Health, Liverpool John Moores University, and the North West Public Health Observatory.

The profiles combine eight different measures relating to health, crime, mortality and binge drinking to show the impact that alcohol is having on 354 Local Authorities across England. The profiles have been developed in order to help provide local areas with measures of alcohol related harm that can be compared between authorities and examined for trends on a year by year basis. They illustrate an extensive North-South divide in the levels of alcohol related harm in England.

Summary statistics from selected indicators are given below and all statistics can be found at www.nwph.net/alcohol/lape (available from 10am on 03/08/2006).

Admission to hospital for alcohol related conditions by Local Authority

- Around 217,900 men and 147,000 women were admitted to hospital in 2004-05 for alcohol related conditions in England. These equate to rates of 826 men and 462 women per 100,000 population.
- While the North East and North West regions experience massive burdens on the health service due to alcohol with each region having around 1,100 men and 610 women admitted per 100,000 population (2004-05), regions such as the South East and the East of England have under 700 men / 100,000 and around 400 women / 100,000 admitted.
- The most deprived urban areas of the country experience the greatest burden on health services due to alcohol related admission to hospital. Areas such as Liverpool, Manchester and Middlesbrough had over 1,400 men / 100,000 admitted to hospital – approximately 70% higher than the average for England.
- The lowest impacts of alcohol on health services were found in Southern and Eastern areas such as Wokingham and West Berkshire with under 430 men / 100,000 and 240 / 100,000 women admitted to hospital. These areas have approximately 50% lower admission to hospital than the average for England.

Months of life lost by Local Authority

- While alcohol problems can end people's lives at any age, across England the average loss of life due to alcohol is nearly 10 months for men and five months for women.

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- The greatest impact of alcohol on life expectancy is seen in Blackpool, where a man can expect to lose 23 months of life and a woman 13 months. For both sexes, this is approximately 140% **above** the England average.
- Other areas where alcohol has had a large impact on loss of life are Manchester Barrow-in-Furness and Salford, where men lose over 16.5 months (73% **over** the England average) and Liverpool, North Shropshire and Easington, where women lose 9-10 months (approximately 85% **over** the England average).
- By contrast, areas with a low impact of alcohol on life expectancy are the Isles of Scilly, East Dorset and Hart, where men lose 2-4 months of life (70% **less** than the England average) and the City of London, Cotswold and Tynedale, where women lose less than 2.5 months (approximately 50% **less** than the England average).

Violence attributable to alcohol

- Across England, there were 367,000 violent offences attributable to alcohol in 2005-06, which is equivalent to 7.3 violent crimes per 1,000 population. Most of these were concentrated in urban city centres.
- The highest rates of alcohol related violent crime occur in the London and Yorkshire & the Humber regions, where there were 9.8 and 8.2 violent offences per 1,000 residents respectively. The lowest rate is in the East of England region at 5.6 crimes / 1,000 people.
- Outside of the City of London (which shows unusually high measures of violence due to a small resident population but a large number of crimes), the greatest impact of alcohol on violent crimes occurs in areas such as the City of Westminster, Leicester and Islington, where 14-15 violent offences per 1,000 residents occurred in 2005-06
- The smallest impact of alcohol on violence is in rural authorities such as East Dorset and South Cambridgeshire, where there were less than two violent offences per 1,000 residents in 2005-06 – nearly a quarter of the England average.

Binge Drinking

- Estimated levels of binge drinking show that overall in England, 18.2% of adults binge drink – that is, if they had consumed double the daily recommended maximum levels or more in a single drinking session during the last week.
- In the North West and North East regions, 23% of adults binge drink, whereas in the South East, South West and East of England, less than 16% of adults binge drink.
- The greatest binge consumption is estimated to occur in the northern authorities such as Newcastle upon Tyne, Liverpool, and Durham, where over 27% of adults binge drink – one and a half times the average for England. This compares with more Southern authorities such as East Dorset, Newham and Rother, where under 10% of adults binge drink – nearly half the average for England.

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Professor Mark A. Bellis, Director of the Centre for Public Health said "These profiles graphically illustrate the growing costs of cheap alcohol, a night-time economy almost exclusively packed with bars and clubs, and a failure to deliver a credible drinking message to both youths and adults. More importantly though, they are a means to identify those areas worst affected and over time examine what can work to stem a rising tide of alcohol related ill health and anti-social behaviour.

"Health agencies, police and schools all have major roles to play in reducing the damage caused by alcohol but so do the alcohol industry, employers and the general public. We hope that making these statistics widely available will highlight that we are no longer a nation enjoying a harmless tittle but increasingly one developing a dangerous alcohol addiction."

Karen Tocque, Director of Science and Strategy at the North West Public Health Observatory said "It is a shocking revelation that in some areas men, on average, can expect to lose over one and a half years of life because of the effects of alcohol consumption. Most of such loss of life is entirely avoidable, which is graphically illustrated by the fact that there is over one year difference in life lost by men between the worst and best 10 Local Authorities in England. However, loss of life due to alcohol related conditions is just the tip of the iceberg - beneath this are often many years of illness and anti-social behaviour. Within these alcohol profiles, hospital admission and violent crime indicators show just how many people are adversely affected by alcohol."

Professor John Ashton, North West Regional Director of Public Health said "Too often health priorities seem to be determined retrospectively like a car driver looking in the rear view mirror. We have made significant progress in reducing the toll of death and disease from heart disease and cancer in recent years, meanwhile alcohol is racing ahead as one of the biggest threats to public health not least in some of the most disadvantaged parts of the country.

"Fears of being accused of being part of the nanny state have intimidated governments from tackling head on the manufacturers of cheap alcohol in the same way that they would if this was any other kind of drug. We can stand by and reap the toll of mental and physical wreckage or decide as a society that enough is enough and so solicit a willingness to roll back the tide of alcohol that is washing over us."

Maps and further statistics available on the Local Alcohol Profiles for England website www.nwph.net/alcohol/lape (available 10am on 03/08/2006).



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Table: Alcohol-related harm in England's Local Authorities

Indicator	Authorities with the LARGEST impact	Authorities with the SMALLEST impact		
Alcohol related hospital admission – males (per 100,000 residents)	Liverpool	1548.45	Wokingham	330.52
	Manchester	1465.01	West Berkshire	424.31
	Middlesborough	1434.66	Kettering	433.63
	Knowsley	1418.82	East Northamptonshire	433.71
	Halton	1393.28	Maidstone	450.85
	Salford	1357.58	City of London	458.49
	Wirral	1343.31	New Forest	478.92
	St Helens	1323.56	South Oxfordshire	491.52
	Burnley	1322.05	Eastleigh	491.94
	Newcastle upon Tyne	1302.30	Tonbridge and Malling	501.14
Alcohol related hospital admission - females (per 100,000 residents)	Copeland	793.76	Wokingham	207.82
	Liverpool	785.44	West Berkshire	233.08
	Halton	772.48	East Northamptonshire	257.43
	Middlesborough	771.30	Kettering	263.50
	Barrow-in-Furness	761.65	Maidstone	266.57
	Manchester	735.98	Reading	269.07
	Wirral	721.19	Wellingborough	270.01
	Wansbeck	714.52	Tonbridge and Malling	280.42
	Salford	712.91	Harrow	298.69
	Warrington	711.85	Three Rivers	303.69
Alcohol related months of life lost – males	Blackpool	22.80	Isles of Scilly	2.02
	Manchester	16.85	East Dorset	3.76
	Barrow-in-Furness	16.75	Hart	3.94
	Salford	16.69	Uttlesford	4.08
	Lincoln	16.08	Mid Suffolk	4.30
	Liverpool	16.07	South Bucks	4.37
	Sandwell	15.58	Brentwood	4.50
	Wolverhampton	15.33	Sedgemoor	4.74
	Newcastle upon Tyne	15.28	Blaby	4.75
	Stoke-on-Trent	15.03	South Norfolk	4.78
Alcohol related months of life lost – females	Blackpool	12.66	City of London	0.87
	Liverpool	9.92	Cotswold	2.40
	North Shropshire	9.47	Tynedale	2.44
	Easington	9.07	Fareham	2.56
	Stoke-on-Trent	9.07	Richmondshire	2.61
	Hastings	8.96	Harborough	2.68
	Manchester	8.84	North Hertfordshire	2.69
	Fylde	8.61	Chichester	2.71
	North West Leicestershire	8.35	Eastleigh	2.71
	Corby	8.26	Harlow	2.73
Alcohol related violent offences ^{\$} (per 1,000 residents)	City of Westminster	15.19	East Dorset	1.86
	Leicester	14.48	South Cambridgeshire	1.95
	Islington	14.40	South Northamptonshire	2.02
	City of Kingston upon Hull	14.00	South Shropshire	2.09
	Blackpool	13.98	Teesdale	2.27
	Liverpool	13.68	Broadland	2.50
	Hackney	13.35	Mid Suffolk	2.50
	Portsmouth	13.34	East Cambridgeshire	2.53
	Tower Hamlets	13.18	Mid Bedfordshire	2.57
	Hastings	12.89	Waverley	2.65
Synthetic estimate of binge drinking in last week ⁺ % of adult population	Newcastle upon Tyne	29.2	East Dorset	8.8
	Liverpool	27.6	Newham	9.3
	Durham	27.6	Rother	9.7
	Sunderland	26.7	Christchurch	9.8
	Middlesborough	26.5	Brent	10.0
	South Tyneside	26.0	Harrow	10.0
	Stockton-on-Tees	25.7	East Devon	10.4
	North Tyneside	25.3	West Dorset	10.6
	Gateshead	25.0	West Somerset	10.7
	Knowsley	25.0	North Dorset	10.7

^{\$} Violent crimes are recorded on the basis of where they are committed and consequently high estimates are possible in areas with large night-life environments and small resident populations (City of London is excluded from the above table where the rate of violent offences is 40 / 1,000 residents).

⁺ Synthetic estimates for binge drinking were prepared for the Department of Health and published in 2005.



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For further information on the Centre for Public Health, Liverpool John Moores University and for interview requests, please contact:

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Notes to editors

- The Centre for Public Health at Liverpool John Moores University specialises in applied research and educational programmes which address health issues, from policy development to service delivery. Please visit www.cph.org.uk for more information on the Centre.
- Each Public Health Observatory has a number of priority areas where they take the lead for the country. The North West Public Health Observatory is the lead Observatory for alcohol in the country.
- Local Alcohol Profiles for England are available online at www.nwph.net/alcohol/lape, where detailed statistics for each Local Authority and other material such as England maps are available as an interactive web page.