



Alcohol ▲ Concern

ALCOHOL CONCERN is the national agency on alcohol misuse, working to reduce the level of alcohol misuse and to develop the range and quality of helping services available to problem drinkers and their families. We are England's primary source of information and comment on a wide range of alcohol-related matters.

The Alcohol Concern Information and Communications Team provide a range of services and products including: producing the quarterly Magazine, Straight Talk, managing the website, and collating and interpreting the latest research in order to produce factsheets. The team also provides an e-based Information Service and maintains a specialist collection of alcohol related literature.

To access the Information Service

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ALCOHOL CONCERN

Young People's drinking

Fact sheet: SUMMARY

- The proportion of 11-15 year olds who drink has varied slightly over the last 5 years between 58-60%, but there was a clear drop from 58% in 2005 to 54% in 2006. However, the mean consumption of those who drink has doubled from 5 units a week in the early 1990s to 10 units in 2004.
- Young people drink mainly beer, cider, lager. Alcopops remain popular but consumption of them tends to drop with age.
- By the age of 13, the proportion of those who drink exceeds the proportion of teenagers who do not drink.
- Young people drink for a variety of reasons including: the wish to demonstrate maturity, have fun and test their limits.
- Although young people may drink in an uncontrolled way at times, most will not go on to develop serious alcohol problems. Common problems experienced are the result of severe intoxication such as accidents.
- There is an association between alcohol and crime or anti-social behaviour. 16% of school attendees, who had committed a crime, reported that they had been drinking prior to the crime.
- Children of problem drinkers can suffer from emotional and psychological problems. But how a young person responds to a parent's drinking depends on factors such as the young person's personality support systems both with and outside the family.

This is a summary of a detailed fact sheet, which is available from the information unit. Many other fact sheets are also available.

Fact sheet summary
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