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 2014 down 19% from the 2004 peak and 10% lower than 2000.

• 2014 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 2005-2013. Men dropped from 22% to 13% and women from 13% to 8%.

• The percentage of those drinking over the recommended guidelines on their heaviest drinking day also fell from 2005-2013. Men dropped from from 41% to 34% and the women from 33% 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 38% in 2014.

• 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 24% in 2014.

• The proportion of young people in England (11-15 year olds) who think that everyone their age drinks has fallen from 9% to 2%.

• 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 22%.

Health harms

• In England, since 2003, alcohol-related hospital admissions (primary diagnosis plus mentions of alcohol-related external causes in secondary diagnosis fields) have risen by 38% from 236,770 to 325,870. As a proportion of total primary admissions this measure of alcohol-related admissions has remained broadly flat since 2004 varying between 2 and 2.2% admissions (Public Health England caution against highlighting definite trends in admissions data due to changes in admissions coding methodology).

• 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 19% 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.
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1 UK alcohol consumption

Enjoying a drink remains a part of British culture, exemplified by the fact that hyst 21% of British people were described as teetotallers in 2013.¹

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 2014 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**

![Graph showing alcohol consumption per adult (15+) in the United Kingdom from 2000 to 2014. The data indicates a decline from a peak of over 12 litres per adult per annum in 2004 to 9.4 litres per adult per annum in 2014.]

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 Opinions and Lifestyle Survey, Adult Drinking Habits in Great Britain, 2013
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

*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.

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.

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 country. 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**

![Graph showing percentage of people binge drinking weekly from 2005 to 2013.](image)

*Source: Opinions and Lifestyle Survey, Adult Drinking Habits in Great Britain, 2013 [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 34% between 2005 and 2013 while for women of the same age the drop was 41%. The only increase was in men 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](http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201012/cmselect/cm-sctech/1536/153605.htm#a5)
Binge drinking among men, by age group - Great Britain

![Bar chart showing binge drinking among men by age group in 2005 and 2013.]

Source: Opinions and Lifestyle Survey, Adult Drinking Habits in Great Britain, 2013 (xls)

Note: Base year chosen as first year data was collected

Binge drinking among women, by age group - Great Britain

![Bar chart showing binge drinking among women by age group in 2005 and 2013.]

Source: Opinions and Lifestyle Survey, Adult Drinking Habits in Great Britain, 2013 (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 falling by more than two thirds between 2005 and 2013.

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

![Bar chart showing frequency of men drinking on 5 or more days a week across different age groups in 2005 and 2013.]

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

![Bar chart showing frequency of women drinking on 5 or more days a week across different age groups in 2005 and 2013.]

*Source: ONS, Adult Drinking Habits in Great Britain, 2013 (xls)*

*Note: Base year chosen as first year data was collected*

*Source: Opinions and Lifestyle Survey, Adult Drinking Habits in Great Britain, 2013 (xls)*

*Note: Base year chosen as first year data was collected*
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**

![Graph showing the percentage of men drinking more than 50 units a week by age group from 2000 to 2010.]

*Source: General Lifestyle Survey, 2010 (xls)*

**Women drinking more than 35 units a week - Great Britain**

![Graph showing the percentage of women drinking more than 35 units a week by age group from 2000 to 2010.]

*Source: General Lifestyle Survey, 2010 (xls)*
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**

![Drinking patterns by age group](image)

Source: Opinions and Lifestyle Survey, Adult Drinking Habits in Great Britain, 2013 (.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**

![Drinking patterns by gender](image)

Source: Opinions and Lifestyle Survey, Adult Drinking Habits in Great Britain, 2013 (.xls)
Employment status also appears to have an impact on alcohol consumption with 64% of those employed reporting drinking in the last week compared to 47% of unemployed people.

**Drinking patterns by employment status - Great Britain**

![Graph showing drinking patterns by employment status](source)

Source: Opinions and Lifestyle Survey, Adult Drinking Habits in Great Britain, 2013 [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**

![Graph showing drinking patterns by employment type](source)

Source: Opinions and Lifestyle Survey, Adult Drinking Habits in Great Britain, 2013 [xls]

Note: Last measured in 2011
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 gross annual personal income - Great Britain**

Source: Opinions and Lifestyle Survey, Adult Drinking Habits in Great Britain, 2013 [xls]
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 38% 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 8%.

*Drinking among 11 - 15 year olds - England*

Source: Smoking, drinking and drug use among young people in England in 2014, ONS, Health and Social Care Information Centre (.xls)

A theory has been suggested that although fewer children are drinking alcohol, those that do drink are drinking more. Although a methodology change in 2007 makes comparisons between the early 2000s and now unreliable, the most recent data suggests little support for this theory.

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

Source: Smoking, drinking and drug use among young people in England in 2014, ONS, HSCIC (.xls)

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

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*Estimating alcohol consumption from survey data: updated method of converting volumes to units, Eileen Goddard, ONS 2007*  
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

![Chart showing attitudes to drinking among 11-15 year olds in England]

Source: Smoking, drinking and drug use among young people in England in 2014, 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 more\(^5\), 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 2%, while the proportion of those that do not think alcohol is used by their peers has increased from 12% to 22%.

### Perceptions of the prevalence of drinking among peers - England

![Chart showing perceptions of the prevalence of drinking among peers in England]

Source: Smoking, drinking and drug use among young people in England in 2014, ONS, HSCIC [xls]

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

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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

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 2014, ONS, HSCIC [xlsx]

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.
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.

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 now publish a new measure which uses primary diagnoses plus mentions of alcohol-related external causes in secondary diagnosis fields.

According to a Public Health England blog:

“**In summary, the new supplementary indicator provides a narrower measure of alcohol harm that is less sensitive to the changes that have occurred in coding over the years and therefore enables fairer comparison between levels of harm in different areas and over time. It is also more responsive to change resulting from local action on alcohol. However, the original indicator is a better measure of the total burden that alcohol has on community and health services. These indicators measure different things and are to be used for different purposes.**”

*Understanding alcohol-related hospital admissions, C Perkins & M Hennessey, Jan 2014*

As can be seen from the chart below the rate of alcohol related admissions where an alcohol-related condition is the primary diagnosis or an external cause in the secondary diagnosis field increased from 2003/04 to 2011/12. However, according to this measure, admissions declined in 2012/13 and are now below the level in 2010/11.

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However, when secondary diagnoses are included the total number of admissions rises steeply bringing us to the figure of 1 million admissions.

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*


These figures have been calculated using recently updated alcohol-attributable fractions. The review of alcohol-attributable fractions can be found [here](#).
10.1 Causes of alcohol-related hospital admissions

When looking at the narrow measure of alcohol related admissions, including only primary diagnoses and mentions of alcohol-related external causes in secondary diagnosis fields, it can be seen that the biggest cause of admissions is cancer, followed by accidents and injuries and mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol.

Causes of admissions - primary and secondary external cause - England


However, when all 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

10.2 Alcohol-related admissions by age

As would be expected the highest proportions of total admissions by age are older people with over 61% 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**

![Diagram showing alcohol-related admissions by age in England](source)


**Primary and secondary admissions - by age - England**

![Diagram showing primary and secondary admissions by age in England](source)

**Alcohol-related deaths**

Alcohol related deaths in England and Wales rose from 2000 to a peak in 2008 before stabilising. The population adjusted alcohol-related death rate in England and Wales increased slightly for men from 17.9 deaths per 100,000 people to 18 between 2012 and 2013. For women it was 8.8 deaths per 100,000 in 2013, down from 9.0 in the previous year. Both the male and female rate remain below their respective peaks of 19.8 and 9.6 in 2008. Alcohol related deaths in England and Wales make up 1.4% of total deaths.¹⁸

**Alcohol-related deaths - England and Wales**

![Graph showing alcohol-related deaths](image)

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**

![Pie chart showing causes of alcohol-related deaths](image)

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.

¹⁸ ONS – Mortality data
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**

![Bar chart showing death rates per 100,000 population for various countries.](chart)

*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**

![Bar chart showing number of deaths by age group.](chart)

*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

Between 2012/13 and 2013/14 the number of violent crimes related to alcohol fell by 153,000 (18%). This significant drop follows on from a longer term decline which has seen a 34% drop in violent incidents over the last decade. Due to a change in methodology it is not possible to directly compare incident numbers before 2004/5 with current figures but the overall trend demonstrates that violent incidents have been falling since 2000. As a proportion of total violence, those related to alcohol have remained roughly constant, representing approximately half of total incidents.

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

Source: Crime Survey for England and Wales 2013/14 (.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.
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

![Graph showing perception vs. actual witnessed/directly affected]

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.

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

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.
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Drunkenness</th>
<th>Sale of alcohol to drunks</th>
<th>Underage selling</th>
<th>Supply of alcohol to a person under 18</th>
<th>Purchasing alcohol for a person under 18</th>
<th>Purchasing alcohol for a person under 18 for consumption on the premises</th>
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<td>3,480</td>
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<td>562</td>
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<td>2,934</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Source: Criminal justice statistics, Ministry of Justice 2013 (xlsx)

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 19% since 2000.

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

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*

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*Source: Department for Transport statistics, 2013 [xls]*

*Source: Criminal justice statistics, Ministry of Justice 2012 [xls - table 4.12]*
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