

Underage drinking in the UK

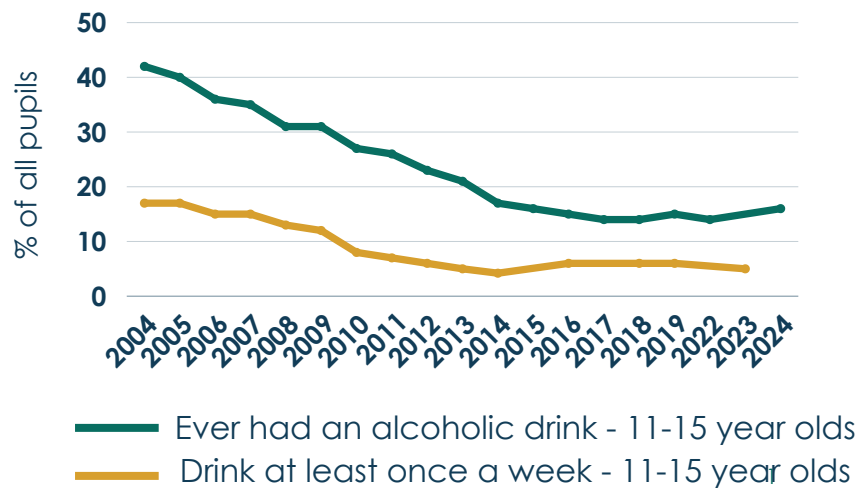
August 2026



- Over a decade of falls in underage drinking across the UK, ranking below many of our Western European neighbours.
- Alcohol-specific hospital admissions among under 18s in England has also fallen every year for more than a decade.

Over a decade of falls

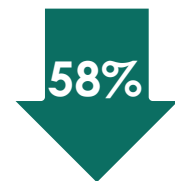
Underage drinking in England has fallen significantly over the past twenty years



England: Fall in all children who have ever tried alcohol between 2004-24¹



Wales: Fall in weekly drinking 2002-2018²

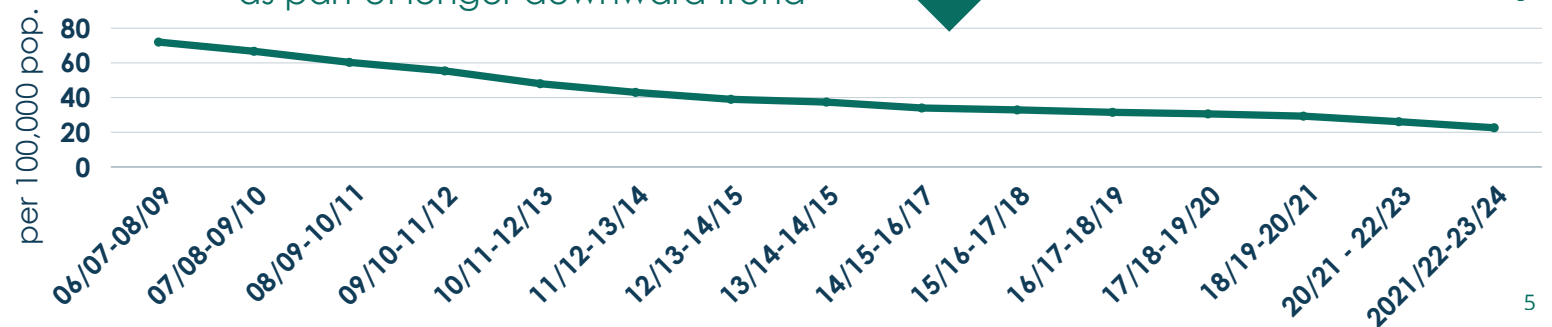


Scotland: Fall in weekly drinking since 2004-18. Stands at 5.4% for 2021-22³



NI: Fall in children who have ever drunk alcohol between 2000 and 2023⁴

Under-18's alcohol-specific hospital admissions fell 42% between 2012-15 and 2021-24 as part of longer downward trend⁵



Underage drinking in the UK nations ranks below many of our Western European neighbours

