

FACT SHEET TWENTY

ALCOHOL THE INVISIBLE DRUG

Health

- 27% of men and 17% of women drink over Sensible Limits and 21% of men and 9% of women binge drink at least one day per week
- 7% of adults in England are classed as being alcohol dependant
- Over 28,000 people were admitted into hospital with alcohol related mental or behavioural disorders in 2002/03 with the same number being admitted for alcohol related liver disease
- 22, 000 premature deaths occur per year due to alcohol
- Alcohol related harm costs the NHS £1.7billion per year

Relationships

- In a third of domestic abuse cases alcohol is a factor
- Marriages where alcohol is a factor are twice as likely to end in divorce
- Each year around one million children are affected by a parent's alcohol misuse

Offending

- In 44% of violent crimes the perpetrator is under the influence of alcohol
- Alcohol related crime and antisocial behaviour costs around £7.3 billion per year in England

Young People

- 25% of pupils in England aged 11-15 drink at least one day per week

Employment

- 17 million days are lost each year due to alcohol related problems costing the economy £6.4 billion

Road Traffic Accidents

- In 2002 6% of Road Traffic accidents in England involved illegal levels of alcohol resulting in over 20,000 road traffic casualties, 560 of whom died

Household Expenditure

- In 2003 total household expenditure on alcohol in the UK was £39.1 billion, with each household spending on average around 5.7% of their total expendable income on alcohol

Information taken from the 'Statistics on Alcohol: England 2004' document published by the Department of Health in September 2004