

# **ALCOHOL, DRUGS AND SMOKING FACTS – UPDATED OCTOBER 2017**

## **SMOKING IN ENGLAND – 2015/2016**

1. There were 79,000 deaths in 2015 attributable to smoking (16% of all deaths)
2. There were an estimated 474,000 hospital admissions in 2015-2016
3. There are an estimated 2.4 million e-cigarette users. Use in 16-24 year-olds is 6%. Among 15 year-olds, 35% reported having used an e-cigarette.
4. About 15.5% of adults in England smoke, down from 19.9% in 2010. This rate is one of the lowest in Europe, alongside Sweden.
5. 18% of secondary school pupils reported they'd smoked at least once - the lowest level since surveys began in 1982. Girls (4%) more likely to regularly smoke (3% males). 22% of secondary school students had used an e-cigarette at least once.

## **DRINKING – UK AND ENGLAND-SPECIFIC FACTS**

1. 28.9 million people in Great Britain reported drinking alcohol the previous week.
2. In 2016, 21% of the UK populations reported not drinking at all. Overall consumption of alcohol has fallen around 18% since 2004.
3. In 2015 there were 8,758 directly alcohol related deaths in the UK.
4. In England there are an estimated 595,000 alcohol-dependent drinkers.
5. Alcohol costs the NHS around £3.5 billion annually.
6. Alcohol misuse is the biggest factor for death, ill health and disability in ages 15-49.
7. In the year 2014-2015, there were an estimated 1.1 million hospital admissions due to alcohol disease, injury or condition in England. 333,000 were directly related to alcohol, an increase of 32% from 2004-2005.
8. In 2014, 38% of secondary school pupils had drunk alcohol, lowest on record (1988 it was 62%).
9. Victims believed offenders to be under influence of alcohol in 53% violent incidents (704,000). 64% of stranger violence, 70% violent incidents at weekends are alcohol-related. In 2015, 8000 drink drive casualties, 220 fatalities, 1160 serious injuries.
10. Alcohol related crime costs the UK an estimated £8 billion to £13 billion a year.
11. 4% of 11-15 year-olds said they drank alcohol once a week, 5% every fortnight.
12. YOUTH survey 2015 reported: 62% age 15 in England had ever drunk. 6% weekly, 8% fortnightly.

## **DRUGS - ENGLAND**

1. In 2014/15, there were 8,149 hospital admissions with a primary diagnosis of drug-related mental health and behavioural disorders. 14% more than 2013/14 and 4% higher than 2004/05.
2. There were 14,279 hospital admissions with a primary diagnosis of poisoning by illicit drugs. This is 2% more than 2013/14 and 57% more than 2004/05.
3. In 2015/16, around 1 in 12 (8.4%) adults aged 16 to 59 had taken an illicit drug in the last year. This equates to around 2.7 million people.
4. This level of drug use was similar to the 2014/15 survey (8.6%), but is significantly lower than a decade ago (10.5% in the 2005/06 survey).
5. In 2014, 15% of pupils had ever taken drugs. 10% in the last year, 6% in the last month.
6. In 2014 there were 2,248 deaths which were related to drug misuse. This is an increase of 15% on 2013 and 44% higher than 2004.
7. Deaths related to drug misuse are at their highest level since comparable records began in 1993.
8. The prevalence of drug use increased with age. For example, 6% of 11 year olds said they'd tried drugs at least once, compared with 24% of 15 year olds. 2.6% of 16-24s had used a legal high.

SOURCES – Accessed Saturday 28 October 2017

<https://www.alcoholconcern.org.uk/alcohol-statistics>

<http://digital.nhs.uk/catalogue/PUB24228> and PDF, 'Statistics On Smoking: England 2017'

<http://digital.nhs.uk/catalogue/PUB21159> and PDF, 'Statistics on Drug Misuse: England 2016'

<https://digital.nhs.uk/catalogue/PUB20999> and PDF, 'Statistics on Alcohol: England 2016'