

# Alcohol Harms Data Set update

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Better for everyone

# Key Findings - ONS Data

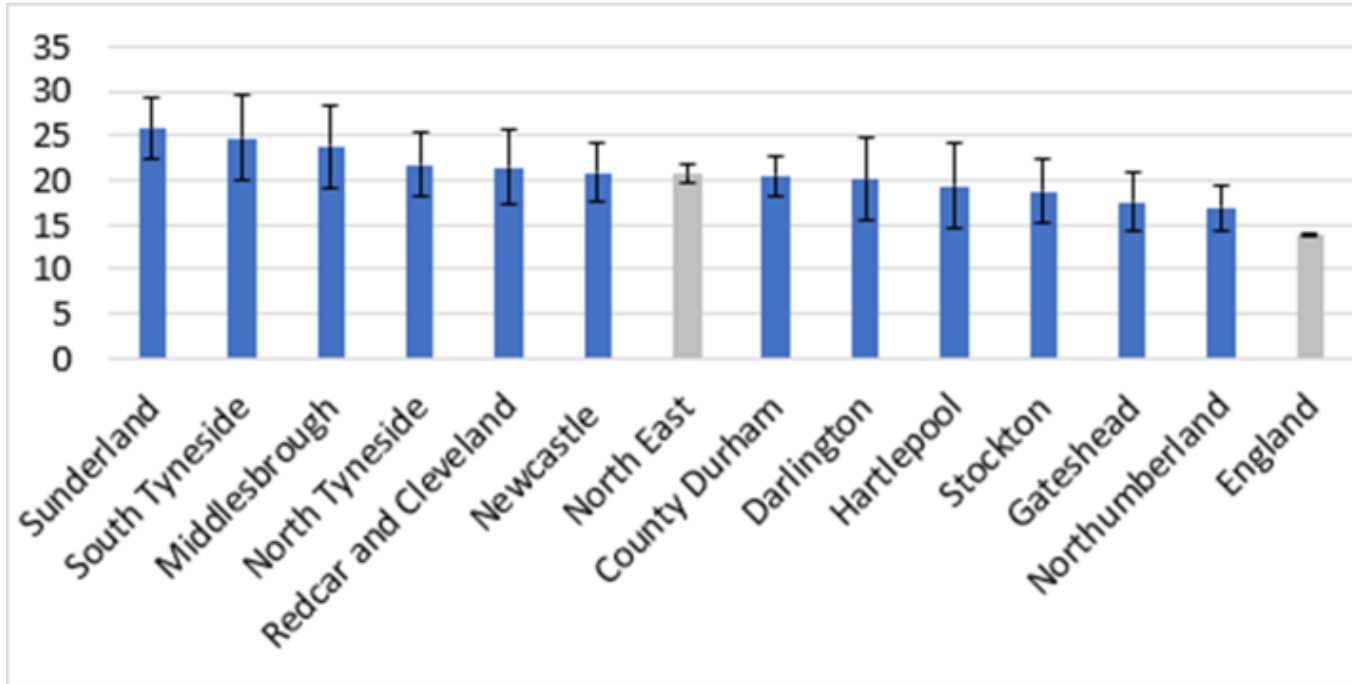
- **The North East had the highest rate of alcohol-specific deaths of any English region in 2022 (21.8 deaths per 100,000) and a total of 576 deaths – 374 men and 202 women.**
- The number recorded in 2022 was 4.2% higher than in 2021 (9,641 deaths; 14.9 per 100,000) and 32.8% higher than in 2019 (7,565 deaths; 11.8 per 100,000), the last pre-coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic year.
- Rates nationally are rising faster among women – a 37% increase in alcohol deaths women and 31% among men since 2019.
- Consistent with previous years, the rate of alcohol-specific deaths for males in 2022 nationally remained around double the rate for females (22.3 and 11.1 deaths per 100,000 people, respectively), a trend which is reflected in North East figures (29.0 and 15.0 deaths per 100,000 respectively).
- Compared with 2019, there have been statistically significant increases in the alcohol-specific death rate in England, Wales, and Scotland.

# Alcohol Related Deaths

Year	UK	Co.Durham
2022	10,048 (Highest on Record)	108
2021	9,641	117
2019	7,565	88

- ONS states there are some substantial geographical differences in alcohol-specific mortality rates across England. The areas with the highest overall rates (the NW & NE) aren't the areas that have seen the biggest relative increase during the pandemic [2020-22] (the E&W Midlands).

# Alcohol-related Mortality Rates LA Comparators across the NE



# Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC)

## Europe, central Asia and Canada

### **WHO Report: Alcohol, e-cigarettes, cannabis: concerning trends in adolescent substance use (25<sup>th</sup> April 2024)**

- Alcohol is by far the most commonly used substance among adolescents.
- More than half (57%) of 15-year-olds have tried alcohol at least once (56% of boys and 59% of girls)
- 40% reported drinking alcohol in the past 30 days (36% of boys and 38% of girls).
- Roughly 1 in 10 (9%) adolescents across all age groups have experienced significant drunkenness – being drunk at least twice – in their lifetime.
- Rate climbs from 5% at age 13 to 20% by age 15,

This demonstrates an escalating trend in alcohol abuse among youth. Recent patterns reveal that the incidence of drunkenness within the past 30 days also increases with age, jumping from 5% among 13-year-olds to an alarming 15% among 15-year-olds

# Alcohol and Economic Crisis (Alcohol Studies 2024)

Report looks at how alcohol consumption and harm change during economic crises, such as the 2008 Recession and the COVID cost of living crisis.

## Findings:

Economic crises can affect population health outcomes in several ways, including impacting health behaviours such as alcohol consumption.

Evidence indicates that population-level alcohol consumption decreases during economic crises, but with increases in high-risk alcohol use seen among some subgroups.

Suffering a more severe economic loss, being a man, being unemployed, and being less well educated may increase the likelihood of engaging in more/higher-risk drinking during an economic crisis.

Mechanisms for increasing/decreasing alcohol consumption include psychological distress and tighter budget constraints.

Targeted support for people experiencing unemployment, and population-wide measures to improve access to treatment and support, restrict marketing, and raise the prices of the cheapest alcohol could reduce levels of alcohol harm.



# Challenge to the HWB

How do we support the wider system to engage in addressing health behaviours to help reduce alcohol harms?

Is Minimum Unit Price one of the solutions?

Where do we go next to reduce alcohol harms?