

Alcohol units consumed

16% of the Year 10 males drank more than 10 units

The total number of units of alcohol consumed in the last 7 days

1. Slightly more younger males than females, and slightly more older females than males recorded having drunk some alcohol.
2. 11% of Year 10 males drank 15 or more units of alcohol in the previous 7 days compared with 9% of older females.

Comments

1. On previous pages if the recorded amount of each individual type of drink includes a half measure, this is rounded up to the next whole amount. We feel this is justified in many cases, since glasses of drink poured between friends are likely to contain more liquid than official measures. However, when calculating the units for the table on this page, the original record is referred to.
2. The number of units of alcohol consumed by beer and cider drinkers is also certainly under-estimated, as the lowest alcohol levels (one unit per half-pint) are assumed for all beers and ciders drunk. The fact that young people's 'measures' of wines and spirits may in some cases be generous is another reason why the derived number of units may be on the low side.
3. Data from 1985 (SHEU, 'Trends-Young People and Alcohol. 1983-2001'), show that there is an overall decline in those reporting drinking. Those 14-15 year olds that are drinking are consuming more than they used to. In 1990, less than 25% of older males who drank alcohol 'last week' drank more than 10 units. In 2004, this figure is around 37% of the equivalent group.

