

The socioeconomic distribution of alcohol-related anti-social behaviour in England and Wales

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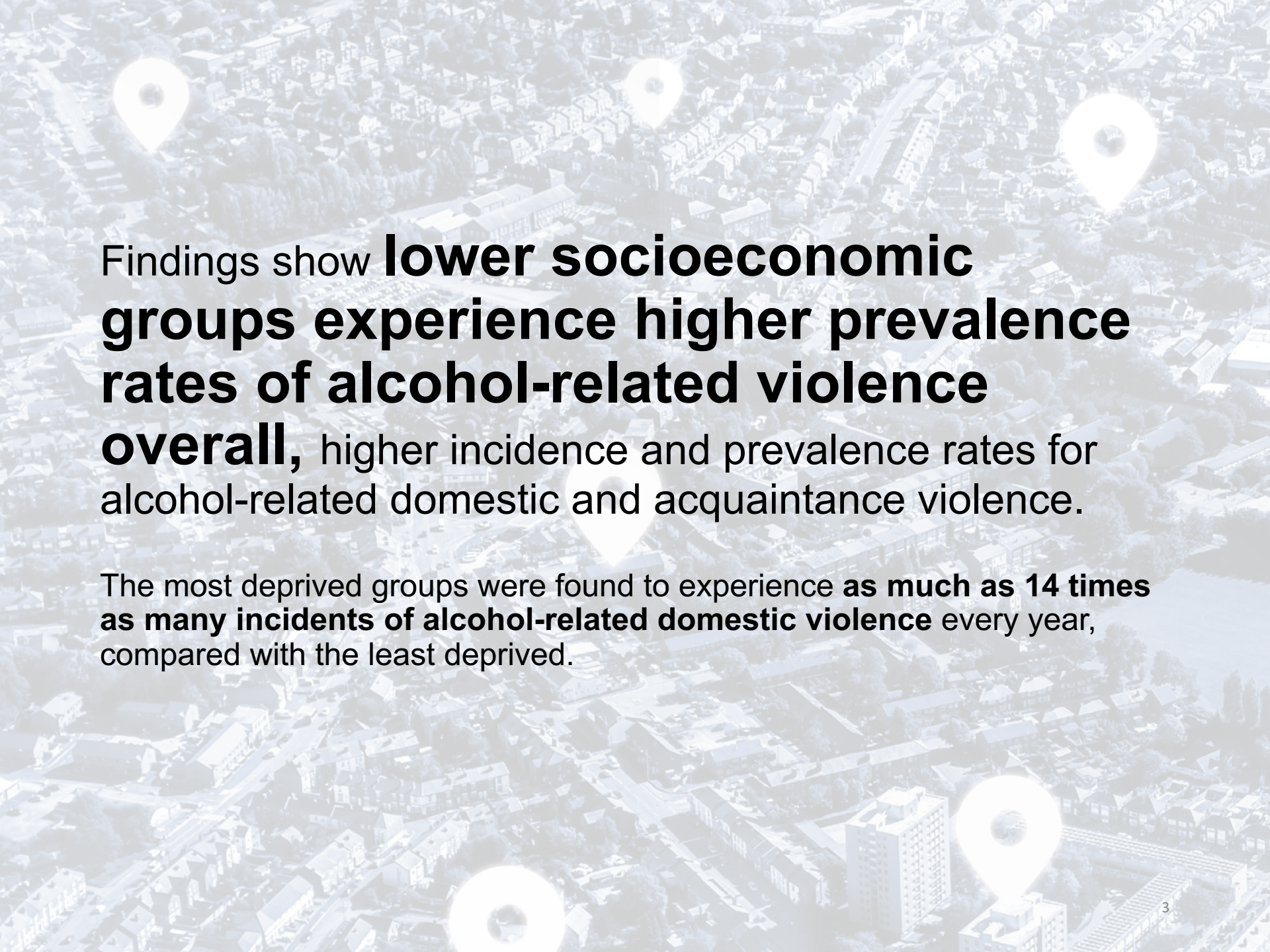
Our collaboration

Between the Institute of Alcohol Studies and the University of Liverpool, by authors Lucy Bryant and Dr Carly Lightowlers.

Commended for collaboration and impact through the **ONS Research Excellence Awards**.

Andrew Brown of Public Health England (PHE) shared:

"The positive reception to this work, not only within Public Health England but amongst wider stakeholders and policymakers, is indicative of the significance of its findings and the direct implication these have for alcohol policy development."

An aerial photograph of a city, likely New York City, showing a dense urban landscape with buildings, streets, and green spaces. Several white location pins are overlaid on the image, indicating specific points of interest. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

Findings show **lower socioeconomic groups experience higher prevalence rates of alcohol-related violence overall**, higher incidence and prevalence rates for alcohol-related domestic and acquaintance violence.

The most deprived groups were found to experience **as much as 14 times as many incidents of alcohol-related domestic violence** every year, compared with the least deprived.

SES remains a risk factor for alcohol-related violence

	SES measured by?			Other risk factors?
	Income	Housing	Occ	
Any alcohol-related violence	✓	✓	✓	Male, 30 and under, having a disability, attending pub / club
Alcohol-related domestic violence	✓	✓	✓	Female, 30 and under, having a disability, attending pub / club
Alcohol-related acquaintance violence	✓	✓	✓	Male, 30 and under, having a disability, attending pub / club
Alcohol-related stranger violence	Lower income protective	✓	Small effect size	Male, 30 and under, urban, having a disability, attending pub / club



Anti-social behaviour is subjective but impactful

Survey and focus group research with Londoners in 2005 found anti-social behaviour (ASB) can affect people's "sense of safety in their neighbourhoods" and can "drive people away from particular areas."¹

Particularly concerning if experiences intersect with other inequalities

- Disrupted sleep due to another's drinking has been linked to deprivation.²

And we know alcohol harm is uneven

- Lower socioeconomic status (SES) groups experience greater alcohol health harms despite drinking less on average.³

- Lower SES increases risk of alcohol-related violence victimization.

1. Millie, A., Jacobson, J., Hough, M. and Paraskevopoulou, A., 2005. Anti-social behaviour in London: setting the context for the London Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy. pp. 1-2.

2. Quigg, Z., Bellis, M.A., Grey, H., Webster, J. and Hughes, K., 2019. Alcohol's harms to others in Wales, United Kingdom: Nature, magnitude and associations with mental well-being. Addictive behaviors reports, 9, p.100162.

3. Institute of Alcohol Studies, 2014. Alcohol, Health inequalities and the harm paradox: why some groups face greater problems despite consuming less alcohol. London: Institute of Alcohol Studies.



ASB	SES	Other risk factors
<p>Alcohol-related ASB experienced in last 12 months</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experienced Not experienced <p>Frequency of experiencing or witnessing alcohol-related ASB in last 12 months</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly or more Less than weekly 	<p>Total household income</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> £19,999 and under £20,000 to £39,999 £40,000 and up <p>Housing tenure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social Private Owners <p>Occupation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Never worked or long term unemployed Routine and manual Intermediate Managerial and professional 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sex Age (30 and under, or over 30) Lives in a rural or urban area Whether respondent has a disability Frequency respondent visits clubs (in the last month or not) and pubs (weekly and upwards, or less)



Combined 5 waves of Crime Survey for England and Wales data, 2013/14 to 2017/18, $n = 174178$.

1. Prevalence and frequency rates


For alcohol-related ASB, by SES.

2. Regression analysis

Binomial logistic regressions to determine if SES remains a risk factor when other risk factors are accounted for.

% EXPERIENCED ALCOHOL-RELATED ASB IN LAST YEAR	
INCOME	
£19,999 and under	8.24%
£20,000 to £39,999	9.30%
£40,000 and up	9.84%
HOUSING	
Social renters	9.52%
Private renters	11.75%
Owners	7.61%
OCCUPATION	
Never working and long-term unemployed	7.84%
Routine and manual	7.98%
Intermediate	7.80%
Managerial	9.76%



An aerial photograph of a city, likely London, showing a dense urban landscape with numerous buildings, streets, and green spaces. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. Several white location pins are scattered across the map, indicating specific points of interest. The text is centered in the middle of the image.

Amongst victims of alcohol-related anti-social behaviour,
those in the **lowest socioeconomic
groups are most likely to experience
this with high frequency**

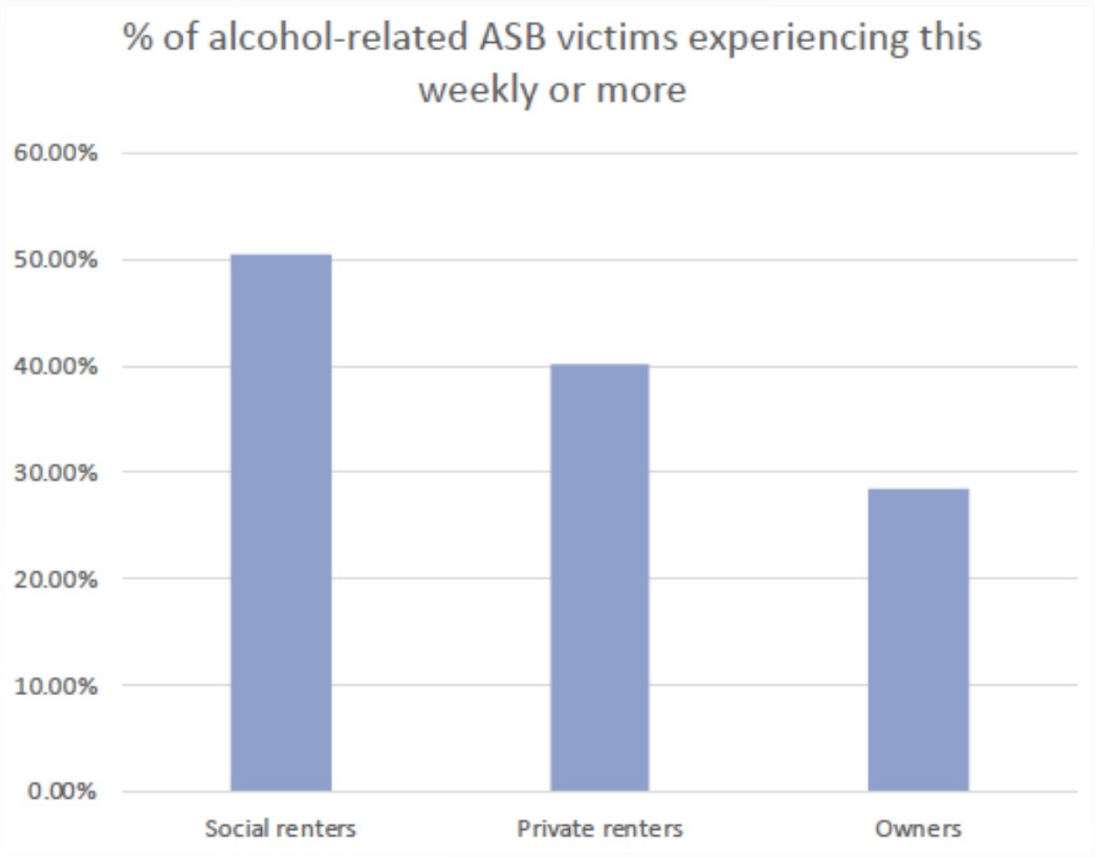
where high frequency means at least weekly.

	% OF ALCOHOL-RELATED ASB VICTIMS	% OF WHOLE GROUP
INCOME		
£19,999 and under	46.0%	3.01%
£20,000 to £39,999	36.0%	2.67%
£40,000 and up	24.7%	2.00%
HOUSING		
Social renters	50.4%	3.60%
Private renters	40.2%	3.78%
Owners	28.4%	1.76%
OCCUPATION		
Never working and long-term unemployed	55.1%	3.22%
Routine and manual	43.1%	2.75%
Intermediate	32.7%	2.02%
Managerial	27.9%	2.19%

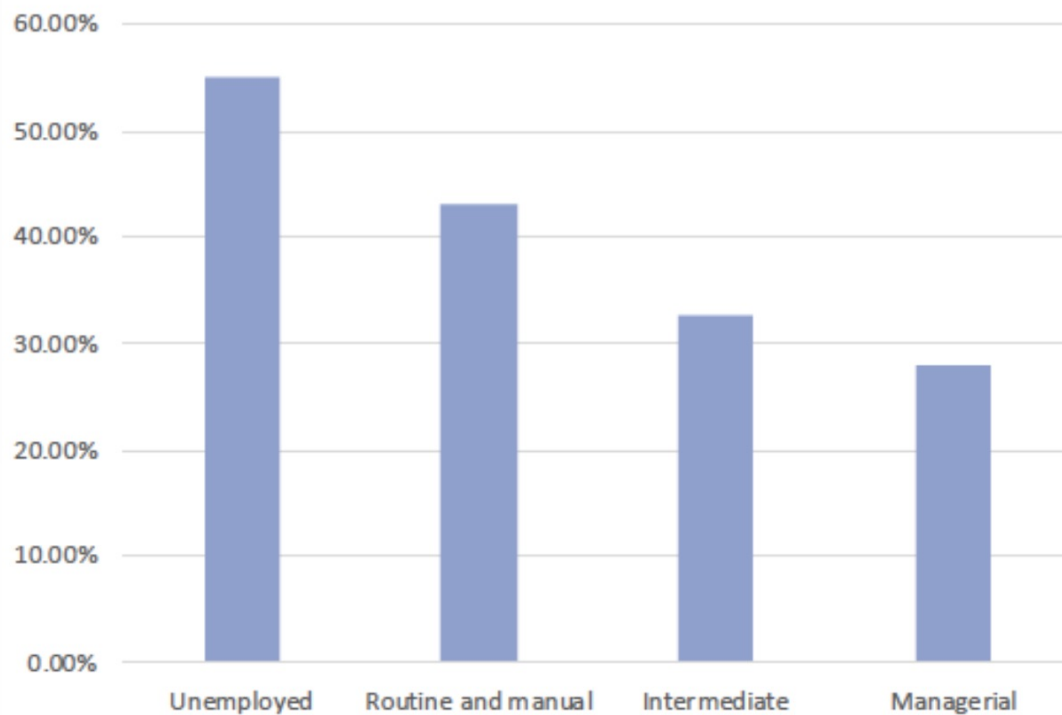


% of alcohol-related ASB victims experiencing this weekly or more





% of alcohol-related ASB victims experiencing this weekly or more



Policy next steps

Violence findings raised in parliamentary debates on Domestic Abuse Bill.

Potential to reduce these inequalities in harm through pricing and availability interventions: e.g., minimum unit pricing modelled to improve health outcomes for lowest SES groups to greatest degree.¹

Reassess wider criminal justice and alcohol policy; structural forces as drivers of violence, policing individuals limited.^{2, 3}

1. Angus C, Holmes J, Pryce R, Meier P, Brennan A. Alcohol and cancer trends: Intervention Studies. London: University of Sheffield and Cancer Research UK; 2016.

2. Reiner R. The politics of the police. Oxford University Press; 2010.

3. Hadfield P, Lister S, Traynor P. 'This town's a different town today' Policing and regulating the night-time economy. Criminology & Criminal Justice. 2009; (4):465.

Using ASB survey items

Format of ASB items is different to violence items.

No way to make an incidence rate – used frequency item to approximate this.

Any considerations we should make?

Terminology?

The term ASB has a political history, and one tied up with stigmatisation of lower SES groups and young people, e.g., ASBOs.

New political interest in ASB incidents – Keir Starmer launched campaign promising increased police for “areas blighted by high levels of anti-social behaviour” this Summer.¹

Might we contribute to stigma / criminalisation / inappropriate criminal justice policy responses?

Do we need to change how we talk about these incidents? New terminology?

1. Labour.co.uk. 2021. Keir Starmer launches 'Safer Communities' campaign. <https://labour.org.uk/press/keir-starmer-launches-safer-communities-campaign/>

Further information...

Bryant L. and Lightowers C. (forthcoming 2020/1). The socioeconomic distribution of alcohol-related violence in England and Wales. PLOS ONE.

Bryant, L. (2020). [Inequalities in victimisation: alcohol, violence, and anti-social behaviour](#). London: Institute of Alcohol Studies.

Lightowers C. (2020). [The Role of Deprivation and Alcohol Availability in Shaping Trends in Violent Crime](#). Liverpool: University of Liverpool.

Data sets: Office for National Statistics. Crime Survey for England and Wales 2013-2014. 3rd Edition ed. London: UK Data Service; 2020.; Office for National Statistics. Crime Survey for England and Wales 2014-2015. 2nd Edition ed. London: UK Data Service; 2020.; Office for National Statistics. Crime Survey for England and Wales 2015-2016. 2nd Edition ed. London: UK Data Service; 2020.; Office for National Statistics. Crime Survey for England and Wales 2016-2017. 2nd Edition ed. London: UK Data Service; 2020.; Office for National Statistics. Crime Survey for England and Wales 2017-2018. 2nd Edition ed. London: UK Data Service; 2020.

This work was produced using statistical data from ONS. The use of the ONS statistical data in this work does not imply the endorsement of the ONS in relation to the interpretation or analysis of the statistical data. This work uses research datasets which may not exactly reproduce National Statistics aggregates.