

The socioeconomic distribution of alcohol-related violence in England and Wales

Lucy Bryant and Dr Carly Lightowlers

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INSTITUTE OF ALCOHOL STUDIES &
UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL

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."

We don't know enough about how alcohol-related violence is spread across socioeconomic groups.

1. Some conflicting, inconclusive evidence
2. No disaggregation of different types of alcohol-related violence e.g. domestic violence
3. Other risk factors?

Three kinds of measures

Violence	SES	Other risk factors
<p>Whether offender was under the influence of drink</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes • No • Don't know <p>CSEW Type of violence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic • Stranger • Acquaintance 	<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 data, 2013/14 to 2017/18, n = 174178

1. Incidence and prevalence rates

For each type of violence, by SES

Incidence rate: number of incidents per 1000 people, in last year

Prevalence rate: % who experienced this at least once, in last year

2. Regression analysis

To determine if socioeconomic status remains a risk factor when other risk factors are accounted for

Alcohol-related violence								
	Alcohol-related violence		Alcohol-related domestic violence		Alcohol-related stranger violence		Alcohol-related acquaintance violence	
	Prevalence rate	Incidence rate	Prevalence rate	Incidence rate	Prevalence rate	Incidence rate	Prevalence rate	Incidence rate
Total household income								
£19,999 and under	1.07%	20.98	0.19%	5.36	0.49%	6.31	0.40%	9.31
£20,000 to £39,999	0.84%	15.49	0.09%	1.40	0.47%	8.01	0.30%	6.08
£40,000 and above	0.78%	24.27	0.06%	2.72	0.53%	14.00	0.20%	7.55
Housing tenure								
Social renters	1.28%	29.60	0.26%	12.13	0.52%	6.75	0.52%	10.72
Private renters	1.53%	33.73	0.17%	2.57	0.92%	15.41	0.48%	15.75
Owners	0.52%	11.47	0.05%	0.85	0.33%	7.53	0.15%	3.09
Occupation								
Never worked or long term unemployed	1.01%	23.87	0.21%	2.69	0.40%	5.17	0.40%	16.02
Routine or manual	0.93%	19.47	0.16%	5.93	0.48%	7.67	0.32%	5.87
Intermediate	0.83%	26.91	0.09%	1.63	0.48%	11.29	0.28%	14.00
Managerial or professional	0.64%	12.73	0.08%	1.24	0.42%	9.33	0.15%	2.16

Base: combined non-victim form datasets between 2013/2014-2017/2018, whole sample, excluding respondents marked missing for respective socioeconomic status variables (unweighted n= income: 151562; tenure: 173249; occupation: 167434).

Experienced alcohol-related violence: n = 1286; alcohol-related domestic violence: n = 230; alcohol-related stranger violence: n = 639; alcohol-related acquaintance violence: n = 443.

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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



Relatedly: area level inequalities

Impact of alcohol-related harm / violence is not experienced uniformly.

Availability of alcohol and deprivation of areas affect trends in violence.

Police recorded violent crime higher in areas with increased deprivation and alcohol availability - especially in the form of on-licensed premises.

Deprivation was a strong contributor. It also moderated (amplified) the impact of alcohol availability; with more deprived areas seeing a stronger impact of alcohol availability on recorded violent crime.

1. Reduce this inequality

Through pricing and availability interventions

Price repeatedly linked to alcohol-related violence including by WHO and Home Office^{1, 2}

Rates of violence "consistently and significantly higher in areas with more alcohol outlets"³

Minimum unit pricing modelled to improve health outcomes for lowest SES groups to greatest degree⁴

1. World Health Organization, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. Preventing intimate partner and sexual violence against women: taking action and generating evidence. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2010.

2. Secretary of State for the Home Department. The likely impacts of increasing alcohol price: a summary review of the evidence base. London: HM Government; 2011.

3. Alcohol Focus Scotland and CRESH. Alcohol Outlet Availability and Harm in Scotland. Glasgow: Alcohol Focus Scotland; 2018; 8.

4. 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. Reassess wider criminal justice and alcohol policy

Structural forces as drivers of violence; policing individuals limited¹

...powers are spatially directed, as well as being focused upon the actions of distinct individuals or businesses, yet the willingness and capacity to apply powers to offending individuals in comparison to businesses is often variable and asymmetrical.²

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

2. 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.

Further information...

Bryant L. and Lightowlers 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.

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

Further information...

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Data sources: 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.

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