Adolescent drinking in the UK

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Prevalence of ever drinking alcohol, by sex: 1988-2013

All pupils

Percent

88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 11 12 13

Year

Boys
Girls

Fuller & Hawkins (2013) HSCIC Smoking, drinking and drug use among young people in England in 2013
How many early adolescents are drinking?

- Ever having had an alcoholic drink = 13.6%
- Having been drunk = 1.2%
- Drank 5 or more drinks on one occasion = 0.6%
Prevalence of drunkenness by demographic and behavioural factors

- Boys
- Girls
- Richest
- Second
- Third
- Fourth
- Poorest

- No
- Yes

- Socio emotional problems
- Truancy
- Anti-social behaviours
- Ever smoked

Percent
Risk of drunkenness by mother’s, father’s and friends’ drinking

Mother’s drinking

Father’s drinking

Friends’ drinking

L/M - light/moderate
H/B - heavy/binge
DK - don’t know
Risk of drunkenness by perception of harm from 1-2 drinks daily, positive and negative expectancies

- Reduced risk
- Increased risk

Perception of harm:
- Some harm
- Great harm

Positive expectancies:
- 1
- 2+

Negative expectancies:
- 2
- 3
Policy implications

• Clustering of behaviours lends support to holistic approaches

• Empowering young people to say ‘no’ regardless of the perceived benefits of drinking – more important with increasing peer influence through adolescence

• Intervening at multiple levels, including family and peer settings
References


• Kelly Y, Britton A, Cable N, Sacker A, Watt RG. Drunkenness and heavy drinking among 11 year olds - findings from the UK Millennium Cohort Study. *Forthcoming*

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