



Local Alcohol Profiles for England: March 2017

Key Findings

- 25.7% of adults in England regularly drank over 14 units per week in 2011-2014.
- 15.5% of adults in England abstained from drinking alcohol in 2011-2014.
- 16.5% of adults in England were binge drinking on their heaviest day from 2011-2014.
- 10.6 units of alcohol per adult per week were sold through the off-trade in England in 2014.
- Wine sales made the largest contribution to total off-trade alcohol sales per adult throughout England (39%) in 2014.
- There were 1.3 licenced premises per km² in England in 2015/16.
- Regional and deprivation decile differences were observed within the majority of new indicators, highlighting inequality gaps and potential disproportionate levels of harm throughout the population.

What's new?

This latest update to the Local Alcohol Profiles for England (LAPE) includes the addition of 8 new indicators:

- 17.01 - Volume of alcohol sold through the off-trade: all alcohol sales
- 17.02 - Volume of alcohol sold through the off-trade: beer sales
- 17.03 - Volume of alcohol sold through the off-trade: wine sales
- 17.04 - Volume of alcohol sold through the off-trade: spirit sales
- 18.01 - Density of licenced premises
- 19.01 - Percentage of adults who abstain from drinking alcohol
- 19.02 - Percentage of adults binge drinking on heaviest drinking day
- 19.03 - Percentage of adults drinking over 14 units of alcohol a week

To access the Local Alcohol Profile for England dataset by local authority see our interactive data tool fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/local-alcohol-profiles

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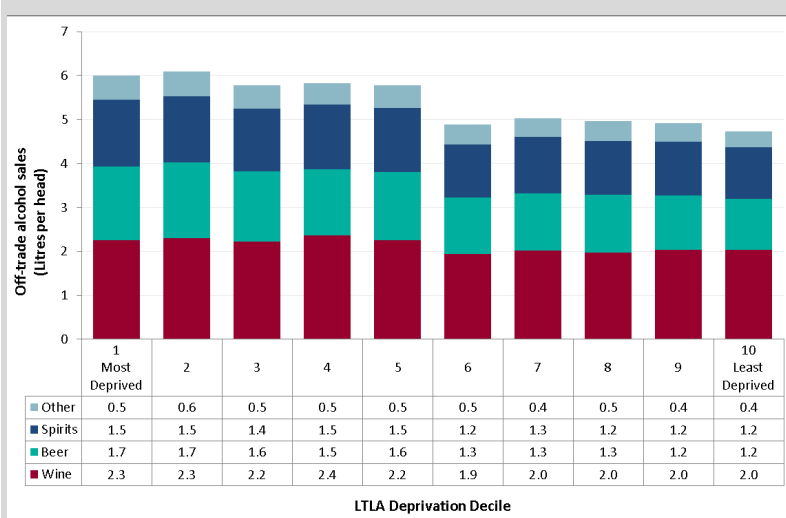


Figure 1. Litres of alcohol sold through the off-trade per adult by lower tier local authority deprivation decile in England, 2014.

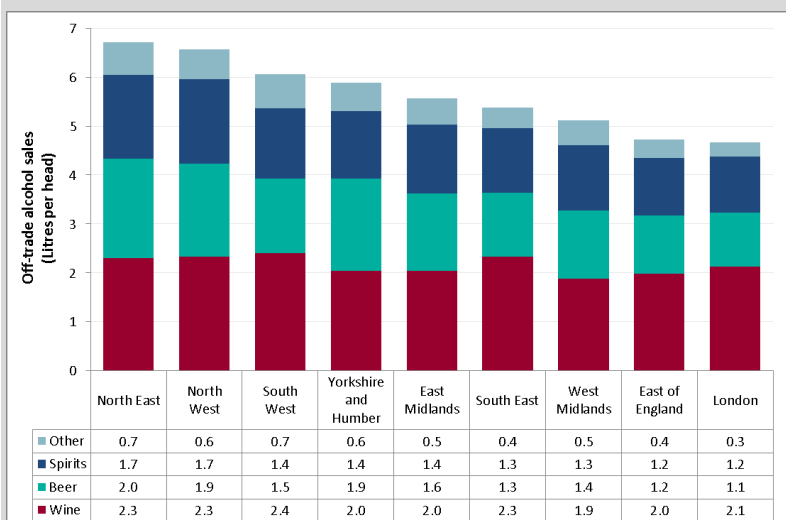


Figure 2. Litres of off-trade alcohol sales per adult by region in England, 2014.

Volume of alcohol sold through the off-trade (Source: CGA/Nielsen)

10.6 units of alcohol sold through the off-trade per adult per week (England, 2014)

236 million litres of pure alcohol were sold through the off-trade in England in 2014, equating to 10.6 units per adult each week. There was a wide variation in the rate of off-trade alcohol sales between lower tier local authorities (LTLAs), ranging from 2.0 litres per adult in South Cambridgeshire to 10.4 litres in Craven.

There is a clear association between off-trade alcohol sales and deprivation (Figure 1), with the rate in the most deprived 10% of the population being 27% higher than the least deprived 10% (6.0 litres per head compared with 4.7 litres).

Regionally (Figure 2), the North East (with 6.7 litres per head) had the highest rate of off-trade alcohol sales. The rate in London (4.7 litres per head) was 30% lower.

Wine sales made the largest contribution to total off-trade alcohol sales per head throughout England (39%), followed by beer (27%). This pattern was observed amongst all regions (Figure 2) with the exception of London and the South East where spirits made the second largest contribution to total off-trade alcohol sales per head, but wine remained the primary contributor.

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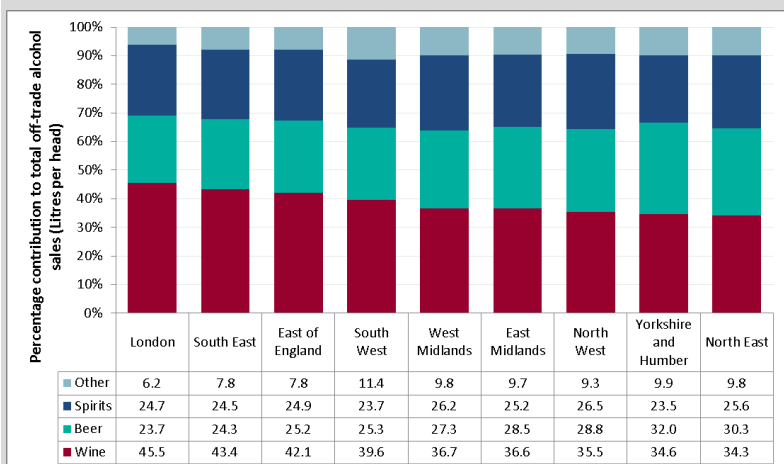


Figure 3. Percentage contribution of alcohol types to total off-trade alcohol sales by region in England, 2014.

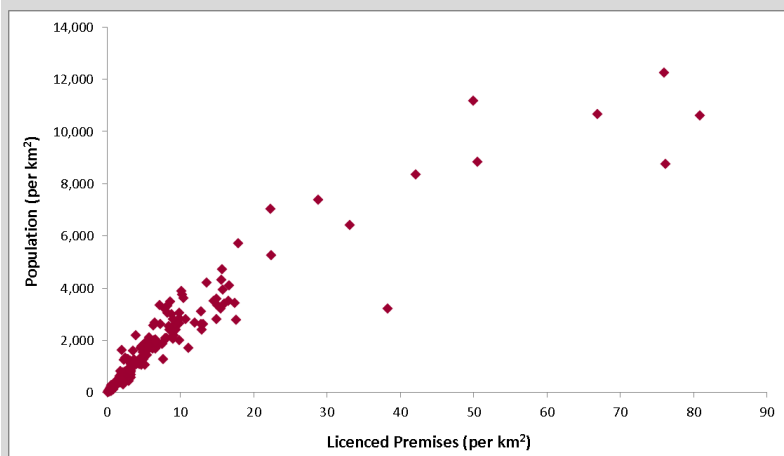


Figure 4. Licenced premises and population density by lower tier local authority in England, 2014.

The percentage contribution of different alcohol types to total off-trade sales varied by region (Figure 3). In particular, beer sales were more prevalent in the northern regions and lowest in London.

Density of Licenced Premises (Source: Home Office)

1.3 licenced premises per km²
(England, 2015/16)

There were 1.3 licenced premises per km² in England in 2015/16, with a total of 156 thousand licenced premises across the country. The density of licenced premises varies greatly between local authorities, from 0.16 per km² in Eden to 80.91 in Kensington and Chelsea.

A considerable body of evidence exists to suggest that alcohol outlet density is related to alcohol consumption and alcohol-related harm¹. It is also an indicator of availability and exposure to alcohol.

The density of licenced premises is highly correlated with population density (Figure 4) i.e. there are more premises in areas with more people. As a result, the observed relationship between licenced premises density and alcohol harms may be a proxy for something else related to densely populated areas rather than necessarily implying a direct causal relationship between harms and the density of outlets selling alcohol.

¹ Popova S, Giesbrecht N, Bekmuradov D, Patra J. Hours and days of sale and density of alcohol outlets: impacts on alcohol consumption and damage: a systematic review. *Alcohol Alcohol.* 2009;44(5):500–16.

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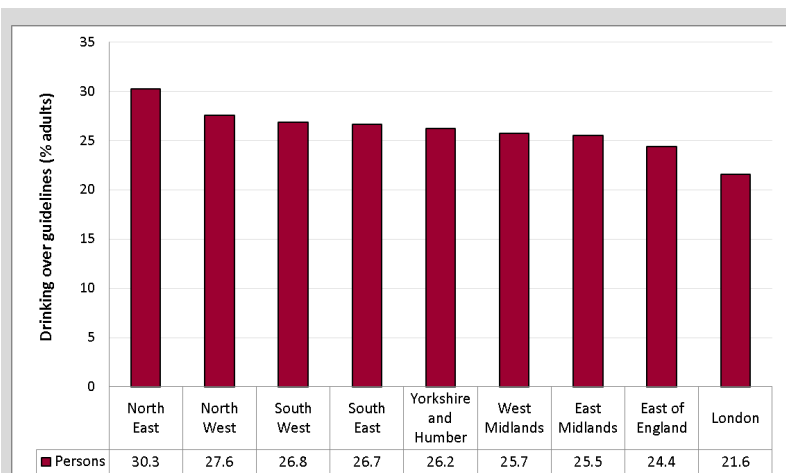


Figure 5. Percentage of adults drinking over 14 units of alcohol per week by region in England, 2011-2014.

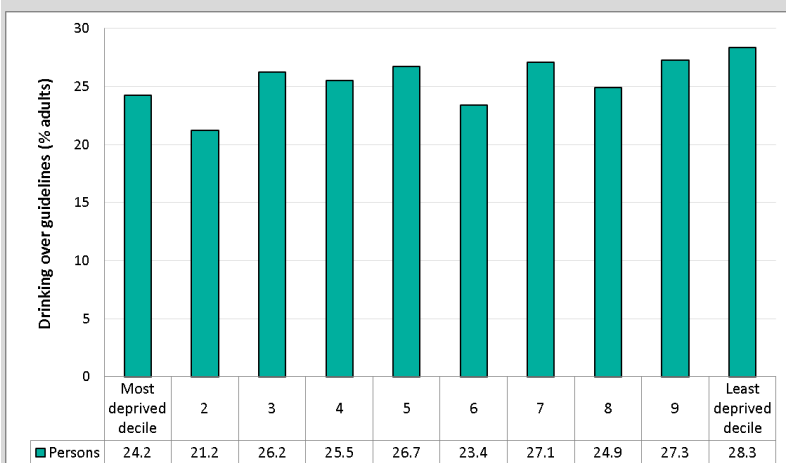


Figure 6. Percentage of adults drinking over 14 units of alcohol per week by upper tier local authority deprivation decile in England, 2011-2014.

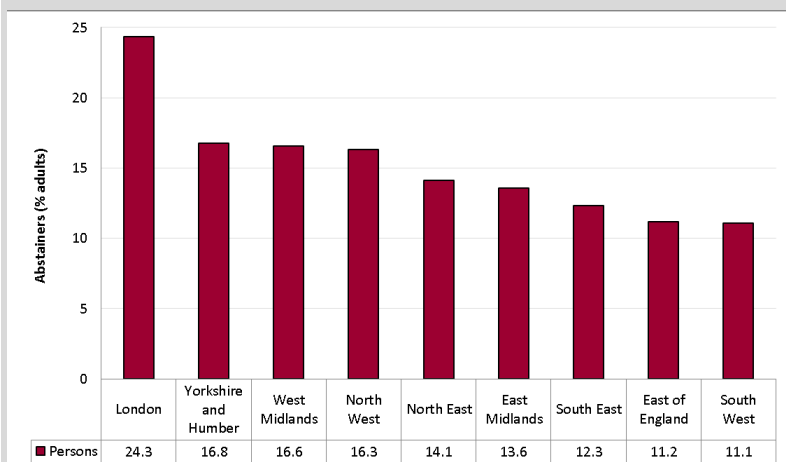


Figure 7. Percentage of adults abstaining from alcohol by region in England, 2011-2014.

Percentage Drinking Above Guidelines (Source: HSE 2011-2014)

over 14 units per week
(England, 2011-2014)

The current guidelines to minimise health risks from alcohol are that men and women should not regularly consume over 14 units of alcohol per week. However, 25.7% of adults in England regularly drank more than 14 units of alcohol per week in 2011-2014. There was a regional variation (Figure 5) of almost ten percentage points, from 21.6% of adults drinking over guidelines in London compared to 30.3% in the North East.

The percentage of adults drinking over guidelines varies by deprivation group (Figure 6). 28.3% of the least deprived 10% of the population drank over 14 units a week compared with 21.2% in the second most deprived decile.

Percentage Abstainers (Source: HSE 2011-2014)

15.5% of adults abstained from drinking alcohol
(England, 2011-2014)

15.5% of adults in England abstained from drinking alcohol in 2011-2014. There was a large regional variation (Figure 7), with adults in London (24.3% abstainers) being 45% more likely to abstain from alcohol than those in Yorkshire and Humber, the region with the second highest percentage of abstainers (16.8%).

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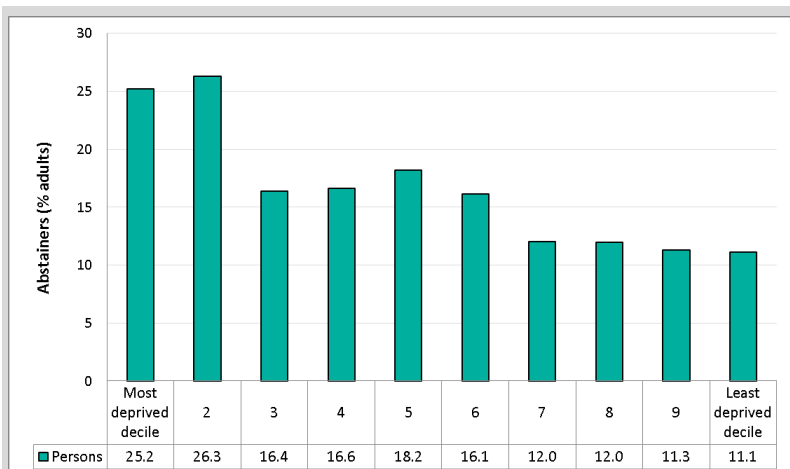


Figure 8. Percentage of adults abstaining from alcohol by upper tier local authority deprivation decile in England, 2011-2014.

The percentage of abstainers increased with deprivation (Figure 8), with over double the percentage of adults in the most deprived 10% of the population abstaining from alcohol compared to the least deprived 10% (25.2% vs 11.1% abstainers respectively).

Percentage Binge Drinkers (Source: HSE 2011-2014)

16.5% of adults in England are classified as binge drinkers (2011-2014)

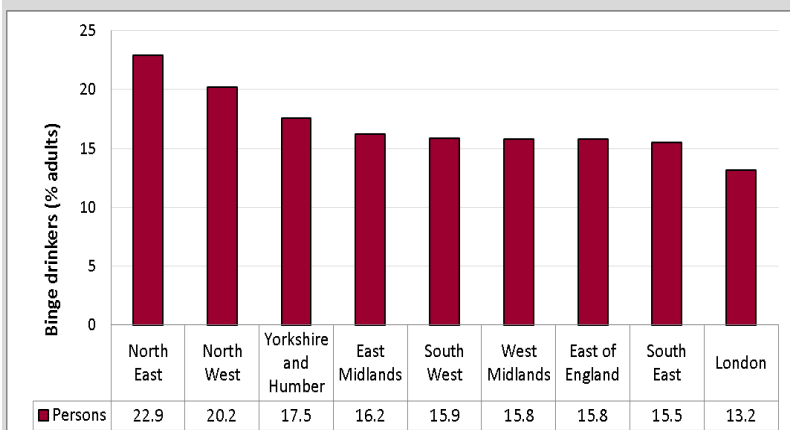


Figure 9. Percentage of adults classed as binge drinkers by region in England, 2011-2014.

Binge drinking is defined as women who have consumed more than 6 units and men more than 8 units on their heaviest drinking day in the previous week. 16.5% of adults in England were binge drinking on their heaviest day from 2011-2014.

A large regional variation in binge drinking was observed (Figure 9), from 13.2% of the adult population classed as binge drinkers in London to 22.9% in the North East.

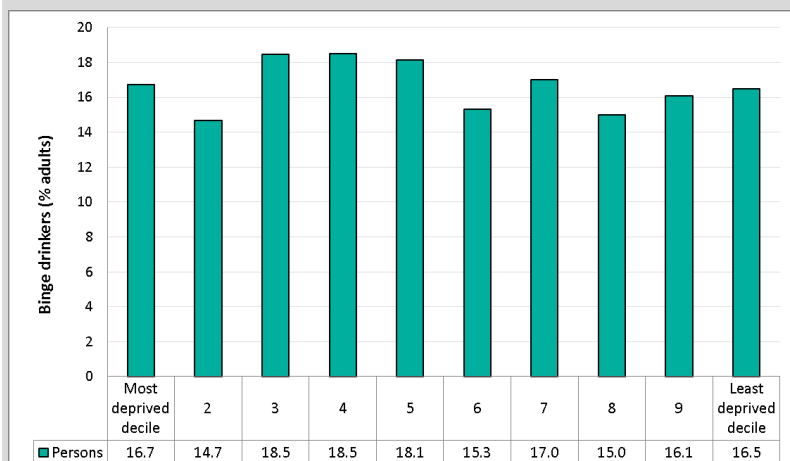


Figure 10. Percentage of adults classed as binge drinkers by upper tier local authority deprivation decile in England, 2011-2014.

No apparent trend of binge drinking with deprivation was found within the data (Figure 10), with only a 0.2% difference between the least and most deprived 10% of the population (16.5% vs 16.7% respectively).

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Background

- The Local Alcohol Profiles for England (LAPE) have been published on an annual basis since 2006. These profiles have been designed to help local government and health services assess the effect of alcohol use on their local populations. They will inform commissioning and planning decisions to tackle alcohol use and improve the health of local communities.
- The LAPE data tool helps local areas assess alcohol-related harm and monitor the progress of efforts to reduce this. fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/local-alcohol-profiles
- Definitions and methodology for all LAPE indicators is described in our user guide. fingertips.phe.org.uk/documents/LAPE%202016%20User%20Guide_260416.pdf

Data sources relevant to this release and further information

1) Off-trade alcohol sales

This indicator (Copyright CGA Strategy/Nielsen) has been collated from weekly store-census data from most large multiple retailers and several smaller retailer groups. Sales through discount retailers are excluded. In order to provide estimates at local authority (LA) level, average sales volume per outlet per region by drink type have been calculated. These averages have then been applied to the number of outlets in the LA and divided by the population to produce rates per head. For more information see our report into alcohol sales in 2014 fingertips.phe.org.uk/documents/Alcohol%20sales%20data%202014.pdf

2) Licensed premises

Data has been sourced from annual local authority returns to the Home Office. For more information see the Home Office user guide www.gov.uk/government/statistics/user-guide-to-alcohol-and-late-night-refreshment-licensing-statistics

3) Alcohol consumption

Consumption measures by upper tier local authority have been constructed by combining four years of data from the Health Survey for England (HSE). For more information about the HSE and the drinking questions asked in the survey see the chapter about adult drinking habits from the 2015 survey www.content.digital.nhs.uk/catalogue/PUB22610/HSE2015-Adult-alc.pdf

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