



Local Alcohol Profiles for England: May 2016

Main findings

- The rate of hospital admissions where the main reason for admission was attributed to alcohol remained flat in 2014/15.
- The rate of admissions where the primary or a secondary reason for admission was linked to alcohol increased by 1.3% in 2014/15, continuing the upward trend.
- The downward trend in alcohol-specific admissions in under 18s continued with an 8.6% fall in 2014/15.
- New indicators of hospital admission by age show that the rate of alcohol-related admissions are falling in the under 40s for both males and females but rising in the over 65s. For males and females, rates are highest in middle age (40-64).
- Hospital admissions for alcoholic liver disease continue to rise.
- Cancer incidence related to alcohol has seen a gradual upward trend for males and females over the past decade
- By region, the North East, which remains one of the areas with the highest alcohol-related harm, has seen a marked downward trend in a range of alcohol-related indicators since 2011/12.

Introduction

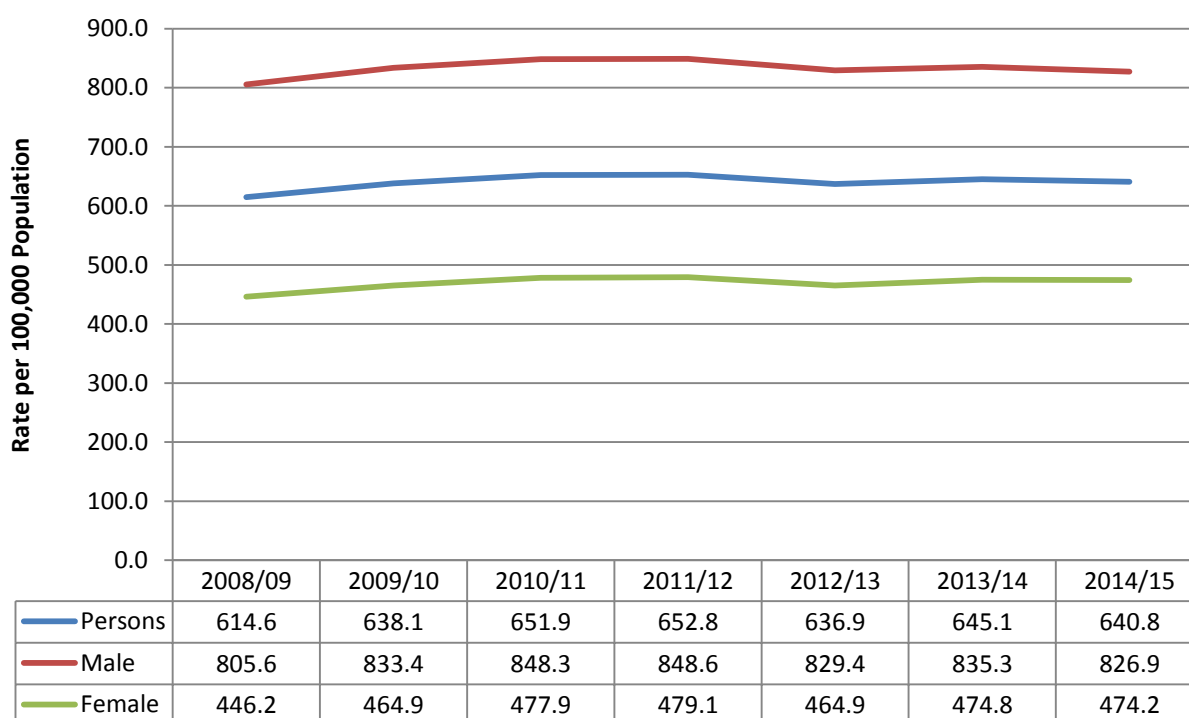
This latest update to the Local Alcohol Profiles for England (LAPE) includes the addition of 2014/15 admissions to the hospital indicators, three new indicators breaking down narrow admissions (those where only the primary diagnosis field contains alcohol related causes) by broad age bands (under 40, 40-64 and 65+), and a new cancer incidence indicator.

1. Summary of the latest national trends in alcohol-related hospital admissions

1.1 Admissions episodes for alcohol-related conditions (Narrow definition: hospital admissions where the primary reason for admission relates to alcohol)

The admission rate for alcohol-related conditions based on the narrow definition remains largely unchanged in 2014/15 at 640.8 per 100,000 in the population, a 0.7% fall since 2013/14. The rate of admissions for males fell by 1% with no change for females.

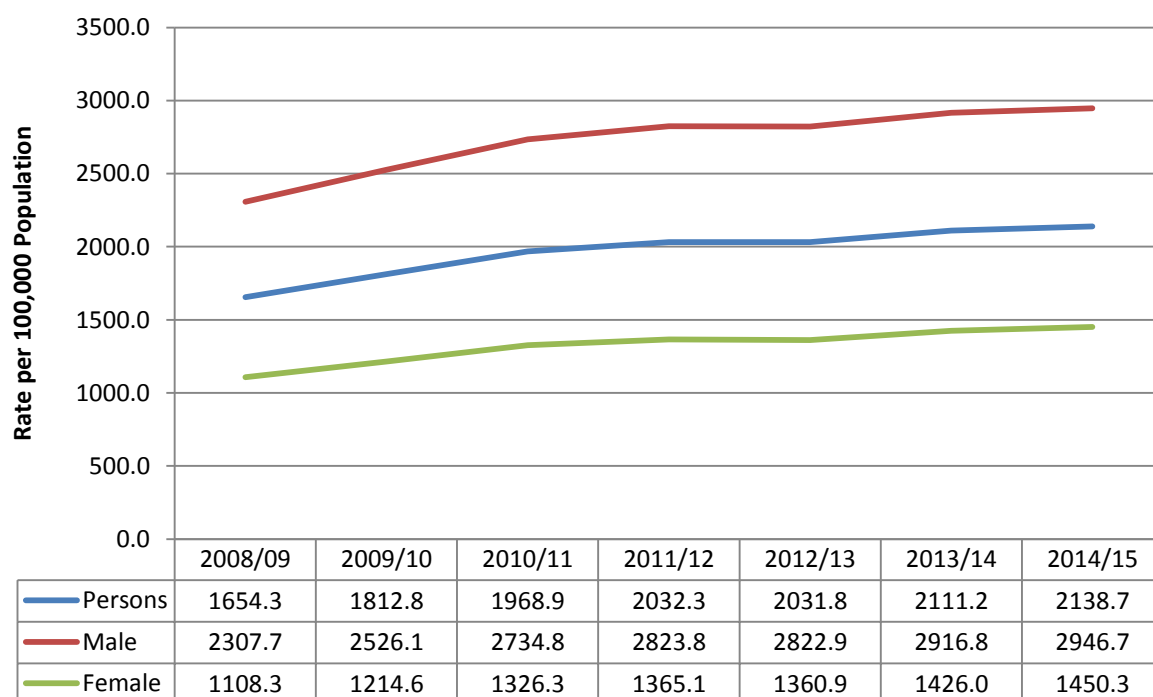
Figure 1 – Rate of alcohol-related hospital admission (Narrow definition) by gender, England



1.2 Admissions episodes for alcohol-related conditions (Broad definition: admissions where the primary or any secondary reason for admission relates to alcohol)

The latest data for 2014/15 shows that the rate of alcohol-related hospital admissions on the broad definition has continued to rise steadily to 2138.7 per 100,000 with a 1.3% rise in the latest year. Since the earliest time period (2008/09), the rate has risen by 29%. (**Note:** This indicator is affected by changes in coding practice, in particular the increasing use of multiple diagnosis fields. Hence, it is a less reliable measure of trends in alcohol-related harm than the narrow measure which only takes account of the primary diagnosis).

Figure 2 – Rate of alcohol-related hospital admission (Broad definition) by gender, England



1.3 Alcohol-specific admissions – admissions from conditions wholly caused by alcohol

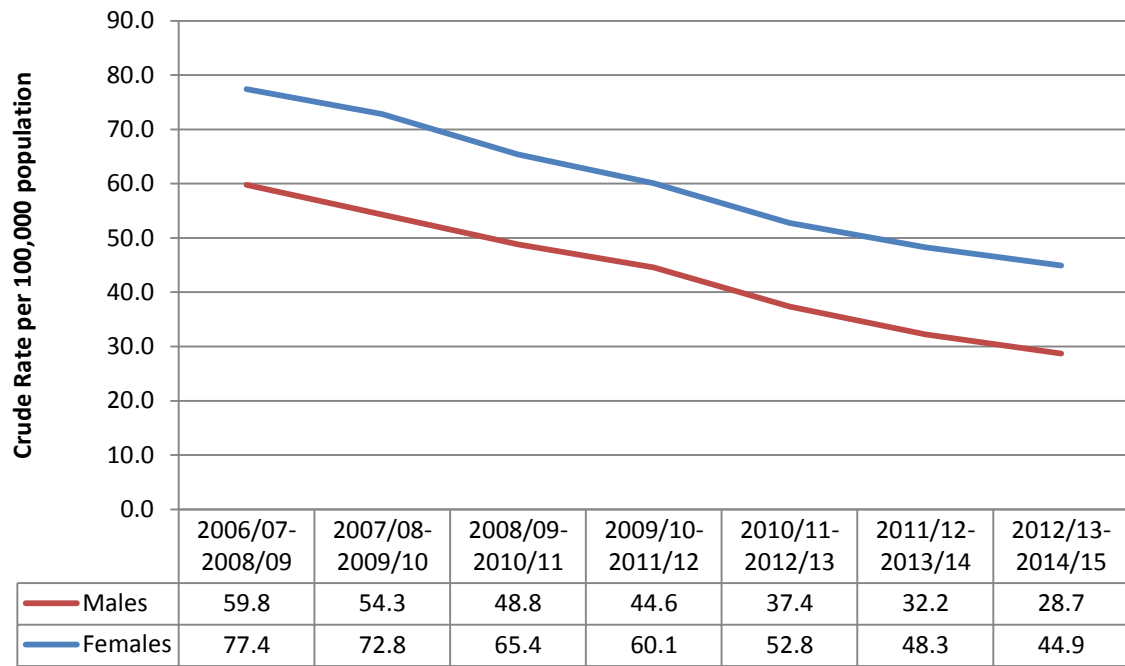
The rate of alcohol-specific hospital admissions is down 2.5% in 2014/15 (to 364.4 admissions per 100,000 population) compared to the previous year. There were similar reductions in both males and females, with the rate for females being half that of males. Overall, there has been a gradual upward trend in the rate of alcohol-specific admissions since the beginning of the current series (2008/09).

1.4 Alcohol specific admissions for those aged under 18

The alcohol-specific admissions rate for under 18s fell by 8.6% in the latest year to 36.6 (per 100,000 population) driven by a 10.9% fall in admissions for males and a 7% fall for females (to 28.7 and 44.9 per 100,000 respectively). This continues the strong downward trend that

has been observed over the past decade. Admissions for females in this age group continue to be noticeably higher than for males. This is in contrast to the majority of alcohol harm indicators where males are typically higher.

Figure 3 – Rate of alcohol-specific hospital admissions in under 18s by gender, England



1.5 Hospital admissions (narrow definition) by age band

A new set of hospital admission indicators based on the narrow admissions definition has been included in LAPE for the first time. These show admission episodes broken down by broad age band and illustrate admissions at different life stages.

The charts below show the rate of alcohol-related admissions in three age groups: under 40, 40 to 64 and 65 and over, for males and females separately.

Overall, the three new indicators show increasing admissions for those aged 65 and over and a downward trend for those under 40, particularly for males. For both males and females, rates are highest in the middle aged group (40-64).

Figure 4 – Rate of alcohol-related hospital admissions (narrow measure) by age group, Males, England

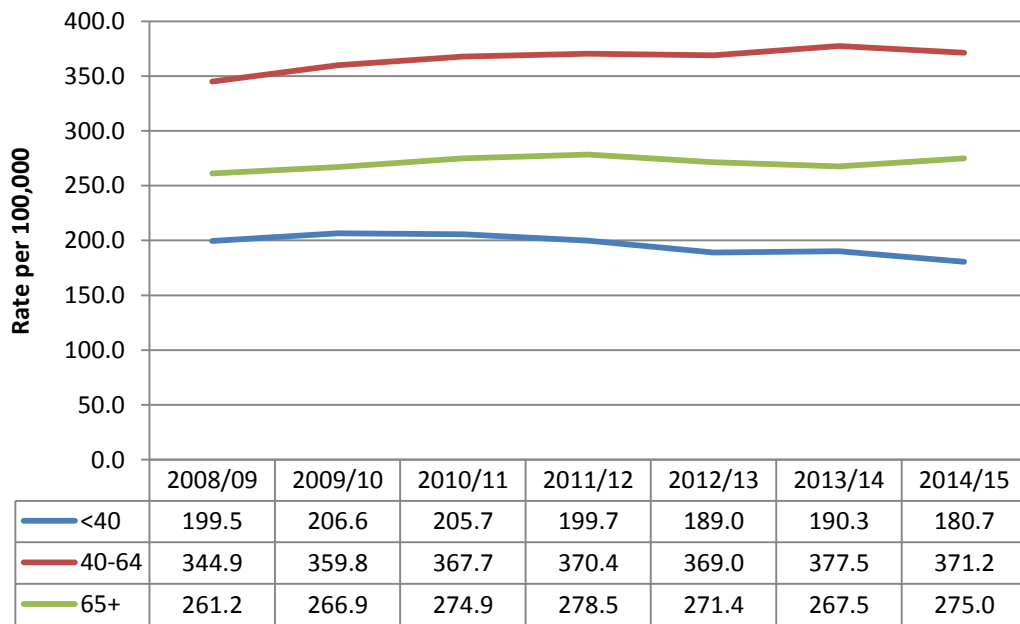
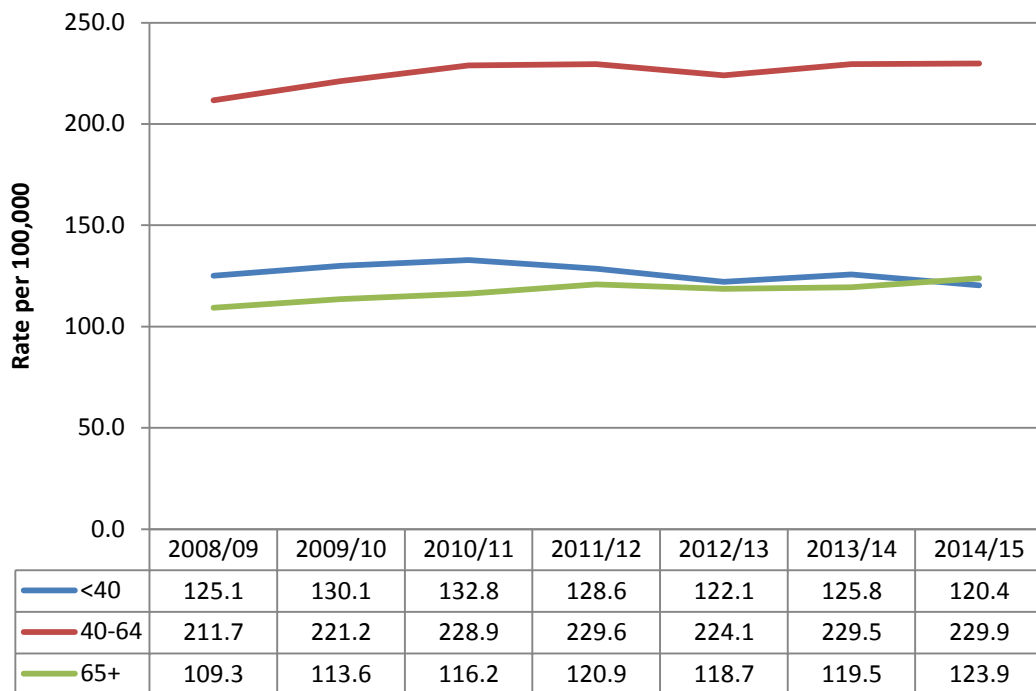


Figure 5 – Rate of alcohol-related hospital admissions (narrow measure) by age group, Females, England

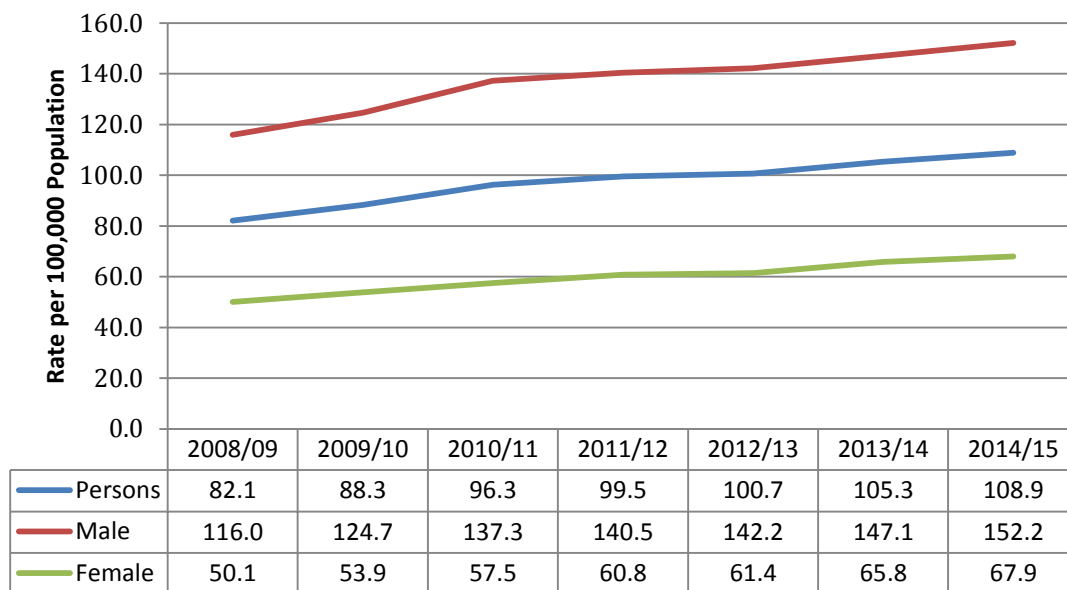


2. Trends in alcohol-related conditions

2.1 Admission episodes for alcoholic liver disease (broad definition)

The rate of admission for alcoholic liver disease has continued to rise to 108.9 per 100,000 in 2014/15, a 3.4% increase from the previous time period. This continues the trend of year on year increases with the current figure being 33% higher than 2008/09. The rate of admission has risen in the latest year for both males (+3.4%) and females (+3.2%).

Figure 6 – Rate of hospital admission for alcoholic liver disease (broad measure), England



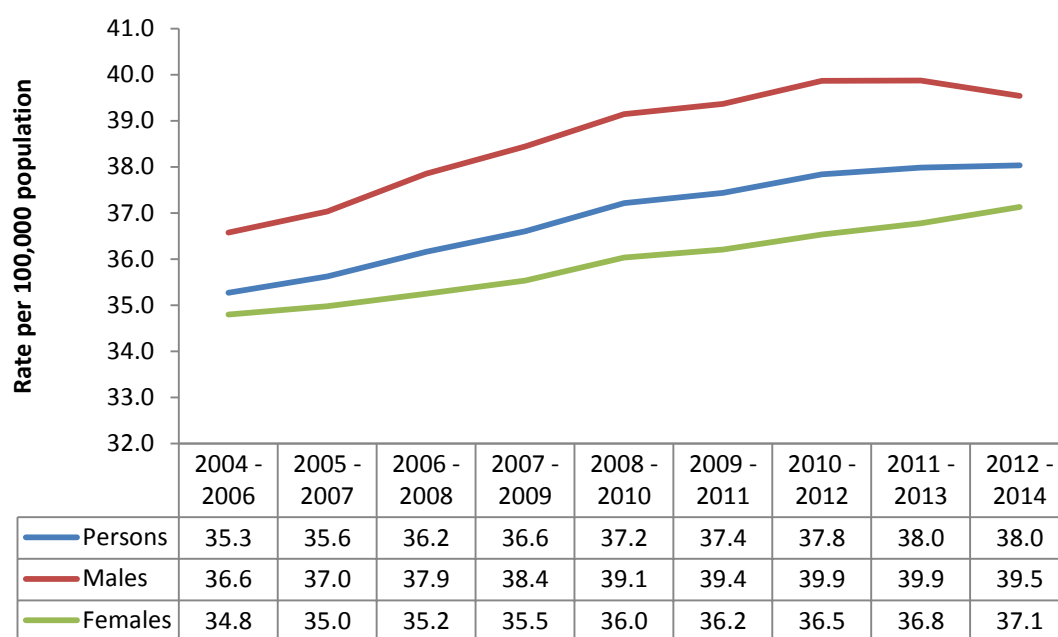
2.2 Alcohol-related cancer incidence

A new indicator has been introduced to measure the number of new cases of alcohol-related cancer each year. This new indicator is expressed as a Directly Standardised Rate (DSR) using three year aggregates of incidence and population data.

Over the past decade there has been a gradual upward trend in the rate of alcohol-related tumours. This has been seen for men and women. However, in the latest time period the rate for males fell slightly whilst for females it continued to rise.

(Note: The previously published indicators which related to hospital admissions for alcohol-related cancers have been removed after analysis revealed inconsistencies in the recording of cancer patients in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data across the country)

Figure 7 – Incidence rate of alcohol-related cancer, England



3. Summary of the latest regional trends in alcohol-related hospital admissions

Alcohol-related harms vary significantly across the country and, whilst national trends can be flat, regionally there can be marked changes. The charts in the appendix below show alcohol-related admissions (on the broad and narrow definitions), alcohol-specific admissions and admissions in under 18s by government office region.

These show that in the North East, whilst harms remain high and higher than most other regions, there has been marked progress in recent years with a reversal of the upward trend, even for admissions on the broad definition. Since 2011/12, the rate of alcohol-related admissions is down 7%, alcohol-specific admissions are down 15% and admissions in the under 18s are down 32%.

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. <http://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/local-alcohol-profiles>
- Definitions and methodology for all LAPE indicators is described in our user guide http://www.lape.org.uk/downloads/LAPE%20User%20Guide_Final.pdf

Responsible statistician/product lead: Kate Sweeney

For queries relating to this document, please contact: kate.sweeney@phe.gov.uk

First published: May 2016

© Crown copyright 2016

Re-use of Crown copyright material (excluding logos) is allowed under the terms of the Open Government Licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/2/ for terms and conditions.

Appendix – Alcohol-related hospital admission indicators by region

