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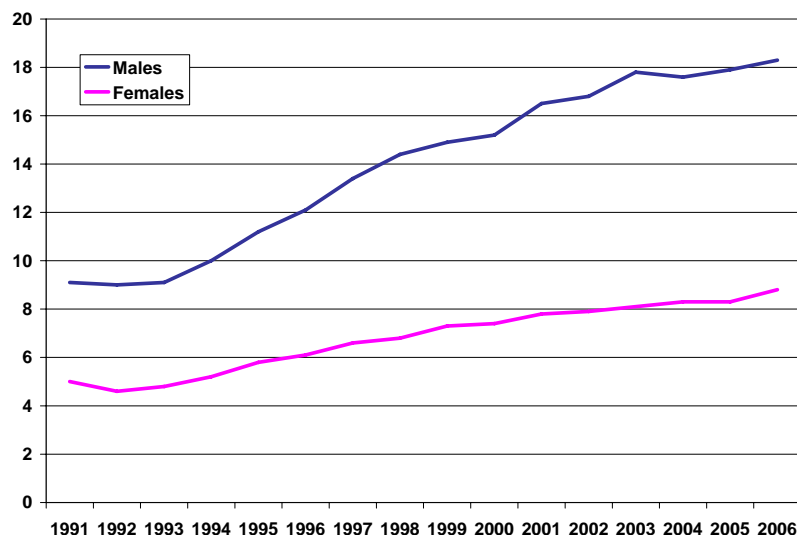
Coverage
United Kingdom
Theme
Health and Care

Alcohol-related death rates continue to rise

The alcohol-related death rate in the UK continued to increase in 2006, rising from 12.9 deaths per 100,000 population in 2005 to 13.4 in 2006, according to data released by the Office for National Statistics. Rates almost doubled between 1991 and 2006 (from 6.9 per 100,000 in 1991) while the number of alcohol-related deaths more than doubled from 4,144 in 1991 to 8,758 in 2006.

Alcohol-related death rates by sex, United Kingdom, 1991-2006

Age-standardised rates per 100,000 population



In 2006 the male death rate (18.3 deaths per 100,000 population) was more than twice the rate for females (8.8 deaths per 100,000) and males accounted for two thirds of the total number of deaths.

For men, the death rates in all age groups increased between 1991 and 2006. The biggest increase was for men aged 35-54. Rates in this age group more than doubled over the period, from 13.4 to 31.1 deaths per 100,000. However the highest rates in each year were for men aged 55-74.

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Death rates by age group for females were consistently lower than rates for males. However trends showed a broadly similar pattern by age. The death rate for women aged 35-54 doubled between 1991 and 2006, from 7.2 to 14.8 per 100,000 population, a larger increase than the rate for women in any other age group. As for males, the highest rates in each year were for the 55-74 age group.

Between 2005 and 2006, for both sexes, rates remained the same for those aged 15-34, and increased for those aged 35-54 and 55-74. There were small falls in the rates for those aged over 75 - by 8 per cent for men and 6 per cent for women.

These figures are based on a harmonised definition of alcohol-related deaths that has been agreed across the UK. Further details are given in the background notes to this release.

The data for alcohol-related deaths are available on the National Statistics website at:

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/cgi/nugget.asp?id=1091>

BACKGROUND NOTES

1. The definition of alcohol-related deaths used by ONS includes those causes regarded as most directly due to alcohol consumption. This definition was revised in July 2006 when ONS agreed with the General Register Office for Scotland (GROS) and the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) that a harmonised definition should be used when reporting alcohol-related deaths for the United Kingdom. The rates reported here are therefore based on mortality data from ONS, GROS and NISRA.
2. From 1991 to 2000, deaths in England, Wales and Northern Ireland were coded using the Ninth Revision of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-9). From 2001 onwards the Tenth Revision of the ICD (ICD-10) has been in use. Deaths in Scotland were coded using ICD-9 up to 1999 with ICD-10 in use from 2000 onwards. This change in coding means that data following the introduction of ICD-10 are not completely comparable with that for earlier years. The causes selected for the analysis of alcohol-related deaths in ICD-10 are however broadly comparable to those in ICD-9. Mortality data for England and Wales, which were coded using both ICD-9 and ICD-10, showed that the change in revision resulted in a difference in the number of alcohol-related deaths of less than one per cent.



3. The rates reported here are based on deaths registered in each calendar year. They have been directly age-standardised using the European Standard Population and therefore make allowances for differences in the age structure of the population, over time and between sexes.
4. Details of the policy governing the release of new data are available from the press office.
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