

Problematic Alcohol Use in Herefordshire

Presentation to the Herefordshire Health and Wellbeing Board
16 May 2017

Definitions of Alcohol Risk

- Low risk: Men who drink less than 3-4 units & women who drink less than 2-3 units per day, and weekly limits of 21 & 14 units respectively.
- Increasing Risk: Men who drink between 21 – 50 units per week and women who drink between 14 – 35 units per week.
- Higher Risk: Men who drink over 50 units per week and women who drink over 35 units per week.

The size of the Problem

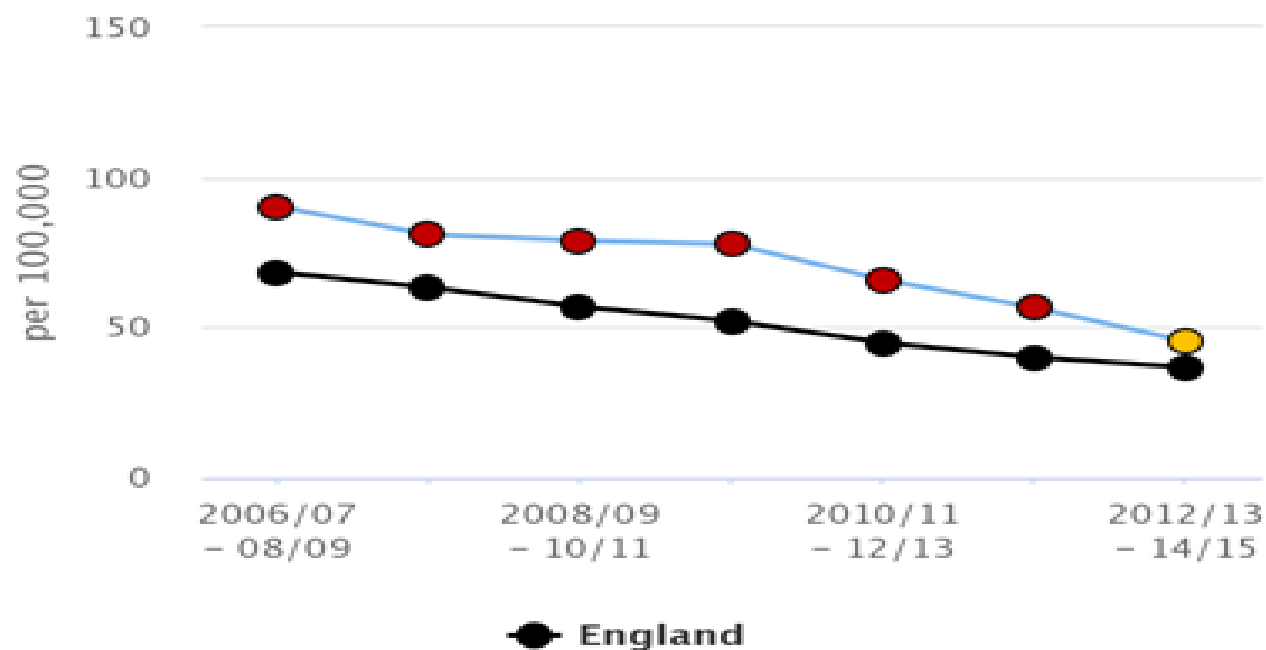
- Estimates of alcohol dependence from the University of Sheffield suggest that approximately 1,686 people in Herefordshire were dependent in the years 2010 – 2014.
- During 2011 – 2014, the percentage of adults binge drinking at least once a week was 21% and the percentage of people drinking more than 14 units a week was 25.9%. These figures suggest that between approximately 30,000 and 40,000 people are drinking at potentially harmful levels.
- During 2014 Herefordshire sold significantly more spirits through off trade than England (1.68 ltr/adult compared with 1.34 ltr/adult)

Alcohol Related Harm

- For the period 2013 – 2015 alcohol specific mortality was significantly lower in Herefordshire than in England (8.1 per 100,000 as opposed to 11.5 per 100,000).
- During 2014 – 15 the rates for hospital admissions for alcohol related conditions (persons and episodes) were all significantly lower than England.
- The rate of admission to hospital for alcohol specific conditions in under 18 year olds has continued to fall and by 2012/12 – 2014/15 was no longer statistically worse than England.

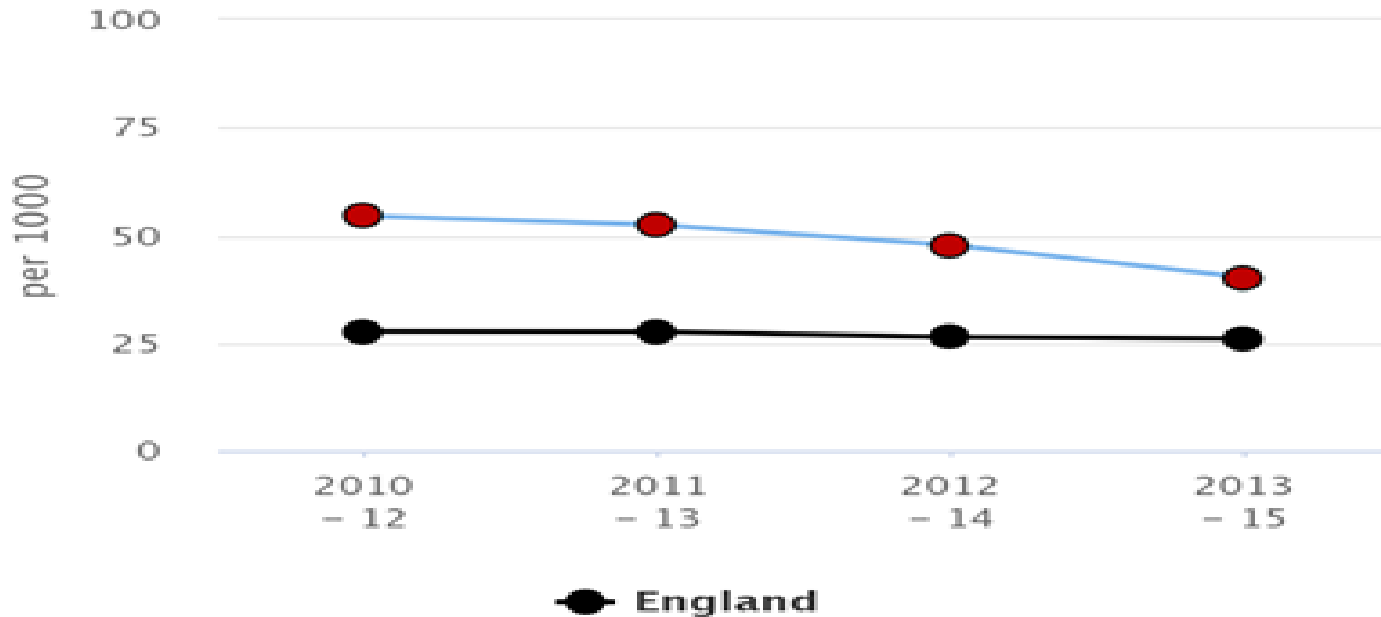
Alcohol hospital admissions (under 18s)

5.01 - Persons under 18 admitted to hospital for alcohol-specific conditions - Herefordshire



Alcohol related Road Traffic Accidents

12.01 - Alcohol Related Road Traffic Accidents - Herefordshire



Numbers in treatment

- The number of people currently in treatment for alcohol problems is 239.
- The latest DOMES from NDTMS (Q3 2016/17) shows a successful completion (non-representation) rate of 30.0% (76/253).
- The national rate is 38%.

Conclusion

- Unlike drug misuse, consumption of alcohol is a legal activity for adults
- Most adults use alcohol responsibly, most of the time
- In general Herefordshire has a lower prevalence of alcohol related harm compared to the figures for England
- Successful treatment outcomes are currently lower than the national average
- Though the number of alcohol related traffic accidents is falling, it remains a concern

Next Steps:

- Promotion of Alcohol Harm Reduction Measures as part of the “One You” and Health Checks campaigns
- Joint work with Trading Standards to tackle sales of alcohol to young people. (Targeted raids on premises)
- Recruitment of an additional alcohol treatment worker in Addaction
- Promotion of the Alcohol Brief Intervention tool in primary and secondary care
- Use of the national Alcohol “CLeAR” assessment to review and improve performance