MailOnline

**December** 24, 2015 Thursday 3:05 PM GMT

**Alcohol**-related hospital admissions up 64% in just 10 years - and teenage GIRLS attend more than boys  
  
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**SECTION:** HEALTH  
  
**LENGTH:** 1015 words

* Females aged 15 to 19 attended hospital 1.4 times more than boys
* Damning report follows a decade of warnings on round-the-clock drinking
* Authors say even this is a massive underestimation of the true problem
* Admissions 'indirectly' related to drinking, such as falls, aren't recorded
* Figures also exclude **emergency** patients discharged on the same day

Teenage girls are more likely to be admitted to **accident** and **emergency** after binge drinking than boys, a major report has revealed today.

Females aged 15 to 19 attended hospital for **alcohol** poisoning 1.4 times as often as young men in the same group.

Admissions linked to **alcohol** have soared by 64 per cent since  Labour introduced 24-hour drinking laws, according to figures by the Nuffield Trust health think-tank.

Experts have linked the rise in admissions to the relaxation of the laws, warning youngsters binge on cheap **alcohol** before going out and then drink late into the night, to dangerous levels.

One in 20 **emergency** in-patient admissions in 2013/14 - 255,000 in total - was directly linked to **alcohol**, as was one in 120 planned admissions, according to the report.

But the authors say that this is a vast underestimation of the true scale of the problem, because admissions 'indirectly' linked to drinking - such as falls, domestic violence or heart disease - are not recorded by hospitals.

The figures include patients who spent at least one night in an English hospital, but exclude **emergency** patients who were discharged the same day.

The authors also report that the number of people attending **A&E** with probable **alcohol** poisoning has doubled in six years.

Separate research, also published today, reports that 70 per cent of **emergency** cases at weekends were linked to drinking at one hospital in the North-East.

The Nuffield Trust authors also found that the highest rates of **emergency** admission for drinking were found in the 45 to 64 age group, echoing growing evidence that middle-aged people are now Britain's heaviest drinkers.

Report author Claire Currie said: 'Our research has uncovered a picture of rising and avoidable activity in hospitals, representing a stark challenge for the Health Service at a time when it's already great pressure.

'Hospitals alone cannot tackle this issue - the Government must consider measures such as minimum unit pricing, restricting availability and limiting marketing and advertising.'

Attendance rates likely to be due to **alcohol** poisoning were also three and a half times higher among those living in the 20 per cent most deprived areas in England.

The Mail has repeatedly publicised the problems posed by the 2005 change to licensing laws, as part of our 'Say No to 24-hour Drinking' campaign.

Two months ago, police warned in a report by the Institute of **Alcohol** Studies that round-the-clock drinking had 'changed policing forever' and should be scrapped.

THE **A&E WHERE ALCOHOL** IS BEHIND THREE IN EVERY FOUR CASES

Drinking is linked to 70 per cent of weekend cases dealt with by a single **A&E** department, according to researchers.

**Alcohol**-related attendance at a big inner city hospital over four weeks in 2012-13 varied from 4 per cent to 60 per cent on weekdays, rising to 70 per cent at weekends. The Newcastle University researchers, writing in the **Emergency** Medicine Journal, said: 'This indicates a significant NHS burden if all such **emergency departments** in the UK are sustaining similar demands associated with**alcohol**-related attendance.

'Our results suggest that **emergency departments** would benefit from routinely providing staff to cover the night and early-morning shifts, particularly at weekends, to cope with the high proportion of **alcohol**-related attendances at these times.'

The analysis shows each case costs between £250 and £850 to treat.

Tony Blair's government changed the laws supposedly to create a European cafe culture and end the problems caused by the rush at the 11pm pub closing time.

But experts have condemned the changes and many have called for a return to traditional licensing laws.

In a separate article today, Dr Clifford Mann, president of the Royal College of **Emergency** Medicine, says that the pattern of drunkenness has 'changed significantly in the past ten years'.

Writing in the **Emergency** Medicine Journal, he says that instead of drinking until a set time, young people 'preload' on cheap drinks before drinking late into the evening in pubs and clubs.

The consequence is a much greater '**alcohol** load' and a much greater risk of injury and mental health damage, he writes.

He adds that since the 2005 relaxation of the law '**accident** and **emergency departments** in the UK have seen ever greater numbers of patients whose presentations are linked to acute or chronic **alcohol** ingestion'.

Katherine Brown, director of the Institute of **Alcohol** Studies, said: '**Alcohol** places an enormous burden on our NHS and **emergency**services, with the increased affordability of cheap **alcohol** and later closing times increasing this pressure in recent years.

'Earlier closing times for pubs and bars will go some way to ease the pressure, combined with raising the price of the cheapest **alcohol**in supermarkets.

'While this issue gets lots of attention during the festive period, **alcohol** is a problem all year round for our NHS and frontline staff, many of whom experience drunken abuse on duty.

'We need the Government to take action to reduce rates of harmful drinking.'

A Labour spokesperson said: 'The previous Labour Government made changes to the rules to ensure councils had the power to take licenses away where needed.

'It is the Tory Government that has no strategy for dealing with **alcohol** abuse, and has put the interests of **alcohol** producers ahead of the nation's health.'

A Department of Health spokesman said: 'People should always drink **alcohol** responsibly - very busy ambulance services and **A&E** staff can do without this extra demand.

'The Government has taken action to tackle cheap **alcohol** by banning the lowest priced drinks and we are already seeing fewer young people drinking on a regular basis.'