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**A&E** toll down to **alcohol**  
  
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ALMOST three in four weekend **A&E** admissions are due to boozing, a study claims. The worst culprits are lads aged 18 to 24.

Each case costs the NHS between £250 and £850 to treat.

Public Health England estimates the annual cost of **alcohol** incidents to the NHS is £21billion - a fifth of its entire budget.

Booze-related hospital admissions are up 54 per cent in nine years.

And the NHS had to cope with more than a quarter of a million cases last year.

A study of **emergency** admissions at Newcastle's Royal Victoria Infirmary found between four and 60 per cent of weekday cases linked to **alcohol.**

That figure rose to an average of 70 per cent at weekends.

A study by Nuffield Trust found **alcohol** admissions had risen by more than half since 2006.

Britain's leading casualty medic Dr Clifford Mann called for minimum booze pricing to be introduced.

He said: "**Alcohol** at this price is cheaper than bottled water."