**Binge drinking bombshell as number of teenage girls poisoning themselves with alcohol nearly doubles**

**BY SHAUN WOOLLER**

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**TEENAGE girls are binge drinking so often that cases of booze poisoning are  
rocketing, a study says.**

Numbers suffering from the effects of severely excessive drinking have almost  
doubled.

But alcohol-related poisonings were ten per cent lower among boys and young  
men, experts found.

They put the rise among girls down to booze getting cheaper over time and  
being much easier to buy.

The findings emerged in a study into GP records of poisonings between 1992 and  
2012 — of which 17,862 involved teenagers.

ALAMY

The largest rise was the near doubling of alcohol poisoning cases among girls  
aged 15 and 16.

A similar increase was recorded in girls of 16 and 17 who had deliberately  
taken some form of poison to harm themselves.

Intentional poisoning was 80 per cent lower among boys and young men.

Poisoning is one of the most common causes of death among teenagers worldwide,  
with much of it related to self-harm.

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The authors said one potential explanation for booze poisoning rates rising  
over time was “increased availability, with the relative affordability of  
alcohol in the UK increasing steadily between 1980 and 2012, licensing hours  
having increased since 2003, and the number of outlets increasing.”

But they urged caution over the interpretation of their findings, saying it  
may be that more people were simply seeking treatment.

**Baby meth death shock**

**MORE than half of UK toddler deaths from unintentional drug poisoning are  
due to heroine substitute methadone.**

Experts writing in the Archives of Disease in Childhood looked at data on  
childhood poisonings and admissions to intensive care for unintentional  
poisoning between 2001 and 2013.

During this period, 28 children under the age of four died in England and  
Wales as a result of unintentional poisoning with a prescribed drug.

Methadone, which is used by heroin addicts to help kick their drug habit, was  
responsible in 57% of these cases.

Between 2002 and 2012, 201 toddlers were admitted to intensive care as a  
result of unintentional poisoning with prescribed drugs.

Sedatives accounted for nearly one in five (19% or 22 cases), while methadone  
accounted for 17%, or 20 cases.

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