



General Household Survey 2005

Smoking and drinking among adults, 2005

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Introduction

This report provides information about smoking and drinking based on data collected by the General Household Survey in 2005. It also includes a number of tables presenting data on trends and changes in smoking and drinking measured by the GHS over several decades.

An overview of the General Household Survey

The General Household Survey (GHS) is a multi-purpose continuous survey carried out by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). It collects information on a range of topics from people living in private households in Great Britain. The survey started in 1971 and has been carried out continuously since then, except for breaks to review it in 1997/1998 and to re-develop it in 1999/2000.

The survey presents a picture of households, families and people living in Great Britain. This information is used by government departments and other organisations, such as educational establishments, businesses and charities, to contribute to policy decisions and for planning and monitoring purposes.

The interview consists of questions relating to the household, answered by the household reference person or spouse, and an individual questionnaire, completed by all resident adults aged 16 and over. Demographic and health information is also collected about children in the household. The GHS collects data on a wide range of core topics. These are:

- demographic information about households, families and people;
- housing tenure and household accommodation;
- access to and ownership of consumer durables, including vehicles;
- migration;
- employment;
- education;
- health and use of health services;
- smoking;
- drinking;
- family information, including marriage, cohabitation and fertility;
- income.

The modular structure of the GHS allows for a number of trailers to be included each year to a plan agreed by its sponsors. Only one trailer was included in the 2005 survey, this contained questions on social mobility.

The GHS is sponsored by the Office for National Statistics, Information Centre for Health and Social Care, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, Department of Culture, Media and Sport, Department for Work and Pensions, Inland Revenue, Department for Education and Skills, Scottish Executive and the Government Actuary's Department.

The 2005 General Household Survey

Since April 1994, the GHS has been conducted on a financial year basis, with fieldwork spread evenly across the year April-March. However, in 2005 the survey period reverted to a calendar year to bring it in line with other ONS continuous surveys. Since the first quarter of 2005 was also the last quarter of the previous year's survey, the whole of the usual annual set sample of approximately 13,000 addresses, selected from the Postcode Address File, was dealt with in the nine months April to December 2005. Future surveys will run from January to December each year.

Since the 2005 survey does not cover the January-March quarter, this affects annual estimates for topics which are subject to seasonal variation. To rectify this, where the questions were the same in 2005 as in 2004-05, the final quarter of the 2004-05 survey has been added, weighted in the correct proportion, to the nine months of the 2005 survey. This is the case for the smoking section, and for the drinking questions about alcohol consumption in the previous week. However, questions about average weekly alcohol consumption were not included in the 2004-05 survey, and data for that topic were collected from April-December 2005 only. The effect of this on the data is discussed in the drinking section of this paper.

A higher sampling fraction was applied to the nine months of the 2005 survey compared with the final quarter of the 2004-05 survey. Consequently, the unweighted bases shown in tables where 2004-05 survey data has been added slightly overestimate the precision of the estimates. The effective sample size for these tables is 95% of the actual sample count.

It should also be noted that comparison of 2005 with 2004-05 is affected by having some individuals in both samples (those interviewed from January-March 2005). This reduces the sampling errors attached to estimates of change between the two surveys, so use of the usual recommended design effect of 1.2 gives a conservative estimate of errors – ie more, rather than less, likely to reject a difference as not statistically significant than is really the case.

For the nine months April-December 2005, the survey response rate was 72 per cent, with an achieved sample size of 12,802 households and 30,069 adults aged 16 and over.

Other GHS results for 2005

Results for other GHS topics will be combined with those from other sources in *Social Trends* and other reports due to be published in 2007. Tables from all GHS topic areas are published on the National Statistics website: www.statistics.gov.uk/ghs. Technical information about the GHS in the form of appendices is also available at www.statistics.gov.uk/ghs, including:

- a glossary of definitions and terms used in the survey (Appendix A);
- information about the sample design and response (Appendix B);
- sampling errors (Appendix C);
- weighting and grossing (Appendix D);
- the household and individual questionnaires used in 2005 (Appendix E);
- a list of the main topics covered by the survey since 1971 (Appendix F).

1 Smoking

Questions about smoking behaviour have been asked of GHS respondents aged 16 and over in alternate years since 1974. Following the review of the GHS carried out in 1997, the smoking questions became part of the continuous survey and have been included every year from 2000 onwards.

This report updates information about trends in cigarette smoking presented in earlier GHS reports and on the National Statistics website. It also discusses variations according to personal characteristics such as sex, age, socio-economic classification, economic activity status and ethnic group, and comments briefly on the prevalence of cigarette smoking in different parts of Great Britain. Other topics covered include cigarette consumption, type of cigarette smoked, the age when people started smoking, and dependence on cigarettes.

The reliability of smoking estimates

As noted in earlier published GHS reports, it is likely that the GHS underestimates cigarette consumption and (perhaps to a lesser extent) prevalence (the proportion of people who smoke). For example, evidence suggests that when respondents are asked how many cigarettes they smoke each day, there is a tendency to round the figure down to the nearest multiple of 10. Underestimates of consumption are likely to occur in all age groups.

Under-reporting of prevalence, however, is most likely to occur among young people. To protect their privacy, particularly when they are being interviewed in their parents' home, young people aged 16 and 17 complete the smoking and drinking sections of the questionnaire themselves, so that neither the questions nor their responses are heard by anyone else who may be present. This is probably only partially successful in encouraging honest answers¹.

When considering trends in smoking, it is usually assumed that any under-reporting remains constant over time. However, since the prevalence of smoking has fallen, this assumption may not be entirely justified. As smoking has become less acceptable as a social habit, some people may have become less inclined to admit how much they smoke – or, indeed, to admit to smoking at all.

The effect of weighting on the smoking data

Weighting to compensate for non-response was introduced on the GHS in 2000 and was described in detail in the GHS 2000 report². The effect of weighting on the smoking data is slight, increasing the overall prevalence of cigarette smoking by one percentage point. The change occurs because weighting reduces the contribution to the overall figure of those aged 60 and over, among whom prevalence is relatively low.

Government policy and targets for the reduction of smoking

In December 1998 *Smoking Kills – a White Paper on tobacco*³ was released, which included targets for reducing the prevalence of cigarette smoking among adults in England to 24 per cent by 2010. In 2004, the Department of Health agreed a new Public Service Agreement (PSA) which revised the target downwards: the aim now is to reduce the prevalence of cigarette smoking among adults to 21 per cent or less by 2010.

Since smoking is estimated to be the cause of about one third of all cancers, reducing smoking is also one of three key commitments at the heart of the NHS *Cancer Plan*, which was published in 2000⁴. In particular, the *Cancer Plan* focuses on the need to reduce the comparatively high rates of smoking among those in manual socio-economic groups, which result in much higher death rates from cancer among unskilled workers than among professionals. More recently, the Department of Health announced a new Public Service Agreement (PSA) target to reduce adult smoking rates in England to 21 per cent or less by 2010, with a reduction in prevalence among routine and manual groups to 26 per cent or less⁵.

New legislation came into force in February 2003 which banned cigarette advertising on billboards and in the press and magazines, and further restrictions on advertising at the point of sale were introduced in December 2004. Recent public discussion in relation to smoking has focussed on whether or not smoking should be banned in all public places, and smoking will be banned in all public places from the summer of 2007. The GHS interview cannot accommodate extensive questions about people's views on smoking, but the Information Centre for Health and Social Care regularly commissions the inclusion of such questions on the ONS Omnibus Survey, most recently in October/November 2005⁶.

The prevalence of cigarette smoking

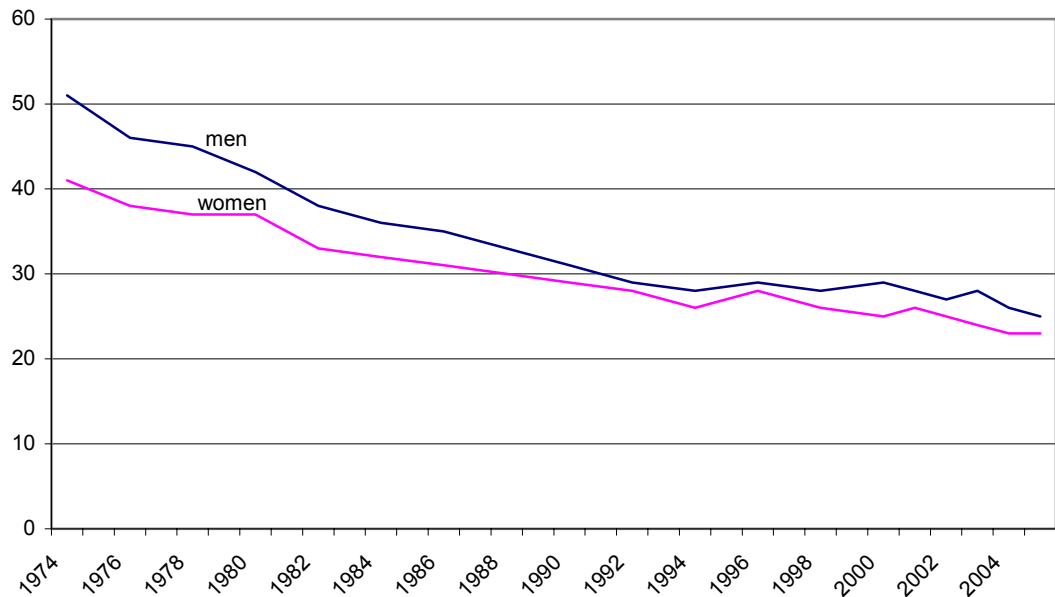
Trends in the prevalence of cigarette smoking

The prevalence of smoking among the adult population continues to fall among both men and women, even though changes from one year to the next may not be statistically significant. Overall prevalence has fallen smoothly from 28 per cent in 1998 to 24 per cent in 2005, although the figures for men and for women have fluctuated a little. It should, however, be noted that even during periods when the prevalence of smoking in the general population is changing little, upward and downward movements in survey estimates are to be expected, and this can make the detection of trends over a short period difficult.

This recent downturn follows a period of little change during the 1990s: the prevalence of cigarette smoking fell substantially in the 1970s and the early 1980s, from 45 per cent in 1974 to 35 per cent in 1982. After 1982, the rate of decline slowed, with prevalence falling by only about one percentage point every two years until 1990, after which it levelled out.

Throughout the period during which the GHS has been monitoring cigarette smoking, prevalence has been higher among men than among women, and this continues to be the case: in 2005, 25 per cent of men and 23 per cent of women were cigarette smokers.

Figure 1.1 Prevalence of cigarette smoking: Great Britain, 1974 to 2005*



* Data for 1974 to 1998 are unweighted, data for 2000 onwards are weighted

The present difference in prevalence between men and women is considerably less than it was in the 1970s. In 1974, for example, 51 per cent of men smoked cigarettes, compared with 41 per cent of women. The reduction in the difference results mainly from a combination of two factors.

First, there is a cohort effect resulting from the fact that smoking became common among men several decades before it did among women. In the 1970s there was a fall in the proportion of women aged 60 and over who had never smoked regularly.

Second, men are more likely than women to have given up smoking cigarettes. It should be noted, however, that this difference conceals the fact that some men who give up smoking cigarettes remain smokers (by continuing to smoke cigars and pipes). This is very rare among women who stop smoking cigarettes.

The proportion of men who have never been regular cigarette smokers has risen markedly, from 25 per cent in 1974 to 47 per cent in 2005, but continues to be lower than the proportion of women who have never smoked, which was 57 per cent in 2005.

Smoking among different age groups is another key area of interest. Since the early 1990s, the prevalence of cigarette smoking has been higher among those aged 20 to 24 than among those in other age groups. Up to the early twenties, more young people are starting to smoke than are giving up (as shown later in this chapter, about one in six of those who have smoked at some time in their lives took up the habit after the age of 20).

Since the survey began, the GHS has shown considerable fluctuation in prevalence rates among those aged 16 to 19, particularly if young men and young women are considered separately, but this is mainly because of the relatively small sample size in this age group. However, the overall fall in prevalence among those aged 16 to 19 from 31 per cent in 1998

to 24 per cent in 2004 and 2005 is statistically significant. Sampling fluctuations have also affected comparisons between young men and women in this age group. In recent years, however, prevalence has tended to be higher among young women than among young men. These differences should be treated with caution, but are consistent with surveys of smoking among secondary school children, which have consistently shown prevalence among 15-year olds to be higher among girls than among boys⁷.

At 14 per cent in 2005, prevalence continues to be lowest among men and women aged 60 and over. Although they are more likely than younger people to have ever been smokers, they are much more likely to have given up.

Figure 1.1, Tables 1.1-1.3

Cigarette smoking and marital status

The prevalence of cigarette smoking varies considerably according to marital status. It is much lower among married people than among those in any of the three other marital status categories (single, cohabiting, and widowed, divorced or separated). This is not explained by the association between age and marital status (for example, married people and those who are widowed, divorced or separated are older, on average, than single people). Table 1.5 shows that in every age group, married people were less likely to be smokers than were other respondents (although the difference is least marked among the youngest and oldest age groups. For example, among those aged 25 to 34, 36 per cent of those who were single and 37 per cent of those who were cohabiting were smokers, compared with only 22 per cent of those who were married.

Tables 1.4-1.5

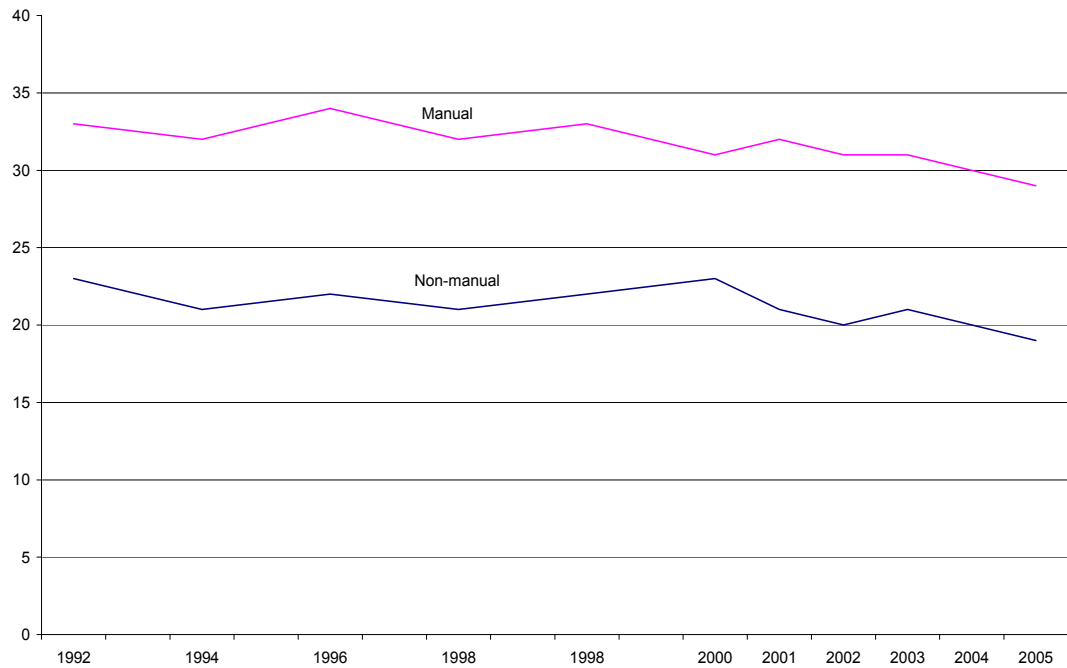
Cigarette smoking and socio-economic classification

The National Statistics Socio-economic classification (NS-SEC), which was introduced in 2001, does not allow categories to be collapsed into broad non-manual and manual groupings. So, since the Cancer Plan targets for England relate particularly to those in the manual socio-economic groups, the old socio-economic groupings have been recreated for this report in Table 1.6. Because of the new occupation coding, the classifications are not exactly the same, and comparisons with previous years should be treated with caution.

The GHS has consistently shown striking differences in the prevalence of cigarette smoking in relation to socio-economic group, with smoking being considerably more prevalent among those in manual groups than among those in non-manual groups. In the 1970s and 1980s, the prevalence of cigarette smoking fell more sharply among those in non-manual than in manual groups, so that differences between the groups became proportionately greater (table not shown). There was little further change in the relative proportions smoking cigarettes during the 1990s.

In England in 2005, 29 per cent of those in manual groups were cigarette smokers, compared with 33 per cent in 1998, confirming some progress in relation to the targets set out in the Cancer Plan. These are to reduce prevalence among those in the manual group to 26 per cent in 2010. However, since the proportion of those in non-manual groups who are cigarette smokers has fallen by a similar amount (from 22 per cent in 1998 to 19 per cent in 2005) the differential between non-manual and manual has not reduced significantly.

Figure 1.2 Prevalence of cigarette smoking by socio-economic group: England, 1982 to 2005*



* Data for 1974 to 1998 are unweighted, data for 2000 onwards are weighted

However, caution is advisable when making comparisons over this period: the re-created socio-economic groups may have been affected by the change from head of household to household reference person as the basis for assessing socio-economic group, and by revisions to the way in which occupation is coded.

Table 1.7 shows similar trends since 2001 using the new socio-economic classification of the household reference person: Over the period 2001 to 2005, the prevalence of cigarette smoking fell by two percentage points among those in managerial and professional households (from 19 per cent to 17 per cent) and among those in routine and manual households (from 33 per cent to 31 per cent). The decrease in prevalence was somewhat greater among those in intermediate households, where it fell from 27 per cent in 2001 to 23 per cent in 2005.

Table 1.8 shows the prevalence of cigarette smoking in 2005 in relation to the eight- and three- category versions of NS-SEC. As was the case with the socio-economic groupings used previously, there were striking differences between the various classes. Prevalence was lowest among those in higher professional and higher managerial households (12 per cent and 15 per cent respectively) and highest (33 per cent) among those whose household reference person was in a routine occupation.

Figure 1.2, Tables 1.6-1.8

Cigarette smoking and economic activity status

Those who were economically active were more likely to smoke than those who were not, but this is largely explained by the lower prevalence of smoking among those aged 60 and over, who form the majority of economically inactive people. Indeed, prevalence was highest among economically inactive people aged 16 to 59: 32 per cent of this group were smokers, compared with 26 per cent of economically active people aged 16-59 and only 13 per cent of economically inactive people aged 60 and over. Prevalence was particularly high among economically inactive people aged 16 to 59 whose last job was a routine or manual one, 47 per cent of whom were cigarette smokers.

Table 1.9

Cigarette smoking and ethnic group

Although about 10 per cent of the adult population is other than White British in origin, smoking prevalence varies greatly between different ethnic minority groups and they therefore need to be analysed separately. A single year's GHS sample is not large enough to permit this. However, the inclusion of questions on smoking in every year since 2000, together with the relative stability of smoking prevalence in recent years, facilitates the combination of several years of data to enable analysis by ethnic group. In the analysis that follows, data for the five years 2001 to 2005 have been combined.

Table 1.10 shows the prevalence of cigarette smoking among men and women in each of the ethnic minority groups identified by the GHS⁸. Overall prevalence varies widely, from a maximum of 30 per cent or more among those of Other White, Mixed White and Black African, and Mixed White and Asian origin, compared with only about 10 per cent among those of Indian and Black African origin. In contrast to the White British population, in many ethnic minority groups the prevalence of smoking is much lower among women than among men. The difference is most striking for those of Bangladeshi origin, among whom 45 per cent of men, but only 7 per cent of women, smoke cigarettes, but was also marked among those of Indian, Pakistani, Black African and Chinese origin.

Table 1.10

Regional variation in cigarette smoking

The data presented so far have been for Great Britain, but the PSA targets and those included in the NHS *Cancer Plan* relate to England only. Table 1.11 shows that in 2005, overall prevalence in England was 24 per cent, the same as in Great Britain as a whole.

In every previous year except 2004, prevalence has been higher in Scotland than in England, although the difference has not always been large enough to be statistically significant. In 2005, 27 per cent of adults in Scotland were smokers, a significantly higher proportion than in England. In Wales, 22 per cent of adults were smokers, significantly fewer than in Scotland, but not significantly different from the proportion in England.

Care should be taken in interpreting differences between the regions of England, because sample sizes are small in some cases, making them subject to relatively high levels of sampling error. However, in 2005, there appeared to be less regional variation in prevalence than in previous years (varying from 22 to 25 per cent) except for a particularly high prevalence rate of 29 per cent in the North East.

Tables 1.11-1.12

Cigarette consumption

Although the prevalence of cigarette smoking changed little during the 1990s, the GHS showed a continuing fall in the reported number of cigarettes smoked over that period, but this has levelled out since the late 1990s. The fall in consumption in the 1990s occurred mainly among younger smokers: the number of cigarettes smoked by those aged 50 and over has changed very little since the mid-1970s.

Most of the decline in consumption in the 1990s was due to a reduction in the proportion of heavy smokers. The proportion of respondents smoking on average 20 or more cigarettes a day fell from 14 per cent of men in 1990 to 10 per cent in 1998, and from 9 per cent to 7 per cent of women over the same period. It has since remained virtually unchanged among both men and women, although there is a suggestion of a slight downturn in the last couple of years. The proportion of respondents who were light smokers also changed little throughout the 1990s.

In all age groups, respondents are much more likely to be light than heavy smokers, the difference being most pronounced among those aged under 35. For example, 18 per cent of young men and 23 per cent of young women aged 16 to 19 were light smokers in 2005, and only 4 per cent and 3 per cent respectively were heavy smokers.

Tables 1.13-1.15

As in previous years, male smokers smoked more cigarettes a day on average than female smokers, although the difference may be narrowing: in 2005, men smoked on average 14 cigarettes a day, compared with 13 for women. Cigarette consumption also varied by age. Among both men and women smokers, those aged 35 to 59 smoked the most – men smokers smoked on average about 16 cigarettes a day and women smoked about 14 a day.

GHS reports have consistently shown cigarette consumption levels to be higher among male and female smokers in manual socio-economic groups than among those in non-manual groups. A similar pattern is evident in relation to NS-SEC. In 2005, smokers in households where the household reference person was in a routine or manual occupation smoked an average of 15 cigarettes a day, compared with 12 a day for those in managerial or professional households.

Table 1.16

Cigarette type

Filter cigarettes continue to be the most widely smoked type of cigarette, especially among women, but there has been a marked increase since the early 1990s in the proportion of smokers who smoke mainly hand-rolled tobacco. In 1990, 18 per cent of men smokers and 2 per cent of women smokers said they smoked mainly hand-rolled cigarettes, but by 2005 this had risen to 34 per cent and 16 per cent respectively. It should be noted that this increase in the proportion of smokers smoking mainly hand-rolled tobacco coincides with a fall in the prevalence of cigarette smoking from 30 per cent in 1990 to 24 per cent in 2005, so that the proportion of all adults who smoke hand-rolled tobacco has not increased quite so sharply: it has risen from about 3 per cent to about 8 per cent (no table shown).

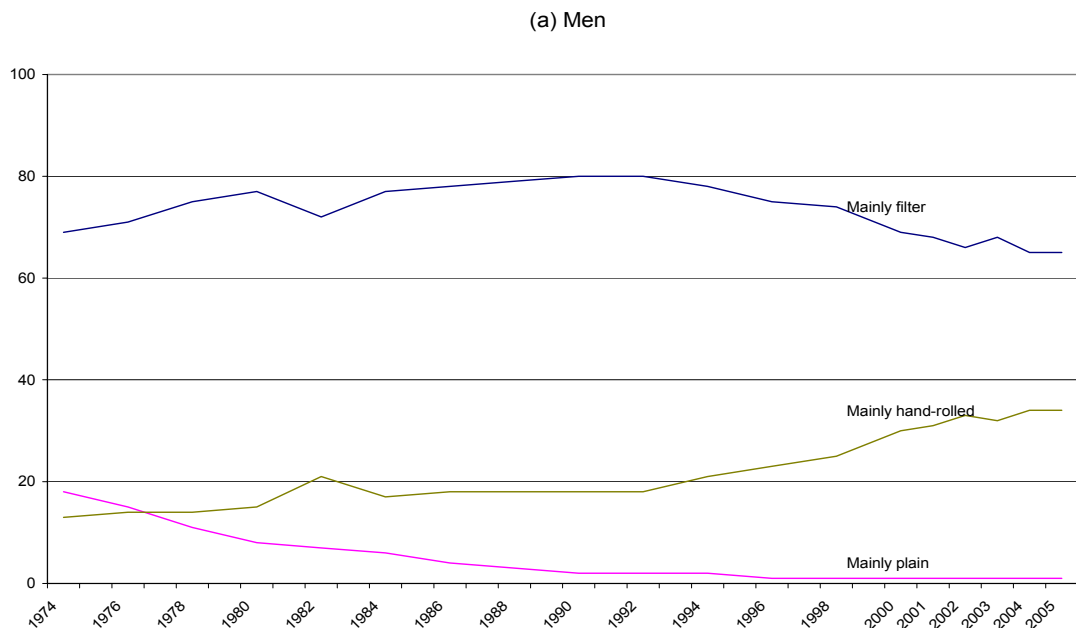
There are likely to be two main reasons for this increase in the use of hand-rolled cigarettes:

- the rise in the real price of packaged cigarettes - hand-rolled ones are cheaper;
- the reduced tar yield of packaged cigarettes (see below): depending on how they are rolled and smoked, hand-rolled ones can give a higher tar yield.

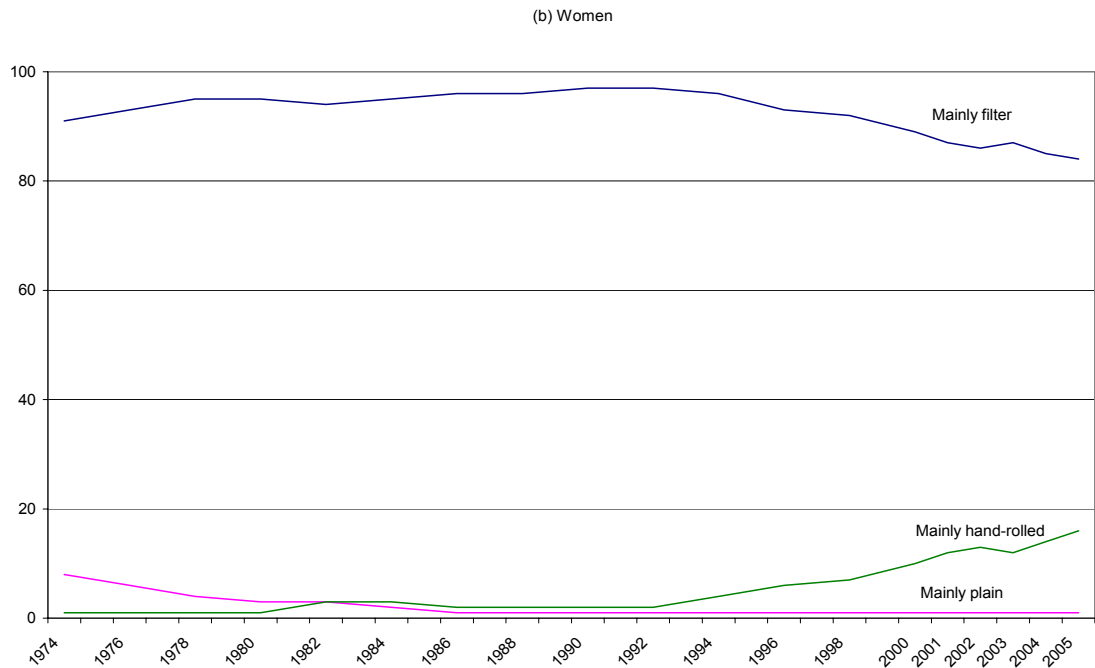
The use of hand-rolled tobacco was more common among men aged 35 and over than among younger men. Among women smokers there was less variation with age, except that only 9 per cent of women smokers aged 60 or over used hand-rolled tobacco.

Figure 1.3, Tables 1.17-1.18

Figure 1.3 Type of cigarette smoked by (a) men, (b) women: Great Britain, 1974 to 2005*



Smoking and drinking among adults, 2005



* Data for 1974 to 1998 are unweighted, data for 2000 onwards are weighted

Tar yield

Table 1.19 shows the very marked reduction in the tar yield of cigarettes over the period during which the GHS has been collecting information about brand smoked. In 1986, 40 per cent of those who smoked manufactured cigarettes smoked brands yielding more than 15mg of tar per cigarette. In the following decade, the proportion smoking this type of cigarette fell to zero. Initially, this was partly due to smokers switching to lower tar brands, but the main factor has been the requirement for manufacturers to reduce substantially the tar yields of existing brands. Following legislation in 1992, they were required to reduce the tar yield to no more than 12mg per cigarette by the beginning of 1998. An EU Directive which came into force at the end of 2002 further reduced the maximum tar yield to 10 mg per cigarette from January 2004.

The effect of the recent changes in legislation can be seen in Table 1.20, in that there have been no brands with a yield of 12mg or more since 2003, even though these were the main brand of more than one third of smokers in previous years. There has been a compensating increase in the next highest category: the proportion of smokers smoking brands with a yield of 10 but less than 12mg increased from 13 per cent in 1998 to 73 per cent in 2005. Although this may seem surprising in view of the maximum legal declared yield of 10mg, the Directive relates to the tar yield as declared by the manufacturer, and this is permitted to vary by up to 15 per cent from the yield as measured for the Laboratory of the Government Chemist. Thus the yield as measured, which is what the GHS tables show, may be up to 11.5mg for a declared value of 10mg.

Among smokers aged under 60, differences between men and women in the tar yield of their usual brand were small. Among those aged 60 and over, however, women were much less likely to smoke high tar brands.

There was also a difference in tar yield of cigarettes smoked according to the socio-economic class of the smoker's household reference person. Those in managerial and professional households were more likely than other smokers to smoke lower tar cigarettes: 27 per cent of smokers in managerial and professional households smoked cigarettes with a tar yield less than 8mg, compared with only 12 per cent of smokers in routine and manual households.

Tables 1.19-1.22

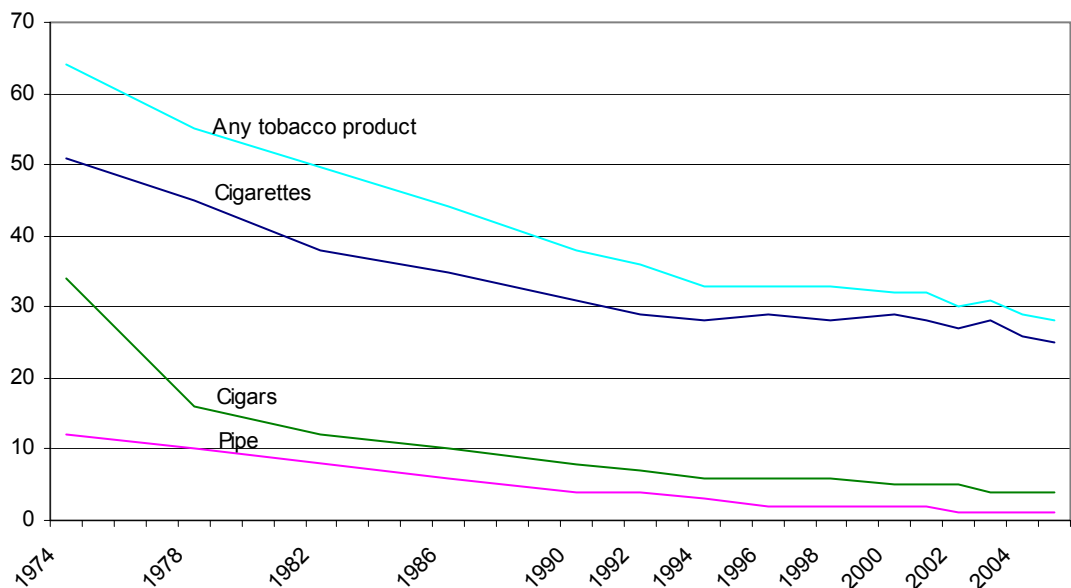
Cigar and pipe smoking

A decline in the prevalence of pipe and cigar smoking among men has been evident since the survey began, with most of the reduction occurring in the 1970s and 1980s. In 2005, only 4 per cent of men smoked at least one cigar a month, compared with 34 per cent in 1974. Only a small number of women smoked cigars in 1974, and since 1978 the percentages have been scarcely measurable on the GHS.

Only 1 per cent of men in 2005 said they smoked a pipe. At 2 per cent, the proportion doing so was highest among men aged 60 and over. Cigar smoking, on the other hand, was not so concentrated among older men.

Figure 1.4, Tables 1.23-1.24

Figure 1.4 Type of tobacco product smoked by men: Great Britain, 1974 to 2005



* Data for 1974 to 1998 are unweighted, data for 2000 onwards are weighted

Age started smoking

The White Paper *Smoking Kills*³ noted that people who start smoking at an early age are more likely than other smokers to smoke for a long period of time and more likely to die prematurely from a smoking-related disease.

About two thirds of respondents who were either current smokers or who had smoked regularly at some time in their lives had started smoking before they were 18, and almost two fifths started before the age of 16. Men were more likely than women to have started smoking before they were 16 (41 per cent of men who had ever smoked regularly, compared with 36 per cent of women in 2005). One fifth of women who had ever smoked did not start until they were in their twenties or older, compared with 16 per cent of men.

Since the early 1990s there appears to have been an increase in the proportion of women taking up smoking before the age of 16: in 1992, 28 per cent of women who had ever smoked had started before they were 16, but this had risen to 35 per cent in 2004. There was no equivalent increase among men.

As the GHS has shown in previous years, there was an association between age started smoking regularly and socio-economic classification based on the current or last job of the household reference person. Of those in managerial and professional households, 31 per cent had started smoking before they were 16, compared with 44 per cent of those in routine and manual households.

Current heavy smokers were much more likely than other current or ex-smokers to have started smoking at an early age. Of those smoking 20 or more cigarettes a day, 51 per cent started smoking regularly before they were 16, compared with only 34 per cent of those currently smoking fewer than 10 cigarettes a day.

Tables 1.25-1.27

Dependence on cigarette smoking

In order for the prevalence of cigarette smoking to reduce, young people have to be discouraged from starting to smoke and existing smokers have to be encouraged to stop. Since 1992, the GHS has asked three questions relevant to the likelihood of a smoker giving up. First, whether they would like to stop smoking, and then two indicators of dependence: whether they think they would find it easy or difficult not to smoke for a whole day; and how soon after waking they smoke their first cigarette.

There has been very little change since 1992 in any of the three dependence measures used. This is perhaps not unexpected, given that there has been no marked change in the prevalence of cigarette smoking over that period.

For an attempt to stop smoking to be successful, the smoker must want to stop. In 2005, 68 per cent of smokers said they would like to stop smoking altogether. The relationship between wanting to stop smoking and the number of cigarettes smoked is not straightforward. In every survey since the questions were first included in 1992, the proportion wanting to give up has been highest among those smoking on average 10-19 cigarettes a week, although, as in 2005, differences have not always been statistically significant.

It is interesting that it is not the heaviest smokers who are most likely to want to stop. This may be because they feel it would be too difficult or because they have been discouraged from wanting to stop by previous unsuccessful attempts. Furthermore, some previously heavy smokers who would like to give up may have cut down their consumption prior to an attempt to do so.

In 2005, 56 per cent of smokers felt that it would be either very or fairly difficult to go without smoking for a whole day. Not surprisingly, heavier smokers were more likely to say they would find it difficult – 80 per cent of those smoking 20 or more cigarettes a day did so, compared with only 25 per cent of those smoking fewer than 10 cigarettes a day.

Since women are less likely to be heavy smokers than men, it might be expected that women would be less likely to say they would find it hard to stop smoking for a day. As in previous years, however, this was not the case. Overall, 58 per cent of women, compared with 55 per cent of men, said they would find it difficult not to smoke for a day. The difference was particularly marked among those smoking 20 or more cigarettes a day: 84 per cent of women, compared with 77 per cent of men, said they would find it difficult.

In 2005, 16 per cent of smokers had their first cigarette within five minutes of waking up. Heavy smokers were more likely than light smokers to smoke immediately on waking up, with 33 per cent of those smoking 20 or more cigarettes a day doing so, compared with only 2 per cent of those smoking fewer than 10 a day. Men were more likely than women to say they had their first cigarette within five minutes of waking - 17 per cent compared with 14 per cent did so.

Women smokers are therefore more likely to perceive themselves as dependent despite the fact that on average they smoke fewer cigarettes a day than men, but appear to be less dependent in that they are less likely to smoke first thing when they wake up. There is no statistically significant difference between men and women smokers in the proportions wanting to give up.

Smokers in managerial, professional and intermediate households were more likely than smokers in routine and manual households to say they would like to give up smoking altogether (70-71 per cent compared with 66 per cent).

Overall, smokers in routine and manual households were more likely than others to say they would find it difficult to go without smoking for a whole day (61 per cent compared with 50 per cent among those in managerial and professional households, and 55 per cent among those in intermediate households). However, once amount smoked was taken into account (smokers in that group smoke more on average than smokers in other social classes) the pattern of association was less clear.

Similarly, smokers in routine and manual households were more likely than others to have their first cigarette of the day within five minutes of waking up. The difference was particularly marked among those smoking 20 or more cigarettes a day. Of heavy smokers in routine and manual households, 34 per cent smoked within five minutes of waking, compared with only 27 per cent of those in managerial and professional households.

Tables 1.28-1.33

Notes and References

- ¹ See *Chapter 4, General Household Survey 1992*, HMSO 1994. This includes a discussion of the differences found when smoking prevalence reported by young adults on the GHS was compared with prevalence among secondary school children.
- ² See Appendix D, *Living in Britain: results from the 2000 General Household Survey*. The Stationery Office (London 2001).
- ³ *Smoking kills – a White Paper on tobacco*. The Stationery Office (London 1998)
- ⁴ *The NHS Cancer Plan*, Department of Health, 2000: www.doh.gov.uk/cancer/cancerplan.htm
- ⁵ Her Majesty's Treasury (2004) 2004 Spending Review: Public Service Agreements 2005 – 2008: www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/spending_review/spend_sr04/psa/spend_sr04_psaindex.cfm
- ⁶ The results are published in Taylor T, Lader D et al, *Smoking-related behaviour and attitudes, 2005* ONS (London 2006)
- ⁷ Drug use, smoking and drinking among young people in England in 2005. The Information Centre for Health and Social Care, 2006.
- ⁸ Ethnic Group Statistics: a guide for the collection and classification of ethnicity data. ONS: www.statistics.gov.uk/about/ethnic_group_statistics.

Smoking and drinking among adults, 2005

Table 1.1 Prevalence of cigarette smoking by sex and age: 1974 to 2005

<i>Persons aged 16 and over</i>														<i>Great Britain</i>		
Age	Unweighted							Weighted							<i>Weighted base 2005 (000s) =100%¹</i>	<i>Unweighted sample¹ 2005</i>
	1974	1978	1982	1986	1990	1994	1998	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005		
Percentage smoking cigarettes																
Men																
16-19	42	35	31	30	28	28	30	30	25	22	27	23	23	1,122	508	
20-24	52	45	41	41	38	40	42	41	35	40	37	38	36	1,362	586	
25-34	56	48	40	37	36	34	37	38	39	38	36	38	35	3,225	1558	
35-49	55	48	40	37	34	31	32	33	31	31	29	32	31	5,296	2724	
50-59	53	48	42	35	28	27	27	28	27	26	27	26	26	3,295	1732	
60 and over	44	38	33	29	24	18	16	16	16	16	17	16	15	5,196	2930	
All aged 16 and over	51	45	38	35	31	28	28	30	29	28	27	28	26	19,496	10038	
Women																
16-19	38	33	30	30	32	27	31	32	28	31	29	25	25	1,063	508	
20-24	44	43	40	38	39	38	39	39	35	35	38	34	29	1,654	763	
25-34	46	42	37	35	34	30	33	33	32	31	33	31	28	3,559	1825	
35-49	49	43	38	34	33	28	28	29	27	28	27	28	28	6,137	3213	
50-59	48	42	40	35	29	26	27	27	28	25	24	23	22	3,556	1896	
60 and over	26	24	23	22	20	17	16	16	15	17	14	14	14	6,345	3422	
All aged 16 and over	41	37	33	31	29	26	26	26	25	26	25	24	23	22,315	11627	
Total																
16-19	40	34	30	30	30	27	31	31	29	28	25	26	24	2,186	1016	
20-24	48	44	40	39	38	39	40	40	35	37	38	36	32	3,016	1349	
25-34	51	45	38	36	35	32	35	35	35	34	34	34	31	6,784	3383	
35-49	52	45	39	36	34	30	30	31	29	29	28	30	29	11,433	5937	
50-59	51	45	41	35	29	27	27	28	27	26	26	25	24	6,851	3628	
60 and over	34	30	27	25	21	17	16	16	16	17	15	15	14	11,541	6352	
All aged 16 and over	45	40	35	33	30	27	27	28	27	27	26	26	25	41,811	21665	

Smoking and drinking among adults, 2005

Table 1.2 Ex-regular cigarette smokers by sex and age: 1974 to 2005

<i>Persons aged 16 and over</i>															<i>Great Britain</i>	
Age	Unweighted							Weighted							Weighted base 2005 (000s) =100% ¹	Unweighted sample ¹ 2005
	1974	1978	1982	1986	1990	1994	1998	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005		
Percentage of ex-regular cigarette smokers																
Men																
16-19	3	4	4	5	4	5	5	5	3	4	3	5	4	3	1,122	508
20-24	9	9	9	11	8	7	8	9	7	9	7	7	8	7	1,362	586
25-34	18	18	20	20	16	16	13	13	12	15	13	13	15	14	3,225	1558
35-49	21	26	32	33	32	27	22	21	20	20	20	20	20	19	5,296	2724
50-59	30	35	38	38	42	40	41	40	36	36	35	32	34	34	3,295	1732
60 and over	37	43	47	52	52	55	54	54	52	47	51	50	50	51	5,196	2930
All aged 16 and over	23	27	30	32	32	31	31	29	27	27	28	27	28	27	19,496	10038
Women																
16-19	4	5	6	7	6	6	7	8	6	6	5	6	4	4	1,063	508
20-24	9	8	9	9	8	10	8	8	11	12	10	10	8	9	1,654	763
25-34	12	14	15	16	14	14	14	14	13	16	16	16	14	15	3,559	1825
35-49	10	13	15	20	20	21	19	19	19	19	17	16	18	18	6,137	3213
50-59	13	18	19	18	20	22	25	25	24	24	26	27	27	25	3,556	1896
60 and over	11	16	20	23	27	29	29	29	29	29	30	29	28	29	6,345	3422
All aged 16 and over	11	14	16	18	19	21	21	20	20	21	21	21	20	21	22,315	11627

Note: 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/5 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year.

¹ Trend tables show unweighted and weighted figures for 1998 to give an indication of the effect of the weighting. Bases for earlier years can be found in GHS reports for each year.

Table 1.3 Percentage who have never smoked cigarettes regularly by sex and age: 1974 to 2005

<i>Persons aged 16 and over</i>															<i>Great Britain</i>	
Age	Unweighted							Weighted							Weighted base 2005 (000s) =100% ¹	Unweighted sample ¹ 2005
	1974	1978	1982	1986	1990	1994	1998	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005		
Percentage who have never smoked regularly																
Men																
16-19	56	61	65	65	68	67	64	65	67	71	75	68	72	74	1,122	508
20-24	38	46	50	47	54	53	49	50	58	51	55	54	55	59	1,362	586
25-34	26	33	39	43	48	50	50	49	49	47	51	49	50	53	3,225	1558
35-49	24	26	28	30	34	42	46	45	49	49	51	48	50	52	5,296	2724
50-59	16	17	20	26	31	33	32	32	37	38	38	41	40	41	3,295	1732
60 and over	18	18	20	19	24	27	30	30	32	36	32	34	35	35	5,196	2930
All aged 16 and over	25	29	32	34	37	40	41	42	44	45	46	45	46	47	19,496	10038
Women																
16-19	58	62	64	62	62	67	62	61	66	63	66	69	70	70	1,063	508
20-24	47	49	51	54	53	52	53	53	54	53	52	55	62	61	1,654	763
25-34	42	44	48	48	52	55	53	53	54	53	51	53	58	56	3,559	1825
35-49	41	44	47	46	48	51	52	52	54	53	55	55	54	56	6,137	3213
50-59	38	39	41	47	51	52	48	48	48	51	50	50	51	51	3,556	1896
60 and over	63	60	57	55	54	54	55	56	56	54	55	57	58	58	6,345	3422
All aged 16 and over	49	49	51	51	52	54	53	53	54	53	54	55	57	57	22,315	11627

Note: 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/5 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year.

¹ Trend tables show unweighted and weighted figures for 1998 to give an indication of the effect of the weighting. Bases for earlier years can be found in GHS reports for each year.

Table 1.4 Cigarette-smoking status by sex and marital status

<i>Persons aged 16 and over</i>							<i>Great Britain: 2005</i>	
Marital status	Current cigarette smokers			Current non-smokers of cigarettes		Weighted base (000s)= 100%	Unweighted sample	
		Light (under 20 per day)	Heavy (20 or more per day)	Total	Ex-regular cigarette smokers			Never or only occasionally smoked cigarettes
Men								
Single	%	23	7	30	11	59	4,786	2124
Married/cohabiting	%	15	8	23	32	45	12,636	6868
Married couple	%	13	7	20	35	46	10,547	5801
Cohabiting couple	%	27	11	38	19	43	2,090	1067
Widowed/divorced/separated	%	18	13	31	34	35	2,073	1046
All aged 16 and over	%	17	8	25	27	47	19,496	10038
Women								
Single	%	24	6	30	10	60	4,222	1995
Married/cohabiting	%	15	5	20	22	58	13,350	7265
Married couple	%	13	5	17	23	60	11,155	6139
Cohabiting couple	%	25	8	33	21	47	2,195	1126
Widowed/divorced/separated	%	17	7	24	25	51	4,743	2367
All aged 16 and over	%	17	6	23	21	57	22,315	11627
Total								
Single	%	23	7	30	11	59	9,008	4119
Married/cohabiting	%	15	6	21	27	52	25,987	14133
Married couple	%	13	6	18	29	53	21,702	11940
Cohabiting couple	%	26	9	35	20	45	4,285	2193
Widowed/divorced/separated	%	17	9	26	28	46	6,816	3413
All aged 16 and over	%	17	7	24	24	52	41,811	21665

Note: 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/5 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year.

Table 1.5 Cigarette-smoking status by age and marital status

<i>Persons aged 16 and over</i>						<i>Great Britain: 2005</i>
Marital status	Age					Total
	16-24	25-34	35-49	50-59	60 and over	
Percentage smoking cigarettes						
Single	27	36	37	32	15	30
Married couple	24	22	22	21	12	18
Cohabiting couple	40	37	33	32	22	35
Widowed/divorced/separated	49	44	40	34	16	26
All aged 16 and over	29	31	27	24	14	24
<i>Weighted base (000s)= 100%</i>						
Single	4,220	2,124	1,552	447	665	9,008
Married couple	227	2,698	7,124	4,813	6,839	21,701
Cohabiting couple	717	1,630	1,302	385	251	4,285
Widowed/divorced/separated	37	332	1,455	1,206	3,786	6,816
All aged 16 and over	5,201	6,784	11,434	6,851	11,541	41,811
<i>Unweighted sample</i>						
Single	1904	958	700	212	345	4119
Married couple	111	1446	3847	2626	3910	11940
Cohabiting couple	332	815	692	210	144	2193
Widowed/divorced/separated	18	164	698	580	1953	3413
All aged 16 and over	2365	3383	5937	3628	6352	21665

Note: 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/5 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year.

Note: Shaded figures indicate estimates are unreliable and any analysis using these figures may be invalid. Any use of these shaded figures must be accompanied by this disclaimer.

Table 1.6 Prevalence of cigarette smoking by sex and whether household reference person is in a non-manual or manual socio-economic group: England 1992 to 2005

<i>Persons aged 16 and over</i>												<i>England</i>		
Socio-economic group of household reference person ²	Unweighted				Weighted								Weighted base 2005 (000s) = 100% ³	Unweighted sample ³ 2005
	1992	1994	1996	1998	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005			
Percentage smoking cigarettes														
Men														
Non-manual	22	21	21	21	22	24	22	21	22	22	19	8,777	4646	
Manual	35	34	35	34	35	34	34	32	33	31	31	6,962	3533	
Total ⁴	29	28	28	28	29	29	28	27	27	26	25	16,834	8663	
Women														
Non-manual	23	21	22	21	22	22	20	20	20	19	18	10,140	5380	
Manual	30	30	33	31	31	29	31	30	29	28	28	6,878	3535	
Total ⁴	27	25	27	26	26	25	25	25	24	23	22	19,102	9950	
All persons														
Non-manual	23	21	22	21	22	23	21	20	21	20	19	18,917	10026	
Manual	33	32	34	32	33	31	32	31	31	30	29	13,840	7068	
Total ⁴	28	26	28	27	28	27	27	26	25	25	24	35,936	18613	

Note: 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/5 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year.

1 Figures for 1992 to 1996 are taken from Department of Health bulletin Statistics on smoking: England, 1978 onwards. Figures for 2001 to 2005 are based on the NS-SEC classification recoded to produce SEG and should therefore be treated with caution.

2 Head of household in years before 2000.

3 Trend tables show unweighted and weighted figures for 1998 to give an indication of the effect of the weighting. Bases for earlier years can be

4 Where the head of household/household reference person was a full time student, in the Armed forces, had an inadequately described occupation, had never worked or were long-term unemployed these are not shown as separate categories but are included in the total. The total also includes some missing cases.

Table 1.7 Prevalence of cigarette smoking by sex and socio-economic classification of the household reference person: England, 2001 to 2005

<i>Persons aged 16 and over</i>						<i>England</i>	
Socio-economic classification of household reference person	Weighted					<i>Weighted base 2005 (000s) = 100%</i>	<i>Unweighted sample 2005</i>
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005		
Percentage smoking cigarettes							
Men							
Managerial and professional	21	20	20	20	18	7,083	3775
Intermediate	29	27	28	26	24	2,934	1496
Routine and manual	34	32	34	32	32	5,977	3028
Total ¹	28	27	27	26	25	16,834	8663
Women							
Managerial and professional	17	17	17	17	16	7,528	4060
Intermediate	26	25	24	22	22	3,520	1824
Routine and manual	31	31	30	30	29	6,889	3525
Total ¹	25	25	24	23	22	19,102	9950
All persons							
Managerial and professional	19	19	18	19	17	14,612	7835
Intermediate	27	26	26	24	23	6,453	3320
Routine and manual	33	31	32	31	31	12,866	6553
Total ¹	27	26	25	25	24	35,936	18613

Note: 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/5 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year.

¹ Where the household reference person was a full time student, had an inadequately described occupation, had never worked or was long-term unemployed these are not shown as separate categories but are included in the total.

Table 1.8 Prevalence of cigarette smoking by sex and socio-economic classification based on the current or last job of the household reference person

<i>Persons aged 16 and over</i>		<i>Great Britain: 2005</i>		
Socio-economic classification of household reference person ¹	Men	Women	Total	
Percentage smoking cigarettes				
Managerial and professional				
Large employers and higher managerial	16	14	15	
Higher professional	14	10	12	17
Lower managerial and professional	21	19	20	
Intermediate				
Intermediate	22	19	20	22
Small employers and own account	26	24	25	
Routine and manual				
Lower supervisory and technical	28	28	28	
Semi-routine	35	29	31	31
Routine	34	32	33	
Total ¹	25	23	24	
<i>Weighted bases (000s) =100%</i>				
Large employers and higher managerial	1,407	1,416	2,822	
Higher professional	1,928	1,767	3,695	
Lower managerial and professional	4,754	5,505	10,259	
Intermediate	1,372	2,245	3,616	
Small employers and own account	1,994	1,843	3,837	
Lower supervisory and technical	2,238	2,146	4,384	
Semi-routine	2,308	3,199	5,507	
Routine	2,558	2,868	5,425	
Total ¹	19,496	22,315	41,811	
<i>Unweighted sample</i>				
Large employers and higher managerial	777	782	1559	
Higher professional	1013	956	1969	
Lower managerial and professional	2516	2933	5449	
Intermediate	677	1121	1798	
Small employers and own account	1042	996	2038	
Lower supervisory and technical	1148	1099	2247	
Semi-routine	1175	1649	2824	
Routine	1277	1466	2743	
Total ¹	10038	11627	21665	

Note: 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/5 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year.

¹ Where the household reference person was a full-time student, had an inadequately described occupation, had never worked or was long term unemployed these are not shown as separate categories but are included in the figure for all persons.

Smoking and drinking among adults, 2005

Table 1.9 Prevalence of cigarette smoking by sex and socio-economic classification based on own current or last job, whether economically active or inactive, and, for economically inactive persons, age

<i>Persons aged 16 and over</i>															<i>Great Britain: 2005</i>
Socio-economic classification	Men					Women					All persons				
	Active	Inactive 16-59	Inactive 60 and over	Total inactive	Total	Active	Inactive 16-59	Inactive 60 and over	Total inactive	Total	Active	Inactive 16-59	Inactive 60 and over	Total inactive	Total
Percentage smoking cigarettes															
Managerial and professional	19	31	9	13	18	19	20	10	13	18	19	23	10	13	18
Intermediate	24	41	11	18	22	21	25	8	14	18	22	29	9	15	20
Routine and manual	37	54	18	28	34	33	44	17	27	30	35	47	17	27	32
Total ¹	27	36	14	22	25	25	30	13	20	23	26	32	13	21	24
<i>Weighted bases (000s) = 100%</i>															
Managerial and professional	5,431	271	1,402	1,673	7,104	4,647	572	1,126	1,698	6,346	10,078	843	2,529	3,371	13,450
Intermediate	2,447	186	591	777	3,224	3,007	621	1,335	1,956	4,963	5,454	808	1,926	2,733	8,187
Routine and manual	4,674	801	2,022	2,823	7,497	3,970	1,685	2,878	4,563	8,536	8,644	2,485	4,901	7,386	16,033
Total ¹	13,191	2,137	4,062	6,199	19,390	12,338	4,166	5,658	9,824	22,165	25,529	6,303	9,720	16,023	41,555
<i>Unweighted sample</i>															
Managerial and professional	2822	140	839	979	3801	2408	333	619	952	3360	5230	473	1458	1931	7161
Intermediate	1246	95	335	430	1676	1574	328	735	1063	2637	2820	423	1070	1493	4313
Routine and manual	2330	377	1102	1479	3809	2017	905	1510	2415	4433	4347	1282	2612	3894	8242
Total ¹	6689	991	2300	3291	9980	6341	2174	3028	5202	11544	13030	3165	5328	8493	21524

Note: 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/5 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year.

1 Where the household reference person was a full-time student, had an inadequately described occupations, had never worked or was long-term unemployed these are not shown as separate categories, but are included in the figure for all persons.

Table 1.10 Prevalence of cigarette smoking by sex and ethnic group

Persons aged 16 and over

Great Britain: 2001-2005

Ethnic group	Percentage smoking cigarettes			Weighted bases (000s)			Unweighted base (=100%)		
	Men	Women	All persons	Men	Women	All persons	Men	Women	All persons
White									
White British	27	25	26	17,164	19,650	36,814	34,704	40,329	75,033
Other White	34	26	30	646	772	1,417	1,210	1,498	2,708
Mixed									
White & Black Caribbean	25	29	28	39	57	96	75	106	181
White & Black African	38	26	33	26	23	49	47	46	93
White & Asian	31	33	32	43	38	82	79	77	156
Other Mixed	39	26	31	32	48	80	59	91	150
Asian or Asian British									
Indian	17	4	10	324	325	650	639	663	1,302
Pakistani	25	6	16	215	219	433	416	437	853
Bangladeshi	45	7	26	65	69	134	119	124	243
Other Asian	26	9	17	130	135	265	239	256	495
Black or Black British									
Caribbean	31	19	24	177	242	420	321	459	780
African	18	5	11	191	222	413	320	411	731
Other Black	19	16	17	21	32	52	33	56	89
Chinese or Other ethnic group									
Chinese	34	8	21	84	84	168	140	154	294
Other	33	19	27	172	165	337	313	317	630
Total	27	24	25	19,330	22,082	41,412	38,714	45,024	83,738

Note: Shaded figures indicate estimates are unreliable and any analysis using these figures may be invalid. Any use of these shaded figures must be accompanied by this disclaimer.

Table 1.11 Prevalence of cigarette smoking by sex and country of Great Britain: 1978 to 2005

<i>Persons aged 16 and over</i>														<i>Great Britain</i>	
Country	Unweighted						Weighted							<i>Weighted base 2005 (000s) =100%¹</i>	<i>Unweighted sample¹ 2005</i>
	1978	1982	1986	1990	1994	1998	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005		
Percentage smoking cigarettes															
Men															
England	44	37	34	31	28	28	29	29	28	27	27	26	25	16,834	8663
Wales	44	36	33	30	28	28	29	25	27	27	29	24	24	956	503
Scotland	48	45	37	33	31	33	35	30	32	29	35	29	28	1,706	872
Great Britain	45	38	35	31	28	28	30	29	28	27	28	26	25	19,496	10038
Women															
England	36	32	31	28	25	26	26	25	25	25	24	23	22	19,102	9950
Wales	37	34	30	31	27	26	27	24	26	27	26	22	21	1,159	609
Scotland	42	39	35	35	29	29	29	30	30	28	28	22	25	2,054	1068
Great Britain	37	33	31	29	26	26	26	25	26	25	24	23	23	22,315	11627
All persons															
England	40	35	32	29	26	27	28	27	27	26	25	25	24	35,936	18613
Wales	40	35	31	31	27	27	28	25	27	27	27	23	22	2,115	1112
Scotland	45	42	36	34	30	30	31	30	31	28	31	25	27	3,760	1940
Great Britain	40	35	33	30	27	27	28	27	27	26	26	25	24	41,811	21665

Note: 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/5 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year.

1 Trend tables show unweighted and weighted figures for 1998 to give an indication of the effect of the weighting. Bases for earlier years can be found in GHS reports for each year.

Smoking and drinking among adults, 2005

Table 1.12 Prevalence of cigarette smoking by sex and Government Office Region: 1998 to 2005

<i>Persons aged 16 and over</i>								<i>Great Britain</i>	
Government Office Region	Weighted							Weighted base 2005 (000s) =100% ¹	Unweighted sample ¹ 2005
	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005		
Men									
Percentage smoking cigarettes									
England									
North East	28	27	33	24	30	28	28	849	428
North West	29	29	28	28	30	27	26	2,265	1185
Yorkshire and the Humber	30	29	30	27	25	30	27	1,738	901
East Midlands	27	27	28	24	31	27	25	1,597	841
West Midlands	32	27	27	25	26	26	23	1,662	881
East of England	26	27	27	25	28	26	25	1,859	996
London	34	31	29	29	28	26	25	2,277	1019
South East	28	28	26	27	25	25	24	2,849	1485
South West	26	30	27	27	26	25	26	1,737	927
All England	29	29	28	27	27	26	25	16,834	8663
Wales	29	25	27	27	29	24	24	956	503
Scotland	35	30	32	29	35	29	28	1,706	872
Great Britain	30	29	28	27	28	26	25	19,496	10038
Women									
England									
North East	30	28	26	29	27	30	30	1,046	537
North West	32	30	29	28	30	28	23	2,627	1403
Yorkshire and the Humber	28	26	28	27	24	26	23	2,000	1030
East Midlands	26	24	27	24	24	28	25	1,717	920
West Midlands	26	24	22	21	24	21	21	1,822	981
East of England	24	23	25	25	22	23	21	2,091	1134
London	27	24	26	21	20	19	20	2,652	1194
South East	21	23	23	25	22	20	21	3,166	1678
South West	25	24	22	24	22	21	25	1,981	1073
All England	26	25	25	25	24	23	22	19,102	9950
Wales	27	24	26	27	26	22	21	1,159	609
Scotland	29	30	30	28	28	22	25	2,054	1068
Great Britain	26	25	26	25	24	23	23	22,315	11627
All persons									
England									
North East	29	27	29	27	28	29	29	1,896	965
North West	31	30	29	28	30	28	24	4,892	2588
Yorkshire and the Humber	29	28	29	27	25	28	25	3,738	1931
East Midlands	27	25	28	24	27	27	25	3,314	1761
West Midlands	29	26	24	23	25	23	22	3,483	1862
East of England	25	25	26	25	25	24	23	3,950	2130
London	31	27	27	24	24	22	22	4,929	2213
South East	24	25	24	26	24	22	22	6,015	3163
South West	25	27	24	25	24	23	25	3,718	2000
All England	28	27	27	26	25	25	24	35,936	18613
Wales	28	25	27	27	27	23	22	2,115	1112
Scotland	31	30	31	28	31	25	27	3,760	1940
Great Britain	28	27	27	26	26	25	24	41,811	21665

Note: 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/5 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year.

1 Bases for earlier years can be found in GHS reports for each year.

Table 1.13 Cigarette-smoking status by sex: 1974 to 2005

<i>Persons aged 16 and over</i>													<i>Great Britain</i>	
	Unweighted							Weighted						
	1974	1978	1982	1986	1990	1994	1998	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Percentages														
Men														
Current cigarette smokers														
Light (under 20 per day)	25	22	20	20	17	17	18	19	18	19	17	18	18	17
Heavy (20 or more per day)	26	23	18	15	14	12	10	11	10	10	10	10	9	8
Total current cigarette smokers	51	45	38	35	31	28	28	30	29	28	27	28	26	25
Ex-regular cigarette smokers	23	27	30	32	32	31	31	29	27	27	28	27	28	27
Never or only occasionally smoked cigarettes	25	29	32	34	37	40	41	42	44	45	46	45	46	47
<i>Weighted base (000s) = 100%¹</i>								19,229	20,350	19,913	19,561	19,187	19,561	19,496
<i>Unweighted sample¹</i>	9852	10480	9199	8874	8106	7642	6579		6593	7055	6837	8097	6868	10038
Women														
Current cigarette smokers														
Light (under 20 per day)	28	23	22	21	20	18	19	19	19	19	18	18	17	17
Heavy (20 or more per day)	13	13	11	10	9	8	7	7	6	7	7	7	6	6
Total current cigarette smokers	41	37	33	31	29	26	26	26	25	26	25	24	23	23
Ex-regular cigarette smokers	11	14	16	18	19	21	21	20	20	21	21	21	20	21
Never or only occasionally smoked cigarettes	49	49	51	51	52	54	53	53	54	53	54	55	57	57
<i>Weighted base (000s) = 100%¹</i>								21,654	22,044	21,987	22,236	21,842	22,396	22,315
<i>Unweighted sample¹</i>	11480	12156	10641	10304	9445	9108	7830		7496	8299	7951	9327	8029	11627

Note: 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/5 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year.

¹ Trend tables show unweighted and weighted figures for 1998 to give an indication of the effect of the weighting. For the weighted data (1998 and 2000 to 2005) the weighted base (000s) is the base for percentages. Unweighted data (up to 1998) are based on the unweighted sample.

Smoking and drinking among adults, 2005

Table 1.14 Cigarette smoking status by sex and age

<i>Persons aged 16 and over</i>							<i>Great Britain: 2005</i>	
Age	Current cigarette smokers			Current non-smokers of cigarettes			<i>Weighted base (000s) = 100%</i>	<i>Unweighted sample</i>
	Light (under 20 per day)	Heavy (20 or more per day)	All current smokers	Ex-regular cigarette smokers	Never or only occasionally smoked cigarettes			
Men								
16-19	%	18	4	23	3	74	1,122	508
20-24	%	29	5	34	7	59	1,362	586
25-34	%	26	8	34	14	53	3,225	1558
35-49	%	18	11	29	19	52	5,296	2724
50-59	%	14	11	25	34	41	3,295	1732
60 and over	%	9	5	14	51	35	5,196	2930
All aged 16 and over	%	17	8	25	27	47	19,496	10038
Women								
16-19	%	23	3	26	4	70	1,063	508
20-24	%	25	5	30	9	61	1,654	763
25-34	%	24	5	29	15	56	3,559	1825
35-49	%	18	8	26	18	56	6,137	3213
50-59	%	15	8	23	25	51	3,556	1896
60 and over	%	10	4	13	29	58	6,345	3422
All aged 16 and over	%	17	6	23	21	57	22,315	11627
Total								
16-19	%	20	4	24	4	72	2,186	1016
20-24	%	27	5	32	8	60	3,016	1349
25-34	%	25	6	31	14	55	6,784	3383
35-49	%	18	9	27	18	54	11,434	5937
50-59	%	15	10	24	29	46	6,851	3628
60 and over	%	9	4	14	39	48	11,541	6352
All aged 16 and over	%	17	7	24	24	52	41,811	21665

Note: 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/5 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year.

Table 1.15 Average daily cigarette consumption per smoker by sex and age: 1974 to 2005

<i>Current cigarette smokers aged 16 and over</i>														<i>Great Britain</i>		
Age	Unweighted							Weighted							<i>Weighted base 2005 (000s)= 100%¹</i>	<i>Unweighted sample¹ 2005</i>
	1974	1978	1982	1986	1990	1994	1998	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005		
Mean number of cigarettes per day																
Men																
16-19	16	14	12	12	13	10	10	10	12	11	11	13	11	13	253	113
20-24	19	17	16	15	16	13	14	13	12	12	12	12	11	11	468	201
25-34	19	19	17	16	16	15	13	13	13	13	13	13	12	12	1,081	520
35-49	20	20	20	19	19	18	17	18	17	17	17	16	16	15	1,541	752
50-59	18	20	18	17	17	20	18	18	17	18	18	18	18	17	829	418
60 and over	14	15	16	15	15	14	16	16	15	15	16	15	14	15	730	392
All aged 16 and over	18	18	17	16	17	16	16	15	15	15	15	15	15	14	4,903	2396
Women																
16-19	12	13	11	11	11	10	10	10	10	12	12	10	11	10	272	131
20-24	14	14	14	12	13	13	12	11	10	11	10	11	11	11	490	236
25-34	15	16	16	14	15	14	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	11	1,032	534
35-49	15	16	15	16	15	15	15	15	14	15	15	14	14	14	1,583	791
50-59	13	14	14	14	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	830	428
60 and over	10	11	11	12	12	13	12	12	12	12	13	13	13	13	836	451
All aged 16 and over	13	14	14	14	14	14	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	5,044	2571

Note: 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/5 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year.

1 Trend tables show unweighted and weighted figures for 1998 to give an indication of the effect of the weighting. Bases for earlier years can be found in GHS reports for each year.

Table 1.16 Average daily cigarette consumption per smoker by sex, and socio-economic classification based on the current or last job of the household reference person

<i>Current cigarette smokers aged 16 and over</i>		<i>Great Britain: 2005</i>		
Socio-economic classification of household reference person ¹	Men	Women	Total	
Mean number of cigarettes a day				
Managerial and professional				
Large employers and higher managerial	12	11	11	
Higher professional	12	13	12	12
Lower managerial and professional	13	12	12	
Intermediate				
Intermediate	14	12	12	
Small employers and own account	15	13	14	13
Routine and manual				
Lower supervisory and technical	15	13	14	
Semi-routine	15	14	14	15
Routine	16	15	16	
Total ¹	15	13	14	
<i>Weighted bases (000s) = 100%</i>				
Large employers and higher managerial	230	194	424	
Higher professional	258	176	433	
Lower managerial and professional	978	1022	1999	
Intermediate	297	423	720	
Small employers and own account	506	442	949	
Lower supervisory and technical	627	593	1220	
Semi-routine	802	923	1725	
Routine	877	900	1778	
Total ¹	4903	5044	9947	
<i>Unweighted sample</i>				
Large employers and higher managerial	113	102	215	
Higher professional	127	94	221	
Lower managerial and professional	489	524	1013	
Intermediate	136	207	343	
Small employers and own account	256	238	494	
Lower supervisory and technical	308	301	609	
Semi-routine	400	475	875	
Routine	426	456	882	
Total ¹	2396	2571	4967	

Note: 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/5 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year.

1 Where the household reference person was a full-time student, had an inadequately described occupation, had never worked or was long-term unemployed these are not shown as separate categories, but are included in the figure for all persons.

Smoking and drinking among adults, 2005

Table 1.17 Type of cigarette smoked by sex: 1974 to 2005

<i>Current cigarette smokers aged 16 and over</i>													<i>Great Britain</i>		
Type of cigarette smoked	Unweighted							Weighted							
	1974	1978	1982	1986	1990	1994	1998	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Men															
Mainly filter	69	75	72	78	80	78	74	74	69	68	66	68	65	65	
Mainly plain	18	11	7	4	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Mainly hand-rolled	13	14	21	18	18	21	25	25	30	31	33	32	34	34	
<i>Weighted base (000s) =100%¹</i>								5,687	5,802	5,643	5,246	5,367	5,158	4,927	
<i>Unweighted sample¹</i>	4993	4646	3469	3072	2510	2150	1857		1796	1911	1765	2171	1748	2408	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Women															
Mainly filter	91	95	94	96	97	96	92	92	89	87	86	87	85	84	
Mainly plain	8	4	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Mainly hand-rolled	1	1	3	2	2	4	7	8	10	12	13	12	14	16	
<i>Weighted base (000s) =100%¹</i>								5,735	5,619	5,635	5,560	5,287	5,156	5,060	
<i>Unweighted sample¹</i>	4600	4421	3522	3192	2748	2336	2044		1900	2101	1957	2226	1827	2579	

Note: 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/5 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year.

1 Trend tables show unweighted and weighted figures for 1998 to give an indication of the effect of the weighting. For the weighted data (1998 and 2000 to 2005) the weighted base (000s) is the base for percentages. Unweighted data (up to 1998) are based on the unweighted sample.

Table 1.18 Type of cigarette smoked by sex and age

<i>Current cigarette smokers aged 16 and over</i>							<i>Great Britain: 2005</i>
Type of cigarette smoked	Age						
	16-24	25-34	35-49	50-59	60 and over	All aged 16 and over	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Men							
Mainly filter	74	74	61	57	60	65	
Mainly plain	2	1	1	0	0	1	
Mainly hand-rolled	25	25	38	43	39	34	
<i>Weighted base (000s) =100%</i>	722	1,085	1,549	834	738	4,927	
<i>Unweighted sample</i>	314	521	756	421	396	2,408	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Women							
Mainly filter	86	82	79	86	90	84	
Mainly plain	1	0	1	0	1	1	
Mainly hand-rolled	12	18	20	14	9	16	
<i>Weighted base (000s) =100%</i>	762	1,032	1,590	835	841	5,060	
<i>Unweighted sample</i>	367	534	794	430	454	2,579	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Total							
Mainly filter	80	78	71	71	76	75	
Mainly plain	1	1	1	0	1	1	
Mainly hand-rolled	18	21	29	29	23	25	
<i>Weighted base (000s) =100%</i>	1,484	2,117	3,140	1,668	1,579	9,987	
<i>Unweighted sample</i>	681	1,055	1,550	851	850	4,987	

Note: 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/5 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year.

Table 1.19 Tar yield grouped per cigarette: 1986 to 2005

<i>Current smokers of manufactured cigarettes</i>												<i>Great Britain</i>	
Tar yield	Unweighted					Weighted							
	1986	1988	1990	1992	1998	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
<10mg	19	21	24	25	28	28	27	26	27	26	26	24	
10<15mg	32	58	54	68	70	69	71	71	71	71	71	73	
15+mg	40	17	19	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
No regular brand/dk tar yield	10	4	4	3	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	
<i>Weighted base (000s) =100%¹</i>						<i>9,568</i>	<i>9,104</i>	<i>8,850</i>	<i>8,317</i>	<i>8,306</i>	<i>7,812</i>	<i>7,510</i>	
<i>Unweighted sample¹</i>	<i>5620</i>	<i>5363</i>	<i>4739</i>	<i>4662</i>	<i>3288</i>	<i>2955</i>	<i>3174</i>	<i>2870</i>	<i>2870</i>	<i>3424</i>	<i>2716</i>	<i>3762</i>	

Note: 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/5 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year.

¹ Trend tables show unweighted and weighted figures for 1998 to give an indication of the effect of the weighting. For the weighted data (1998 and 2000 to 2005) the weighted base (000s) is the base for percentages. Unweighted data (up to 1998) are based on the unweighted sample.

Table 1.20 Tar yield per cigarette: 1998 to 2005

<i>Current smokers of manufactured cigarettes</i>								<i>Great Britain</i>	
Tar yield	Weighted								
	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005		
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%		
Less than 4mg	5	5	3	2	2	1	1		
4<8mg	17	22	17	17	17	19	17		
8<10mg	11	9	7	8	7	6	6		
10<12mg	13	27	35	34	71	71	73		
12<15mg	51	34	36	37	0	0	0		
No regular brand/dk tar yield	2	2	2	2	3	3	3		
<i>Weighted base (000s) =100%</i>	<i>9,568</i>	<i>9,104</i>	<i>8,850</i>	<i>8,317</i>	<i>8,306</i>	<i>7,812</i>	<i>7,510</i>		
<i>Unweighted sample</i>	<i>3288</i>	<i>2955</i>	<i>3174</i>	<i>2870</i>	<i>3424</i>	<i>2716</i>	<i>3762</i>		

Note: 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/5 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year.

Smoking and drinking among adults, 2005

Table 1.21 Tar yields by sex and age

<i>Current smokers of manufactured¹ cigarettes aged 16 and over</i>							<i>Great Britain: 2005</i>	
Tar yield							<i>Weighted</i>	<i>Unweighted</i>
		Less than 4mg	4<8mg	8<10mg	10<12mg	No regular brand/dk tar yield	<i>base (000s) =100%</i>	<i>sample</i>
Men								
16-19	%	1	14	1	80	5	195	84
20-24	%	0	16	3	78	3	349	151
25-34	%	0	23	2	73	2	816	389
35-49	%	1	16	3	77	3	959	473
50-59	%	1	12	2	81	4	472	239
60 and over	%	2	8	5	82	2	448	247
Total	%	1	16	3	77	3	3,239	1583
Women								
16-19	%	1	10	6	80	4	240	115
20-24	%	0	17	8	74	2	430	206
25-34	%	3	24	6	66	2	850	439
35-49	%	2	18	8	70	2	1,273	636
50-59	%	2	15	10	70	3	717	371
60 and over	%	2	14	12	68	3	762	412
Total	%	2	17	8	70	2	4,271	2179
Total								
16-19	%	1	12	4	80	4	435	199
20-24	%	0	16	6	76	2	779	357
25-34	%	2	23	4	69	2	1,666	828
35-49	%	1	17	6	73	3	2,232	1109
50-59	%	2	14	7	75	4	1,189	610
60 and over	%	2	12	10	73	2	1,209	659
Total	%	1	17	6	73	3	7,510	3762

Note: 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/5 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year.

1 Thirty two per cent of male smokers and 12 per cent of female smokers said they mainly smoked hand-rolled cigarettes and have been excluded from this analysis.

Table 1.22 Tar yields by sex and socio-economic classification based on the current or last job of the household reference person

<i>Current smokers of manufactured¹ cigarettes aged 16 and over</i>							<i>Great Britain: 2005</i>	
Socio-economic class of household reference person ²	Tar yields						Weighted base (000s) =100%	Unweighted sample
	Less than 4mg	4<8mg	8<10mg	10<12mg	No regular brand/dk tar yield			
Men								
Managerial and professional	%	2	25	3	68	2	1,131	562
Intermediate	%	0	13	2	81	3	560	273
Routine and manual	%	1	9	3	84	3	1,334	657
Total	%	1	16	3	77	3	3,239	1583
Women								
Managerial and professional	%	3	26	8	59	4	1,206	625
Intermediate	%	2	20	10	66	3	765	396
Routine and manual	%	1	11	9	77	2	1,994	1013
Total	%	2	17	8	70	2	4,271	2179
All persons								
Managerial and professional	%	2	25	6	64	3	2,338	1187
Intermediate	%	1	17	7	72	3	1,325	669
Routine and manual	%	1	11	6	80	2	3,328	1670
Total	%	1	17	6	73	3	7,510	3762

Note: 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/5 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year.

- 1 Thirty two per cent of male smokers and 12 per cent of female smokers said they mainly smoked hand-rolled cigarettes and have been excluded from this analysis.
- 2 Where the household reference person was a full-time student, had an inadequately described occupation, had never worked or was long-term unemployed these are not shown as separate categories, but are included in the figure for all persons.

Smoking and drinking among adults, 2005

Table 1.23 Prevalence of smoking by sex and type of product smoked: 1974 to 2005

<i>Persons aged 16 and over</i>										<i>Great Britain</i>				
	Unweighted							Weighted						
	1974	1978	1982 ¹	1986	1990	1994	1998	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Percentage smoking														
Men														
Cigarettes ²	51	45	38	35	31	28	28	30	29	28	27	28	26	25
Pipe	12	10	..	6	4	3	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1
Cigars ³	34	16	12	10	8	6	6	6	5	5	5	4	4	4
All smokers ⁴	64	55	45	44	38	33	33	34	32	32	30	31	29	28
<i>Weighted base (000s) = 100%</i>								19,225	20,350	19,972	19,561	19,187	19,561	19,498
<i>Unweighted sample</i>								9,862	10,439	9,171	8,884	8,119	7,662	6,579
								6,593	7,074	6,835	8,097	6,868	10,039	
Women														
Cigarettes ²	41	37	33	31	29	26	26	26	25	26	25	24	23	23
Cigars ³	3	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
All smokers ⁴	41	37	34	31	29	26	26	27	26	26	25	24	23	23
<i>Weighted base (000s) = 100%</i>								21,653	22,044	22,032	22,236	21,842	22,393	22,315
<i>Unweighted sample</i>								11,419	12,079	10,559	10,312	9,455	9,137	7,830
								7,496	8,317	7,951	9,327	8,028	11,627	

Note: 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/5 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year.
¹ In 1982 and 1984 men were not asked about pipe smoking, and therefore the figures for all smokers exclude those who smoked only a pipe.
² Figures for cigarettes include all smokers of manufactured and hand-rolled cigarettes.
³ For 1974 the figures include occasional cigar smokers, that is, those who smoked less than one cigar a month.
⁴ The percentages for cigarettes, pipes and cigars add to more than the percentage for all smokers because some people smoked more than one type of product.

Table 1.24 Prevalence of smoking by sex and age and type of product smoked

<i>Persons aged 16 and over</i>										<i>Great Britain: 2005</i>		
Age	Men					<i>Unwghtd sample</i>	Women					<i>Unweighted sample</i>
	Cigarettes ¹	Pipe ²	Cigars ²	All smokers ³	<i>Weighted base (000s) = 100%</i>		Cigarettes ¹	Cigars ²	All smokers	<i>Weighted base (000s) = 100%</i>		
Percentage smoking												
16-19	23	0	3	24	1,122	508	26	0	26	1,062	507	
20-24	34	0	4	35	1,362	586	30	0	30	1,652	763	
25-29	36	0	3	37	1,416	666	29	0	29	1,519	766	
30-34	32	0	4	33	1,809	892	29	0	29	2,040	1059	
35-49	29	1	4	32	5,296	2724	26	0	26	6,137	3213	
50-59	25	1	4	29	3,295	1732	23	0	24	3,556	1896	
60 and over	14	2	2	18	5,197	2931	13	0	13	6,345	3422	
All aged 16 and over	25	1	4	28	19,498	10039	23	0	23	22,315	11627	

Note: 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/5 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year.
¹ Figures for cigarettes include all smokers of both manufactured and hand-rolled cigarettes.
² Young people aged 16-17 were not asked about cigar or pipe-smoking.
³ The percentages for cigarettes, pipes and cigars add to more than the percentage for all smokers because some people smoked more than one type of product.

Table 1.25 Age started smoking regularly by sex: 1992 to 2005

<i>Persons aged 16 and over who had ever smoked regularly</i>											<i>Great Britain: 2005</i>	
Age started smoking regularly	Unweighted				Weighted							
	1992	1994	1996	1998	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Men												
Under 16	40	41	41	43	42	43	42	42	42	42	42	41
16-17	27	27	27	26	26	27	26	28	26	26	26	26
18-19	17	16	17	17	17	15	16	16	16	16	16	17
20-24	12	11	11	10	11	11	11	11	11	11	10	11
25 and over	4	4	3	4	4	5	4	4	4	5	5	5
<i>Weighted base (000s) =100%</i>					11,146	11,016	10,608	10,469	10,431	10,506	10,194	
<i>Unweighted sample</i>	5143	4519	4295	3852		3625	3883	3696	4410	3700	5276	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Women												
Under 16	28	30	32	31	32	33	35	33	35	35	35	36
16-17	28	28	28	29	28	27	27	28	26	18	27	27
18-19	19	19	17	18	17	19	17	18	19	18	17	17
20-24	15	13	13	14	14	12	12	13	13	12	12	12
25 and over	10	9	9	8	8	8	9	7	7	7	7	7
<i>Weighted base (000s) =100%</i>					10,101	9,663	10,222	10,067	9,738	9,591	9,589	
<i>Unweighted sample</i>	4640	4179	3991	3645		3302	3818	3589	4141	3446	4987	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
All persons												
Under 16	34	36	37	37	37	38	39	38	38	39	39	39
16-17	27	28	28	27	27	27	26	28	26	27	27	27
18-19	18	18	17	18	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17
20-24	14	12	12	12	12	11	12	12	12	11	11	11
25 and over	7	7	6	6	6	6	6	5	6	6	6	6
<i>Weighted base (000s) =100%</i>					21,247	20,679	20,830	20,537	20,169	20,097	19,783	
<i>Unweighted sample</i>	9783	8698	8286	7497		6957	7701	7285	8551	7146	10263	

Note: 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/5 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year.

Table 1.26 Age started smoking regularly by sex and socio-economic classification based on the current or last job of the household reference person

<i>Persons aged 16 and over who had ever smoked regularly</i>		<i>Great Britain: 2005</i>			
Age started smoking regularly	Socio-economic classification of household reference person ¹				
	Managerial & professional	Intermediate	Routine & manual	Total	
	%	%	%	%	
Men					
Under 16	33	43	48	41	
16-17	27	26	25	26	
18-19	21	16	14	17	
20-24	13	10	9	11	
25 and over	6	5	5	5	
<i>Weighted base (000s) =100%</i>	<i>3,571</i>	<i>1,778</i>	<i>4,402</i>	<i>10,194</i>	
<i>Unweighted sample</i>	<i>1922</i>	<i>922</i>	<i>2235</i>	<i>5276</i>	
	%	%	%	%	
Women					
Under 16	28	35	40	36	
16-17	29	27	27	27	
18-19	21	18	15	17	
20-24	15	13	11	12	
25 and over	7	7	8	7	
<i>Weighted base (000s) =100%</i>	<i>3,152</i>	<i>1,753</i>	<i>4,117</i>	<i>9,589</i>	
<i>Unweighted sample</i>	<i>1692</i>	<i>907</i>	<i>2117</i>	<i>4987</i>	
	%	%	%	%	
All persons					
Under 16	31	39	44	39	
16-17	28	27	26	27	
18-19	21	17	14	17	
20-24	14	11	10	11	
25 and over	7	6	6	6	
<i>Weighted base (000s) =100%</i>	<i>6,723</i>	<i>3,531</i>	<i>8,519</i>	<i>19,783</i>	
<i>Unweighted sample</i>	<i>3614</i>	<i>1829</i>	<i>4352</i>	<i>10263</i>	

Note: 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/5 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year.

1 Where the household reference person was a full-time student, had an inadequately described occupation, had never worked or was long-term unemployed these are not shown as separate categories, but are included in the figure for all persons.

Table 1.27 Age started smoking regularly by sex, whether current smoker and if so, cigarettes smoked a day

<i>Persons aged 16 and over who had ever smoked regularly</i>					<i>Great Britain: 2005</i>	
Age started smoking regularly	Current smoker			All current smokers ¹	Ex-regular smoker	All who have ever smoked regularly
	20 or more a day	10-19 a day	0-9 a day			
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Men						
Under 16	53	46	33	45	38	41
16-17	23	26	24	25	28	26
18-19	11	14	21	15	18	17
20-24	8	10	12	10	11	11
25 and over	4	5	10	6	5	5
<i>Weighted base (000s) = 100%</i>	<i>1,563</i>	<i>1,937</i>	<i>1,371</i>	<i>4,891</i>	<i>5,303</i>	<i>10,194</i>
<i>Unweighted sample</i>	<i>779</i>	<i>960</i>	<i>642</i>	<i>2,391</i>	<i>2,885</i>	<i>5,276</i>
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Women						
Under 16	48	43	35	42	29	36
16-17	23	27	27	26	29	27
18-19	13	16	15	15	20	17
20-24	10	8	14	11	14	12
25 and over	6	6	9	7	8	7
<i>Weighted base (000s) = 100%</i>	<i>1,287</i>	<i>2,152</i>	<i>1,573</i>	<i>5,029</i>	<i>4,561</i>	<i>9,589</i>
<i>Unweighted sample</i>	<i>660</i>	<i>1,099</i>	<i>796</i>	<i>2,563</i>	<i>2,424</i>	<i>4,987</i>
	%	%	%	%	%	%
All persons						
Under 16	51	45	34	43	34	39
16-17	23	26	26	25	28	27
18-19	12	15	18	15	19	17
20-24	9	9	13	10	13	11
25 and over	5	5	9	6	6	6
<i>Weighted base (000s) = 100%</i>	<i>2,850</i>	<i>4,089</i>	<i>2,944</i>	<i>9,920</i>	<i>9,864</i>	<i>19,783</i>
<i>Unweighted sample</i>	<i>1,439</i>	<i>2,059</i>	<i>1,438</i>	<i>4,954</i>	<i>5,309</i>	<i>10,263</i>

Note: 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/5 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year.

1 Includes a few smokers who did not say how many cigarettes a day they smoked.

Table 1.28 Proportion of smokers who would like to give up smoking altogether, by sex and number of cigarettes smoked per day: 1992 to 2005

<i>Current cigarette smokers aged 16 and over</i>												<i>Great Britain</i>	
Number of cigarettes smoked a day	Unweighted				Weighted							Weighted base 2005 (000s) =100% ¹	Unweighted sample ¹ 2005
	1992	1994	1996	1998	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005		
Percentage who would like to stop altogether													
Men													
20 or more	68	70	66	69	69	74	70	68	64	67	66	1,565	780
10-19	70	72	69	73	73	76	71	71	67	68	68	1,940	962
0-9	58	61	62	62	62	64	62	62	61	64	68	1,394	652
All smokers ^c	66	69	66	69	69	72	68	68	64	67	68	4,923	2406
Women													
20 or more	70	69	69	68	68	73	66	67	64	70	67	1,289	661
10-19	72	71	70	75	75	76	67	71	71	70	70	2,158	1102
0-9	58	62	59	65	65	63	60	67	66	67	67	1,597	808
All smokers ^c	68	68	67	70	70	71	65	69	67	69	68	5,060	2579
Total													
20 or more	69	70	68	69	69	74	68	68	64	68	67	2,853	1441
10-19	71	71	70	74	74	76	69	71	69	69	69	4,098	2064
0-9	58	61	60	64	64	63	61	65	64	66	68	2,991	1460
All smokers ^c	67	68	67	69	69	72	66	68	66	68	68	9,983	4985

Note: 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/5 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year.

¹ Trend tables show unweighted and weighted figures for 1998 to give an indication of the effect of the weighting. Bases for earlier years can be found in GHS reports for each year.

² Includes a few smokers who did not say how many cigarettes a day they smoked.

Table 1.29 Proportion of smokers who would find it difficult to go without smoking for a day, by sex and number of cigarettes smoked per day: 1992 to 2005

<i>Current cigarette smokers aged 16 and over</i>												<i>Great Britain</i>	
Number of cigarettes smoked a day	Unweighted				Weighted							Weighted base 2005 (000s) = 100% ¹	Unweighted sample ¹ 2005
	1992	1994	1996	1998	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005		
Percentage who would find it difficult not to smoke for a day													
Men													
20 or more	76	78	78	78	78	78	74	77	78	77	77	1,563	779
10-19	54	57	54	54	54	56	55	57	53	57	60	1,928	957
0-9	20	17	20	25	23	14	21	23	19	16	23	1,390	650
All smokers ²	55	56	56	56	56	53	52	56	53	52	55	4,905	2,398
Women													
20 or more	86	86	87	87	86	88	87	86	83	82	84	1,284	659
10-19	68	68	66	66	65	67	65	66	64	67	65	2,149	1,099
0-9	23	20	24	24	25	22	24	21	22	21	27	1,589	804
All smokers ²	61	60	61	59	59	58	58	59	56	57	58	5,039	2,570
Total													
20 or more	80	82	83	82	82	82	80	81	80	79	80	2,847	1,438
10-19	61	63	60	61	60	62	61	62	58	62	63	4,078	2,056
0-9	21	19	23	24	24	18	22	22	21	19	25	2,979	1,454
All smokers ²	58	59	58	58	57	56	55	57	55	55	56	9,944	4,968

Note: 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/5 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year.

¹ Trend tables show unweighted and weighted figures for 1998 to give an indication of the effect of the weighting. Bases for earlier years can be found in GHS reports for each year.

² Includes a few smokers who did not say how many cigarettes a day they smoked.

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Table 1.30 Proportion of smokers who have their first cigarette within five minutes of waking, by sex and number of cigarettes smoked per day: 1992 to 2005

<i>Current cigarette smokers aged 16 and over</i>												<i>Great Britain</i>	
Number of cigarettes smoked a day	Unweighted				Weighted							<i>Weighted base 2005 (000s) =100%¹</i>	<i>Unweighted sample¹ 2005</i>
	1992	1994	1996	1998	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005		
Percentage smoking within 5 minutes of waking													
Men													
20 or more	29	31	29	31	32	30	30	31	31	34	34	1,563	779
10-19	10	13	9	11	11	13	11	11	11	13	15	1,940	962
0-9	2	2	3	2	2	2	3	3	4	1	2	1,388	649
All smokers ^c	16	18	16	16	17	16	15	16	16	17	17	4,915	2402
Women													
20 or more	29	34	32	31	31	32	35	31	31	33	31	1,287	660
10-19	10	9	11	12	12	12	12	12	12	15	11	2,158	1102
0-9	1	0	1	1	1	2	2	2	3	2	2	1,595	807
All smokers ^c	14	14	15	14	14	14	15	14	14	16	14	5,056	2577
Total													
20 or more	29	33	30	31	31	31	32	31	31	34	33	2,850	1439
10-19	10	11	10	12	12	13	11	11	11	14	13	4,098	2064
0-9	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	1	2	2,982	1456
All smokers ^c	15	16	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	17	16	9,971	4979

Note: 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/5 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year.

¹ Trend tables show unweighted and weighted figures for 1998 to give an indication of the effect of the weighting. Bases for earlier years can be found in GHS reports for each year.

² Includes a few smokers who did not say how many cigarettes a day they smoked.

Table 1.31 Proportion of smokers who would like to give up smoking altogether, by sex, socio-economic classification of household reference person, and number of cigarettes smoked a day

Current cigarette smokers aged 16 and over		Great Britain: 2005			
Number of cigarettes smoked a day	Socio-economic classification ¹			Total	
	Managerial & professional	Intermediate	Routine & manual		
Percentage who would like to stop altogether					
Men					
20 or more	68	65	65	66	
10-19	70	69	67	68	
0-9	69	69	68	68	
All smokers ^c	69	67	67	68	
Women					
20 or more	62	76	65	67	
10-19	75	75	66	70	
0-9	69	71	66	67	
All smokers ^c	70	74	66	68	
Total					
20 or more	65	69	65	67	
10-19	73	72	67	69	
0-9	69	70	67	68	
All smokers ^c	70	71	66	68	
<i>Weighted base (000s)=100%</i>					
Men					
20 or more	402	262	833	1,565	
10-19	515	339	961	1,940	
0-9	548	200	510	1,394	
All smokers	1,475	805	2,311	4,923	
Women					
20 or more	288	189	703	1,289	
10-19	553	381	1,076	2,158	
0-9	550	295	637	1,597	
All smokers	1,395	866	2,430	5,060	
Total					
20 or more	690	451	1,537	2,853	
10-19	1,068	720	2,038	4,098	
0-9	1,098	496	1,146	2,991	
All smokers	2,869	1,671	4,741	9,983	
<i>Unweighted sample</i>					
Men					
20 or more	205	129	413	780	
10-19	264	168	475	962	
0-9	260	94	245	652	
All smokers	734	393	1136	2406	
Women					
20 or more	150	97	361	661	
10-19	288	195	551	1102	
0-9	282	153	320	808	
All smokers	722	445	1238	2579	
Total					
20 or more	355	226	774	1441	
10-19	552	363	1026	2064	
0-9	542	247	565	1460	
All smokers	1456	838	2374	4985	

Note: 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/5 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year.

¹ Where the household reference person was a full-time student, had an inadequately described occupation, had never worked or was long-term unemployed these are not shown as separate categories, but are included in the figure for all persons.

² Includes a few smokers who did not say how many cigarettes a day they smoked.

Table 1.32 Proportion of smokers who would find it difficult to go without smoking for a day, by sex, socio-economic classification of household reference person, and number of cigarettes smoked a day

<i>Current cigarette smokers aged 16 and over</i>		<i>Great Britain: 2005</i>			
Number of cigarettes smoked a day	Socio-economic classification ¹			Total	
	Managerial & professional	Intermediate	Routine & manual		
Percentage who would find it difficult to stop for a day					
Men					
20 or more	75	77	78	77	
10-19	57	54	63	60	
0-9	22	22	25	23	
All smokers ²	49	53	60	55	
Women					
20 or more	87	82	82	84	
10-19	63	64	67	65	
0-9	19	31	33	27	
All smokers ²	51	57	62	58	
Total					
20 or more	80	79	80	80	
10-19	60	60	65	63	
0-9	20	27	30	25	
All smokers ²	50	55	61	56	
<i>Weighted base (000s)=100%</i>					
Men					
20 or more	402	262	831	1,563	
10-19	515	339	952	1,928	
0-9	546	200	507	1,390	
All smokers	1,473	805	2,296	4,905	
Women					
20 or more	288	189	701	1,284	
10-19	551	381	1,070	2,149	
0-9	550	293	633	1,589	
All smokers	1,392	863	2,417	5,039	
Total					
20 or more	690	451	1,532	2,847	
10-19	1,065	720	2,022	4,078	
0-9	1,096	493	1,140	2,979	
All smokers	2,865	1,669	4,713	9,944	
<i>Unweighted sample</i>					
Men					
20 or more	205	129	412	779	
10-19	264	168	471	957	
0-9	259	94	244	650	
All smokers	733	393	1,130	2,398	
Women					
20 or more	150	97	360	659	
10-19	287	195	549	1,099	
0-9	282	152	318	804	
All smokers	721	444	1,233	2,570	
Total					
20 or more	355	226	772	1,438	
10-19	551	363	1,020	2,056	
0-9	541	246	562	1,454	
All smokers	1,454	837	2,363	4,968	

Note: 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/5 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year.

1 Where the household reference person was a full-time student, had an inadequately described occupation, had never worked or was long-term unemployed these are not shown as separate categories, but are included in the figure for all persons.

2 Includes a few smokers who did not say how many cigarettes a day they smoked.

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Table 1.33 Proportion of smokers who have their first cigarette within five minutes of waking, by sex, socio-economic classification of household reference person, and number of cigarettes smoked a day

<i>Current cigarette smokers aged 16 and over</i>		<i>Great Britain: 2005</i>			
Number of cigarettes smoked a day	Socio-economic classification ¹			Total	
	Managerial & professional	Intermediate	Routine & manual		
Percentage who smoke within 5 minutes of waking					
Men					
20 or more	27	31	37	34	
10-19	13	14	16	15	
0-9	2	3	1	2	
All smokers ²	13	17	21	17	
Women					
20 or more	26	34	30	31	
10-19	6	9	15	11	
0-9	2	3	2	2	
All smokers ²	9	12	16	14	
Total					
20 or more	27	32	34	33	
10-19	10	11	15	13	
0-9	2	3	2	2	
All smokers ²	11	14	18	16	
<i>Weighted base (000s)=100%</i>					
<i>Men</i>					
20 or more	402	262	831	1,563	
10-19	515	339	962	1,940	
0-9	546	200	504	1,388	
All smokers	1,473	805	2,304	4,915	
<i>Women</i>					
20 or more	288	189	701	1,287	
10-19	553	381	1,076	2,158	
0-9	550	295	635	1,595	
All smokers	1,395	866	2,426	5,056	
<i>Total</i>					
20 or more	690	451	1,533	2,850	
10-19	1,068	720	2,038	4,098	
0-9	1,096	496	1,139	2,982	
All smokers	2,868	1,671	4,730	9,971	
<i>Unweighted sample</i>					
<i>Men</i>					
20 or more	205	129	412	779	
10-19	264	168	475	962	
0-9	259	94	243	649	
All smokers	733	393	1133	2402	
<i>Women</i>					
20 or more	150	97	360	660	
10-19	288	195	551	1102	
0-9	282	153	319	807	
All smokers	722	445	1236	2577	
<i>Total</i>					
20 or more	355	226	772	1439	
10-19	552	363	1026	2064	
0-9	541	247	562	1456	
All smokers	1455	838	2369	4979	

Note: 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/5 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year.

1 Where the household reference persons was a full-time student, had an inadequately described occupation, had never worked or was long-term unemployed these are not shown as separate categories, but are included in the figure for all persons.

2 Includes a few smokers who did not say how many cigarettes a day they smoked.

2 Drinking

Questions about drinking alcohol were included in the General Household Survey every two years from 1978 to 1998. Following the review of the GHS, the questions about drinking in the last seven days form part of the continuous survey, and have been included every year from 2000 onwards. Questions continuing the long-running series designed to measure average weekly alcohol consumption were included from 2000 to 2002 and again in 2005. Before 1988 questions about drinking were asked only of those aged 18 and over, but since then respondents aged 16 and 17 have answered the questions using a self-completion questionnaire.

This report presents information on trends in alcohol consumption, and on the association between consumption and characteristics of individuals such as sex, age, socio-economic position, and ethnic group.

Measuring alcohol consumption

Obtaining reliable information about drinking behaviour is difficult, and social surveys consistently record lower levels of consumption than would be expected from data on alcohol sales. This is partly because people may consciously or unconsciously underestimate how much alcohol they consume. Drinking at home is particularly likely to be under-estimated because the quantities consumed are not measured and are likely to be larger than those dispensed in licensed premises.

There are different methods for obtaining survey information on drinking behaviour. One approach is to ask people to recall all episodes of drinking during a set period¹. However, this is time-consuming and is not suitable for the GHS, where drinking is only one of a number of subjects covered.

The GHS currently uses two measures of alcohol consumption:

- maximum daily amount drunk last week;
- average weekly alcohol consumption.

Maximum daily amount drunk last week

These questions have been included in the GHS since 1998, following the publication in 1995 of an inter-departmental review of the effects of drinking². This concluded that it was more appropriate to set benchmarks for daily than for weekly consumption of alcohol, partly because of concern about the health and social risks associated with single episodes of intoxication. The report considered that regular consumption of between three and four units³ a day for men and two to three units a day for women does not carry a significant health risk, but that consistently drinking above these levels is not advised.

The government's advice on sensible drinking is now based on these daily benchmarks, and GHS data are used to monitor the extent to which people are following the advice given. Respondents are asked on how many days they drank alcohol during the previous week. They are then asked how much of each of six different types of drink (normal strength beer, strong beer [6 per cent or greater ABV⁴], wine, spirits, fortified wines and alcopops) they drank on their heaviest drinking day during the previous week. These amounts are added to give an estimate of the maximum number of units the respondent had drunk on that day.

Average weekly alcohol consumption

Questions to establish average weekly alcohol consumption have been included on the GHS in their current form periodically since 1986. The measure was developed in response to earlier medical guidelines suggesting maximum recommended weekly amounts of alcohol. Its use continues to provide a consistent measure of alcohol consumption through which trends can be monitored. Respondents are asked how often over the last year they have drunk normal strength beer, strong beer, wine, spirits, fortified wines and alcopops, and how much they have usually drunk on any one day. This information is combined to give an estimate of the respondent's weekly alcohol consumption (averaged over a year) in units of alcohol. The questions were included in the 2005 survey, and were previously last asked in 2002.

Last week's drinking

Frequency of drinking during the last week

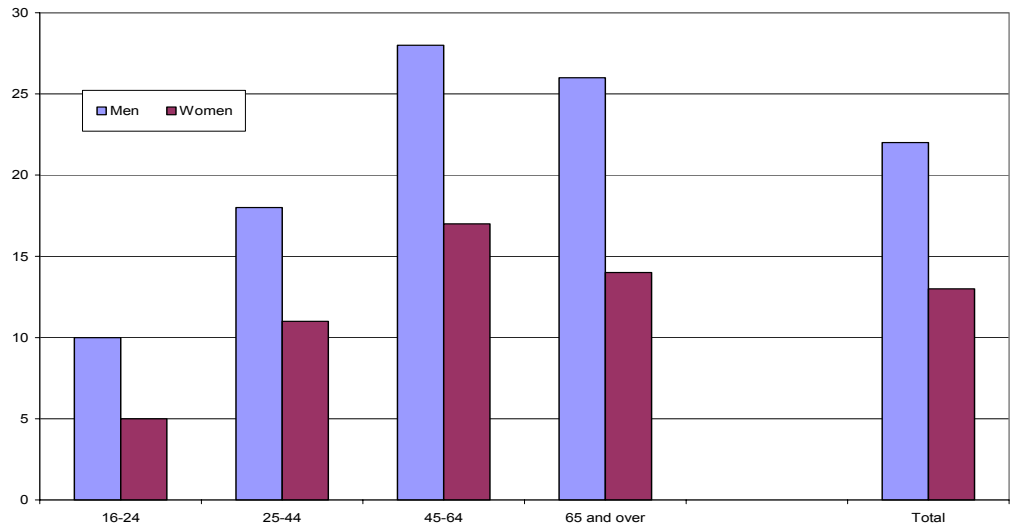
Patterns of drinking behaviour in 2005 were broadly the same as those described in earlier GHS reports. Men were more likely than women to have had an alcoholic drink in the previous week: 72 per cent of men and 57 per cent of women had had a drink on at least one day during the previous week. Men also drank on more days of the week than women. More than one in five men (22 per cent) compared with one in eight women (13 per cent) had drunk on at least five of the preceding seven days. Similarly, men were almost twice as likely as women to have drunk alcohol every day during the previous week (13 per cent compared with 7 per cent).

The proportions drinking last week also varied between age groups, but the pattern was different for men and women. Men in the youngest and oldest age groups (16 to 24 and 65 and over) were less likely than those in the middle age range to report drinking alcohol during the previous week. For women, the proportion was relatively low only among those aged 65 and over: 43 per cent of this group reported drinking alcohol in the previous week compared with around 60 per cent of younger women.

However, although they were less likely to have had a drink at all in the previous week, older people drank more frequently than younger people. For example, 21 per cent of men and 11 per cent of women aged 65 and over had drunk every day during the previous week, compared with only 3 per cent of men and 2 per cent of women aged 16 to 24.

Figure 2.1, Table 2.1

Figure 2.1 Percentage of men and women who had drunk alcohol on five or more days in the week before interview: Great Britain, 2005



Maximum daily amount drunk last week

Two measures of daily consumption are shown in the tables. The first is the proportion exceeding the recommended daily benchmarks (men drinking more than four units and women drinking more than three units in one day). The second measure is intended to indicate heavy drinking that would be likely to lead to intoxication. Although people vary in their susceptibility to the effect of alcohol, this level is taken as a rough guide to be more than eight units on one day for men and more than six units for women.

Men were much more likely than women to have exceeded the daily benchmarks on at least one day during the previous week - 35 per cent of men compared with 20 per cent of women had done so - and they were more than twice as likely as women to have drunk heavily (19 per cent compared with 8 per cent).

It was noted earlier that young people drink less frequently than older people. However, among both men and women, those aged 16 to 24 were significantly more likely than respondents in other age groups to have exceeded the recommended number of daily units on at least one day. More than two fifths of young men aged 16 to 24 (42 per cent) had exceeded four units on at least one day during the previous week, compared with 16 per cent of men aged 65 and over. Among women, 36 per cent of those in the youngest age group had exceeded three units on at least one day compared with only 4 per cent of those aged 65 and over.

Similar patterns were evident for heavy drinking: 30 per cent of men aged 16 to 24, but only 4 per cent of those aged 65 and over, had drunk more than eight units on at least one day during the previous week. Among young women aged 16 to 24, 22 per cent had drunk heavily on at least one day during the preceding week, compared with only 1 per cent of women in the oldest age group.

Table 2.2

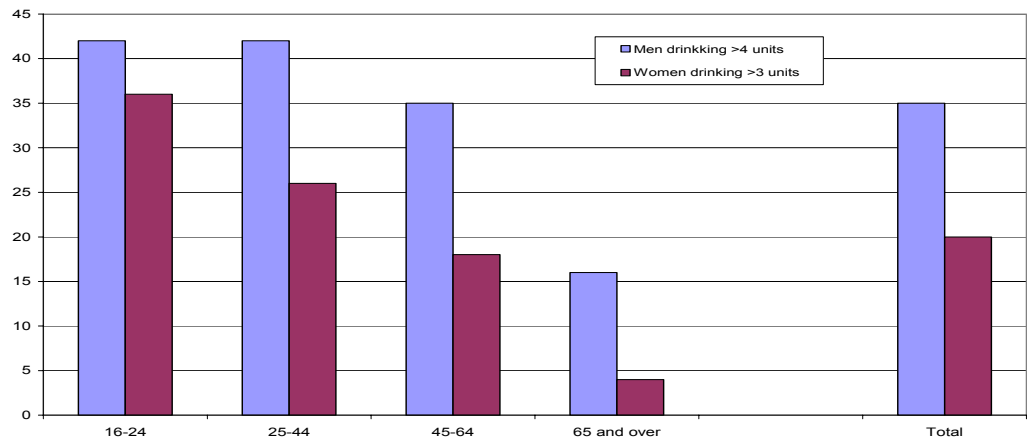
Trends in last week's drinking

Questions about the maximum daily amount drunk last week were first included on the GHS in 1998, so these data can provide evidence only on recent trends. Table 2.2 shows that there were no significant changes between 1998 and 2005 in the proportions of men and women who had an alcoholic drink in the previous week, nor in the proportion who had drunk on five or more days in the week.

However, following a period of little change, there was a fall in 2005 in the proportion of men and women drinking more than the daily benchmarks of four and three units respectively on at least one day in the previous week. The fall among men, from 39 per cent in 2004 to 35 per cent in 2005, was statistically significant, but the fall from 22 per cent to 20 per cent among women was not. The fall among men was particularly marked among those aged 16 to 44. A similar pattern of change was evident in the proportions drinking heavily on at least one day in the previous week.

There is considerable fluctuation in the trends within age groups which makes it difficult to be confident about the overall pattern. The proportion of young men drinking more than four and more than eight units changed little between 1998 and 2003, but then fell in 2004 and again in 2005. Data from future years will provide a clearer indication of whether this is the start of a consistent downward trend.

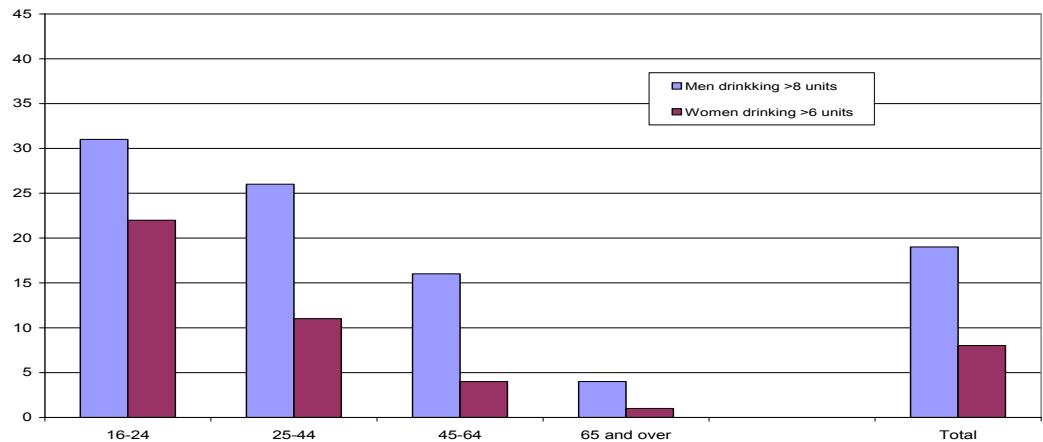
Figure 2.2 Percentage of men and women exceeding daily benchmarks on at least one day in the previous week: Great Britain, 2005



On the other hand, data for 2005 support previous indications that the recent upward trend in heavy drinking among young women may have peaked. The proportion of 16-24 year old women who had drunk more than six units on at least one day in the previous week increased from 24 per cent to 28 per cent between 1998 and 2002 but then fell to 26 per cent in 2003, to 24 per cent in 2004, and to 22 per cent in 2005. As with young men, however, it is not yet possible to be confident that this is a genuine long term trend. Among older women, there was no discernible trend in the proportions drinking heavily.

Figures 2.2-2.3, Table 2.2

Figure 2.3 Percentage of men and women drinking heavily on at least one day in the previous week: Great Britain, 2005



It should be noted that even if a long term trend does become evident, it may not necessarily reflect a real change in behaviour. Increased publicity about the dangers of heavy drinking, particularly binge drinking among young people, may have led some young people to modify their behaviour, but it may also have made them less inclined to admit the extent of their drinking to an interviewer.

Furthermore, there is some indication that it is becoming more difficult to persuade young people to take part in the GHS (they form a decreasing proportion of respondents). Although this is partially corrected by weighting the data to known population totals, such reweighting cannot compensate if those lost to the survey have heavier consumption on average than those of their age group who do take part.

Drinking last week and sex, age and marital status

Analysis of alcohol consumption by marital status is complicated by the strong association between marital status and age. This is partly controlled for in Table 2.4, where two age groups are shown. For example, among those aged 16 to 44, single men are more likely than married men to drink heavily. This may, however, be due to the fact that within this age group single men are, on average, younger than married men, so the difference may be due to their age rather than their marital status. The same explanation may account for the finding that married people were more likely than single people to have drunk alcohol on five or more days in the previous week, but less likely to have exceeded the daily benchmarks or to have drunk heavily.

Younger single men and women were most likely to drink heavily – 30 per cent of single men and 20 per cent of single women aged 16-44 had drunk more than eight and six units respectively on at least one day in the previous week. Also notable is the relatively high proportion of married or cohabiting women aged 45 or over who had drunk on at least five days in the previous week (18 per cent). Among divorced or separated women in this age group, for example, the proportion was 11 per cent.

Tables 2.3-2.4

Drinking last week and socio-economic characteristics

A review of information on inequalities in health, undertaken by the Department of Health, noted that both mortality and morbidity show a clear association with socio-economic position, with death rates much higher among unskilled men than among those in professional households (overall, some 20,000 deaths a year are thought to be attributable to alcohol misuse)². However, the GHS has shown over many years that there is little difference in usual weekly alcohol consumption between those in non-manual and manual households. Where differences do exist, it has been those in the non-manual categories who tend to have the higher weekly consumption.

Looking first at the frequency of drinking alcohol, men and women in large employer/higher managerial households were the most likely to have drunk alcohol in the previous week, while those in households where the reference person was in a semi-routine or routine occupation were the least likely. A similar pattern was apparent in the proportions drinking on five or more days in the previous week. For example 73 per cent of women in large employer/higher managerial households had had a drink in the last week and 20 per cent had done so on five or more days. Among women in households where the reference person was in a routine occupation, these proportions were much lower, 43 per cent and 8 per cent respectively.

Variations in amounts drunk, however, were much less marked and there was no clear socio-economic gradient among men. Among women, however, there was such a gradient: women in large employer/higher managerial households were more likely than those in the routine group to have drunk more than the recommended three units on any one day (26 per cent compared with 16 per cent), and also more likely to have drunk heavily on at least one day in the previous week (9 per cent compared with 6 per cent).

Tables 2.5-2.6

Drinking last week and household income

In general, the higher the level of gross weekly household income, the more likely both men and women were to have drunk alcohol in the previous week and to have exceeded the daily benchmarks. Among men in households with a gross weekly income of over £1,000, 82 per cent had had a drink in the previous week, and 43 per cent had drunk more than four units on at least one day. Among men in households with an income of £200 or less, only 66 per cent had had a drink and only 29 per cent had drunk more than four units on any one day. A similar pattern occurred for women and for the proportions drinking heavily. Thus, men and women in households with a gross weekly income of over £1,000 were about one and a half times as likely as those in households with a gross weekly household income of £200 or less to have drunk more than eight and six units respectively on at least one day in the previous week.

Table 2.7

Drinking last week, economic activity status and earnings from employment

Variations in alcohol consumption by economic status reflect differences in both the income and age profiles of the groups and also, probably, differences in health. Among men aged 16 to 64, those in employment were most likely to have drunk alcohol during the previous week - 77 per cent had done so compared with 63 per cent of the unemployed and 62 per cent of those who were economically inactive. In terms of quantity, working and unemployed men were more likely than the economically inactive to have drunk more than the recommended amount of over four units on one day, 41 per cent and 37 per cent compared with 32 per cent. As noted above, lower levels of drinking among economically inactive men are partly due to the large proportion of this group who are aged 60 to 64.

For women aged 16 to 64, the most marked differences were between the economically active and inactive. For example, 67 per cent of working women and 57 per cent of unemployed women had drunk alcohol in the previous week and just under 30 per cent of both groups had drunk more than three units on any one day. For economically inactive women, these proportions were 47 per cent and 17 per cent.

Among those working full time, variations in the frequency of drinking in relation to earnings from employment showed the same pattern of association as that with household income. Men and women who were high earners were more likely than the lower paid both to have drunk alcohol at all and to have drunk on five or more days. For example, among full-time workers aged 16 to 64 who were earning more than £800 per week, 32 per cent of men and 24 per cent of women had drunk on five or more days in the previous week, compared with 21 per cent of men and 13 per cent of women earning £200 or less per week. The two measures of consumption, however, showed no consistent pattern of association with earnings, either for men or for women.

Tables 2.8-2.9

Drinking last week and ethnic group

As with the smoking questions discussed earlier, the inclusion of the questions about drinking last week for several consecutive years facilitates the combination of several years of data to enable analysis by ethnic origin. In the analysis that follows, data for the five years 2001 to 2005 have been combined.

Only 9 per cent of the White British population are non-drinkers, but the proportion is higher among every ethnic minority group, rising to 90 per cent or more among those of Pakistani and Bangladeshi origin. Those of Mixed origin are less likely to be non-drinkers than those in other ethnic minority groups: for example, 48 per cent of those of Black African origin were non-drinkers, compared with only 22 per cent of those of Mixed White and Black African origin.

Variation in the proportions of respondents who had had an alcoholic drink in the previous week is consistent with the differences noted earlier in the proportion who drink alcohol at all, ranging from 5 per cent or fewer of those of Pakistani and Bangladeshi origin to 67-68 per cent of those in the two White groups. There was similar striking variation in the proportion who drank on at least five days in the previous week.

Those in the two White groups and those of Mixed origin were the most likely to have drunk more than the recommended maximum daily amounts of four units for men and

three for women: around 30 per cent had done so (30-40 per cent of men and 20-30 per cent of women). This compares with 15 per cent or fewer in other groups, and as few as 1 per cent among those of Bangladeshi origin. In all groups, men were more likely than women to have exceeded the recommended amounts, though not all the differences were statistically significant. Heavy drinking, (more than 8 units for men and 6 units for women on any one day) was uncommon except among those of White and Mixed origin.

Tables 2.10-2.14

Regional variation in drinking last week

The extent to which drinking habits and alcohol consumption vary in different parts of Great Britain is always of interest, but care should be taken in interpreting the results for any one year. This is because sample sizes in some regions are small, making them subject to relatively high levels of sampling error.

In 2005, men and women in Scotland were less likely to have drunk on at least 5 days in the previous week than those living in England or Wales (16 per cent compared with 21 per cent and 22 per cent respectively for men; 9 per cent compared with 13 per cent and 11 per cent for women). However, men in Scotland were more likely than those in England and Wales to have drunk more than the recommended maximum of four units (38 per cent compared with 34 per cent) and also more likely to have drunk heavily (22 per cent compared with 18 per cent). Differences among women in the proportions drinking more than the recommended amount or drinking heavily were not statistically significant

Looking at the English regions, the daily benchmarks were most likely to be exceeded by men in the north: 42 per cent of men in the North East, the North West and Yorkshire and the Humber had drunk more than four units on one day in the previous week. The corresponding proportions in other regions were no more than 36 per cent and, in London, the proportion was as low as 26 per cent. The same three regions (North East, North West and Yorkshire and the Humber) also contained the highest proportions of women exceeding the daily benchmark of three units, 25 per cent or more compared with only 13 per cent in London. The relatively low heavy drinking rates in London are largely explained by its high proportion of people in ethnic minority groups: 28 per cent of adults in London in the five-year sample analysed in the previous section were from groups other than the two white categories (of British and non-British origin). Even the large combined sample is too small to permit detailed analysis by region and ethnic group, but an analysis based on the white population only showed that the proportions of men and women in London who had exceeded the recommended amount on one day in the previous week, and the proportion who had drunk heavily, were still a little lower than average but the differences were much smaller (no table shown).

The same broad pattern of regional variation in daily drinking has been evident since these questions were first included in 1998. As noted above, however, sample sizes in some regions are small and some fluctuation in results from year to year is to be expected. This can affect whether a particular region or country appears to have a high or low consumption-level relative to other areas. The trend data in Table 2.17 illustrate the fluctuations from year to year. In most regions there is no discernible pattern and most of the changes between years are not statistically significant.

Tables 2.15-2.16

Average weekly alcohol consumption

As noted in the introduction, the main GHS measure of drinking behaviour until 1998 was average weekly alcohol consumption. This has been retained in the survey from time to time, primarily to give a continuing indication of trends in drinking behaviour⁵.

The questions were included in 2005, but not in 2004, and so the 2005 data, which cover the period April to December 2005, cannot be combined with estimates from the last quarter of the previous survey to give seasonally representative data. To assess the effect of this on the estimates of consumption, data for 2002, the last survey in which the questions covered the full year, have been examined. There was no statistically significant difference in average weekly consumption between April to December 2002 and January to March 2003. It is therefore assumed in this report that the absence of data for January to March 2005 has not significantly affected the estimates of average weekly alcohol consumption.

Trends in weekly alcohol consumption

Consideration of trends is complicated by the introduction of weighting. This increased the proportion of men drinking more than 21 units a week in 1998 by about one percentage point. The comparison of weighted and unweighted figures for later years, although not shown in the tables, is similar.

During the 1990s the GHS showed a slight increase in overall weekly alcohol consumption among men and a much more marked one among women. Following an increase between 1998 and 2000, there has been a decline in the proportion of men drinking more than 21 units a week, on average, and in the proportion of women drinking more than 14 units. At first sight, the fall appears to have become more evident in 2005, but this is largely because of the longer time interval since the previous survey. The proportion of men drinking more than 21 units a week on average fell from 29 per cent in 2000 to 24 per cent in 2005. There was also a fall in the proportion of women drinking more than 14 units a week (from 17 per cent in 2000 to 13 per cent in 2005).

Figure 2.4 Percentage of men drinking more than 21 units a week, and women drinking more than 14 units a week: Great Britain, Great Britain 1998 to 2005



The fall in consumption occurred among men and women in all age groups, but was most evident among those aged 16 to 24. Among young men in this age group, the proportion drinking more than 21 units a week fell from 41 per cent in 2000 to 27 per cent in 2005, and among young women, the proportion drinking more than 14 units a week fell from 33 per cent to 24 per cent over that period.

There has been no significant change in the proportion of men drinking more than 50 units a week on average, nor in the proportion of women drinking more than 35 units.

In 2005, men drank an average of 15.8 units a week (equivalent to almost 8 pints of beer), about 1.5 units less than they were drinking from 1998 to 2002. Women drank an average of 6.5 units a week. The decrease of about 1 unit compared with previous surveys reverses the steady rise in women's consumption seen over the past decade. These falls in average consumption are consistent with the decline in the proportions of men and women drinking more than 21 and 14 units a week respectively.

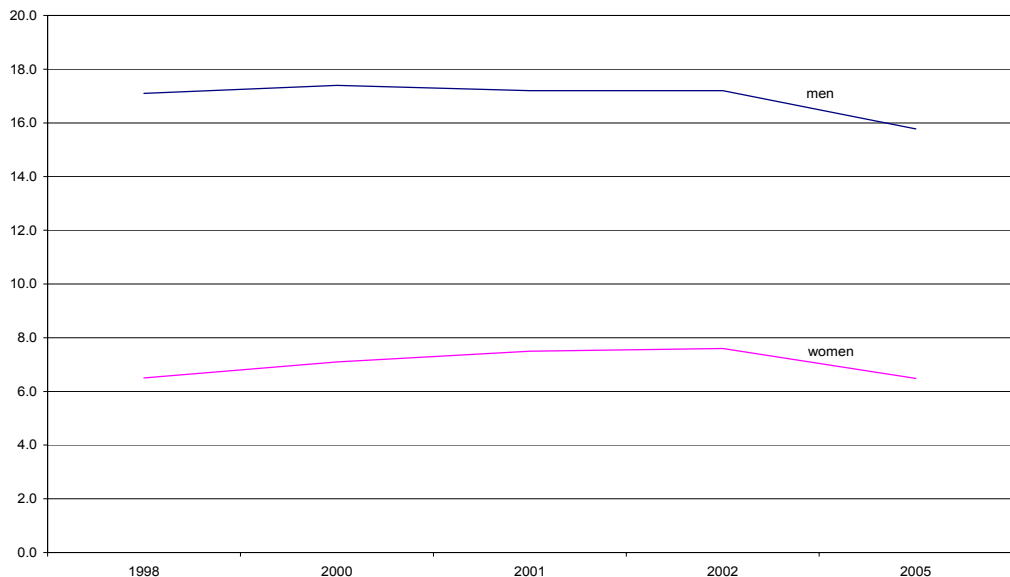
Similarly, the average consumption of young men and women aged 16 to 24 was lower in 2005 than in 2002. Among young men, consumption fell from 21.5 to 18.2 units, and among young women, from 14.1 to 10.9 units.

It is difficult to judge whether the fall in consumption reflects a real change in drinking habits, or an increased tendency to under-report consumption. Recent extensive publicity about the dangers of drinking, and in particular binge drinking, could have led people to moderate their behaviour, but might equally have made them less inclined to admit to how much they have drunk.

Among both men and women, alcohol consumption was highest among those aged 16 to 24, and then declined with increasing age. Overall, in 2005 men's consumption was more than twice that of women but the difference was less marked among younger than older people. This again reflects the trend that has occurred in recent years for women's consumption to increase relative to that of men, particularly among younger age groups.

Figures 2.4-2.5, Tables 2.17-2.18

Figure 2.5 Average weekly alcohol units, by sex: Great Britain 1998 to 2005



Weekly alcohol consumption and household socio-economic class

The relationship between weekly alcohol consumption and socio-economic class was similar to that shown earlier in relation to daily amounts.

There was no clear socio-economic gradient in relation to alcohol consumption among men. Using the three-category classification, average consumption was 15.7 units a week among men in managerial and professional households, 16.8 units among men in intermediate households and 15.4 units among those in routine or manual households.

The pattern among women was slightly clearer. Average weekly consumption was highest, at 7.2 units, in the managerial and professional group, and lowest, at 5.4 units, among those in routine and manual worker households.

Table 2.19

Weekly alcohol consumption, income and economic activity status

Average weekly alcohol consumption was higher among men and women in high income households than among other men and women. Among those living in households with a gross income of more than £1,000 a week, men drank on average 17.6 units as week, and women 8.0 units. These levels compared with 15.2 units and 5.0 units respectively among those in households with an income of £200 or less.

Among those in full-time employment, however, there was no significant variation in average weekly alcohol consumption according to earnings.

Tables 2.20-2.22

Regional variation in average weekly alcohol consumption

The pattern of regional differences in England in relation to average weekly alcohol consumption was similar to that seen for maximum amounts consumed on any day in the previous week. Overall, weekly consumption was highest in the same three regions (North East, North West, and Yorkshire and the Humber), and also lowest in the same region, London.

Similarly, average weekly consumption was higher in England than in Wales. The higher proportion exceeding the daily benchmark amounts in Scotland is not, however, reflected in average weekly consumption, which was slightly (but not significantly) higher in Scotland than in England for men, but lower for women. Overall weekly consumption was 10.9 units in England, 10.5 in Scotland, and 10.0 in Wales.

As noted above, sample sizes in some regions are small so some fluctuation in results from year to year is to be expected. This can affect whether a particular region or country appears to have a high or low consumption level relative to that of other areas, and may not be due to real differences in the population from which the sample is drawn.

Table 2.23

Notes and References

- ¹ Goddard E. *Obtaining information about drinking through surveys of the general population*. National statistics Methodology Series NSM 24 (ONS 2001)
- ² *Sensible drinking: the report of an inter-departmental group*. (Department of Health 1995)
- ³ One unit of alcohol is a half pint of normal strength beer, lager or cider, a single measure of spirits, a glass of wine, or a small glass of sherry or other fortified wine.
- ⁴ ABV is the percentage alcohol by volume.
- ⁵ The earliest year shown in these trend tables is 1988, the first year in which data were collected from 16 and 17 year olds.

Table 2.1 Whether drank last week and number of drinking days by sex and age

<i>Persons aged 16 and over</i>		<i>Great Britain: 2005</i>				
Drinking days last week	Age					
	16-24	25-44	45-64	65 and over	Total over	
	%	%	%	%	%	
Men						
0	36	26	23	34	28	
1	21	20	17	17	18	
2	18	17	14	11	15	
3	10	12	12	7	11	
4	6	8	7	5	7	
5	4	6	6	3	5	
6	2	4	4	2	3	
7	3	9	17	21	13	
% who drank last week	64	74	77	66	72	
<i>Weighted base (000's)</i>						
<i>=100%</i>	2,494	6,866	6,354	3,753	19,468	
<i>Unweighted sample</i>	1,099	3,407	3,376	2,142	10,024	
	%	%	%	%	%	
Women						
0	44	38	39	57	43	
1	24	22	18	16	20	
2	16	15	13	7	12	
3	7	8	8	4	7	
4	5	6	5	3	5	
5	2	4	5	2	3	
6	1	2	2	1	2	
7	2	5	10	11	7	
% who drank last week	56	62	61	43	57	
<i>Weighted base (000's)</i>						
<i>=100%</i>	2,716	7,815	6,927	4,826	22,284	
<i>Unweighted sample</i>	1271	4039	3752	2548	11610	
	%	%	%	%	%	
All persons						
0	40	32	31	46	36	
1	22	21	17	16	19	
2	17	16	13	9	14	
3	9	10	10	5	9	
4	5	7	6	4	6	
5	3	5	5	3	4	
6	1	3	3	2	3	
7	2	7	14	15	10	
% who drank last week	60	68	69	54	64	
<i>Weighted base (000's)</i>						
<i>=100%</i>	5,210	14,681	13,281	8,579	41,752	
<i>Unweighted sample</i>	2,370	7,446	7,128	4,690	21,634	

Note: 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/5 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year

Smoking and drinking among adults, 2005

Table 2.2 Drinking last week by sex and age: 1998 to 2005

<i>Persons aged 16 and over</i>													<i>Great Britain 2005</i>		
Drinking last week	Men							Women							
	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	
Percentages															
Drank last week															
16-24	70	70	70	69	70	66	64	62	64	59	61	61	60	56	
25-44	79	78	78	77	77	76	74	65	67	66	65	65	62	62	
45-64	77	77	76	76	78	76	77	61	61	61	63	64	62	61	
65 and over	65	67	68	67	69	68	66	45	43	45	46	45	45	43	
Total	75	75	75	74	75	73	72	59	60	59	59	60	58	57	
Drank on 5 or more days															
16-24	13	11	14	11	14	8	10	8	7	8	7	4	5	5	
25-44	21	19	19	19	20	20	18	12	11	11	11	10	9	11	
45-64	29	26	25	26	26	28	28	15	15	17	17	17	18	17	
65 and over	25	28	27	28	29	28	26	14	14	15	15	16	16	14	
Total	23	22	22	22	23	23	22	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	
Drank more than 4/3 units ¹ on at least one day															
16-24	52	50	50	49	51	47	42	42	42	40	42	40	39	36	
25-44	48	45	49	46	47	48	42	28	31	31	31	30	28	26	
45-64	37	38	37	38	41	37	35	17	19	19	19	20	20	18	
65 and over	16	16	18	16	19	20	16	4	4	5	5	4	5	4	
Total	39	39	40	38	40	39	35	21	23	23	23	23	22	20	
Drank more than 8/6 units ¹ on at least one day															
16-24	39	37	37	35	37	32	30	24	27	27	28	26	24	22	
25-44	29	27	30	28	30	31	25	11	13	14	13	13	13	11	
45-64	17	17	17	18	20	18	16	5	5	5	5	5	6	4	
65 and over	4	5	5	5	6	7	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Total	22	21	22	21	23	22	19	8	10	10	10	9	9	8	
<i>Weighted base (000's) = 100%</i>															
16-24	2,366	2,687	2,485	2,485	2,414	2,544	2,494	2,580	2,633	2,549	2,704	2,522	2,747	2,716	
25-44	7,528	7,936	7,799	7,154	6,860	6,962	6,866	7,995	8,091	8,104	7,977	7,784	7,858	7,815	
45-64	5,868	6,212	6,139	6,236	6,214	6,316	6,354	6,306	6,588	6,566	6,700	6,706	6,893	6,927	
65 and over	3,412	3,534	3,488	3,659	3,673	3,716	3,753	4,744	4,742	4,765	4,822	4,777	4,845	4,826	
Total	19,174	20,369	19,911	19,534	19,161	19,538	19,468	21,625	22,054	21,985	22,202	21,788	22,343	22,284	
<i>Unweighted base</i>															
16-24	699	791	774	770	924	783	1,099	809	814	911	897	976	909	1,271	
25-44	2400	2311	2589	2364	2829	2379	3407	2910	2732	3044	2782	3345	2847	4039	
45-64	2132	2186	2288	2296	2615	2283	3376	2364	2357	2536	2571	2915	2593	3752	
65 and over	1330	1310	1403	1398	1719	1417	2142	1738	1588	1808	1692	2068	1663	2548	
Total	6561	6598	7054	6828	8087	6862	10024	7821	7491	8299	7942	9304	8012	11610	

Note: 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/5 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year

¹The first of each pair of figures relates to men, and the second, to women.

Smoking and drinking among adults, 2005

Table 2.3 Maximum daily amount drunk last week by sex and age

<i>Persons aged 16 and over</i>		<i>Great Britain: 2005</i>				
Maximum daily amount	Age					
	16-24	25-44	45-64	65 and over	Total	
	%	%	%	%	%	
Men						
Drank nothing last week	36	26	23	34	28	
Up to 4 units	21	33	42	50	38	
More than 4, up to 8 units	13 ⁴³	17 ⁴²	19 ³⁵	12 ¹⁶	16 ³⁵	
More than 8 units	30	25	16	4	19	
<i>Weighted base (000's) =100%</i>	2,506	6,865	6,351	3,756	19,479	
<i>Unweighted sample</i>	1104	3406	3374	2144	10028	
	%	%	%	%	%	
Women						
Drank nothing last week	44	38	39	57	43	
Up to 3 units	20	35	43	39	37	
More than 3, up to 6 units	14 ³⁶	15 ²⁶	14 ¹⁸	3 ⁴	12 ²⁰	
More than 6 units	22	11	4	1	8	
<i>Weighted base (000's) =100%</i>	2,733	7,814	6,926	4,826	22,299	
<i>Unweighted sample</i>	1280	4038	3751	2548	11617	
	%	%	%	%	%	
All persons¹						
Drank nothing last week	40	32	31	47	36	
Up to 4/3 units	21	34	43	44	37	
More than 4/3, up to 8/6 units	14 ⁴⁰	16 ³⁴	17 ²⁷	7 ⁹	14 ²⁷	
More than 8/6 units	26	18	10	2	13	
<i>Weighted base (000's) =100%</i>	5,240	14,679	13,277	8,582	41,778	
<i>Unweighted sample</i>	2384	7444	7125	4692	21645	

Note: 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/5 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year

¹The first of each pair of figures shown relates to men, and the second, to women.

Table 2.4 Drinking last week, by sex, age and marital status

<i>Persons aged 16 and over</i>										<i>Great Britain: 2005</i>									
Marital status	Men			Women			All persons			Men			Women			All persons			
	16-44	45 and over	Total	16-44	45 and over	Total	16-44	45 and over	Total	16-44	45 and over	Total	16-44	45 and over	Total	16-44	45 and over	Total	
Percentage who drank last week																			
Single	67	68	67	60	42	57	64	56	63										
Married/cohabiting	76	75	75	61	60	61	68	68	68										
Divorced/separated	65	69	68	55	51	53	58	59	58										
Widowed	22	65	64	58	39	39	51	45	45										
Total	72	73	72	60	54	57	66	63	64										
Percentage who drank on five or more days last week																			
Single	12	25	14	7	14	8	9	20	11										
Married/cohabiting	19	28	24	10	18	15	14	23	19										
Divorced/separated	12	25	21	8	11	10	9	17	14										
Widowed	0	21	21	23	12	13	19	14	14										
Total	16	27	22	9	16	13	12	21	17										
Percentage who drank more than 4/3 units on at least one day last week ^{II}																			
Single	44	31	41	35	11	31	40	22	37										
Married/cohabiting	41	27	33	25	15	20	32	21	26										
Divorced/separated	41	33	35	28	14	20	32	22	25										
Widowed	22	21	21	23	4	4	22	8	8										
Total	42	28	35	29	12	20	35	19	27										
Percentage who drank more than 8/6 units on at least one day last week ^{II}																			
Single	30	14	27	20	2	17	25	8	22										
Married/cohabiting	24	11	16	10	3	6	16	7	11										
Divorced/separated	26	17	19	13	3	7	17	9	12										
Widowed	22	6	6	12	1	1	14	2	2										
Total	26	11	19	14	3	8	20	7	13										
<i>Weighted base (000's) = 100%</i>																			
Single	4,000	801	4,802	3,576	656	4,233	7,577	1,458	9,035										
Married/cohabiting	4,992	7,616	12,608	6,051	7,279	13,329	11,042	14,895	25,937										
Divorced/separated	371	1,004	1,375	878	1,408	2,285	1,249	2,411	3,660										
Widowed	9	686	695	42	2,409	2,451	51	3,095	3,146										
Total	9,372	10,107	19,479	10,547	11,752	22,299	19,918	21,859	41,778										
<i>Unweighted sample</i>																			
Single	1728	399	2127	1669	325	1994	3397	724	4121										
Married/cohabiting	2612	4241	6853	3183	4069	7252	5795	8310	14105										
Divorced/separated	162	489	651	439	715	1154	601	1204	1805										
Widowed	4	389	393	19	1191	1210	23	1580	1603										
Total	4506	5518	10024	5310	6300	11610	9816	11818	21634										

Note: 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/5 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year. Shaded figures indicate the estimates are unreliable and any analysis using these figures may be invalid. Any use of these shaded figures must be accompanied by this disclaimer.

Table 2.5 Drinking days last week, by sex, and socio-economic classification based on the current or last job of the household reference person

<i>Persons aged 16 and over</i>		<i>Great Britain: 2005</i>		
Socio-economic classification of household reference person ¹	Men	Women	All persons	
Percentage who drank last week				
Managerial and professional				
Large employer and higher managerial	82	73	77	
Higher professional	79	69	74	72
Lower managerial and professional	78	64	70	
Intermediate				
Intermediate	74	59	65	
Small employers/own account workers	74	58	66	65
Routine and manual				
Lower supervisory and technical	70	52	61	
Semi-routine	65	48	55	56
Routine	64	43	53	
Total ¹	72	57	64	
Percentage who drank on 5 or more days last week				
Managerial and professional				
Large employer and higher managerial	29	20	25	
Higher professional	29	18	24	21
Lower managerial and professional	25	15	19	
Intermediate				
Intermediate	22	12	16	
Small employers/own account workers	24	14	19	18
Routine and manual				
Lower supervisory and technical	16	10	13	
Semi-routine	17	10	13	12
Routine	16	8	12	
Total ¹	22	13	17	
<i>Weighted bases (000's) = 100%</i>				
Large employer and higher managerial	1,405	1,416	2,821	
Higher professional	1,926	1,760	3,686	
Lower managerial and professional	4,756	5,507	10,263	
Intermediate	1,365	2,241	3,606	
Small employers/own account workers	1,993	1,842	3,834	
Lower supervisory and technical	2,237	2,142	4,379	
Semi-routine	2,310	3,196	5,506	
Routine	2,544	2,860	5,403	
Total	19,468	22,284	41,752	
<i>Unweighted sample</i>				
Large employer and higher managerial	776	782	1558	
Higher professional	1012	952	1964	
Lower managerial and professional	2517	2934	5451	
Intermediate	675	1119	1794	
Small employers/own account workers	1040	995	2035	
Lower supervisory and technical	1147	1096	2243	
Semi-routine	1176	1647	2823	
Routine	1271	1462	2733	
Total	10024	11610	21634	

Note: 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/5 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year

¹Where the household reference person was a full-time student, had an inadequately described occupation, had never worked or was long-term unemployed these are not shown as separate categories, but are included in the figure for all persons.

Table 2.6 Maximum number of units drunk on at least one day last week, by sex, and socio-economic classification based on the current or last job of the household reference person

<i>Persons aged 16 and over</i>		<i>Great Britain: 2005</i>	
Socio-economic classification of household reference person ¹	Men	Women	All persons
Percentage who drank more than 4/3 units on at least one day last week ²			
Managerial and professional			
Large employer and higher managerial	36	26	31
Higher professional	32	21	27
Lower managerial and professional	34	22	28
Intermediate			
Intermediate	37	21	27
Small employers/own account workers	34	20	27
Routine and manual			
Lower supervisory and technical	36	19	28
Semi-routine	33	16	23
Routine	34	16	24
Total ¹	35	20	27
Percentage who drank more than 8/6 units on at least one day last week ³			
Managerial and professional			
Large employer and higher managerial	19	9	14
Higher professional	14	8	11
Lower managerial and professional	18	7	13
Intermediate			
Intermediate	19	8	12
Small employers/own account workers	18	7	13
Routine and manual			
Lower supervisory and technical	20	8	14
Semi-routine	17	7	11
Routine	19	6	13
Total ¹	19	8	13
<i>Weighted bases (000's) =100%</i>			
Large employer and higher managerial	1,407	1,418	2,825
Higher professional	1,924	1,763	3,687
Lower managerial and professional	4,759	5,511	10,270
Intermediate	1,371	2,241	3,612
Small employers/own account workers	1,995	1,845	3,841
Lower supervisory and technical	2,234	2,144	4,376
Semi-routine	2,310	3,196	5,506
Routine	2,543	2,860	5,403
Total	19,479	22,299	41,778
<i>Unweighted sample</i>			
Large employer and higher managerial	777	783	1560
Higher professional	1011	953	1964
Lower managerial and professional	2517	2936	5453
Intermediate	677	1119	1796
Small employers/own account workers	1042	997	2039
Lower supervisory and technical	1145	1097	2242
Semi-routine	1176	1647	2823
Routine	1271	1462	2733
Total	10028	11617	21645

Note: 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/5 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year

¹Where the household reference person was a full-time student, had an inadequately described occupation, had never worked or was long-term unemployed these are not shown as separate categories, but are included in the figure for all persons.

²The first of each pair of figures shown relates to men, and the second, to women.

Table 2.7 Drinking last week by sex and usual gross weekly household income

<i>Persons aged 16 and over</i>		<i>Great Britain: 2005</i>						
Drinking last week	Usual gross weekly household income (£)							
	Up to 200.00	200.01 - 400.00	400.01 - 600.00	600.01 - 800.00	800.01 - 1000.00	1000.01 or more	Total ¹	
	Percentages							
Drank last week								
Men	65	64	74	76	78	82	72	
Women	45	52	60	62	68	72	57	
All persons	53	57	67	69	73	77	64	
Drank on 5 or more days								
Men	21	20	20	19	24	28	22	
Women	10	11	13	12	15	17	13	
All persons	15	15	17	15	20	22	17	
Drank more than 4/3 units on at least one day ²								
Men	29	28	36	40	42	43	35	
Women	13	16	25	23	29	28	20	
All persons	20	22	30	31	35	36	27	
Drank more than 8/6 units on at least one day ²								
Men	16	15	20	23	23	22	19	
Women	6	6	10	9	12	11	8	
All persons	10	10	14	15	18	16	13	
<i>Weighted base (000's)</i> <i>=100%</i>								
Men	3,708	3,553	2,949	2,398	1,660	3,212	19,468	
Women	5,412	4,036	3,141	2,538	1,609	3,155	22,284	
All persons	9,120	7,589	6,090	4,936	3,269	6,367	41,752	
<i>Unweighted sample</i>								
Men	1,755	1,849	1,541	1,259	858	1,705	10,024	
Women	2,634	2,129	1,664	1,342	852	1,706	11,610	
All persons	4,389	3,978	3,205	2,601	1,710	3,411	21,634	

Note: 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/5 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year

¹Includes people for whom income data was not known

²The first of each pair of figures shown relates to men, and the second, to women.

Table 2.8 Drinking last week by sex and economic activity status

<i>Persons aged 16-64</i>		<i>Great Britain: 2005</i>			
Drinking last week	Economic activity status				
	Working	Unemployed	Economically inactive	Total	
Percentages					
Drank last week					
Men	77	63	62	74	
Women	67	57	47	61	
All persons	72	61	52	67	
Drank on 5 or more days					
Men	21	12	19	20	
Women	13	5	11	12	
All persons	17	9	14	16	
Drank more than 4/3 units on at least one day ¹					
Men	41	37	32	39	
Women	28	29	17	25	
All persons	35	34	22	31	
Drank more than 8/6 units on at least one day ¹					
Men	23	23	18	22	
Women	11	13	6	10	
All persons	17	19	11	16	
<i>Weighted base (000's)</i>					
Men	12,287	570	2,857	15,714	
Women	11,776	410	5,269	17,455	
All persons	24,064	980	8,126	33,169	
<i>Unweighted sample</i>					
Men	6233	267	1384	7884	
Women	6052	204	2812	9068	
All persons	12288	469	4186	16943	

¹The first of each pair of figures relates to men, and the second, to women.

Note: 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/5 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year

Table 2.9 Drinking last week by sex and usual gross weekly earnings

<i>Persons aged 16-64 in full-time employment</i>		<i>Great Britain: 2005</i>						
Drinking last week	Usual gross weekly earnings ² (£)							
	Up to 200.00	200.01 -300.00	300.01 -400.00	400.01 -600.00	600.01 -800.00	800.01 or more	Total	
	Percentages							
Drank last week								
Men	68	72	75	80	81	87	78	
Women	64	64	67	71	77	79	68	
All persons	66	67	72	77	80	85	74	
Drank on 5 or more days								
Men	21	16	18	19	25	32	21	
Women	13	10	11	13	23	24	14	
All persons	17	13	15	17	25	30	18	
Drank more than 4/3 units on at least one day ¹								
Men	36	42	43	44	41	42	42	
Women	29	30	32	30	34	32	31	
All persons	33	36	39	39	39	40	38	
Drank more than 8/6 units on at least one day ¹								
Men	19	26	27	25	20	20	24	
Women	13	14	15	12	8	12	13	
All persons	16	19	22	21	16	18	19	
<i>Weighted base (000's)</i> <i>=100%</i>								
Men	790	1,350	1,972	2,673	1,108	1,360	9,522	
Women	609	1,558	1,336	1,385	537	420	6,001	
All persons	1,399	2,908	3,309	4,058	1,644	1,779	15,524	
<i>Unweighted sample</i>								
Men	419	676	975	1368	583	724	4885	
Women	312	770	659	702	277	212	3011	
All persons	731	1446	1634	2070	860	936	7896	

Note: 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/5 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year

¹The first of each pair of figures shown relates to men, and the second, to women.

²Usual gross weekly income for the respondent.

Table 2.10 Percentage of the population who are non-drinkers, by sex and ethnic group

Persons aged 16 and over

Great Britain: 2001-2005

	Percentage who do not drink alcohol			Weighted bases (000s)			Unweighted base (=100%)		
	Men	Women	All persons	Men	Women	All persons	Men	Women	All persons
White									
White British	6	11	9	17,212	19,687	36,900	34797	40408	75205
Other White	9	15	12	647	774	1,421	1212	1503	2715
Mixed									
White & Black Caribbean	18	15	16	39	57	96	75	106	181
White & Black African	22	23	22	26	23	49	47	46	93
White & Asian	14	19	16	45	38	82	80	77	157
Other Mixed	16	8	11	32	48	80	59	91	150
Asian or Asian British									
Indian	38	60	49	326	327	653	642	666	1308
Pakistani	85	95	90	218	220	438	422	439	861
Bangladeshi	92	92	92	66	72	138	121	128	249
Other Asian	41	55	49	131	136	266	240	258	498
Black or Black British									
Caribbean	10	26	20	178	244	422	322	462	784
African	44	51	48	193	226	419	324	416	740
Other Black	24	31	28	21	32	52	33	56	89
Chinese or Other ethnic group									
Chinese	13	35	24	84	84	168	140	155	295
Other	30	38	34	172	166	338	314	318	632
Total	9	14	12	19,390	22,134	41,523	38828	45129	83957

Note: 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/5 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year

Note: Shaded figures indicate the estimates are unreliable and any analysis using these figures may be invalid. Any use of these shaded figures must be accompanied by this disclaimer.

Table 2.11 Percentage of the population who drank last week, by sex and ethnic group

Persons aged 16 and over

Great Britain: 2001-2005

	Percentage who drank last week			Weighted bases (000s)			Unweighted base (=100%)		
	Men	Women	All persons	Men	Women	All persons	Men	Women	All persons
White									
White British	77	61	68	17,148	19,622	36,771	34674	40272	74946
Other White	75	61	67	644	770	1,413	1206	1494	2700
Mixed									
White & Black Caribbean	56	60	58	39	56	95	75	104	179
White & Black African	45	44	45	26	23	49	47	45	92
White & Asian	63	60	62	44	37	81	79	76	155
Other Mixed	62	54	57	32	48	80	59	91	150
Asian or Asian British									
Indian	41	20	31	323	323	646	637	659	1296
Pakistani	8	2	5	217	219	436	420	438	858
Bangladeshi	5	2	4	659	69	135	120	125	245
Other Asian	34	20	27	130	135	266	239	257	496
Black or Black British									
Caribbean	65	42	52	178	243	421	322	460	782
African	36	18	26	192	223	416	322	412	734
Other Black	59	29	41	21	32	52	33	56	89
Chinese or Other ethnic group									
Chinese	51	23	37	83	84	168	139	155	294
Other	48	31	40	170	166	336	311	317	628
Total	74	59	66	19314	22051	41364	38683	44961	83644

Note: Shaded figures indicate the estimates are unreliable and any analysis using these figures may be invalid. Any use of these shaded figures must be accompanied by this disclaimer.

Table 2.12 Percentage of the population who drank on 5 or more days last week, by sex and ethnic group

Persons aged 16 and over

Great Britain: 2001-2005

	Percentage who drank on 5 or more days last week			Weighted bases (000s)			Unweighted base (=100%)		
	Men	Women	All persons	Men	Women	All persons	Men	Women	All persons
White									
White British	23	14	18	17,148	19,622	36,771	34674	40272	74946
Other White	22	12	17	644	770	1,413	1206	1494	2700
Mixed									
White & Black Caribbean	9	5	6	39	56	95	75	104	179
White & Black African	8	0	5	26	23	49	47	45	92
White & Asian	9	15	12	44	37	81	79	76	155
Other Mixed	16	7	11	32	48	80	59	91	150
Asian or Asian British									
Indian	8	1	5	323	323	646	637	659	1296
Pakistani	2	0	1	217	219	436	420	438	858
Bangladeshi	2	0	1	659	69	135	120	125	245
Other Asian	9	4	6	130	135	266	239	257	496
Black or Black British									
Caribbean	11	4	7	178	243	421	322	460	782
African	3	0	2	192	223	416	322	412	734
Other Black	11	2	5	21	32	52	33	56	89
Chinese or Other ethnic group									
Chinese	5	2	3	83	84	168	139	155	294
Other	10	5	8	170	166	336	311	317	628
Total	22	13	17	19314	22051	41364	38683	44961	83644

Note: Shaded figures indicate the estimates are unreliable and any analysis using these figures may be invalid. Any use of these shaded figures must be accompanied by this disclaimer.

Smoking and drinking among adults, 2005

Table 2.13 Percentage of the population who drank more than 4 units (men) and 3 units (women) last week, by sex and ethnic group

Persons aged 16 and over

Great Britain: 2001-2005

	Percentage who drank more than 4/3 units			Weighted bases (000s)			Unweighted base (=100%)		
	Men	Women	All persons	Men	Women	All persons	Men	Women	All persons
White									
White British	40	23	31	17144	19620	36764	34664	40267	74931
Other White	37	20	28	644	770	1,414	1207	1495	2702
Mixed									
White & Black Caribbean	38	30	33	38	56	94	74	104	178
White & Black African	29	20	24	26	23	49	46	45	91
White & Asian	43	26	35	44	37	81	79	76	155
Other Mixed	32	24	27	32	48	80	59	91	150
Asian or Asian British									
Indian	14	5	9	323	323	646	637	659	1296
Pakistani	5	0	3	217	219	436	420	438	858
Bangladeshi	2	0	1	66	69	135	120	125	245
Other Asian	10	4	7	130	135	266	239	257	496
Black or Black British									
Caribbean	19	10	14	177	243	420	321	460	781
African	13	4	8	193	223	416	323	412	735
Other Black	19	10	14	21	32	52	33	56	89
Chinese or Other ethnic group									
Chinese	17	3	10	84	84	168	140	155	295
Other	21	9	15	171	166	336	312	317	629
Total	38	22	30	19309	22048	41358	38674	44957	83631

Note: Shaded figures indicate the estimates are unreliable and any analysis using these figures may be invalid. Any use of these shaded figures must be accompanied by this disclaimer.

Table 2.14 Percentage of the population who drank more than 8 units (men) and 6 units (women) last week, by sex and ethnic group

Persons aged 16 and over

Great Britain: 2001-2005

	Percentage who drank more than 8/6 units			Weighted bases (000s)			Unweighted base (=100%)		
	Men	Women	All persons	Men	Women	All persons	Men	Women	All persons
White									
White British	23	10	16	17144	19620	36764	34664	40267	74931
Other White	19	9	14	644	770	1,414	1207	1495	2702
Mixed									
White & Black Caribbean	25	13	18	38	56	94	74	104	178
White & Black African	12	8	10	26	23	49	46	45	91
White & Asian	26	13	21	44	37	81	79	76	155
Other Mixed	19	10	13	32	48	80	59	91	150
Asian or Asian British									
Indian	7	3	5	323	323	646	637	659	1296
Pakistani	1	0	1	217	219	436	420	438	858
Bangladeshi	2	0	1	66	69	135	120	125	245
Other Asian	4	2	3	130	135	266	239	257	496
Black or Black British									
Caribbean	5	3	4	177	243	420	321	460	781
African	6	1	3	193	223	416	323	412	735
Other Black	10	4	6	21	32	52	33	56	89
Chinese or Other ethnic group									
Chinese	7	0	3	84	84	168	140	155	295
Other	10	4	7	171	166	336	312	317	629
Total	21	9	15	19309	22048	41358	38674	44957	83631

Note: Shaded figures indicate the estimates are unreliable and any analysis using these figures may be invalid. Any use of these shaded figures must be accompanied by this disclaimer.

Table 2.15 Drinking last week, by sex and Government Office Region

Government Office Region	Drinking last week				Great Britain: 2005	
	Drank last week	Drank on 5 or more days last week	Drank more than 4/3 units on at least one day ¹	Drank more than 8/6 units on at least one day ¹	Weighted base (000's) =100%	Unweighted sample
Percentages						
Men						
North East	73	20	42	21	843	426
North West	76	22	42	24	2,269	1186
Yorkshire and the Humber	79	22	42	25	1,733	898
East Midlands	72	20	36	19	1,593	839
West Midlands	71	22	31	16	1,657	879
East of England	72	21	33	17	1,857	994
London	62	20	26	12	2,261	1013
South East	75	25	31	15	2,851	1486
South West	75	26	33	19	1,734	925
England	73	22	34	18	16,798	8646
Wales	75	21	34	18	962	505
Scotland	68	16	38	22	1,708	873
Great Britain	72	22	35	19	19,468	10024
Women						
North East	57	11	25	9	1,048	538
North West	60	12	26	11	2,627	1403
Yorkshire and the Humber	63	13	27	13	1,992	1026
East Midlands	57	12	19	7	1,714	918
West Midlands	53	14	17	6	1,822	981
East of England	59	12	18	7	2,082	1129
London	47	10	13	5	2,641	1188
South East	61	17	18	6	3,165	1677
South West	63	15	22	8	1,979	1072
England	58	13	20	8	19,070	9932
Wales	55	11	18	8	1,160	610
Scotland	51	9	21	9	2,054	1068
Great Britain	57	13	20	8	22,284	11610
All persons						
North East	64	15	32	14	1,891	964
North West	68	16	33	17	4,895	2589
Yorkshire and the Humber	70	17	34	18	3,724	1924
East Midlands	64	16	27	13	3,307	1757
West Midlands	61	18	23	11	3,479	1860
East of England	65	16	25	12	3,939	2123
London	54	15	19	8	4,902	2201
South East	68	21	24	11	6,016	3163
South West	69	20	27	13	3,713	1997
England	65	17	27	13	35,867	18578
Wales	64	15	25	13	2,122	1115
Scotland	59	12	29	15	3,762	1941
Great Britain	64	17	27	13	41,752	21634

Note: 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/5 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year

¹The first of each pair of figures shown relates to men, and the second, to women.

Table 2.16 Percentage who drank more than 4 units and 8 units (men) and 3 units and 6 units (women) on at least one day by sex and Government Office Region: 1998 to 2005

<i>Persons aged 16 and over</i>														<i>Great Britain 2005</i>		
Government Office Region	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Weighted base 2005 (000's) =100% ¹	Unweighted sample ¹ 2005
	Percentage who drank more than 4 units on at least one day last week							Percentage who drank more than 8 units on at least one day last week								
Men																
North East	46	44	47	49	47	48	42	24	25	29	29	25	29	21	843	426
North West	46	45	49	42	45	46	42	28	24	29	24	28	28	24	2,269	1186
Yorkshire and the Humber	41	42	44	44	47	47	42	25	23	27	26	28	30	25	1,733	898
East Midlands	42	43	43	41	45	39	36	21	22	22	22	27	23	19	1,593	839
West Midlands	42	35	34	36	42	39	31	26	17	18	18	23	22	16	1,657	879
East of England	35	31	34	31	35	35	33	15	18	20	15	20	18	17	1,857	994
London	33	31	36	32	32	32	26	19	17	20	19	18	18	12	2,261	1013
South East	37	39	34	33	35	36	31	20	22	18	17	18	20	15	2,851	1486
South West	37	35	38	37	38	37	33	20	20	20	21	22	21	19	1,734	925
England	39	38	39	37	40	39	34	22	21	22	21	23	22	18	16,798	8646
Wales	40	41	37	42	39	36	34	23	23	21	26	23	21	18	962	505
Scotland	40	45	48	44	44	39	38	24	29	30	26	26	23	22	1,708	873
Great Britain	39	39	40	38	40	39	35	22	21	22	21	23	22	19	19,468	10024
	Percentage who drank more than 3 units on at least one day last week							Percentage who drank more than 6 units on at least one day last week								
Women																
North East	23	25	29	32	26	25	25	8	13	15	17	9	11	9	1,048	538
North West	26	28	28	27	26	28	26	11	13	13	11	13	14	11	2,627	1403
Yorkshire and the Humber	19	23	25	26	26	32	27	7	10	12	14	13	15	13	1,992	1026
East Midlands	21	23	27	18	25	26	19	8	8	12	8	9	11	7	1,714	918
West Midlands	21	19	17	19	21	19	17	9	7	7	8	9	7	6	1,822	981
East of England	18	20	20	19	17	15	18	7	8	8	6	6	6	7	2,082	1129
London	17	19	18	18	15	15	13	7	7	8	8	5	6	5	2,641	1188
South East	20	22	21	22	23	22	18	7	10	7	8	9	9	6	3,165	1677
South West	21	21	23	23	24	24	22	8	9	9	9	9	9	8	1,980	1072
England	21	22	22	22	22	22	20	8	9	10	10	9	10	8	19,070	9932
Wales	22	24	22	29	22	20	18	10	11	11	15	10	8	8	1,160	610
Scotland	28	29	26	26	27	21	21	12	12	13	12	10	6	9	2,054	1068
Great Britain	21	23	23	23	23	22	20	8	10	10	10	9	9	8	22,284	11610

Note: 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/5 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year

¹Bases for earlier years can be found in GHS reports for each year.

Table 2.17 Weekly alcohol consumption level: percentage exceeding specified amounts by sex and age: 1988-2005

Persons aged 16 and over

Great Britain 2005

Age	Unweighted data					Weighted data					Weighted base 2005 (000's) =100% ¹	Unwgt'd sample ¹ 2005
	1988	1992	1994	1996	1998	1998	2000	2001	2002	2005		
Percentage of men who drank more than 21 units												
Men												
16-24	31	32	29	35	36	38	41	40	37	27	2,327	873
25-44	34	31	30	30	27	28	30	30	29	26	6,784	2805
45-64	24	25	27	26	30	30	28	26	28	25	6,419	2816
65 and over	13	15	17	18	16	16	17	15	15	14	3,835	1803
Total	26	26	27	27	27	28	29	28	27	24	19,366	8297
Percentage of men who drank more than 50 units												
Men												
16-24	10	9	9	10	13	14	14	15	12	9	2,327	873
25-44	9	8	7	6	6	6	7	7	8	5	6,784	2805
45-64	6	6	6	5	6	7	6	5	6	6	6,419	2816
65 and over	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	2	3	3	3,835	1803
Total	7	6	6	6	6	7	7	7	7	6	19,366	8297
Percentage of women who drank more than 14 units												
Women												
16-24	15	17	19	22	25	25	33	32	33	24	2,612	1031
25-44	14	14	15	16	16	16	19	17	19	14	7,840	3353
45-64	9	11	12	13	16	15	14	14	14	13	7,023	3140
65 and over	4	5	7	7	6	6	7	6	7	5	4,904	2135
Total	10	11	13	14	15	15	17	15	17	13	22,378	9659
Percentage of women who drank more than 35 units												
Women												
16-24	3	4	4	5	6	7	9	10	10	6	2,612	1031
25-44	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	2	7,840	3353
45-64	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	7,023	3140
65 and over	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	4,904	2135
Total	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	2	22,378	9659

¹ Bases for earlier years can be found in GHS reports for each year.

Table 2.18 Average weekly alcohol consumption by sex and age: 1992-2005

<i>Persons aged 16 and over</i>										<i>Great Britain 2005</i>	
Age	Unweighted				Weighted					Weighted base 2005 (000's) =100%*	Unweighted sample* 2005
	1992	1994	1996	1998	1998	2000	2001	2002	2005		
Men											
16-24	19.1	17.4	20.3	23.6	25.5	25.9	24.8	21.5	18.2	2,327	873
25-44	18.2	17.5	17.6	16.5	17.1	17.7	18.4	18.7	16.2	6,784	2805
45-64	15.6	15.5	15.6	17.3	17.4	16.8	16.1	17.5	17.7	6,419	2816
65 and over	9.7	10.0	11.0	10.7	10.6	11.0	10.8	10.7	10.4	3,835	1803
Total	15.9	15.4	16.0	16.4	17.1	17.4	17.2	17.2	15.8	19,366	8297
Women											
16-24	7.3	7.7	9.5	10.6	11.0	12.6	14.1	14.1	10.9	2,612	1031
25-44	6.3	6.2	7.2	7.1	7.1	8.1	8.3	8.4	7.1	7,840	3353
45-64	5.3	5.3	5.9	6.4	6.4	6.2	6.8	6.7	6.3	7,023	3140
65 and over	2.7	3.2	3.5	3.3	3.2	3.5	3.6	3.8	3.5	4,904	2135
Total	5.4	5.4	6.3	6.4	6.5	7.1	7.5	7.6	6.5	22,378	9659
All persons											
16-24	12.9	12.3	14.7	16.6	18.0	19.3	19.4	17.6	14.3	4,939	1904
25-44	11.8	11.4	11.9	11.4	12.0	12.9	13.3	13.3	11.3	14,624	6158
45-64	10.2	10.2	10.5	11.6	11.7	11.4	11.3	11.9	11.7	13,442	5956
65 and over	5.6	6.0	6.8	6.5	6.3	6.7	6.6	6.8	6.5	8,739	3938
Total	10.2	10.0	10.7	11.0	11.5	12.0	12.1	12.1	10.8	41,744	17956

Table 2.19 Average weekly alcohol consumption, by sex, and socio-economic class based on the current or last job of the household reference person

Persons aged 16 and over

Great Britain: 2005

Socio-economic classification of household reference person ¹	Men	Women	Total
Mean number of units a week			
Managerial and professional			
Large employer and higher managerial	16.5	8.0	12.3
Higher professional	14.4	7.6	11.1
Lower managerial and professional	16.0	6.9	11.1
	15.7	7.2	11.3
Intermediate			
Intermediate	14.2	6.0	9.1
Small employers/own account workers	18.4	7.3	12.9
	16.8	6.7	11.2
Routine and manual			
Lower supervisory and technical	15.9	5.9	11.1
Semi-routine	13.9	5.8	9.2
Routine	16.2	4.6	10.0
	15.4	5.4	10.0
Total ¹	15.8	6.5	10.8
<i>Weighted bases (000's) =100%</i>			
Large employer and higher managerial	1,448	1,425	2,873
Higher professional	1,914	1,755	3,669
Lower managerial and professional	4,753	5,525	10,277
Intermediate	1,281	2,145	3,427
Small employers/own account workers	2,051	1,983	4,034
Lower supervisory and technical	2,270	2,116	4,386
Semi-routine	2,297	3,229	5,526
Routine	2,522	2,916	5,438
Total ¹	19,366	22,378	41,744
<i>Unweighted sample</i>			
Large employer and higher managerial	657	653	1310
Higher professional	836	787	1623
Lower managerial and professional	2086	2437	4523
Intermediate	540	902	1442
Small employers/own account workers	881	867	1748
Lower supervisory and technical	960	902	1862
Semi-routine	973	1375	2348
Routine	1045	1226	2271
Total ¹	8297	9659	17956

¹ Full-time students, members of the Armed Forces, the long term unemployed and those who have never worked are not shown as separate categories but are included in the totals.

Table 2.20 Average weekly alcohol consumption, by sex and usual gross weekly household income

<i>Persons aged 16 and over</i>				<i>Great Britain: 2005</i>					
Usual gross weekly household income (£)				<i>Weighted base (000's)</i> <i>=100%</i>			<i>Unweighted sample</i>		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
Up to 200.00	15.2	5.0	9.0	297	374	672	1543	2373	3916
200.01-400.00	13.7	5.7	9.4	3,622	5,625	9,247	1664	1939	3603
400.01-600.00	15.4	7.1	11.1	3,858	4,479	8,338	1423	1518	2941
600.01-800.00	16.0	7.1	11.5	3,330	3,507	6,837	1133	1192	2325
800.01-1000.00	16.1	8.2	12.2	2,659	2,744	5,403	742	754	1496
1000.01 or more	17.6	8.0	12.9	1,740	1,736	3,476	1522	1518	3040
Total	15.8	6.5	10.8	19,041	21,914	40,955	8157	9456	17613

Table 2.21 Average weekly alcohol consumption, by sex and economic activity status

<i>Persons aged 16-64</i>				<i>Great Britain: 2005</i>					
Economic activity status				<i>Weighted base (000's)</i> <i>=100%</i>			<i>Unweighted sample</i>		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
Working	16.9	7.8	12.5	12,255	11,697	23,952	5162	4995	10157
Unemployed	17.1	10.0	14.0	552	428	980	218	175	393
Economically inactive	17.9	6.1	10.1	2,724	5,349	8,073	1114	2354	3468
Total	17.1	7.3	11.9	15,531	17,474	33,005	6494	7524	14018

Table 2.22 Average weekly alcohol consumption, by sex and usual gross weekly earnings

<i>Persons aged 16-64 in full time employment</i>									<i>Great Britain: 2005</i>		
Usual gross weekly earnings (£)				<i>Weighted base (000's)</i> <i>=100%</i>			<i>Unweighted sample</i>				
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total		
Up to 200.00	16.9	8.9	13.6	917	636	1,553	384	268	652		
200.01-300.00	17.9	8.0	12.8	1,396	1,498	2,894	573	622	1,195		
300.01-400.00	16.5	7.9	13.0	1,940	1,289	3,229	800	531	1,331		
400.01-600.00	16.8	7.6	13.7	2,744	1,419	4,163	1,154	590	1,744		
600.01-800.00	17.8	8.5	14.8	1,145	545	1,691	494	233	727		
800.01 or more	17.3	10.2	15.7	1,380	427	1,808	608	179	787		
Total	17.1	8.2	13.7	9,780	5,970	15,750	4,125	2,488	6,613		

Table 2.23 Average weekly alcohol consumption, by sex and Government Office Region

<i>Persons aged 16 and over</i>									<i>Great Britain: 2005</i>		
Government Office Region				<i>Weighted base (000's)</i> <i>=100%</i>			<i>Unweighted sample</i>				
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total		
North East	17.6	6.6	11.5	813	1,011	1,824	346	435	781		
North West	18.0	7.4	12.2	2,168	2,594	4,763	959	1,155	2,114		
Yorkshire and the Humber	18.4	7.6	12.8	1,731	1,906	3,637	746	832	1,578		
East Midlands	14.8	6.0	10.2	1,557	1,688	3,246	688	755	1,443		
West Midlands	14.6	6.7	10.5	1,696	1,869	3,565	740	830	1,570		
East of England	17.3	6.0	11.3	1,861	2,083	3,944	827	940	1,767		
London	13.6	4.9	8.9	2,321	2,729	5,051	854	1,001	1,855		
South East	14.2	6.7	10.2	2,841	3,228	6,069	1,233	1,410	2,643		
South West	15.9	7.1	11.2	1,717	2,021	3,737	765	903	1,668		
England	15.8	6.5	10.9	16,704	19,131	35,835	7,158	8,261	15,419		
Wales	14.7	6.2	10.0	961	1,168	2,130	418	508	926		
Scotland	15.9	6.1	10.5	1,701	2,079	3,780	721	890	1,611		
Great Britain	15.8	6.5	10.8	19,366	22,378	41,744	8,297	9,659	17,956		