

What does alcohol mean to me?

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what alcohol means to me ...

- ubiquitous
- enjoyment
- frustration
- disbelief
- determination



extent of need

drugs

- 4m use at least 1 illicit drug a year
- 1m class A drug users
- 250,000 problematic drug users
- 200,000 dependent drug users

alcohol

- 50m drink alcohol
- 8.2m have an alcohol use disorder
- 1.1m alcohol dependent

harm to health

- 1/5 men, 1/3 women drinking at harmful levels
- 22,000 deaths pa
- alcoholic liver disease doubled
- 10% disease burden
- 300,000 pa hospital admissions for ADS
- 70% weekend A&E admissions

social & economic harm

- 360,000 domestic violence incidents
- 1.3m children affected by parental alcohol problems
- 25% of 11-15 year old children: average 10 units pw
- 17m days absent from work
- 50% of violent crime

financial costs

- health: £1.7 bn
- crime/public disorder: £7.3 bn
- workplace: £6.4 bn
- family & society: 4.7 bn
- **£20.1 bn**

spend on treatment 2006-7

- drugs: £750m
- dependent drug user: £3,750 pp

- Alcohol: £217m??
- dependent alcohol user: £197 pp

government response

- prevention:
 - “know your limits”
 - drink aware trust
- voluntary code for alcohol industry
- local guidance documents
- roll out of local area agreements

obstacles to change

- lack of political will
- powerful lobby - vested interests
- £30 billion industry
- 17.5% of income raised through excise
- £800m alcohol advertising
- sensible drinking = lower sales