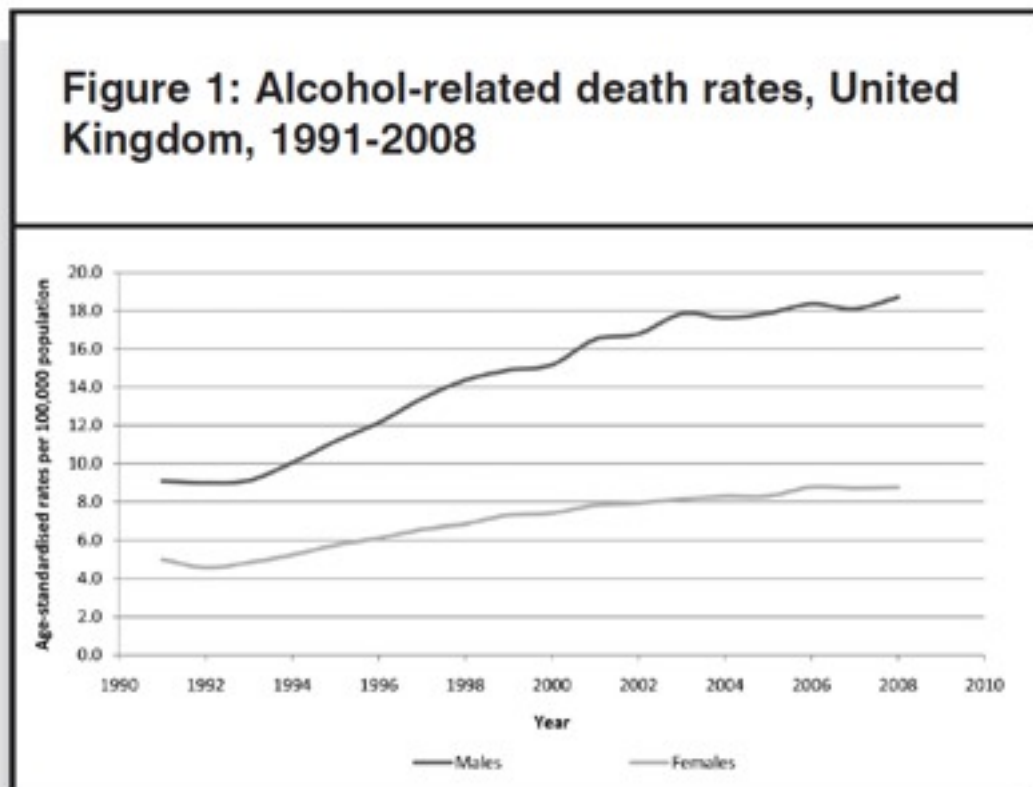


## Alcohol

Alcohol has a wide range effects, including crime, domestic abuse, child abuse and neglect, road traffic accidents. Health effects are wide ranging, including cancers, digestive problems, hypertension and heart disease, osteoporosis, sexual problems and obesity. The harms caused by alcohol consumption are the third highest preventable public health problem facing the world according to the World Health Organisation.

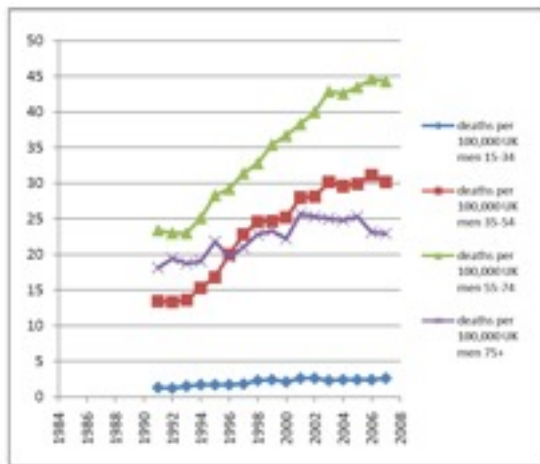


(Source: Alcohol concern)

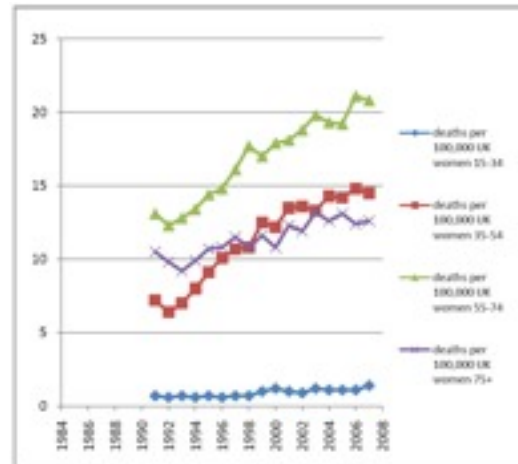
In the UK it costs the NHS £2.7bn each year to tackle alcohol-related health harms. (Alcohol Concern)

- Nearly one million people admitted to hospital for alcohol-related problems
- Alcohol playing a part in 30-40,000 deaths per annum according to the Royal College of Physicians. In 2008, 6,769 deaths in England were directly related to alcohol.
- From 1970 to 2000 deaths from chronic liver disease increased in young men and women by over 900%. Liver disease is the fifth biggest killer in England and Wales, after heart disease, cancer, stroke and respiratory disease. It is the only major cause of death still increasing year-on-year.

From a public health perspective it is important that people are aware that drinking alcohol, even in relatively small volumes can have an impact on their health.



*Figure 4a: Alcohol-related deaths per 100,000 within four age groups of men in the UK in the years 1990-2008*



*Figure 4b: Alcohol-related deaths per 100,000 within four age groups of women in the UK in the years 1990-2008*

SOURCE: UK Office of National Statistics

Currently about one in three men and one in six women drink above recommended guidelines. The two main drivers of alcohol consumption are the price of alcohol and the availability of alcohol

It is estimated that around 6% of cancer deaths are caused by alcohol (including up to 20% of breast cancer cases),

Per capita consumption for the whole UK varied from a low point of 7.4 litres per head in 1984 to a high point of 9.5 litres per head in 2004. Alcohol-related mortality rose from 3,054 deaths in 1984 to 8,999 deaths in 2008. The mortality statistics include, among other things, alcohol dependence syndrome, liver cirrhosis, hepatitis, accidental poisoning by alcohol, and mental and behavioural disorders due to alcohol.

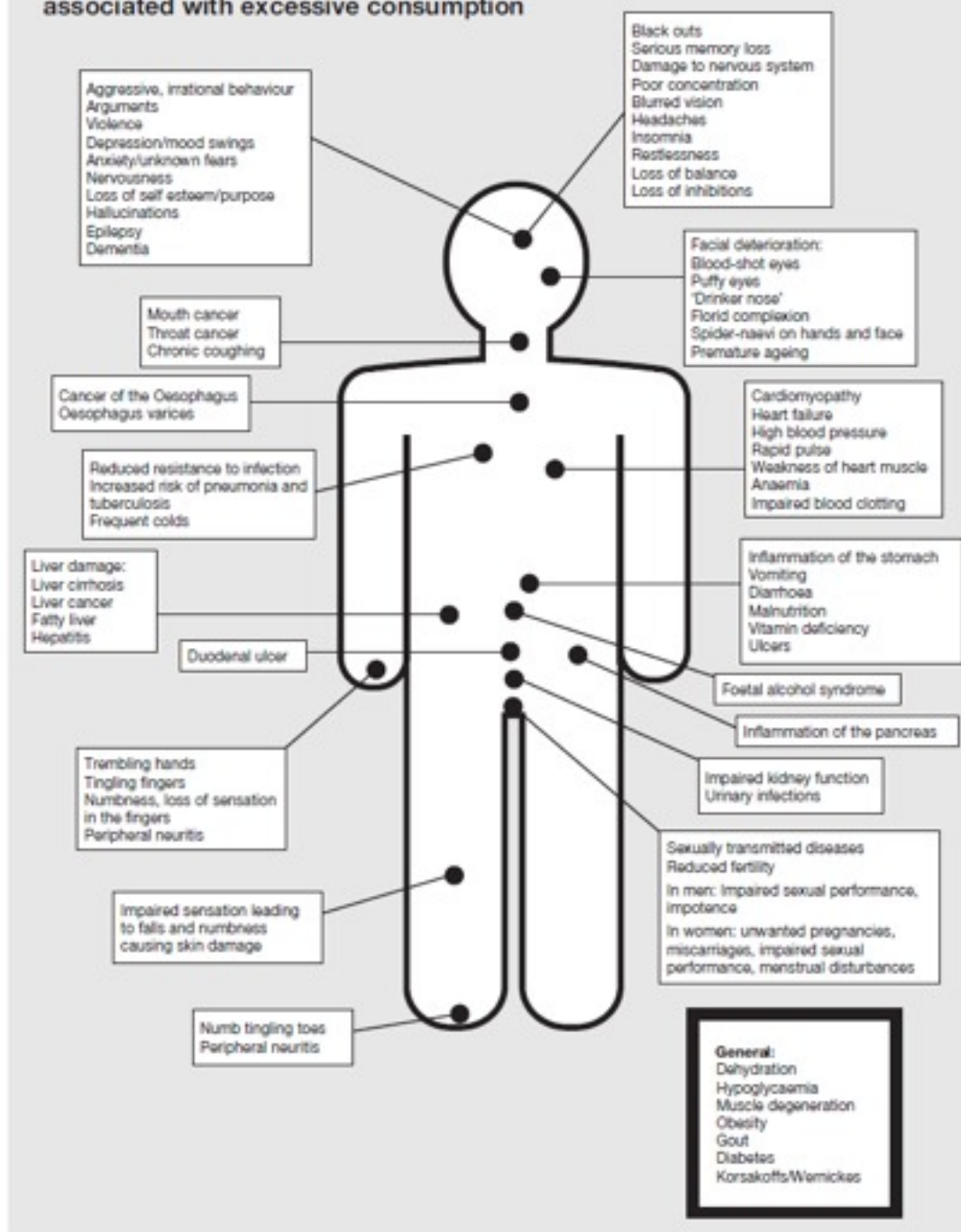
Further information

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/PublicHealth/Alcoholmisuse/index.htm>

<http://www.alcoholconcern.org.uk/>

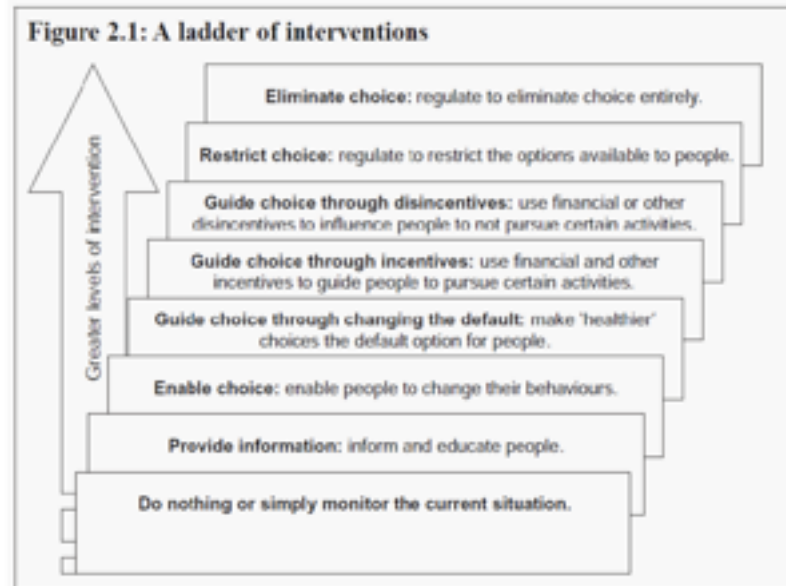
<http://www.alcoholconcern.org.uk/publications/factsheets/drinking-patterns-factsheet>

**Potential negative health effects of and behaviours associated with excessive consumption**





# Nuffield Council on Bioethics Intervention Ladder



# What determines Health/being Healthy? The wider determinants of health



Barton and Grant 2005 based on Whitehead and Dahlgren 1991