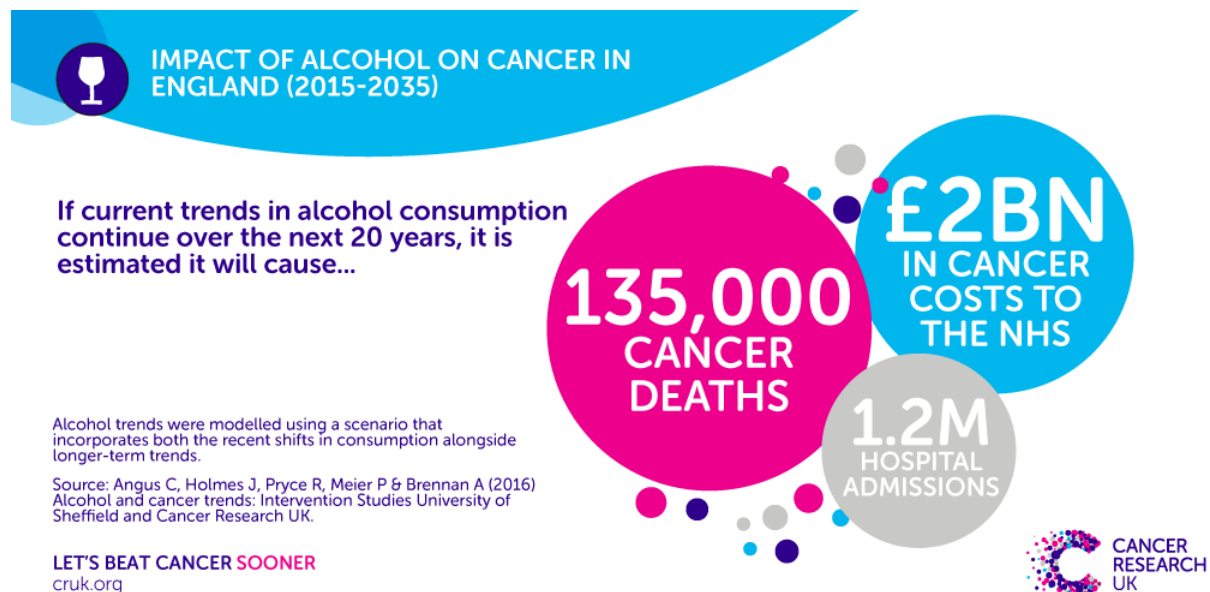


135,000 alcohol-related cancer deaths predicted by 2035

November 17 2016



If current trends in alcohol consumption continue over the next 20 years, it is estimated it will cause 135,000 deaths in England. Credit: Cancer Research UK

Alcohol will cause around 135,000 cancer deaths over the next 20 years and will cost the NHS an estimated £2 billion in treatments, according to estimates from a new report by Sheffield University, commissioned by Cancer Research UK.

The new figures, published today (Friday), reveal that by 2035 the UK

could see around 7,100 cancer deaths every year that are associated with alcohol. Of the cancer types included in the report, oesophageal cancer is set to see the largest increase, followed by bowel cancer, mouth and throat cancer, breast cancer and liver cancer.

The report also forecasts that there will be over 1.2 million hospital admissions for cancer over the 20 year period, which will cost the NHS £100 million, on average, every year.

The results were based on analyses that assume alcohol drinking trends will follow those seen over the last 40 years, and takes recent falls in [alcohol consumption](#), including among young people, into account.

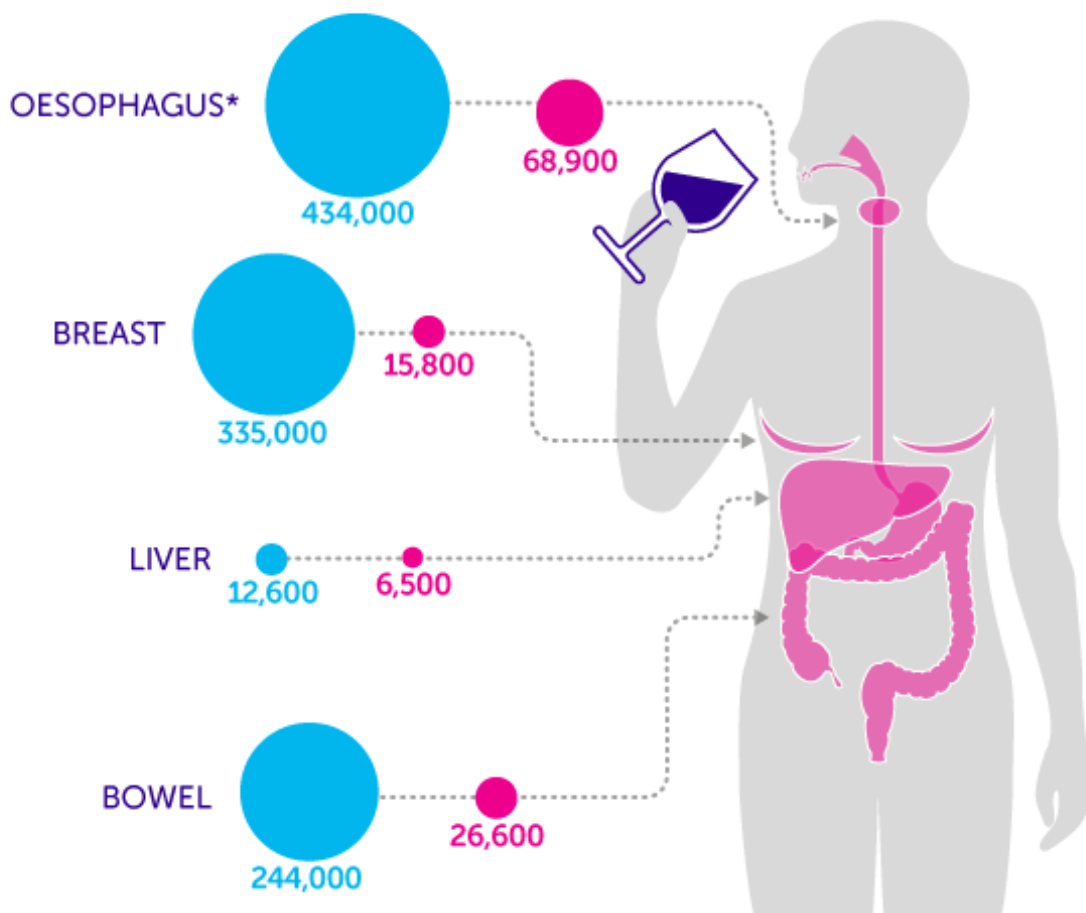
Evidence suggests that the more alcohol you drink, the higher the risk of cancer. UK government guidelines, published earlier this year, advise that both men and women drink no more than 14 units of alcohol a week.

The latest figures follow a Cancer Research UK study published earlier in the year that showed 9 in 10 people are unaware of the link between alcohol and cancer.

IMPACT OF ALCOHOL ON CANCER OUTCOMES IN ENGLAND (2015-2035)

If current trends in alcohol consumption continue over the next 20 years, it is estimated it will cause...

● Predicted number of hospital admissions ● Predicted number of cancer deaths



*Other mouth and throat cancers are predicted to cause around 221,000 hospital admissions and around 16,800 deaths.

Alcohol trends were modelled using a scenario that incorporates both the recent shifts in consumption alongside longer-term trends

Source: Angus C, Holmes J, Pryce R, Meier P & Brennan A (2016) Alcohol and cancer trends: Intervention Studies University of Sheffield and Cancer Research UK.

LET'S BEAT CANCER SOONER.
cruk.org



The impact of alcohol on cancer outcomes in England (2015 - 2035). Credit: Cancer Research UK

The report also examined the impact of introducing a minimum unit price for alcohol in England. It found that over 20 years a 50p minimum price per units of alcohol could reduce deaths linked to alcohol by around 7,200, including around 670 cancer deaths. It would also reduce healthcare costs by £1.3 billion. This follows a recent court decision in Scotland which found that a minimum unit price would not break European law.

Alison Cox, the Director of Prevention at Cancer Research UK, said: "These new figures reveal the devastating impact alcohol will have over the coming years. That's why it's hugely important the public are aware of the link between alcohol and cancer, and what they can do to improve their risk.

"If we are to change the nation's drinking habits and try to mitigate the impact alcohol will have then national health campaigns are needed to provide clear information about the health risks of [drinking alcohol](#)."

Professor Sir Ian Gilmore, chair of the Alcohol Health Alliance, said: "These latest figures show the serious consequences for individuals, the NHS and society if the UK government continues to ignore the consequences of the nation's drinking. In particular they reinforce the need for a minimum unit price (MUP) for alcohol. It is clear from the report that MUP will save lives, including those lost to cancer, and ease the burden on our health service. Importantly, MUP will do this while leaving moderate drinkers and prices in pubs and bars unaffected.

In addition, we need mandatory health information on the labels of all alcoholic products, informing the public of the link between [alcohol](#) and [cancer](#), and the new low-risk drinking guidelines.

The public have the right to know about how their drinking impacts their health, so that they are empowered to make informed choices."

More information: Angus C, Holmes J, Pryce R, Meier P & Brennan A (2016) Alcohol and cancer trends: Intervention Studies University of Sheffield and Cancer Research UK. www.cancerresearchuk.org/sites...ends_report_cruk.pdf

Provided by Cancer Research UK

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