

# Alcohol acts as igniter of hate crimes

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Prejudice is often only expressed when people are intoxicated, suggests a study by Cardiff University.

After interviewing accident and emergency attendees with injuries resulting from violence, researchers found that 18.5% of them considered themselves to have been attacked by people motivated by [prejudice](#). Alcohol intoxication was reported as being particularly relevant and accounted for 90% of the targeted attacks.

Whereas the primary motivation was identified as hate, expression of this hate only occurred under intoxication.

Professor Jonathan Shepherd, Director of the Cardiff University Crime and Security Research Institute, said: "A striking aspect of the study was the discovery that most attacks weren't fuelled by hate alone; [alcohol](#) appeared to act as an igniter..."

The survey was carried out across three UK cities: Cardiff, Blackburn and Leicester. These cities were chosen as all three are home to multicultural, multi-ethnic and multi-religious populations.

Of the 23 people who claimed the attack on them was motivated by prejudice, seven cited their appearance as the perceived motive, five cited racial tensions within the communities they lived, three mentioned their place of residence and eight cases were attributed to race, religion or sexual orientation of the victims. All 23 attacks took place away from the victims' homes.

Limiting [alcohol consumption](#) was viewed by many of those injured in targeted and hate violence as a good strategy to reduce the risk of attacks.

The research paper 'Injury resulting from targeted violence: An emergency department perspective' is published in Criminal Behaviour and Mental Health.

The team interviewed 124 patients for the study.

**More information:** Vaseekaran Sivaraajasingam et al. Injury resulting from targeted violence: An emergency department perspective, *Criminal Behaviour and Mental Health* (2017). [DOI: 10.1002/cbm.2066](https://doi.org/10.1002/cbm.2066)

Provided by Cardiff University

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