



General Household Survey 2006

Smoking and drinking among adults, 2006

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Introduction

This report provides information about smoking and drinking based on data collected by the General Household Survey in 2006. It also includes tables showing data on the 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, asked of 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 which are included on the survey every year. 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 additional topics to be included each year to a plan agreed by its sponsors. Only one such topic, on social and cultural participation, was included in the 2006 survey.

The 2006 GHS was sponsored by the Office for National Statistics, Information Centre for health and social care, Department for Work and Pensions, HM Revenue & Customs, Scottish Government and Eurostat.

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.

Another change in 2005 was that, in line with European requirements, the GHS adopted a longitudinal sample design, in which households remain in the sample for four years (waves) with one quarter of the sample being replaced each year. Thus approximately three quarters of the 2005 sample were re-interviewed in 2006. More details are given in Appendix B.

A major advantage of the longitudinal component of the design is that it is more efficient at detecting statistically significant estimates of change over time than the previous cross-sectional design. This is because an individual's responses to the same question at different points in time tend to be positively correlated, and this reduces the standard errors of estimates of change.

The response rate for the 2006 survey was 76 per cent, giving an achieved sample size of 9,731 households and 18,214 adults aged 16 and over, of whom 16,736 gave a full interview in person (interviews obtained by proxy from another member of the household do not include questions on smoking and drinking).

Other GHS results for 2006

Results for other GHS topics will be combined with those from other sources in *Social Trends* and other reports due to be published in 2008. 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 throughout the report and notes on how these have changed over time (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 2006, excluding self-completion forms and prompt cards (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. Note, however, that the tables in this report show data for every four years from 1974 to 1998.

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 and economic activity status, and comments briefly on the prevalence of cigarette smoking in different parts of Great Britain. Smoking prevalence in relation to ethnicity is not included in this report: the 2005 reportⁱ included this topic in some detail, based on five years combined data, to give large enough samples for analysis in minority ethnic groups. Other topics covered in 2006 include cigarette consumption, type of cigarette smoked, how old respondents were when they started smoking, and dependence on cigarettes.

The reliability of smoking estimates

As noted in earlier 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 answersⁱⁱ.

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 reportⁱⁱⁱ. 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*^v 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^v.

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 2000^{vi}. 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. The more recent PSA targets mentioned in the previous paragraph also included reducing prevalence among routine and manual groups to 26 per cent or less.

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. A ban on smoking in enclosed public places came into force in Scotland during the spring of 2006: similar bans in England and Wales were introduced in 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 2006^{vii}.

The prevalence of cigarette smoking

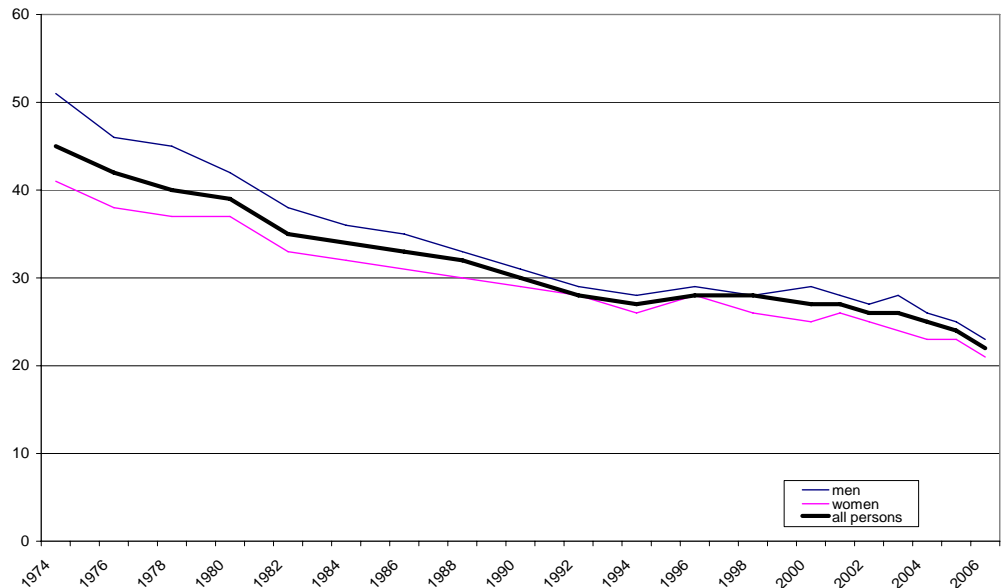
Trends in the prevalence of cigarette smoking

The overall prevalence of smoking among the adult population was 22 per cent in 2006, compared with 24 per cent the previous year. The fall of two percentage points is statistically significant, and it occurred among both men and women.

This downturn follows a period of little change since the second half of 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. The rate of decline then slowed, with prevalence falling by only about one percentage point every two years until 1994, after which it levelled out at about 27 per cent before resuming a slow decline in the 2000s.

It should be noted that 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.

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 2006, 23 per cent of men and 21 per cent of women were cigarette smokers.

Figure 1.1: Prevalence of cigarette smoking: Great Britain, 1974 to 2006

The present difference of two percentage points 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.

1. 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.
2. 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.

It should be noted that the proportion of respondents saying that they used to smoke regularly was the same in 2005 and 2006 (27 per cent of men and 21 per cent of women). However, the proportion saying that they had never smoked regularly did rise, suggesting that the measured fall in prevalence between 2005 and 2006 may be due to people becoming more reluctant to admit to smoking, rather than to more people giving up.

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, but the difference relative to the next age group, those aged 25 to 34, has reduced in recent years. Up to the early twenties, more young people are starting to smoke than are giving up (as shown later, only

about one in six of those who have smoked at some time in their lives took up the habit at age 20 or older).

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. However, this is mainly because of the relatively small sample size in this age group and has occurred within a pattern of overall decline in smoking prevalence in this age group. The year on year fall in prevalence among those aged 16 to 19 from 24 per cent in 2005 to 20 per cent in 2006, although marked, is on the borderline of statistical significance, but is significantly lower than the rate of 31 per cent in 1998. Sampling fluctuations have also affected comparisons between young men and women in this age group. In recent years, prevalence has tended to be higher among young women than among young men, but this was not the case in 2006, when it was at the same level, 20 per cent, for both sexes.

At 12 per cent in 2006, 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 also 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 except the youngest, married people were less likely to be smokers than were other respondents (although the difference is not statistically significant among those aged 60 and over). For example, among those aged 25 to 34, 34 per cent of those who were single and 35 per cent of those who were cohabiting were smokers, compared with only 21 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 2006, 28 per cent of those in manual groups were cigarette smokers, compared with 33 per cent in 1998, confirming progress towards 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 17 per cent in 2006) the differential between non-manual and manual has not reduced.

Figure 1.2: Prevalence of cigarette smoking by socio-economic group: England, 1992 to 2006*



* weighted data are shown from 1998 onwards

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 in England since 2001 using the new socio-economic classification of the household reference person. It was noted earlier that there is a PSA target to reduce the prevalence of smoking among those in households classified as routine or manual to 26 per cent or lower by 2010. Over the period 2001 to 2006, the prevalence of cigarette smoking fell by four percentage points among those in routine and manual households, from 33 per cent to 29 per cent. Prevalence also fell by four percentage points among those in managerial and professional households (from 19 per cent in 2001 to 15 per cent in 2006), but the decrease in prevalence was somewhat greater among those in intermediate households, where it fell from 27 per cent to 21 per cent over the same period.

The prevalence of cigarette smoking in Great Britain in 2006 in relation to the eight- and three- category versions of NS-SEC is shown in Table 1.8. 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 (11 per cent and 14 per cent respectively) and highest, at 31-32 per cent, among those whose household reference person was in a routine or semi-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: 30 per cent of this group were smokers, compared with 24 per cent of economically active people aged 16-59 and only 12 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, 46 per cent of whom were cigarette smokers.

Table 1.9

Regional variation in cigarette smoking

The data presented so far have been mainly for Great Britain, but the PSA targets and those included in the NHS *Cancer Plan* relate to England only. Table 1.10 shows that in 2006, overall prevalence in England was 22 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 2006, 25 per cent of adults in Scotland were smokers, a significantly higher proportion than in England. In Wales, 20 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 in any one year, because sample sizes are small in some cases, making them subject to relatively high levels of sampling error. 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 more robust regional comparisons to be made. Table 1.12 shows data for the three years 2004 to 2006 combined, giving a sample of more than 50,000 adults in Great Britain.

This shows the same differences between the three countries of Great Britain as were described above for 2006 alone: prevalence among men and women is significantly higher in Scotland than in England and Wales. It also shows that the proportion of adults who have never smoked regularly is the same in all three countries, 53 per cent, so that the variation in prevalence is entirely due to different proportions having stopped smoking.

For men in England, the three regions of England with the highest prevalence were the North East, the North West and Yorkshire and the Humber, where 26-27 per cent of men were cigarette smokers (similar to the level in Scotland, and significantly higher than in all other regions except London). Among women, prevalence in the North East, at 28 per cent, was significantly higher than in every other region of England, and also significantly higher than in Wales and Scotland. The prevalence of cigarette smoking was lowest, at 20 per cent, among women in the West Midlands, the East of England, London and the South East.

Much of the overall regional variation in prevalence is contributed by differences in the proportions of smokers smoking 20 or more cigarettes a day. Among men, this

ranges from 6 per cent in London and the South West to 12 per cent in Scotland. Among women, the range is even greater, from 4 per cent in the East of England, London and the South East to 10 per cent in the North East.

Tables 1.10-1.12

Cigarette consumption

The overall decline in smoking prevalence since the mid 1970s has been due to a fall in the proportions of both light smokers (defined as fewer than 20 cigarettes per day) and heavy smokers (20 cigarettes or more per day). The proportion of all adults smoking on average 20 or more cigarettes a day has fallen among men from 26 per cent in 1974 to 8 per cent in 2006, and from 13 per cent to 5 per cent of women over the same period.

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, 17 per cent of young men and 19 per cent of young women aged 16 to 19 were light smokers in 2006, and only 2 per cent and 1 per cent respectively were heavy smokers.

The overall reported number of cigarettes smoked per male and female smoker has changed little since the early 1980s: the apparent slight fall among men smokers since the 1990s appears to be due to the introduction of weighting.

As in previous years, male smokers smoked more cigarettes a day on average than female smokers: in 2006, men smoked on average 15 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 in this age group smoked on average 16 cigarettes a day and women smoked 14-15 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 2006, 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.

Tables 1.13-1.16

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 2006 this had risen to 35 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 22 per cent in 2006, so that the proportion of all adults who smoke hand-rolled tobacco has not increased so sharply: it has risen from about 3 per cent to about 5 per cent (no table shown).

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

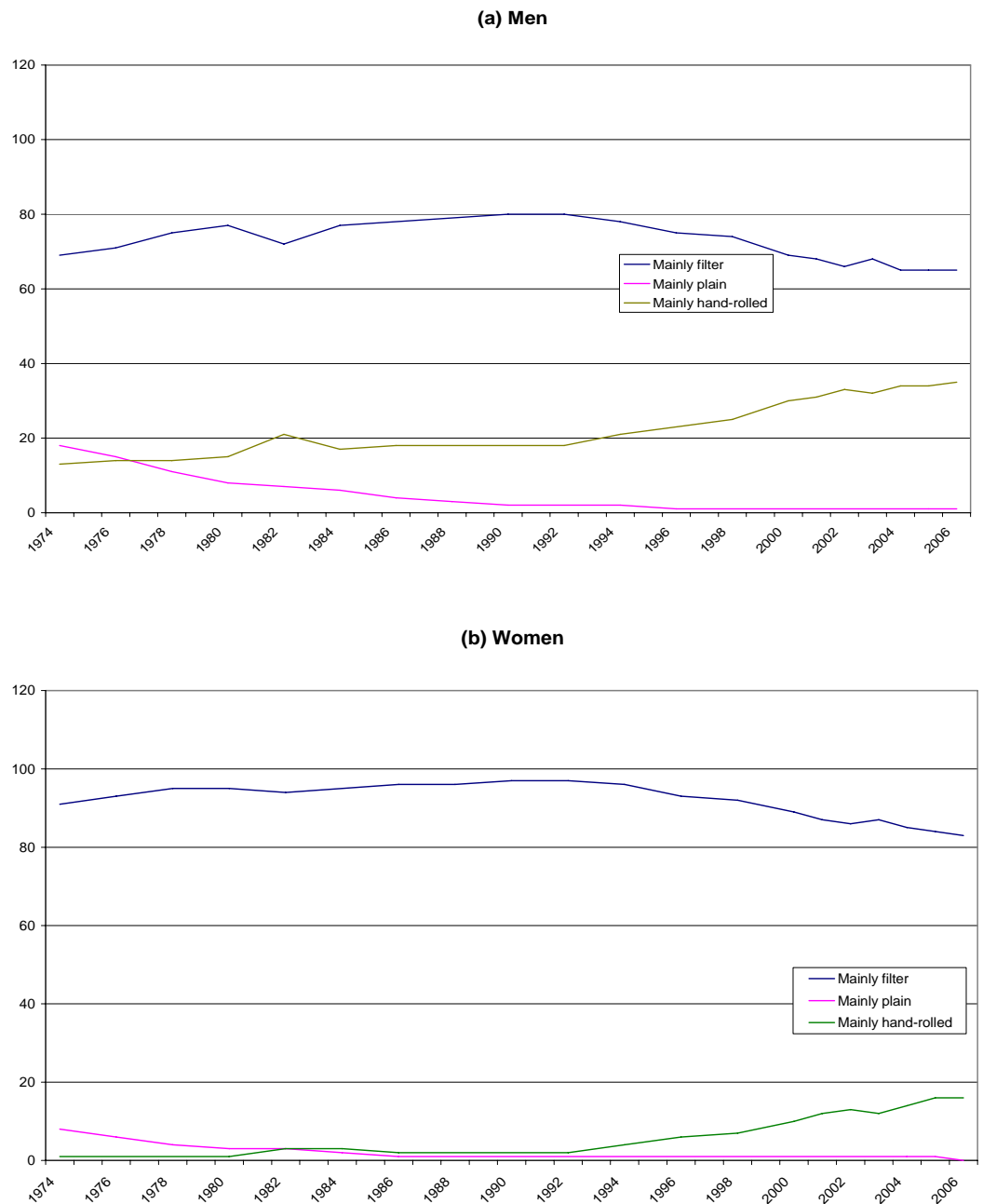
Smoking and drinking among adults 2006

- the rise in the real price of packaged cigarettes - hand-rolled ones are cheaper;
- the reduced tar and nicotine yield of packaged cigarettes: depending on how they are rolled and smoked, hand-rolled ones can give a higher tar and nicotine 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 sex: Great Britain, 1974 to 2006



Tar yield^{viii}

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 15mg or more 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 71 per cent in 2002. since when it has remained at about the same level. 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 brands in the highest tar band: 84 per cent of men smokers but only 65 per cent of women smokers in that age group did so.

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 13 per cent of smokers in routine and manual households.

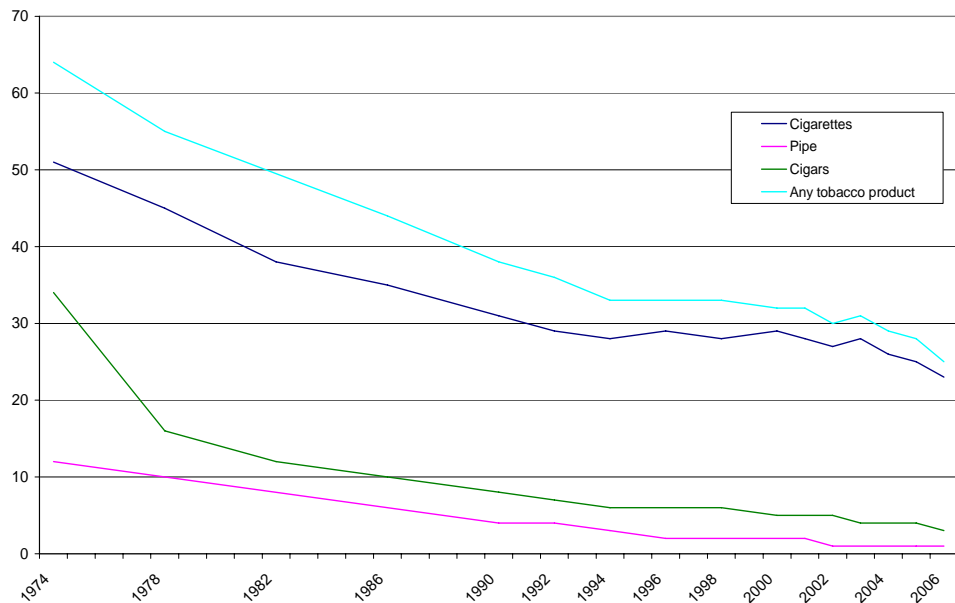
Tables 1.19-1.22

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 2006, only 3 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. In previous years, cigar smoking has not been related to age, but in 2006 there was a clear age difference, with men aged 35 and over being more likely than younger men to say they had a cigar at least once a month.

Men were also asked whether or not they smoked a pipe 'at all nowadays'. Only 1 per cent of men in 2006 said they did, and they were almost all aged 50 and over.

Figure 1.4, Tables 1.23-1.24**Figure 1.4: Type of tobacco product smoked by men, 1974 to 2006**

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. Indeed, almost two fifths had started smoking regularly before the age of 16, which was until recently the lowest age at which cigarettes could legally be bought^{ix}. 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 2006).

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: this had risen to 36 per cent in 2005, but there was no further increase in 2006. There has been little change since 1992 in the proportion of men who had ever smoked who had started smoking regularly before the age of 16.

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 45 per cent of those in routine and manual households.

Current heavy smokers were much more likely than light or ex-smokers to have started smoking at an early age. Of those smoking 20 or more cigarettes a day, 53 per cent started smoking regularly before they were 16, compared with only 33 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.

For an attempt to stop smoking to be successful, the smoker must want to stop. In 2006, 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 2006, 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 2006, 59 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 – 82 per cent of those smoking 20 or more cigarettes a day did so, compared with only 26 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 almost every year shown in Table 1.29, however, this was not the case: in each of the three consumption categories shown, women were more likely than men to say they would find it hard not to smoke for a day, although the differences were not statistically significant in 2006. This difference between men and women smokers is not inconsistent with the overall similarity of the proportions saying they would find it hard not to smoke for a day (59 per cent of men and 60 per cent of women) because women are less likely than men to be heavy smokers, who are most likely to say they would find it difficult.

In 2006, 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: 36 per cent of those smoking 20 or more cigarettes did 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 - 18 per cent of men smokers, compared with 15 per cent of women smokers 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 intermediate households were more likely than smokers in either managerial and professional or routine and manual households to say they would like to give up smoking altogether (73 per cent compared with 69 per cent and 66 per cent respectively). The difference was particularly marked among those smoking 20 or more cigarettes a day.

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 (63 per cent compared with 53 per cent among those in managerial and professional households, and 60 per cent among those in intermediate households). However, once amount smoked was taken into account (smokers in the routine and manual group smoke more on average than smokers in other social classes) the pattern of association was less clear.

Overall, smokers in managerial and professional households were less likely than other smokers to have had their first cigarette within five minutes of waking, and this was the case even when allowing for the fact that they smoked fewer cigarettes, on average. The differences between smokers in the other two groups of households – intermediate, and routine and manual – were smaller, and not consistently in the same direction.

Tables 1.28-1.33

Notes and references

ⁱ Goddard E, *General Household Survey 2005, Smoking and drinking among adults, 2005*, ONS 2006.

ⁱⁱ 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.

ⁱⁱⁱ See Appendix D, *Living in Britain: results from the 2000 General Household Survey*. The Stationery Office (London 2001).

^{iv} *Smoking kills – a White Paper on tobacco*. The Stationery Office (London 1998) <http://>

^v Available at www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/8/7/sr04_psa_ch3.pdf

^{vi} *The NHS Cancer Plan*, Department of Health, 2000: available at www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/01/45/13/04014513.pdf

^{vii} The results are published in Lader D et al, *Smoking-related behaviour and attitudes, 2006* ONS (London 2007)

^{viii} An error was found in the automated procedure for coding the brand of cigarette smoked which was introduced when the GHS moved to computerised interviewing in April 1994. The net effect of this was that from 1994 to 2000, some brands were wrongly assigned to a low tar category. The coding procedure was revised for the 2001 survey. Corrected data for 1998 and 2000 are given in Tables 1.19 and 1.20.

^{ix} The legal minimum age for the purchase of cigarettes and other tobacco has been 16 since 1908, but it was raised to 18 on 1 October 2007.

Smoking and drinking among adults 2006

Table 1.1 Prevalence of cigarette smoking by sex and age: 1974 to 2006

Persons aged 16 and over																Great Britain	
Age	Unweighted							Weighted							Weighted base 2006 (000s) = 100% ³	Unweighted sample ³ 2006	
	1974	1978	1982	1986	1990	1994	1998	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005 ¹	2006 ²		
Percentage smoking cigarettes																	
Men																	
16-19	42	35	31	30	28	28	30	30	30	25	22	27	23	23	20	1,295	392
20-24	52	45	41	41	38	40	42	41	35	40	37	38	36	34	33	1,270	376
25-34	56	48	40	37	36	34	37	38	39	38	36	38	35	34	33	3,140	1053
35-49	55	48	40	37	34	31	32	33	31	31	29	32	31	29	26	5,636	2093
50-59	53	48	42	35	28	27	27	28	27	26	27	26	26	25	23	3,337	1374
60 and over	44	38	33	29	24	18	16	16	16	16	17	16	15	14	13	5,240	2389
All aged 16 and over	51	45	38	35	31	28	28	30	29	28	27	28	26	25	23	19,918	7677
Women																	
16-19	38	33	30	30	32	27	31	32	28	31	29	25	25	26	20	1,278	423
20-24	44	43	40	38	39	38	39	39	35	35	38	34	29	30	29	1,548	507
25-34	46	42	37	35	34	30	33	33	32	31	33	31	28	29	26	3,520	1320
35-49	49	43	38	34	33	28	28	29	27	28	27	28	28	26	25	6,392	2490
50-59	48	42	40	35	29	26	27	27	28	25	24	23	22	23	22	3,577	1513
60 and over	26	24	23	22	20	17	16	16	15	17	14	14	14	13	12	6,406	2752
All aged 16 and over	41	37	33	31	29	26	26	26	25	26	25	24	23	23	21	22,721	9005
Total																	
16-19	40	34	30	30	30	27	31	31	29	28	25	26	24	24	20	2,573	815
20-24	48	44	40	39	38	39	40	40	35	37	38	36	32	32	31	2,819	883
25-34	51	45	38	36	35	32	35	35	35	34	34	34	31	31	30	6,660	2373
35-49	52	45	39	36	34	30	30	31	29	29	28	30	29	27	25	12,027	4583
50-59	51	45	41	35	29	27	27	28	27	26	26	25	24	24	22	6,914	2887
60 and over	34	30	27	25	21	17	16	16	16	17	15	15	14	14	12	11,646	5141
All aged 16 and over	45	40	35	33	30	27	27	28	27	27	26	26	25	24	22	42,639	16682

1 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/05 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year.

2 Results for 2006 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

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 found in GHS reports for each year.

Smoking and drinking among adults 2006

Table 1.2 Ex-regular cigarette smokers by sex and age: 1974 to 2006

<i>Persons aged 16 and over</i>																<i>Great Britain</i>	
Age	Unweighted							Weighted							Weighted base 2006 (000s) = 100% ³	Unweighted sample ³ 2006	
	1974	1978	1982	1986	1990	1994	1998	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005 ¹			2006 ²
Percentage of ex-regular cigarette smokers																	
Men																	
16-19	3	4	4	5	4	5	5	5	3	4	3	5	4	3	4	1,295	392
20-24	9	9	9	11	8	7	8	9	7	9	7	7	8	7	11	1,270	376
25-34	18	18	20	20	16	16	13	13	12	15	13	13	15	14	16	3,140	1053
35-49	21	26	32	33	32	27	22	21	20	20	20	20	20	19	20	5,636	2093
50-59	30	35	38	38	42	40	41	40	36	36	35	32	34	34	31	3,337	1374
60 and over	37	43	47	52	52	55	54	54	52	47	51	50	50	51	49	5,240	2389
All aged 16 and over	23	27	30	32	32	31	31	29	27	27	28	27	28	27	27	19,918	7677
Women																	
16-19	4	5	6	7	6	6	7	8	6	6	5	6	4	4	4	1,278	423
20-24	9	8	9	9	8	10	8	8	11	12	10	10	8	9	11	1,548	507
25-34	12	14	15	16	14	14	14	14	13	16	16	16	14	15	17	3,520	1320
35-49	10	13	15	20	20	21	19	19	19	19	17	16	18	18	18	6,392	2490
50-59	13	18	19	18	20	22	25	25	24	24	26	27	27	25	25	3,577	1513
60 and over	11	16	20	23	27	29	29	29	29	29	30	29	28	29	30	6,406	2752
All aged 16 and over	11	14	16	18	19	21	21	20	20	21	21	21	20	21	21	22,721	9005

1 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/5 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year.

2 Results for 2006 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

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 found in GHS reports for each year.

Smoking and drinking among adults 2006

Table 1.3 Percentage who have never smoked cigarettes regularly by sex and age: 1974 to 2006

<i>Persons aged 16 and over</i>																<i>Great Britain</i>	
Age	Unweighted							Weighted							<i>Weighted base 2006 (000s) = 100%³</i>	<i>Unweighted sample³ 2006</i>	
	1974	1978	1982	1986	1990	1994	1998	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005 ¹			2006 ²
Percentage who have never smoked regularly																	
Men																	
16-19	56	61	65	65	68	67	64	65	67	71	75	68	72	74	77	1,295	392
20-24	38	46	50	47	54	53	49	50	58	51	55	54	55	59	56	1,270	376
25-34	26	33	39	43	48	50	50	49	49	47	51	49	50	53	51	3,140	1053
35-49	24	26	28	30	34	42	46	45	49	49	51	48	50	52	54	5,636	2093
50-59	16	17	20	26	31	33	32	32	37	38	38	41	40	41	46	3,337	1374
60 and over	18	18	20	19	24	27	30	30	32	36	32	34	35	35	38	5,240	2389
All aged 16 and over	25	29	32	34	37	40	41	42	44	45	46	45	46	47	50	19,918	7677
Women																	
16-19	58	62	64	62	62	67	62	61	66	63	66	69	70	70	76	1,278	423
20-24	47	49	51	54	53	52	53	53	54	53	52	55	62	61	61	1,548	507
25-34	42	44	48	48	52	55	53	53	54	53	51	53	58	56	57	3,520	1320
35-49	41	44	47	46	48	51	52	52	54	53	55	55	54	56	58	6,392	2490
50-59	38	39	41	47	51	52	48	48	48	51	50	50	51	51	53	3,577	1513
60 and over	63	60	57	55	54	54	55	56	56	54	55	57	58	58	58	6,406	2752
All aged 16 and over	49	49	51	51	52	54	53	53	54	53	54	55	57	57	58	22,721	9005

1 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/5 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year.

2 Results for 2006 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

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 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: 2006¹</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	%	20	6	27	11	62	4,868	1502
Married/cohabiting	%	13	8	21	32	47	12,929	5357
Married couple	%	11	7	18	34	49	10,754	4536
Cohabiting couple	%	26	12	37	23	39	2,174	821
Widowed/divorced/separated	%	14	13	28	35	37	2,122	818
All aged 16 and over	%	15	8	23	27	50	19,918	7677
Women								
Single	%	22	5	26	10	63	4,280	1513
Married/cohabiting	%	0	0	18	22	59	13,682	5649
Married couple	%	12	4	16	23	62	11,392	4773
Cohabiting couple	%	26	7	33	21	46	2,290	876
Widowed/divorced/separated	%	16	7	23	25	52	4,758	1843
All aged 16 and over	%	16	5	21	21	58	22,720	9005
Total								
Single	%	21	6	27	11	63	9,147	3015
Married/cohabiting	%	14	6	20	27	53	26,611	11006
Married couple	%	11	5	17	28	55	22,147	9309
Cohabiting couple	%	26	9	35	22	43	4,464	1697
Widowed/divorced/separated	%	15	9	25	28	47	6,879	2661
All aged 16 and over	%	15	6	22	24	54	42,637	16682

¹ Results for 2006 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

Table 1.5 Cigarette-smoking status by age and marital status

<i>Persons aged 16 and over</i>						<i>Great Britain: 2006¹</i>
Marital status	Age					Total
	16-24	25-34	35-49	50-59	60 and over	
Percentage smoking cigarettes						
Single	23	34	32	29	12	27
Married/cohabiting	35	26	22	20	11	20
Married couple	28	21	19	18	11	17
Cohabiting couple	38	35	37	34	16	35
Widowed/divorced/separated	42	48	39	32	15	25
All aged 16 and over	25	30	25	22	12	22
<i>Weighted base (000s)= 100%</i>						
Single	4,461	1,912	1,654	432	691	9,150
Married/cohabiting	906	4,484	8,887	5,300	7,033	26,610
Married couple	231	2,727	7,479	4,927	6,782	22,146
Cohabiting couple	674	1,758	1,408	374	250	4,464
Widowed/divorced/separated	26	264	1,485	1,181	3,924	6,880
All aged 16 and over	5,392	6,660	12,027	6,914	11,646	42,639
<i>Unweighted sample</i>						
Single	1397	641	539	160	278	3015
Married/cohabiting	293	1631	3503	2288	3291	11006
Married couple	75	997	2950	2115	3172	9309
Cohabiting couple	218	634	553	173	119	1697
Widowed/divorced/separated	8	101	541	439	1572	2661
All aged 16 and over	1698	2373	4583	2887	5141	16682

1 Results for 2006 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

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 2006^{1,2}

<i>Persons aged 16 and over</i>														<i>England</i>	
Socio-economic group of household reference person ³	<u>Unweighted</u>				<u>Weighted</u>								<i>Weighted base 2006 (000s) = 100%⁵</i>	<i>Unweighted sample⁵ 2006</i>	
	1992	1994	1996	1998	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005 ⁴	2006			
Percentage smoking cigarettes															
Men															
Non-manual	22	21	21	21	22	24	22	21	22	22	19	18	9,181	3657	
Manual	35	34	35	34	35	34	34	32	33	31	31	29	6,976	2618	
Total ⁶	29	28	28	28	29	29	28	27	27	26	25	23	17,163	6598	
Women															
Non-manual	23	21	22	21	22	22	20	20	20	19	18	16	10,498	4275	
Manual	30	30	33	31	31	29	31	30	29	28	28	27	6,949	2692	
Total ⁶	27	25	27	26	26	25	25	25	24	23	22	21	19,451	7693	
All persons															
Non-manual	23	21	22	21	22	23	21	20	21	20	19	17	19,679	7932	
Manual	33	32	34	32	33	31	32	31	31	30	29	28	13,925	5310	
Total ⁶	28	26	28	27	28	27	27	26	25	25	24	22	36,612	2618	

1 Figures for 1992 to 1996 are taken from Department of Health bulletin Statistics on smoking: England, 1978 onwards. Figures for 2001 to 2006 are based on the NS-SEC classification recoded to produce SEG and should therefore be treated with caution.

2 Results for 2006 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

3 Head of household in years before 2000.

4 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/5 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year.

5 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.

6 Respondents whose 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 are not shown as separate categories but are included in the total

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Table 1.7 Prevalence of cigarette smoking by sex and socio-economic classification of the household reference person: England, 2001 to 2006¹

<i>Persons aged 16 and over</i>							<i>England</i>	
Socio-economic classification of household reference person	Weighted						Weighted base 2006 (000s) = 100%	Unweighted sample 2006
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005 ²	2006		
Percentage smoking cigarettes								
Men								
Managerial and professional	21	20	20	20	18	17	7,358	2961
Intermediate	29	27	28	26	24	22	3,053	1150
Routine and manual	34	32	34	32	32	32	5,982	2238
Total ³	28	27	27	26	25	23	17,163	6598
Women								
Managerial and professional	17	17	17	17	16	14	7,826	3231
Intermediate	26	25	24	22	22	20	3,682	1435
Routine and manual	31	31	30	30	29	28	6,907	2664
Total ³	25	25	24	23	22	21	19,451	7693
All persons								
Managerial and professional	19	19	18	19	17	15	15,184	6192
Intermediate	27	26	26	24	23	21	6,734	2585
Routine and manual	33	31	32	31	31	29	12,889	4902
Total ³	27	26	25	25	24	22	36,612	14291

1 Results for 2006 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

2 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/5 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year.

3 Respondents whose 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: 2006¹</i>		
Socio-economic classification of household reference person ²	Men	Women	Total	
Percentage smoking cigarettes				
Managerial and professional				
Large employers and higher managerial	13	14	14	15
Higher professional	13	9	11	
Lower managerial and professional	20	17	18	
Intermediate				
Intermediate	22	19	20	21
Small employers and own account	21	22	22	
Routine and manual				
Lower supervisory and technical	25	25	25	29
Semi-routine	33	29	31	
Routine	35	29	32	
Total ²	23	21	22	
<i>Weighted bases (000s) = 100%</i>				
Large employers and higher managerial	1,768	1,819	3,588	
Higher professional	2,059	1,902	3,960	
Lower managerial and professional	4,607	5,280	9,887	
Intermediate	1,392	2,272	3,664	
Small employers and own account	2,118	2,044	4,162	
Lower supervisory and technical	2,385	2,225	4,610	
Semi-routine	2,231	3,183	5,413	
Routine	2,488	2,825	5,312	
Total ²	19,919	22,721	42,636	
<i>Unweighted sample</i>				
Large employers and higher managerial	734	770	1504	
Higher professional	829	799	1628	
Lower managerial and professional	1831	2155	3986	
Intermediate	527	878	1405	
Small employers and own account	808	809	1617	
Lower supervisory and technical	900	864	1764	
Semi-routine	837	1248	2085	
Routine	929	1070	1999	
Total ²	7677	9005	16682	

¹ Results for 2006 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

² Respondents whose household reference person was a full time student, had an inadequately described occupation, had never worked or was long-term unemployed are not shown as separate categories but are included in the total.

Smoking and drinking among adults 2006

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: 2006¹</i>				
Socio-economic classification	Men					Women					All persons				
	Active	Inactive	Inactive	Total	Total	Active	Inactive	Inactive	Total	Total	Active	Inactive	Inactive	Total	Total
	16-59	60 and over	60 and over	inactive		16-59	60 and over	60 and over	inactive		16-59	60 and over	60 and over	inactive	
Percentage smoking cigarettes															
Managerial and professional	16	22	9	11	15	17	16	8	11	15	17	17	9	11	15
Intermediate	24	44	10	17	22	20	27	7	13	17	22	31	8	14	19
Routine and manual	34	61	16	29	32	32	40	15	25	28	33	46	16	26	30
Total²	24	37	12	20	23	23	28	12	18	21	24	30	12	19	22
<i>Weighted bases (000s) = 100%</i>															
<i>Managerial and professional</i>	5,702	231	1,526	1,756	7,463	4,780	675	1,191	1,867	6,648	10,482	905	2,717	3,623	14,110
<i>Intermediate</i>	2,484	153	630	782	3,266	3,063	603	1,445	2,049	5,111	5,547	757	2,074	2,830	8,377
<i>Routine and manual</i>	4,634	762	1,939	2,700	7,335	4,036	1,736	2,749	4,486	8,526	8,669	2,498	4,688	7,186	15,861
Total²	13,760	1,996	4,154	6,146	19,918	12,786	4,242	5,682	9,926	22,719	26,546	6,237	9,835	16,073	42,637
<i>Unweighted sample</i>															
<i>Managerial and professional</i>	2205	102	745	847	3052	1893	290	535	825	2718	4098	392	1280	1672	5770
<i>Intermediate</i>	928	57	282	339	1267	1202	244	632	876	2078	2130	301	914	1215	3345
<i>Routine and manual</i>	1678	264	846	1110	2788	1544	675	1143	1818	3362	3222	939	1989	2928	6150
Total²	5093	682	1898	2580	7673	4947	1630	2425	4055	9002	10040	2312	4323	6635	16675

¹ Results for 2006 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

² Full time students, those who had never worked or were long-term unemployed, and those whose occupation was inadequately described are not shown as separate categories but are included in the total.

Smoking and drinking among adults 2006

Table 1.10 Prevalence of cigarette smoking by sex and country: 1978 to 2006

<i>Persons aged 16 and over</i>																<i>Great Britain</i>	
Country	Unweighted						Weighted								<i>Weighted base 2006 (000s) = 100%³</i>	<i>Unweighted sample³ 2006</i>	
	1978	1982	1986	1990	1994	1998	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005 ¹	2006 ²			
Percentage smoking cigarettes																	
Men																	
England	44	37	34	31	28	28	29	29	28	27	27	26	25	23	17,162	6599	
Wales	44	36	33	30	28	28	29	25	27	27	29	24	24	19	1,021	410	
Scotland	48	45	37	33	31	33	35	30	32	29	35	29	28	25	1,735	668	
Great Britain	45	38	35	31	28	28	30	29	28	27	28	26	25	23	19,918	7677	
Women																	
England	36	32	31	28	25	26	26	25	25	25	24	23	22	21	19,451	7693	
Wales	37	34	30	31	27	26	27	24	26	27	26	22	21	20	1,152	476	
Scotland	42	39	35	35	29	29	29	30	30	28	28	22	25	25	2,116	836	
Great Britain	37	33	31	29	26	26	26	25	26	25	24	23	23	21	22,719	9005	
All persons																	
England	40	35	32	29	26	27	28	27	27	26	25	25	24	22	36,613	14292	
Wales	40	35	31	31	27	27	28	25	27	27	27	23	22	20	2,173	886	
Scotland	45	42	36	34	30	30	31	30	31	28	31	25	27	25	3,852	1504	
Great Britain	40	35	33	30	27	27	28	27	27	26	26	25	24	22	42,638	16682	

1 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/5 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year.

2 Results for 2006 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

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 found in GHS reports for each year.

Smoking and drinking among adults 2006

Table 1.11 Prevalence of cigarette smoking by sex, country, and region of England: 1998 to 2006

<i>Persons aged 16 and over</i>									<i>Great Britain</i>	
Government Office Region	Weighted								<i>Weighted base 2006 (000s) = 100%³</i>	<i>Unweighted sample³ 2006</i>
	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005 ¹	2006 ²		
Men										
Percentage smoking cigarettes										
England										
North East	28	27	33	24	30	28	28	25	800	309
North West	29	29	28	28	30	27	26	26	2,219	901
Yorkshire and the Humber	30	29	30	27	25	30	27	24	1,805	723
East Midlands	27	27	28	24	31	27	25	21	1,699	686
West Midlands	32	27	27	25	26	26	23	25	1,739	674
East of England	26	27	27	25	28	26	25	22	1,982	784
London	34	31	29	29	28	26	25	24	2,237	662
South East	28	28	26	27	25	25	24	21	2,858	1115
South West	26	30	27	27	26	25	26	22	1,823	745
All England	29	29	28	27	27	26	25	23	17,162	6599
Wales	29	25	27	27	29	24	24	19	1,021	410
Scotland	35	30	32	29	35	29	28	25	1,735	668
Great Britain	30	29	28	27	28	26	25	23	19,918	7677
Women										
England										
North East	30	28	26	29	27	30	30	25	918	368
North West	32	30	29	28	30	28	23	23	2,667	1110
Yorkshire and the Humber	28	26	28	27	24	26	23	23	1,986	821
East Midlands	26	24	27	24	24	28	25	19	1,746	740
West Midlands	26	24	22	21	24	21	21	19	1,929	772
East of England	24	23	25	25	22	23	21	17	2,187	902
London	27	24	26	21	20	19	20	19	2,661	798
South East	21	23	23	25	22	20	21	19	3,233	1300
South West	25	24	22	24	22	21	25	23	2,121	882
All England	26	25	25	25	24	23	22	21	19,451	7693
Wales	27	24	26	27	26	22	21	20	1,152	476
Scotland	29	30	30	28	28	22	25	25	2,116	836
Great Britain	26	25	26	25	24	23	23	21	22,719	9005
All persons										
England										
North East	29	27	29	27	28	29	29	25	1,719	677
North West	31	30	29	28	30	28	24	25	4,885	2011
Yorkshire and the Humber	29	28	29	27	25	28	25	23	3,791	1544
East Midlands	27	25	28	24	27	27	25	20	3,444	1426
West Midlands	29	26	24	23	25	23	22	22	3,668	1446
East of England	25	25	26	25	25	24	23	19	4,170	1686
London	31	27	27	24	24	22	22	21	4,897	1460
South East	24	25	24	26	24	22	22	20	6,093	2415
South West	25	27	24	25	24	23	25	23	3,946	1627
All England	28	27	27	26	25	25	24	22	36,613	14292
Wales	28	25	27	27	27	23	22	20	2,173	886
Scotland	31	30	31	28	31	25	27	25	3,852	1504
Great Britain	28	27	27	26	26	25	24	22	42,638	16682

1 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/5 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year.

2 Results for 2006 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

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

Smoking and drinking among adults 2006

Table 1.12 Cigarette-smoking status by sex, country and region: 2004-2006 combined

Persons aged 16 and over

Great Britain: 2004-2006

Region	Current cigarette smokers			Current non-smokers of cigarettes			Weighted base (000s) = 100%	Unweighted sample	
	Heavy (20 or more per day)	Moderate (10-19 per day)	Light (fewer than 10 per day)	All current smokers	Ex-regular cigarette smokers	Never or only occasionally smoked cigarettes			
Men									
England									
North East	%	10	11	5	27	24	49	847	1048
North West	%	8	11	7	26	27	47	2,225	2873
Yorkshire and the Humber	%	10	10	6	27	25	48	1,749	2232
East Midlands	%	8	9	7	24	26	50	1,627	2101
West Midlands	%	9	10	6	24	29	47	1,670	2123
East of England	%	8	10	6	24	30	46	1,884	2431
London	%	6	9	9	25	23	53	2,287	2357
South East	%	7	10	6	23	31	46	2,826	3584
South West	%	6	9	8	24	32	43	1,758	2293
All England	%	8	10	7	25	28	48	16,875	21042
Wales	%	9	8	5	22	31	47	982	1240
Scotland	%	12	10	6	27	23	50	1,710	2175
Great Britain	%	8	10	7	25	27	48	19,567	24457
Women									
England									
North East	%	10	13	5	28	18	53	994	1266
North West	%	6	11	8	25	19	56	2,602	3434
Yorkshire and the Humber	%	7	10	6	24	21	55	1,997	2574
East Midlands	%	5	11	7	24	19	58	1,726	2293
West Midlands	%	5	10	6	20	19	60	1,891	2436
East of England	%	4	8	7	20	22	58	2,122	2805
London	%	4	7	8	20	16	64	2,676	2807
South East	%	4	9	7	20	24	56	3,156	4089
South West	%	6	10	8	23	22	55	1,991	2648
All England	%	5	10	7	22	20	58	19,152	24352
Wales	%	6	10	5	21	21	58	1,151	1470
Scotland	%	8	10	6	24	20	56	2,076	2693
Great Britain	%	6	10	7	22	20	57	22,379	28515
Total									
England									
North East	%	10	12	5	28	21	51	1,841	2314
North West	%	7	11	7	26	23	52	4,828	6307
Yorkshire and the Humber	%	8	10	6	25	23	52	3,744	4806
East Midlands	%	7	10	7	24	22	54	3,354	4394
West Midlands	%	7	10	6	22	24	54	3,561	4559
East of England	%	6	9	7	22	26	52	4,006	5236
London	%	5	8	9	22	19	59	4,963	5164
South East	%	6	9	7	21	27	51	5,982	7673
South West	%	6	10	8	24	27	49	3,750	4941
All England	%	7	10	7	23	24	53	36,028	45394
Wales	%	8	9	5	22	25	53	2,132	2710
Scotland	%	10	10	6	26	21	53	3,788	4868
Great Britain	%	7	10	7	23	24	53	41,946	52972

Smoking and drinking among adults 2006

Table 1.13 Cigarette-smoking status by sex: 1974 to 2006

	Great Britain														
	Unweighted							Weighted							
	1974	1978	1982	1986	1990	1994	1998	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005 ¹	2006 ²
Persons aged 16 and over															
Percentages															
Men															
Current cigarette smokers															
Light (under 20 per day)	25	22	20	20	17	17	18	19	18	19	17	18	18	17	15
Heavy (20 or more per day)	26	23	18	15	14	12	10	11	10	10	10	10	9	8	8
Total current cigarette smokers	51	45	38	35	31	28	28	30	29	28	27	28	26	25	23
Ex-regular cigarette smokers	23	27	30	32	32	31	31	29	27	27	28	27	28	27	27
Never or only occasionally	25	29	32	34	37	40	41	42	44	45	46	45	46	47	50
<i>Weighted base (000s) = 100%³</i>								19,229	20,350	19,913	19,561	19,187	19,561	19,496	19,918
<i>Unweighted sample³</i>	9852	10480	9199	8874	8106	7642	6579	6593	7055	6837	8097	6868	10038	7677	
Women															
Current cigarette smokers															
Light (under 20 per day)	28	23	22	21	20	18	19	19	19	19	18	18	17	17	16
Heavy (20 or more per day)	13	13	11	10	9	8	7	7	6	7	7	7	6	6	5
Total current cigarette smokers	41	37	33	31	29	26	26	26	25	26	25	24	23	23	21
Ex-regular cigarette smokers	11	14	16	18	19	21	21	20	20	21	21	21	20	21	21
Never or only occasionally	49	49	51	51	52	54	53	53	54	53	54	55	57	57	58
<i>Weighted base (000s) = 100%³</i>								21,654	22,044	21,987	22,236	21,842	22,396	22,315	22,721
<i>Unweighted sam_{pl}</i>	11480	11480	12156	10641	10304	9445	9108	7830	7496	8299	7951	9327	8029	11627	9005

1 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/5 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year.

2 Results for 2006 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

3 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 2006) the weighted base (000s) is the base for percentages. Unweighted data (up to 1998) are based on the unweighted sample.

Table 1.14 Cigarette-smoking status by sex and age

<i>Persons aged 16 and over</i>							<i>Great Britain: 2006¹</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	%	17	2	20	4	77	1,295	392
20-24	%	26	7	33	11	56	1,270	376
25-34	%	25	8	33	16	51	3,140	1053
35-49	%	15	11	26	20	54	5,636	2093
50-59	%	14	9	23	31	46	3,337	1374
60 and over	%	7	6	13	49	38	5,240	2389
All aged 16 and over	%	15	8	23	27	50	19,918	7677
Women								
16-19	%	19	1	20	4	76	1,278	423
20-24	%	24	5	29	11	61	1,548	507
25-34	%	22	4	26	17	57	3,520	1320
35-49	%	18	7	25	18	58	6,392	2490
50-59	%	14	8	22	25	53	3,577	1513
60 and over	%	9	3	12	30	58	6,406	2752
All aged 16 and over	%	16	5	21	21	58	22,721	9005
Total								
16-19	%	18	2	20	4	76	2,573	815
20-24	%	25	6	31	11	59	2,819	883
25-34	%	23	6	30	16	54	6,660	2373
35-49	%	17	9	25	19	56	12,027	4583
50-59	%	14	8	22	28	50	6,914	2887
60 and over	%	8	4	12	38	49	11,646	5141
All aged 16 and over	%	15	6	22	24	54	42,639	16682

¹ Results for 2006 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

Smoking and drinking among adults 2006

Table 1.15 Average daily cigarette consumption per smoker by sex and age: 1974 to 2006

Current cigarette smokers aged 16 and over															Great Britain		
Age	Unweighted							Weighted							Weighted base 2006 (000s)= 100% ³	Unweighted sample ³ 2006	
	1974	1978	1982	1986	1990	1994	1998	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005 ¹	2006 ²		
Mean number of cigarettes per day																	
Men																	
16-19	16	14	12	12	13	10	10	10	12	11	11	13	11	13	10	254	78
20-24	19	17	16	15	16	13	14	13	12	12	12	12	11	11	12	422	131
25-34	19	19	17	16	16	15	13	13	13	13	13	13	12	12	13	1,042	349
35-49	20	20	20	19	19	18	17	18	17	17	17	16	16	15	16	1,468	522
50-59	18	20	18	17	17	20	18	18	17	18	18	18	18	17	16	746	283
60 and over	14	15	16	15	15	14	16	16	15	15	16	15	14	15	18	674	294
All aged 16 and over	18	18	17	16	17	16	16	15	15	15	15	15	15	14	15	4,605	1657
Women																	
16-19	12	13	11	11	11	10	10	10	10	12	12	10	11	10	9	252	81
20-24	14	14	14	12	13	13	12	11	10	11	10	11	11	11	11	442	145
25-34	15	16	16	14	15	14	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	11	12	923	357
35-49	15	16	15	16	15	15	15	15	14	15	15	14	14	14	14	1,568	584
50-59	13	14	14	14	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	786	325
60 and over	10	11	11	12	12	13	12	12	12	12	13	13	13	13	13	768	322
All aged 16 and over	13	14	14	14	14	14	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	4,738	1814

1 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/5 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year.

2 Results for 2006 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

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 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: 2006¹</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	13	10	11
Higher professional	11	12	11
Lower managerial and professional	13	12	12
Intermediate			
Intermediate	16	12	14
Small employers and own account	16	13	15
Routine and manual			
Lower supervisory and technical	15	14	14
Semi-routine	16	14	15
Routine	16	14	15
Total ¹	15	13	14
<i>Weighted bases (000s) = 100%</i>			
Large employers and higher managerial	229	257	486
Higher professional	259	169	428
Lower managerial and professional	905	876	1,782
Intermediate	298	430	728
Small employers and own account	437	457	894
Lower supervisory and technical	603	560	1,163
Semi-routine	745	910	1,655
Routine	875	821	1,696
Total ²	4,605	4,738	9,344
<i>Unweighted sample</i>			
Large employers and higher managerial	90	102	192
Higher professional	100	69	169
Lower managerial and professional	329	345	674
Intermediate	106	159	265
Small employers and own account	157	175	332
Lower supervisory and technical	213	211	424
Semi-routine	269	351	620
Routine	313	310	623
Total ²	1657	1814	3471

¹ Results for 2006 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

² Respondents whose household reference person was a full time student, had an inadequately described occupation, had never worked or was long-term unemployed are not shown as separate categories but are included in the total.

Smoking and drinking among adults 2006

Table 1.17 Type of cigarette smoked by sex: 1974 to 2006

Current cigarette smokers aged 16 and over														Great Britain							
Type of cigarette smoked	Unweighted							Weighted													
	1974	1978	1982	1986	1990	1994	1998	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005 ¹	2006 ²						
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%						
Men																					
Mainly filter	69	75	72	78	80	78	74	74	69	68	66	68	65	65	65						
Mainly plain	18	11	7	4	2	2	1	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	35						
<i>Weighted base (000s) = 100%</i> ³								5,687	5,802	5,643	5,246	5,367	5,158	4,927	4,618						
<i>Unweighted sample</i> ³								4,993	4,646	3,469	3,072	2,510	2,150	1,857	1,796	1,911	1,765	2,171	1,748	2,408	1,661
Women																					
Mainly filter	91	95	94	96	97	96	92	92	89	87	86	87	85	84	83						
Mainly plain	8	4	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0						
Mainly hand-rolled	1	1	3	2	2	4	7	8	10	12	13	12	14	16	16						
<i>Weighted base (000s) = 100%</i> ³								5,735	5,619	5,635	5,560	5,287	5,156	5,060	4,743						
<i>Unweighted sample</i> ³								4,600	4,421	3,522	3,192	2,748	2,336	2,044	1,900	2,101	1,957	2,226	1,827	2,579	1,817

1 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/5 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year.

2 Results for 2006 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

3 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 2006) 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: 2006¹</i>
Type of cigarette smoked	Age					All aged 16 and over
	16-24	25-34	35-49	50-59	60 and over	
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Men						
Mainly filter	75	72	61	57	61	65
Mainly plain	1	1	1	0	0	1
Mainly hand-rolled	24	27	39	43	39	35
<i>Weighted base (000s) = 100%</i>	<i>675</i>	<i>1,044</i>	<i>1,473</i>	<i>752</i>	<i>674</i>	<i>4,618</i>
<i>Unweighted sample</i>	<i>209</i>	<i>350</i>	<i>524</i>	<i>284</i>	<i>294</i>	<i>1661</i>
Women						
Mainly filter	85	80	82	83	90	83
Mainly plain	0	1	0	0	1	0
Mainly hand-rolled	15	19	18	17	9	16
<i>Weighted base (000s) = 100%</i>	<i>694</i>	<i>922</i>	<i>1,566</i>	<i>789</i>	<i>772</i>	<i>4,743</i>
<i>Unweighted sample</i>	<i>226</i>	<i>357</i>	<i>583</i>	<i>327</i>	<i>324</i>	<i>1817</i>
Total						
Mainly filter	80	76	71	70	77	74
Mainly plain	0	1	0	0	0	1
Mainly hand-rolled	20	23	28	30	23	25
<i>Weighted base (000s) = 100%</i>	<i>1,369</i>	<i>1,967</i>	<i>3,039</i>	<i>1,541</i>	<i>1,446</i>	<i>9,362</i>
<i>Unweighted sample</i>	<i>435</i>	<i>707</i>	<i>1107</i>	<i>611</i>	<i>618</i>	<i>3478</i>

¹ Results for 2006 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

Table 1.19 Grouped tar yield per cigarette: 1986 to 2006

<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 ¹	2006 ²				
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%				
<10mg	19	21	24	25	28	28	27	26	27	26	26	24	25				
10<15mg	32	58	54	68	70	69	71	71	71	71	71	73	72				
15+mg	40	17	19	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
No regular brand/dk tar	10	4	4	3	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3				
<i>Weighted base (000s)</i>																	
<i>=100%³</i>						9,568	9,104	8,850	8,317	8,306	7,812	7,510	6,987				
<i>Unweighted sample³</i>						5,620	5,363	4,739	4,662	3,288	2,955	3,174	2,870	3,424	2,716	3,762	2,606

1 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/5 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year.

2 Results for 2006 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

3 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 2006) 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 2006

<i>Current smokers of manufactured cigarettes</i>											<i>Great Britain</i>		
Tar yield	Weighted												
	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005 ¹	2006 ²					
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%					
Less than 4mg	5	5	3	2	2	1	1	1					
4<8mg	17	22	17	17	17	19	17	17					
8<10mg	11	9	7	8	7	6	6	7					
10<12mg	13	27	35	34	71	71	73	72					
12<15mg	51	34	36	37	0	0	0	0					
No regular brand/dk tar yield	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3					
<i>Weighted base (000s) = 100%</i>		9,568	9,104	8,850	8,317	8,306	7,812	7,510	6,989				
<i>Unweighted sample</i>		3,288	2,955	3,174	2,870	3,424	2,716	3,762	2,606				

1 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/5 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year.

2 Results for 2006 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

Table 1.21 Tar yields by sex and age of smoker

<i>Current smokers of manufactured¹ cigarettes aged 16 and over</i>							<i>Great Britain: 2006¹</i>	
		<u>Tar yield</u>					<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	%	0	6	4	81	9	197	60
20-24	%	3	12	3	79	3	315	97
25-34	%	1	23	6	68	2	759	253
35-49	%	2	15	2	76	4	902	325
50-59	%	0	10	3	82	4	429	163
60 and over	%	0	11	4	84	1	414	184
Total	%	1	15	4	76	3	3,016	1082
Women								
16-19	%	0	15	7	78	0	211	69
20-24	%	0	18	5	77	0	375	122
25-34	%	2	28	8	61	1	749	293
35-49	%	1	18	9	70	3	1,280	476
50-59	%	1	16	9	72	3	656	273
60 and over	%	3	18	12	65	2	700	291
Total	%	1	19	9	69	2	3,971	1524
Total								
16-19	%	0	11	6	79	4	409	129
20-24	%	2	15	4	78	1	691	219
25-34	%	1	26	7	64	2	1,508	546
35-49	%	2	17	6	72	3	2,182	801
50-59	%	1	13	7	76	4	1,085	436
60 and over	%	2	16	9	72	2	1,114	475
Total	%	1	17	7	72	3	6,989	2606

1 Results for 2006 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

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: 2006²</i>	
Socio-economic class of household reference person ³	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	23	4	68	3	1,061	395
Intermediate	%	2	15	6	75	2	505	178
Routine and manual	%	1	9	3	83	4	1,279	457
Total	%	1	15	4	76	3	3,015	1082
Women								
Managerial and professional	%	2	27	9	61	2	1,135	453
Intermediate	%	2	23	8	64	3	783	298
Routine and manual	%	1	13	9	75	2	1,851	702
Total	%	1	19	9	68	2	3,973	1524
All persons								
Managerial and professional	%	2	25	7	64	3	2,195	848
Intermediate	%	2	20	7	68	3	1,289	476
Routine and manual	%	1	12	7	78	2	3,130	1159
Total	%	1	17	7	72	3	6,987	2606

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 Results for 2006 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

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

Smoking and drinking among adults 2006

Table 1.23 Prevalence of smoking by sex and type of product smoked: 1974 to 2006

<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 ²	2006 ³
Percentage smoking															
Men															
Cigarettes ⁴	51	45	38	35	31	28	28	30	29	28	27	28	26	25	23
Pipe	12	10	..	6	4	3	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1
Cigars ⁵	34	16	12	10	8	6	6	6	5	5	5	4	4	4	3
All smokers ⁶	64	55	45	44	38	33	33	34	32	32	30	31	29	28	25
<i>Weighted base (000s) = 100%</i>								19,225	20,350	19,972	19,561	19,187	19,561	19,498	19,920
<i>Unweighted sample⁶</i>	9862	10439	9171	8884	8119	7662	6579		6593	7074	6835	8097	6868	10039	7678
Women															
Cigarettes ⁴	41	37	33	31	29	26	26	26	25	26	25	24	23	23	21
Cigars ⁵	3	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
All smokers ⁶	41	37	34	31	29	26	26	27	26	26	25	24	23	23	21
<i>Weighted base (000s) = 100%</i> ⁷								21,653	22,044	22,032	22,236	21,842	22,393	22,315	22,723
<i>Unweighted sample⁶</i>	11419	12079	10559	10312	9455	9137	7830		7496	8317	7951	9327	8028	11627	9006

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

3 Results for 2006 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

4 Figures for cigarettes include all smokers of manufactured and hand-rolled cigarettes.

5 For 1974 the figures include occasional cigar smokers, that is, those who smoked less than one cigar a month.

6 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.

7 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 2006) the weighted base (000s) is the base for percentages. Unweighted data (up to 1998) are based on the unweighted sample.

Table 1.24 Prevalence of smoking among men by age and type of product smoked¹

<i>Men aged 16 and over</i>				<i>Great Britain: 2006¹</i>		
Age	Cigarettes ²	Pipe ³	Cigars ³	All smokers ⁴	<i>Weighted base (000s) = 100%</i>	<i>Unwgt'd sample</i>
Percentage smoking						
16-19	20	0	1	20	1,298	393
20-24	33	0	2	34	1,270	376
25-29	38	0	1	38	1,396	458
30-34	30	0	2	30	1,744	595
35-49	26	0	4	28	5,635	2093
50-59	23	2	4	26	3,336	1374
60 and over	13	2	3	16	5,241	2389
All aged 16 and over	23	1	3	25	19,920	7678

1 Results for 2006 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

2 Figures for cigarettes include all smokers of both manufactured and hand-rolled cigarettes.

3 Young people aged 16-17 were not asked about cigar or pipe-smoking.

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.

Smoking and drinking among adults 2006

Table 1.25 Age started smoking regularly by sex: 1992 to 2006

<i>Persons aged 16 and over who had ever smoked regularly</i>												<i>Great Britain</i>	
Age started smoking regularly	Unweighted				Weighted								
	1992	1994	1996	1998	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005 ¹	2006 ²	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Men													
Under 16	40	41	41	43	42	43	42	42	42	42	41	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	17	17	
20-24	12	11	11	10	11	11	11	11	11	10	11	12	
25 and over	4	4	3	4	4	5	4	4	4	5	5	4	
<i>Weighted base (000s)</i>													
<i>= 100%</i>					11,146	11,016	10,608	10,469	10,431	10,506	10,194	9,931	
<i>Unweighted sample</i>	5143	4519	4295	3852		3625	3883	3696	4410	3700	5276	3902	
Women													
Under 16	28	30	32	31	32	33	35	33	35	35	36	36	
16-17	28	28	28	29	28	27	27	28	26	18	27	28	
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	6	
<i>Weighted base (000s)</i>													
<i>= 100%</i>					10,101	9,663	10,222	10,067	9,738	9,591	9,589	9,404	
<i>Unweighted sample</i>	4640	4179	3991	3645		3302	3818	3589	4141	3446	4987	3733	
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	12	
25 and over	7	7	6	6	6	6	6	5	6	6	6	5	
<i>Weighted base (000s)</i>													
<i>= 100%</i>					21,247	20,679	20,830	20,537	20,169	20,097	19,783	19,337	
<i>Unweighted sample</i>	9783	8698	8286	7497		6957	7701	7285	8551	7146	10263	7635	

1 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/5 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year.

2 Results for 2006 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

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

Persons aged 16 and over who had ever smoked regularly *Great Britain: 2006¹*

Age started smoking regularly	Socio-economic classification of household reference person ²			
	Managerial & professional	Intermediate	Routine & manual	Total
	%	%	%	%
Men				
Under 16	33	42	48	41
16-17	30	23	25	26
18-19	20	17	15	17
20-24	13	14	9	12
25 and over	4	5	3	4
<i>Weighted base (000s) = 100%</i>	<i>3,607</i>	<i>1,771</i>	<i>4,187</i>	<i>9,931</i>
<i>Unweighted sample</i>	<i>1479</i>	<i>689</i>	<i>1606</i>	<i>3902</i>
	%	%	%	%
Women				
Under 16	28	36	43	36
16-17	30	28	28	28
18-19	22	18	13	17
20-24	14	13	11	12
25 and over	6	6	6	6
<i>Weighted base (000s) = 100%</i>	<i>3,141</i>	<i>1,809</i>	<i>4,025</i>	<i>9,404</i>
<i>Unweighted sample</i>	<i>1301</i>	<i>704</i>	<i>1571</i>	<i>3733</i>
	%	%	%	%
All persons				
Under 16	31	39	45	39
16-17	30	25	26	27
18-19	21	18	14	17
20-24	13	13	10	12
25 and over	5	5	4	5
<i>Weighted base (000s) = 100%</i>	<i>6,749</i>	<i>3,579</i>	<i>8,212</i>	<i>19,337</i>
<i>Unweighted sample</i>	<i>2780</i>	<i>1393</i>	<i>3177</i>	<i>7635</i>

1 Results for 2006 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

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

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: 2006¹</i>	
Age started smoking regularly	Current smoker				Ex-regular smoker	All who have ever smoked regularly
	20 or more a day	10-19 a day	0-9 a day	All current smokers ²		
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Men						
Under 16	53	45	32	44	39	41
16-17	24	26	30	26	26	26
18-19	11	13	19	14	20	17
20-24	9	12	14	11	12	12
25 and over	4	5	5	4	3	4
<i>Weighted base (000s) = 100%</i>	<i>1,582</i>	<i>1,753</i>	<i>1,225</i>	<i>4,571</i>	<i>5,361</i>	<i>9,931</i>
<i>Unweighted sample</i>	<i>580</i>	<i>636</i>	<i>425</i>	<i>1,645</i>	<i>2,257</i>	<i>3,902</i>
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Women						
Under 16	52	41	35	42	31	36
16-17	25	28	30	28	28	28
18-19	11	16	13	14	20	17
20-24	6	10	16	11	14	12
25 and over	5	5	6	5	6	6
<i>Weighted base (000s) = 100%</i>	<i>1,138</i>	<i>2,133</i>	<i>1,430</i>	<i>4,710</i>	<i>4,695</i>	<i>9,406</i>
<i>Unweighted sample</i>	<i>445</i>	<i>801</i>	<i>555</i>	<i>1,805</i>	<i>1,927</i>	<i>3,732</i>
	%	%	%	%	%	%
All persons						
Under 16	53	43	33	43	35	39
16-17	25	27	30	27	27	27
18-19	11	15	16	14	20	17
20-24	8	11	15	11	13	12
25 and over	4	5	6	5	5	5
<i>Weighted base (000s) = 100%</i>	<i>2,720</i>	<i>3,887</i>	<i>2,655</i>	<i>9,279</i>	<i>10,055</i>	<i>19,337</i>
<i>Unweighted sample</i>	<i>1,025</i>	<i>1,437</i>	<i>980</i>	<i>3,450</i>	<i>4,184</i>	<i>7,634</i>

1 Results for 2006 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

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

Smoking and drinking among adults 2006

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 2006

<i>Current cigarette smokers aged 16 and over</i>													<i>Great Britain</i>	
Number of cigarettes smoked a day	Unweighted				Weighted								Weighted base 2006 (000s) = 100% ³	Unweighted sample ³ 2006
	1992	1994	1996	1998	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005 ¹	2006 ²		
Percentage who would like to stop altogether														
Men														
20 or more	68	70	66	69	69	74	70	68	64	67	66	67	1,597	585
10-19	70	72	69	73	73	76	71	71	67	68	68	68	1,769	641
0-9	58	61	62	62	62	64	62	62	61	64	68	65	1,240	431
All smokers ⁴	66	69	66	69	69	72	68	68	64	67	68	67	4,620	1662
Women														
20 or more	70	69	69	68	68	73	66	67	64	70	67	67	1,142	447
10-19	72	71	70	75	75	76	67	71	71	70	70	72	2,136	802
0-9	58	62	59	65	65	63	60	67	66	67	67	69	1,461	565
All smokers ⁴	68	68	67	70	70	71	65	69	67	69	68	70	4,747	1818
Total														
20 or more	69	70	68	69	69	74	68	68	64	68	67	67	2,738	1032
10-19	71	71	70	74	74	76	69	71	69	69	69	70	3,905	1443
0-9	58	61	60	64	64	63	61	65	64	66	68	67	2,701	996
All smokers ⁴	67	68	67	69	69	72	66	68	66	68	68	68	9,366	3480

1 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/5 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year

2 Results for 2006 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

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 found in GHS reports for each year.

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

Smoking and drinking among adults 2006

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 2006

<i>Current cigarette smokers aged 16 and over</i>													<i>Great Britain</i>	
Number of cigarettes smoked a day	<u>Unweighted</u>				<u>Weighted</u>								<i>Weighted base 2006 (000s)</i>	<i>Unweighted sample³ 2006</i>
	1992	1994	1996	1998	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005 ¹	2006 ²	<i>=100%³</i>	
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	80	1,592	583
10-19	54	57	54	54	54	56	55	57	53	57	60	64	1,764	639
0-9	20	17	20	25	23	14	21	23	19	16	23	24	1,231	428
All smokers ⁴	55	56	56	56	56	53	52	56	53	52	55	59	4,602	1655
Women														
20 or more	86	86	87	87	86	88	87	86	83	82	84	84	1,137	446
10-19	68	68	66	66	65	67	65	66	64	67	65	70	2,123	799
0-9	23	20	24	24	25	22	24	21	22	21	27	27	1,452	562
All smokers ⁴	61	60	61	59	59	58	58	59	56	57	58	60	4,720	1811
Total														
20 or more	80	82	83	82	82	82	80	81	80	79	80	82	2,729	1029
10-19	61	63	60	61	60	62	61	62	58	62	63	67	3,888	1438
0-9	21	19	23	24	24	18	22	22	21	19	25	26	2,683	990
All smokers ⁴	58	59	58	58	57	56	55	57	55	55	56	59	9,322	3466

1 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/5 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year.

2 Results for 2006 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

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 found in GHS reports for each year.

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

Smoking and drinking among adults 2006

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 2006

<i>Current cigarette smokers aged 16 and over</i>													<i>Great Britain</i>	
Number of cigarettes smoked a day	Unweighted				Weighted								Weighted base 2006 (000s) =100% ³	Unweighted sample ³ 2006
	1992	1994	1996	1998	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005 ¹	2006 ²		
Percentage smoking within 5 minutes of waking														
Men														
20 or more	29	31	29	31	32	30	30	31	31	34	34	35	1,598	585
10-19	10	13	9	11	11	13	11	11	11	13	15	13	1,765	640
0-9	2	2	3	2	2	2	3	3	4	1	2	2	1,236	430
All smokers ⁴	16	18	16	16	17	16	15	16	16	17	17	18	4,614	1660
Women														
20 or more	29	34	32	31	31	32	35	31	31	33	31	37	1,143	447
10-19	10	9	11	12	12	12	12	12	12	15	11	12	2,135	802
0-9	1	0	1	1	1	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	1,451	561
All smokers ⁴	14	14	15	14	14	14	15	14	14	16	14	15	4,735	1813
Total														
20 or more	29	33	30	31	31	31	32	31	31	34	33	36	2,739	1032
10-19	10	11	10	12	12	13	11	11	11	14	13	12	3,899	1442
0-9	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	1	2	2	2,687	991
All smokers ⁴	15	16	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	17	16	16	9,345	3473

1 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/5 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year.

2 Results for 2006 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

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 found in GHS reports for each year.

4 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

<i>Current cigarette smokers aged 16 and over</i>		<i>Great Britain: 2006¹</i>		
Number of cigarettes smoked a day	Socio-economic classification ²			Total
	Managerial & professional	Intermediate	Routine & manual	
Percentage who would like to stop altogether				
Men				
20 or more	66	80	61	67
10-19	69	70	67	68
0-9	64	69	65	65
All smokers ³	67	74	64	67
Women				
20 or more	70	76	63	67
10-19	77	70	70	72
0-9	65	73	71	69
All smokers ³	71	73	68	70
Total				
20 or more	67	79	62	67
10-19	73	70	69	70
0-9	64	72	68	67
All smokers ³	69	73	66	68
<i>Weighted base (000s)=100%</i>				
<i>Men</i>				
20 or more	344	304	863	1,597
10-19	546	265	851	1,769
0-9	504	168	509	1,240
All smokers ³	1,397	744	2,228	4,620
<i>Women</i>				
20 or more	230	200	639	1,142
10-19	558	394	1,084	2,136
0-9	514	293	570	1,461
All smokers ³	1,304	891	2,295	4,747
<i>Total</i>				
20 or more	575	503	1,502	2,738
10-19	1,103	659	1,935	3,905
0-9	1,019	461	1,078	2,701
All smokers ³	2,702	1,634	4,522	9,366
<i>Unweighted sample</i>				
<i>Men</i>				
20 or more	136	106	315	585
10-19	203	99	306	641
0-9	180	58	174	431
All smokers ³	520	265	797	1662
<i>Women</i>				
20 or more	100	74	246	447
10-19	216	143	409	802
0-9	200	117	217	565
All smokers ³	517	336	873	1818
<i>Total</i>				
20 or more	236	180	561	1032
10-19	419	242	715	1443
0-9	380	175	391	996
All smokers ³	1037	601	1670	3480

1 Results for 2006 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

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

3 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: 2006¹</i>		
Number of cigarettes smoked a day	Socio-economic classification ²			Total
	Managerial & professional	Intermediate	Routine & manual	
Percentage who would find it difficult to stop for a day				
Men				
20 or more	79	79	80	80
10-19	62	65	65	64
0-9	22	17	26	24
All smokers ³	52	60	62	59
Women				
20 or more	88	83	82	84
10-19	68	70	72	70
0-9	21	33	28	27
All smokers ³	53	61	64	60
Total				
20 or more	83	80	81	82
10-19	65	68	69	67
0-9	21	28	27	26
All smokers ³	53	60	63	59
<i>Weighted base (000s)=100%</i>				
<i>Men</i>				
20 or more	344	304	858	1,592
10-19	546	262	849	1,764
0-9	502	161	509	1,231
All smokers ³	1,395	734	2,221	4,602
<i>Women</i>				
20 or more	227	200	639	1,137
10-19	558	389	1,079	2,123
0-9	512	294	568	1,452
All smokers ³	1,299	887	2,288	4,720
<i>Total</i>				
20 or more	571	503	1,496	2,729
10-19	1,103	651	1,928	3,888
0-9	1,014	455	1,075	2,683
All smokers ³	2,693	1,620	4,506	9,322
<i>Unweighted sample</i>				
<i>Men</i>				
20 or more	136	106	313	583
10-19	203	98	305	639
0-9	179	56	174	428
All smokers ³	519	262	794	1,655
<i>Women</i>				
20 or more	99	74	246	446
10-19	216	142	408	799
0-9	199	117	216	562
All smokers ³	515	335	871	1,811
<i>Total</i>				
20 or more	235	180	559	1,029
10-19	419	240	713	1,438
0-9	378	173	390	990
All smokers ³	1,034	597	1,665	3,466

1 Results for 2006 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

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

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

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: 2006¹</i>		
Number of cigarettes smoked a day	Socio-economic classification ²			Total
	Managerial & professional	Intermediate	Routine & manual	
Percentage who smoke within 5 minutes of waking				
Men				
20 or more	28	37	37	35
10-19	9	12	16	13
0-9	1	4	1	2
All smokers ³	11	20	21	18
Women				
20 or more	26	45	37	37
10-19	8	7	15	12
0-9	2	1	3	2
All smokers ³	9	14	18	15
Total				
20 or more	27	40	37	36
10-19	9	9	15	12
0-9	1	2	2	2
All smokers ³	10	17	19	16
<i>Weighted base (000s)=100%</i>				
<i>Men</i>				
20 or more	344	303	865	1,598
10-19	546	265	846	1,765
0-9	500	167	508	1,236
All smokers ³	1,393	742	2,224	4,614
<i>Women</i>				
20 or more	230	201	638	1,143
10-19	558	394	1,083	2,135
0-9	510	289	569	1,451
All smokers ³	1,300	886	2,292	4,735
<i>Total</i>				
20 or more	574	504	1,502	2,739
10-19	1,102	658	1,930	3,899
0-9	1,010	456	1,078	2,687
All smokers ³	2,691	1,627	4,517	9,345
<i>Unweighted sample</i>				
<i>Men</i>				
20 or more	136	106	315	585
10-19	203	99	305	640
0-9	179	58	174	430
All smokers ³	519	265	796	1660
<i>Women</i>				
20 or more	100	74	246	447
10-19	216	143	409	802
0-9	198	115	217	561
All smokers ³	515	333	873	1813
<i>Total</i>				
20 or more	236	180	561	1032
10-19	419	242	714	1442
0-9	377	173	391	991
All smokers ³	1034	598	1669	3473

1 Results for 2006 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

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

3 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 and 2006. 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.

A key feature of this report is that it presents an updated method of converting what respondents say they drink into standard alcohol units. It also 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 region.

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 under-estimate 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 period^x. 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:

- average weekly alcohol consumption;
- maximum amount drunk on any one day in the previous seven days.

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 (6% or greater ABV^{xi}), 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 method used for calculating usual weekly alcohol consumption is to multiply the number of units of each type drunk on a usual drinking day by the frequency

with which it was drunk using the factors shown below, and then to total across all drinks.

<i>Drinking frequency</i>	<i>Multiplying factor</i>
Almost every day	7.0
5 or 6 days a week	5.5
3 or 4 days a week	3.5
Once or twice a week	1.5
Once or twice a month	0.375 (1.5 ÷ 4)
Once every couple of months	0.115 (6 ÷ 52)
Once or twice a year	0.029 (1.5 ÷ 52)

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 drinking^{xii}. 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 units^{xiii} 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, 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.

Updated method of converting volumes drunk to units

Estimates of alcohol consumption in surveys are given in standard units derived from assumptions about the alcohol content of different types of drink, combined with information from the respondent about the volume drunk.

In recent years, new types of alcoholic drink have been introduced, the alcohol content of some drinks has increased, and alcoholic drinks are now sold in more variable quantities than used to be the case. The GHS, in common with other surveys, has partially taken this into account: since 1998, alcopops and strong beer, lager and cider have been included as separate categories. However, it has recently also become necessary to reconsider the assumptions made in obtaining estimates of alcohol consumption, taking into account the following:

- increases in the size of glass in which wine is served on licensed premises;
- the increased alcoholic strength of wine;
- better estimates of the alcoholic strengths of beers, lagers and ciders.

For wine, it was decided to adopt a method which requires a question to be asked about glass size, which has the advantage that future changes in the average size of glass will be taken into account automatically. From 2008, the GHS will include additional questions to establish the size of wine glass, but in the interim a proxy conversion factor counting one glass of wine as 2 units will be used.

The changes in conversion factors are summarised in the table below, but are discussed in detail in a paper in the National Statistics Methodology series^{xiv}. It was clear from the research undertaken for this paper that all surveys, including the GHS, have been undercounting the number of units in some types of drink - predominantly wine, but also, to a lesser degree, beer, lager and cider.

The change in method clearly doubles the units of wine consumed (since a glass is now taken as 2 units rather than 1). It also increases the units of strong beers by one third, and of normal strength beers by 12 per cent (the effect on normal strength beers is lower because the conversion factor of 1 unit for a half pint of normal strength beer remains unchanged, whereas all conversion factors for strong beers are increased). However, since strong beers account for only a small proportion of consumption, the 33 per cent increase in units does not have a major impact on the estimates of total consumption.

It should be noted, of course, that changing the way in which alcohol consumption estimates are derived does not in itself reflect a real change in drinking among the adult population.

Figure 2.1 Original and updated factors for converting alcohol volume to units

Type of drink	<i>Usual volume (ml)</i>	Original conversion factor (units)	Updated conversion factor (units)
Normal strength beer, lager, cider			
half pint	284	1.0	1.0
small can/bottle	330	1.0	1.5
large can/bottle	440	1.5	2.0
Strong beer, lager, cider (ABV = 6%)			
half pint	284	1.5	2.0
small can/bottle	330	1.5	2.0
large can/bottle	440	2.3	3.0
Table wine			
glass - 125ml	125		1.5
glass - 175ml	175		2.0
glass - 250ml/small can	250		3.0
glass - size unspecified	170	1.0	2.0
Fortified wine			
small glass	50	1.0	1.0
Spirits			
single	25	1.0	1.0
Alcopops/coolers			
bottle	275	1.5	1.5

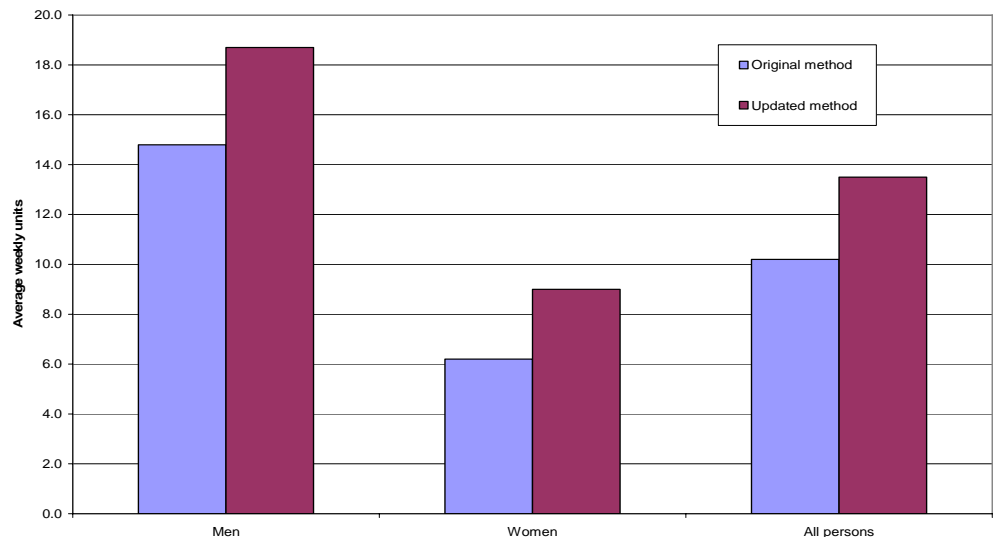
Effect on GHS data of updated conversion factors

This section summarises the effect of the change in methodology on the data. More details, together with references to tables, are given in the following sections.

Average weekly alcohol consumption

Overall, the change in conversion factors increases average weekly alcohol consumption in 2006 by 32 per cent, from 10.2 units to 13.5 units. The effect of the change is not uniform across different subgroups of the adult population, because some groups are more likely than others to drink wine, and they are disproportionately affected. A higher proportion of women's than of men's consumption is wine, so the increase is proportionately greater for women: men's consumption increases by 27 per cent, from 14.8 to 18.7 units, women's by 45 per cent, from 6.2 to 9.0 units.

Figure 2.2 Average weekly alcohol units by sex: original and updated methods, 2006



Other groups which are disproportionately affected because they are more likely to drink wine are as follows:

- those aged 25 and older;
- those in the managerial and professional socio-economic class (the first three categories of NS-SEC8);
- those in high income households, particularly those with a weekly income over £1,000;
- those living in England and Wales, rather than Scotland;
- those living in London, the South East and the South West of England.

Up to the publication in 1995 of the White Paper *Sensible Drinking*^{xv} there was considerable interest in the percentages of men and women drinking above the then recommended weekly maximum consumption levels of 21 units for men and 14 for women, and to enable trends to continue to be monitored, the GHS still provides these data. Improving the estimates increases the proportion of men in

2006 drinking more than 21 units from 23 per cent to 31 per cent, and the proportion of women drinking more than 14 units from 12 per cent to 20 per cent.

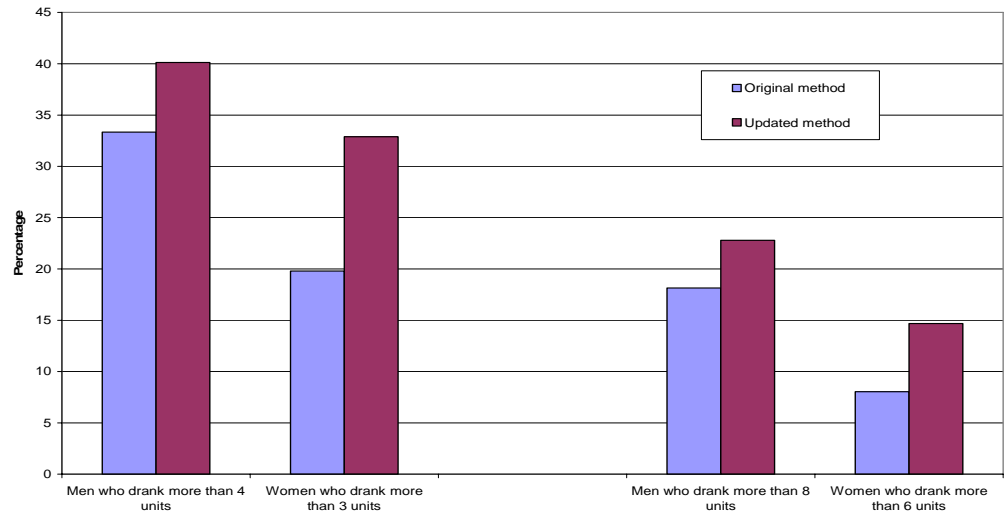
The effect of updating the estimates is even more marked in relation to the percentages of men and women with very high levels of alcohol consumption - more than 50 units a week for men, and more than 35 units for women. These increase from 5 per cent to 8 per cent for men, and from 2 per cent to 5 per cent for women.

Maximum drunk on any one day in the previous week

Looking first at the effect of the updated conversion factors on the actual amounts drunk on the heaviest drinking day in the previous week, it can be seen that the magnitude of the increases is very similar to those for average weekly consumption.

However, the effect on the proportions of respondents drinking more than the recommended levels of four units (men) and three units (women) is somewhat different, the increase being much more marked among women than among men: the proportion of men drinking more than four units on at least one day in the previous week increases from 33 per cent to 40 per cent, but the proportion of women drinking more than three units increases from 20 per cent to 33 per cent. This is because of where the thresholds fall in relation to wine consumption. On the previous definition, two glasses of wine equals 2 units, which is below the threshold levels for both men and women. Using the updated conversion factors, however, two glasses of wine equals four units, and whereas men drinking this amount are at their threshold, women are over theirs.

Figure 2.3 Maximum drunk on any one day last week, by sex: original and updated methods, 2006



Apart from this greater relative effect on women's drinking in relation to daily guidelines, the associations are similar to those noted above in relation to average weekly consumption. The proportions drinking more than the daily amounts of four units for men and three units for women on at least one day in the previous week are disproportionately increased in the following groups:

- those aged 45 and over;

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- those in the managerial and professional socio-economic class of the three-category version of NS-SEC (and in particular, among women, the first two categories of NS-SEC8);
- those in households with a weekly income over £1,000;
- those living in London and the South East of England.

Trends in alcohol consumption

To be comparable with previous years, the 2006 data discussed in this section are those derived using the original method of conversion to units.

Trends in average 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 since 2002 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 been most marked between 2002 and 2005, but this is largely because of the longer time interval between surveys. The proportion of men drinking more than 21 units a week on average fell from 29 per cent in 2000 to 23 per cent in 2006. There was also a fall in the proportion of women drinking more than 14 units a week (from 17 per cent in 2000 to 12 per cent in 2006).

Figure 2.4 Percentage of men drinking more than 21 units a week, and women drinking more than 14 units a week: original method, 1998 to 2006



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,

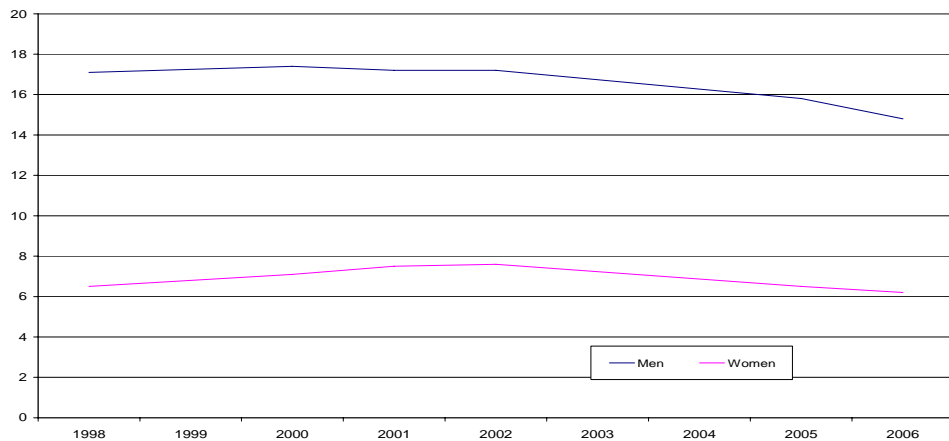
Smoking and drinking among adults 2006

the proportion drinking more than 21 units a week fell from 41 per cent in 2000 to 26 per cent in 2006, and among young women, the proportion drinking more than 14 units a week fell from 33 per cent to 19 per cent over that period.

There is a suggestion of a slight decline since 2002 in the proportion of men drinking more than 50 units a week on average, but no significant change in the proportion of women drinking more than 35 units.

In 2006, men drank an average of 14.8 units a week (equivalent to about seven and a half pints of beer), about 2.5 units less than they were drinking from 1998 to 2002. Women drank an average of 6.2 units a week in 2006. The decrease of about 1.5 units since 2002 reverses the steady rise in women's consumption seen over the previous decade. Similarly, the average consumption of young men and women aged 16 to 24 was lower in 2006 than in 2002. Among young men, consumption fell from 21.5 to 16.4 units, and among young women, from 14.1 to 9.0 units.

Figure 2.5 Average weekly alcohol units, by sex: original method, 1998 to 2006



The British Beer and Pub Association (BBPA) makes annual estimates of per capita alcohol consumption using data provided by HM Revenue and Customs^{xvi}. These show a steady increase in consumption from 1998 to 2004, followed by a decline of about 5 per cent over the next couple of years. The decline measured by the GHS is much greater, at about 15 per cent between 2002 and 2006. There may have been a small fall in consumption in recent years, but two factors are likely to account for the lack of a consistent pattern in the two sources:

1. There may be an increased tendency among respondents to under-report consumption. Recent extensive publicity about the dangers of drinking, and in particular binge drinking, may have led some people to moderate their behaviour, but might equally have made others less inclined to admit to how much they have drunk.
2. The introduction of improved methods of estimating units occurs as a step change, whereas the actual changes which the updated method takes into account happened over a number of years. It is likely, therefore, that progressive underestimation of wine consumption has occurred as glass sizes and alcoholic strength have increased. Although the increase in alcoholic strength of wines has probably been gradual over a long period, the increase in average wine glass size appears to have happened in the last few years, and this might account for the recent decline in consumption as measured by the GHS.

Smoking and drinking among adults 2006

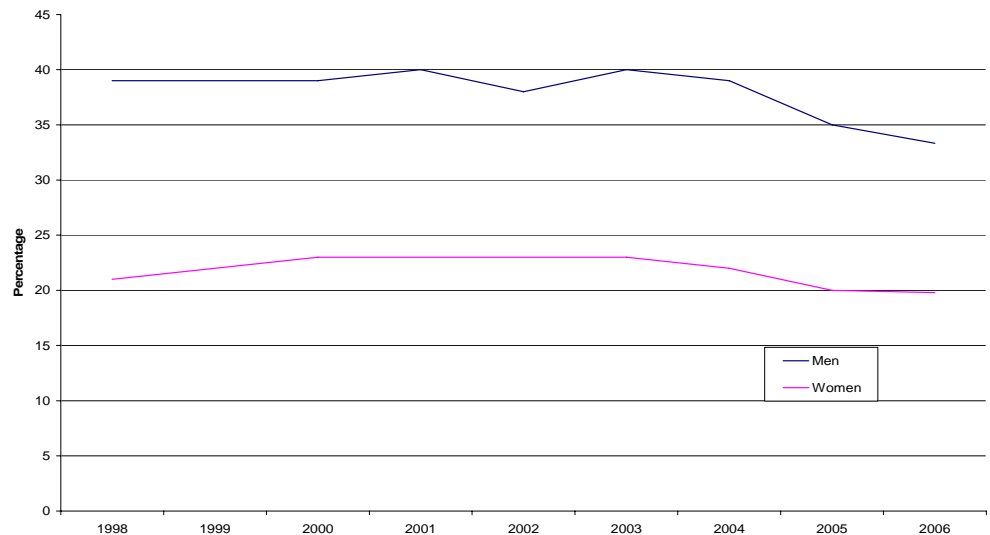
The fall in consumption among young people is unlikely to be due to progressive under-estimation of consumption, since they drink little wine. However, there is some indication that it is becoming more difficult to persuade young people to take part in the GHS (they form a decreasing proportion of respondents). 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 who do take part.

Tables 2.1-2.2

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 2.3 shows that following a period of little change between 1998 and 2004, there appears to have been a slight fall in the proportions of men and women who say that they had an alcoholic drink in the previous week, and also in the proportion of men who had drunk on five or more days in the week.

Figure 2.6 Percentage of men drinking more than four units, and of women drinking more than three units, on at least one day in the previous week: original method, Great Britain 1998 to 2006



The proportion of men exceeding the daily benchmarks, 33 per cent in 2006, continued the fall from 39 per cent in 2004 to 35 per cent in 2005. There was no comparable fall among women in 2006, among whom the proportion remained at 20 per cent, but this is nonetheless lower than in the early years of the decade. There was little change between 2005 and 2006 in the proportions of men and women drinking heavily (more than 8 units, and 6 units respectively) 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 aged 16 to 24 drinking more than four and more than eight units changed little between 1998 and 2003, but then fell in 2004 and again in 2005 and 2006. On the face of it, data for 2006 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 had fallen to 20 per cent in 2006. As with young men, however, the apparent decline may be due to factors other than a real change in behaviour. Among older women, there was no discernible trend in the proportions drinking heavily.

Tables 2.3-2.4

Alcohol consumption in 2006

The results discussed in this section are those based on the updated method of converting volumes drunk to units, though tables show the original method also. The introduction of the updated estimates has altered the association of alcohol with various personal characteristics, mainly because some groups are more likely to be wine drinkers, and are therefore disproportionately affected by the change in method.

Average weekly alcohol consumption in 2006

Weekly alcohol consumption and sex and age

With the original method, alcohol consumption among both men and women was highest among those aged 16 to 24, and then declined with increasing age. With the updated estimates, the age difference has almost disappeared, because older people are more likely to drink wine. It is still the case, however, that consumption is considerably lower among those aged 65 and over than among other age groups.

Overall, in 2006 men's consumption was about twice that of women (18.7 units compared with 9.0 units) but the difference was less marked among younger than older people. This 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.

Table 2.5

Weekly alcohol consumption and household socio-economic class

A review of information on inequalities in health, undertaken by the Department of Health^{xvii}, 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, up to 22,000 premature deaths a year are thought to be attributable to alcohol misuse^{xviii}). Over many years, the GHS has shown 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. The updated method of estimating consumption increases this difference, because the effect of the change is greatest for those in non-manual groups since they are more likely to drink wine.

Previously, there was no clear socio-economic gradient in relation to alcohol consumption among men, but with the updated estimates, and using the three-category classification, men in the routine and manual group were drinking on average 16.7 units a week, considerably less than the 19.9 units of men in the other two groups.

The pattern among women was clearer, and similar to that shown in previous reports. Average weekly consumption in 2006 was highest, at 10.7 units, in the

managerial and professional group, and lowest, at 7.1 units, among those in routine and manual worker households.

Table 2.6

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 22.1 units as week, and women 12.2 units. These levels compared with 17.8 units and 6.1 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 2.7-2.9

Regional variation in average weekly alcohol consumption

Average weekly consumption was higher in England (13.7 units) and Wales (13.5 units) than in Scotland (11.6 units), but the overall figures mask some differences between men and women. Among men, consumption was lower in Scotland than in the other two countries, but among women, consumption in both Wales and Scotland was lower than in England.

Some differences between men and women were also evident in the variation of consumption in the English regions. Among men, consumption was highest in the three northern regions (North East, North West and Yorkshire and the Humber) and in the South West. The pattern was similar among women, except that consumption was not particularly high in the North East.

It should be noted that 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 that of other areas, and this may not be due to real differences in the population from which the sample is drawn. It is therefore unwise to give undue weight to data for a single year only.

Table 2.10

Last week's drinking in 2006

Frequency of drinking during the last week

Patterns of drinking behaviour in 2006 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: 71 per cent of men and 56 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 (21 per cent) compared with just over one in ten women (11 per cent) had drunk on at least five of the preceding seven days. Similarly, men were much more likely than women to have drunk alcohol every day during the previous week (12 per cent compared with 7 per cent).

The proportions drinking last week also varied between age groups. Those 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. The proportion who had drunk alcohol in the previous week was particularly low among women aged 65 and over, 44 per cent of whom had done so, compared with 67 per cent of men in the same age group, and around 60 per cent of women aged 25 to 64.

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, 20 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 4 per cent of men and 1 per cent of women aged 16 to 24.

Table 2.11

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. For 2006, two sets of data are shown: the first uses the original method of converting volumes of alcohol into units, and the second using the updated method. The earlier method is used to provide trend data, and the updated estimates are used in discussion of the association of alcohol consumption with respondents' characteristics.

Men were more likely than women to have exceeded the daily benchmarks on at least one day during the previous week, although the updated estimates have reduced the difference from 13 percentage points to seven. Men were also more likely than women to have drunk heavily.

It was noted earlier that older people drink more frequently than younger people. However, among both men and women, those aged 65 and over were significantly less likely than respondents in other age groups to have exceeded the recommended number of daily units on at least one day. For example, 42 per cent of young men aged 16 to 24 had exceeded four units on at least one day during the previous week, compared with only 21 per cent of men aged 65 and over. Among women, 39 per cent of those in the youngest age group had exceeded three units on at least one day compared with only 14 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 7 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, 25 per cent had drunk heavily on at least one day during the preceding week, compared with only 2 per cent of women in the oldest age group.

Table 2.12

Drinking last week and socio-economic characteristics

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, 72 per cent of women in large employer/higher managerial households had had a drink in the last week and 18 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, at 42 per cent and 6 per cent respectively.

Variations in amounts drunk were also marked, particularly for women: those in large employer/higher managerial households were much more likely than those in the routine group to have drunk more than the recommended three units on any one day (47 per cent compared with 23 per cent), and also more likely to have drunk heavily on at least one day in the previous week (19 per cent compared with 11 per cent).

Tables 2.13-2.14

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, 83 per cent had had a drink in the previous week, and 51 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 61 per cent had had a drink and only 32 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, for example, adults in households with a gross weekly income of over £1,000 were about twice 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.

Tables 2.15-2.16

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 - 76 per cent had done so compared with 54 per cent of the unemployed and 59 per cent of those who were economically inactive. In terms of quantity, working men were more likely than the unemployed and the economically inactive to have drunk more than 4 units on one day - 47 per cent, compared with 37 per cent and 35 per cent respectively. 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.

Among women aged 16 to 64, 65 per cent of those who were working, 54 per cent of those who were unemployed, and 47 per cent of those who were economically inactive had drunk alcohol in the previous week. Working women were almost twice as likely as those who were economically inactive to have drunk heavily on at least one day in the previous week.

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, 29 per cent of men and 16 per cent of women had drunk on five or more days in the previous week, compared with 23 per cent of men and 10 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 2.17-2.20

Regional variation in drinking last week

As with average weekly alcohol consumption, 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 2006, 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 (14 per cent compared with 21 per cent and 23 per cent respectively for men; 9 per cent compared with 12 per cent and 11 per cent for women). However, men in Scotland were no less likely than those in England and Wales to have drunk more than the recommended maximum of four units nor to have drunk heavily. 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 in the North West (47 per cent of men and 40 per cent of women) and Yorkshire and the Humber (48 per cent and 40 per cent respectively). The lowest proportions doing so were in London, where 35 per cent of men had drunk more than four units, and 27 per cent of women had drunk more than three units.

The relatively low proportions in London of men and women drinking more than the daily guideline amounts are largely explained by the high proportion of people in ethnic minority groups: the 2005 GHS report showed that 28 per cent of adults in London based on a sample of five years data combined were from non-white categories. Even the large sample was too small to permit detailed analysis by region and ethnic group, but an analysis based on the white population only showed that the proportions in London who had exceeded the recommended daily amounts, although still a little lower than average, were more similar to those in other regions (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.

Tables 2.21-2.22

Notes and references

^x Goddard E. *Obtaining information about drinking through surveys of the general population*. National Statistics Methodology Series NSM 24 (ONS 2001)

^{xi} ABV is the percentage alcohol by volume.

^{xii} *Sensible drinking: the report of an inter-departmental group*. (Department of Health 1995)

xiii Assuming one unit of alcohol to be 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.

xiv Goddard E *Estimating alcohol consumption from survey data: updated method of converting volumes to units* National Statistics Methodology Series NSM 37 (ONS 2007), also available at <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/product.asp?vlnk=15067>

xv *Sensible drinking*: op.cit.

xvi *BBPA Statistical Handbook 2007: a compilation of drinks industry statistics*. (British Beer & Pub Association, Brewing Publications Ltd, 2007).

xvii *Inequalities in Health*, (The Stationery Office 1998) also available at <http://www.archive.official-documents.co.uk/doh/ih.htm>

xviii *Safe. Sensible. Social. The next steps in the National Alcohol Strategy*. (Department of Health 2007), available at http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/publications/PublicationsPolicyandGuidance/DH_075218

Table 2.1 Average weekly alcohol consumption (units), by sex and age: 1992-2006

<i>Persons aged 16 and over</i>												<i>Great Britain</i>	
Age	Unweighted				Weighted							Weighted base 2006 (000's) = 100%	Unwtd sample ³ 2006
	1992	1994	1996	1998	1998	2000	2001	2002	2005 ¹	2006 ² original method	2006 ² improved method		
Men													
16-24	19.1	17.4	20.3	23.6	25.5	25.9	24.8	21.5	18.2	16.4	18.6	2,607	781
25-44	18.2	17.5	17.6	16.5	17.1	17.7	18.4	18.7	16.2	15.6	19.7	7,057	2468
45-64	15.6	15.5	15.6	17.3	17.4	16.8	16.1	17.5	17.7	16.0	20.8	6,450	2671
65 and over	9.7	10.0	11.0	10.7	10.6	11.0	10.8	10.7	10.4	10.4	13.5	3,836	1767
Total	15.9	15.4	16.0	16.4	17.1	17.4	17.2	17.2	15.8	14.8	18.7	19,950	7687
Women													
16-24	7.3	7.7	9.5	10.6	11.0	12.6	14.1	14.1	10.9	9.0	10.8	2,863	944
25-44	6.3	6.2	7.2	7.1	7.1	8.1	8.3	8.4	7.1	6.8	10.1	7,875	3006
45-64	5.3	5.3	5.9	6.4	6.4	6.2	6.8	6.7	6.3	6.2	9.8	7,095	3014
65 and over	2.7	3.2	3.5	3.3	3.2	3.5	3.6	3.8	3.5	3.5	5.1	4,911	2050
Total	5.4	5.4	6.3	6.4	6.5	7.1	7.5	7.6	6.5	6.2	9.0	22,744	9014
All persons													
16-24	12.9	12.3	14.7	16.6	18.0	19.3	19.4	17.6	14.3	12.5	14.6	5,470	1725
25-44	11.8	11.4	11.9	11.4	12.0	12.9	13.3	13.3	11.3	11.0	14.6	14,932	5474
45-64	10.2	10.2	10.5	11.6	11.7	11.4	11.3	11.9	11.7	10.9	15.0	13,545	5685
65 and over	5.6	6.0	6.8	6.5	6.3	6.7	6.6	6.8	6.5	6.5	8.7	8,747	3817
Total	10.2	10.0	10.7	11.0	11.5	12.0	12.1	12.1	10.8	10.2	13.5	42,694	16701

1 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/5 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year.

2 Results for 2006 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

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 found in GHS reports for each year.

Smoking and drinking among adults 2006

Table 2.2 Weekly alcohol consumption level: percentage exceeding specified amounts by sex and age: 1988-2006

<i>Persons aged 16 and over</i>													<i>Great Britain</i>	
Age	Unweighted data					Weighted data							Weighted base 2006 (000's) = 100%	Unwgt'd sample ³ 2006
	1988	1992	1994	1996	1998	1998	2000	2001	2002	2005 ¹	2006 ² original method	2006 ² improved method		
Men														
Percentage of men who drank more than 21 units														
16-24	31	32	29	35	36	38	41	40	37	27	26	30	2,607	781
25-44	34	31	30	30	27	28	30	30	29	26	24	33	7,058	2468
45-64	24	25	27	26	30	30	28	26	28	25	24	34	6,449	2671
65 and over	13	15	17	18	16	16	17	15	15	14	14	21	3,836	1767
Total	26	26	27	27	27	28	29	28	27	24	23	31	19,950	7687
Percentage of men who drank more than 50 units														
16-24	10	9	9	10	13	14	14	15	12	9	7	9	2,607	781
25-44	9	8	7	6	6	6	7	7	8	5	5	9	7,058	2468
45-64	6	6	6	5	6	7	6	5	6	6	6	10	6,449	2671
65 and over	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	2	3	3	2	5	3,836	1767
Total	7	6	6	6	6	7	7	7	7	6	5	8	19,950	7687
Women														
Percentage of women who drank more than 14 units														
16-24	15	17	19	22	25	25	33	32	33	24	19	24	2,863	944
25-44	14	14	15	16	16	16	19	17	19	14	14	23	7,874	3006
45-64	9	11	12	13	16	15	14	14	14	13	12	21	7,096	3014
65 and over	4	5	7	7	6	6	7	6	7	5	5	10	4,910	2050
Total	10	11	13	14	15	15	17	15	17	13	12	20	22,743	9014
Percentage of women who drank more than 35 units														
16-24	3	4	4	5	6	7	9	10	10	6	5	7	2,863	944
25-44	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	2	2	6	7,874	3006
45-64	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	6	7,096	3014
65 and over	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	4,910	2050
Total	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	2	2	5	22,743	9014

1 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/5 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year.

2 Results for 2006 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

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 found in GHS reports for each year.

Table 2.3 Drinking last week, by sex and age: 1998 to 2006

<i>Persons aged 16 and over</i>										<i>Great Britain</i>	
Drinking last week	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005 ¹	2006 ²	<i>Weighted base 2006 (000s)=100%</i>	<i>Unweighted sample³ 2006</i>	
Percentages											
Men											
Drank last week											
16-24	70	70	70	69	70	66	64	60	2,597	777	
25-44	79	78	78	77	77	76	74	73	7,058	2468	
45-64	77	77	76	76	78	76	77	76	6,447	2669	
65 and over	65	67	68	67	69	68	66	67	3,837	1767	
Total	75	75	75	74	75	73	72	71	19,939	7681	
Drank on 5 or more days last week											
16-24	13	11	14	11	14	8	10	8	2,597	777	
25-44	21	19	19	19	20	20	18	17	7,058	2468	
45-64	29	26	25	26	26	28	28	26	6,447	2669	
65 and over	25	28	27	28	29	28	26	27	3,837	1767	
Total	23	22	22	22	23	23	22	21	19,939	7681	
Women											
Drank last week											
16-24	62	64	59	61	61	60	56	53	2,864	944	
25-44	65	67	66	65	65	62	62	60	7,876	3006	
45-64	61	61	61	63	64	62	61	61	7,094	3013	
65 and over	45	43	45	46	45	45	43	44	4,910	2050	
Total	59	60	59	59	60	58	57	56	22,744	9013	
Drank on 5 or more days last week											
16-24	8	7	8	7	4	5	5	3	2,864	944	
25-44	12	11	11	11	10	9	11	9	7,876	3006	
45-64	15	15	17	17	17	18	17	15	7,094	3013	
65 and over	14	14	15	15	16	16	14	15	4,910	2050	
Total	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	11	22,744	9013	

1 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/5 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year.

2 Results for 2006 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

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 found in GHS reports for each year.

Smoking and drinking among adults 2006

Table 2.4 Maximum drunk on any one day last week by sex and age: 1998 to 2006

<i>Persons aged 16 and over</i>										<i>Great Britain</i>	
Maximum daily amount	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005 ¹	2006 ² original method	2006 ² improved method	<i>Weighted base 2006 (000s)=100%</i>	<i>Unweighted sample³ 2006</i>
Percentages											
Men											
Drank more than 4 units on at least one day											
16-24	52	50	50	49	51	47	42	39	42	2,586	774
25-44	48	45	49	46	47	48	42	42	48	7,046	2463
45-64	37	38	37	38	41	37	35	33	42	6,450	2670
65 and over	16	16	18	16	19	20	16	14	21	3,836	1767
Total	39	39	40	38	40	39	35	33	40	19,918	7674
Drank more than 8 units on at least one day											
16-24	39	37	37	35	37	32	30	27	30	2,586	774
25-44	29	27	30	28	30	31	25	25	31	7,046	2463
45-64	17	17	17	18	20	18	16	15	21	6,450	2670
65 and over	4	5	5	5	6	7	4	4	7	3,836	1767
Total	22	21	22	21	23	22	19	18	23	19,918	7674
Women											
Drank more than 3 units on at least one day											
16-24	42	42	40	42	40	39	36	34	39	2,859	943
25-44	28	31	31	31	30	28	26	27	40	7,877	3007
45-64	17	19	19	19	20	20	18	17	35	7,096	3014
65 and over	4	4	5	5	4	5	4	4	14	4,908	2049
Total	21	23	23	23	23	22	20	20	33	22,740	9013
Drank more than 6 units on at least one day											
16-24	24	27	27	28	26	24	22	20	25	2,859	943
25-44	11	13	14	13	13	13	11	12	21	7,877	3007
45-64	5	5	5	5	5	6	4	4	12	7,096	3014
65 and over	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	2	4,908	2049
Total	8	10	10	10	9	9	8	8	15	22,740	9013

1 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/5 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year.

2 Results for 2006 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

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 found in GHS reports for each year.

Table 2.5 Average weekly alcohol consumption (units), by sex and age

Persons aged 16 and over

Great Britain: 2006¹

Age	Original method			Improved method			Weighted base (000's) = 100%			Unweighted sample		
	Average weekly alcohol consumption			Average weekly alcohol consumption								
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
16-24	16.4	9.0	12.5	18.6	10.8	14.6	2,607	2,863	5,470	781	944	1725
25-44	15.6	6.8	11.0	19.7	10.1	14.6	7,057	7,875	14,932	2468	3006	5474
45-64	16.0	6.2	10.9	20.8	9.8	15.0	6,450	7,095	13,545	2671	3014	5685
65 and over	10.4	3.5	6.5	13.5	5.1	8.7	3,836	4,911	8,747	1767	2050	3817
Total	14.8	6.2	10.2	18.7	9.0	13.5	19,950	22,744	42,694	7687	9014	16701

¹ Results for 2006 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

Smoking and drinking among adults 2006

Table 2.6 Average weekly alcohol consumption (units), 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: 2006²*

Socio-economic classification of household reference person ¹	Original method			Improved method		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
Managerial and professional						
Large employer and higher managerial	13.2	7.3	10.4	22.9	12.5	17.6
Higher professional	14.9	6.6	10.5	17.8	11.2	14.6
Lower managerial and professional	15.2	5.6	9.2	19.6	9.9	14.4
Total¹	14.9	6.5	10.8	19.9	11.2	15.1
Intermediate						
Intermediate	16.7	6.9	11.9	19.3	8.3	12.5
Small employers/own account workers	14.4	5.8	10.2	20.4	10.1	15.3
Total¹	16.1	6.2	10.6	19.9	9.1	14.0
Routine and manual						
Lower supervisory and technical	13.4	5.5	8.7	17.2	7.9	12.7
Semi-routine	14.5	4.7	9.3	16.0	7.5	11.0
Routine	8.9	4.6	6.3	17.0	6.1	11.2
Total¹	14.1	5.3	9.4	16.7	7.1	11.6
Total¹	14.8	6.2	10.2	18.7	9.0	13.5
<i>Weighted bases (000's) = 100%</i>						
Large employer and higher managerial	2,064	1,916	3,979	2,064	1,916	3,979
Higher professional	4,610	5,277	9,887	4,610	5,277	9,887
Lower managerial and professional	1,393	2,268	3,661	1,393	2,268	3,661
Intermediate	2,139	2,046	4,185	2,139	2,046	4,185
Small employers/own account workers	2,380	2,233	4,613	2,380	2,233	4,613
Lower supervisory and technical	2,234	3,182	5,416	2,234	3,182	5,416
Semi-routine	2,498	2,830	5,327	2,498	2,830	5,327
Routine	319	507	827	319	507	827
Total¹	19,950	22,744	42,694	19,950	22,744	42,694
<i>Unweighted sample</i>						
Large employer and higher managerial	733	770	1503	733	770	1503
Higher professional	831	805	1636	831	805	1636
Lower managerial and professional	1832	2154	3986	1832	2154	3986
Intermediate	527	877	1404	527	877	1404
Small employers/own account workers	814	810	1624	814	810	1624
Lower supervisory and technical	899	866	1765	899	866	1765
Semi-routine	838	1248	2086	838	1248	2086
Routine	932	1072	2004	932	1072	2004
Total¹	7687	9014	16701	7687	9014	16701

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.

2 Results for 2006 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

Table 2.7 Average weekly alcohol consumption (units), by sex and usual gross weekly household income (£)

<i>Persons aged 16 and over</i>										<i>Great Britain: 2006¹</i>		
Usual gross weekly household income (£)	Original method			Improved method			Weighted base (000's) = 100%			Unweighted sample		
	Average weekly alcohol consumption			Average weekly alcohol consumption			Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
Up to 200.00	15.0	4.4	8.5	17.8	6.1	10.6	2,785	4,467	7,252	1067	1733	2800
200.01 - 400.00	11.6	5.4	8.3	14.4	7.7	10.7	3,535	4,231	7,767	1418	1740	3158
400.01 - 600.00	14.5	6.5	10.4	17.9	9.3	13.6	3,138	3,205	6,343	1205	1291	2496
600.01 - 800.00	15.1	7.0	11.0	19.1	10.0	14.5	2,808	2,905	5,713	1078	1141	2219
800.01 - 1000.00	17.4	7.1	12.2	22.0	10.3	16.1	1,966	1,967	3,933	730	757	1487
1000.01 or more	16.6	7.9	12.2	22.1	12.2	17.1	3,979	4,013	7,992	1501	1565	3066
Total	14.8	6.2	10.2	18.7	9.0	13.5	19,950	22,744	42,694	7687	9014	16701

¹ Results for 2006 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

Table 2.8 Average weekly alcohol consumption (units), by sex and economic activity status

<i>Persons aged 16-64</i>										<i>Great Britain: 2006¹</i>		
Economic activity status	Original method			Improved method			Weighted base (000's) = 100%			Unweighted sample		
	Average weekly alcohol consumption			Average weekly alcohol consumption			Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
Working	16.0	7.4	11.8	20.3	10.9	15.7	12,732	12,155	24,887	4704	4709	9413
Unemployed	15.0	7.8	12.3	17.8	9.8	14.8	678	408	1,085	229	140	369
Economically inactive	15.4	5.7	9.0	18.9	8.0	11.7	2,696	5,263	7,959	984	2112	3096
Total	15.9	6.9	11.2	20.0	10.1	14.8	16,106	17,826	33,931	5917	6961	12878

¹ Results for 2006 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

Smoking and drinking among adults 2006

Table 2.9 Average weekly alcohol consumption (units), by sex and usual gross weekly earnings (£)

Persons aged 16-64 in full-time employment

Great Britain: 2006¹

Usual gross weekly earnings (£)	Original method			Improved method			Weighted base (000's) =100%			Unweighted sample		
	Average weekly alcohol consumption			Average weekly alcohol consumption								
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
Up to 200.00	19.4	8.5	14.8	24.2	11.6	18.9	834	606	1,440	301	222	523
200.01 - 300.00	16.4	7.7	11.8	19.3	10.7	14.7	1,397	1,580	2,978	493	580	1073
300.01 - 400.00	15.7	7.4	12.3	19.0	10.9	15.7	2,087	1,427	3,514	744	544	1288
400.01 - 600.00	16.8	7.6	13.7	21.1	11.8	18.0	2,929	1,476	4,406	1084	557	1641
600.01 - 800.00	16.5	8.2	13.8	21.5	13.5	18.9	1,344	635	1,979	517	255	772
800.01 or more	15.5	7.5	13.8	21.7	12.1	19.6	1,647	458	2,105	657	180	837
Total	16.4	7.7	13.2	20.7	11.4	17.3	11,207	6,647	17,855	4178	2521	6699

1 Results for 2006 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

Table 2.10 Average weekly alcohol consumption (units), by sex and Government Office Region

Persons aged 16 and over

Great Britain: 2006¹

Government Office Region	Original method			Improved method			Weighted base (000's) =100%			Unweighted sample		
	Average weekly alcohol consumption			Average weekly alcohol consumption								
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
North East	17.9	6.4	11.8	21.4	8.7	14.6	803	919	1,722	310	368	678
North West	17.4	6.9	11.7	21.7	9.9	15.3	2,220	2,669	4,889	901	1110	2011
Yorkshire and the Humber	17.3	8.0	12.4	21.4	11.2	16.0	1,805	1,980	3,785	723	819	1542
East Midlands	15.4	6.5	10.9	19.2	9.4	14.2	1,703	1,749	3,452	688	741	1429
West Midlands	12.5	6.4	9.3	15.6	8.8	12.0	1,748	1,932	3,681	677	773	1450
East of England	14.4	5.6	9.8	18.2	8.3	13.0	1,990	2,201	4,191	786	907	1693
London	13.3	4.5	8.5	16.9	6.8	11.4	2,237	2,657	4,893	662	796	1458
South East	13.2	6.3	9.5	17.5	9.5	13.3	2,858	3,236	6,093	1115	1301	2416
South West	15.7	6.9	11.0	20.0	10.2	14.7	1,824	2,125	3,950	745	884	1629
England	14.9	6.3	10.4	18.9	9.2	13.7	17,189	19,468	36,657	6607	7,699	14306
Wales	16.1	5.3	10.4	19.9	7.8	13.5	1,023	1,152	2,176	411	477	888
Scotland	13.0	5.5	8.9	16.3	7.8	11.6	1,738	2,123	3,861	669	838	1507
Great Britain	14.8	6.2	10.2	18.7	9.0	13.5	19,950	22,744	42,694	7687	9014	16701

1 Results for 2006 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

Table 2.11 Whether drank last week and number of drinking days by sex and age

<i>Persons aged 16 and over</i>		<i>Great Britain: 2006¹</i>				
Drinking days last week	Age					
	16-24	25-44	45-64	65 and over	Total	
	%	%	%	%	%	
Men						
0	40	27	24	33	29	
1	21	20	17	16	18	
2	17	17	14	11	15	
3	9	12	11	8	10	
4	5	8	8	5	7	
5	2	5	6	4	5	
6	2	3	4	3	3	
7	4	8	15	20	12	
	8	17	26	27	21	
% who drank last week	60	73	76	67	71	
<i>Weighted base (000's)</i>						
<i>=100%</i>	2,597	7,058	6,447	3,837	19,939	
<i>Unweighted sample</i>	777	2468	2669	1767	7682	
	%	%	%	%	%	
Women						
0	47	40	39	56	44	
1	24	22	19	16	20	
2	14	15	13	7	12	
3	8	8	9	4	8	
4	4	6	6	3	5	
5	1	3	4	3	3	
6	1	1	3	1	2	
7	1	5	8	11	7	
	3	9	15	15	11	
% who drank last week	53	60	61	44	56	
<i>Weighted base (000's)</i>						
<i>=100%</i>	2,864	7,876	7,094	4,910	22,744	
<i>Unweighted sample</i>	944	3006	3013	2050	9013	
	%	%	%	%	%	
All persons						
0	44	34	32	46	37	
1	22	21	18	16	19	
2	15	16	13	9	14	
3	9	10	10	6	9	
4	4	7	7	3	6	
5	2	4	5	3	4	
6	2	2	3	2	3	
7	2	6	12	15	9	
	6	13	20	20	16	
% who drank last week	56	66	68	54	63	
<i>Weighted base (000's)</i>						
<i>=100%</i>	5,460	14,932	13,539	8,748	42,679	
<i>Unweighted sample</i>	1,721	5,474	5,682	3,817	16,695	

1 Results for 2006 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

Table 2.12 Maximum drunk on any one day last week, by sex and age

<i>Persons aged 16 and over</i>		<i>Great Britain: 2006²</i>				
Maximum daily amount	Age					
	16-24	25-44	45-64	65 and over	Total	
Original method	%	%	%	%	%	
Men						
Drank nothing last week	40	27	24	33	29	
Up to 4 units	21	31	43	53	38	
More than 4, up to 8 units	<u>11</u> ³⁹	<u>17</u> ⁴²	<u>18</u> ³³	<u>10</u> ¹⁴	<u>15</u> ³³	
More than 8 units	<u>27</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>18</u>	
	%	%	%	%	%	
Women						
Drank nothing last week	47	40	40	56	44	
Up to 3 units	19	34	43	40	36	
More than 3, up to 6 units	<u>14</u> ³⁴	<u>15</u> ²⁷	<u>13</u> ¹⁷	<u>4</u> ⁴	<u>12</u> ²⁰	
More than 6 units	<u>20</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>8</u>	
	%	%	%	%	%	
All persons¹						
Drank nothing last week	44	34	32	46	37	
Up to 4/3 units	20	33	43	46	37	
More than 4/3, up to 8/6 units	<u>13</u> ³⁶	<u>16</u> ³⁴	<u>15</u> ²⁵	<u>6</u> ⁹	<u>13</u> ²⁶	
More than 8/6 units	<u>24</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>13</u>	
Improved method	%	%	%	%	%	
Men						
Drank nothing last week	40	27	24	33	29	
Up to 4 units	18	25	33	46	31	
More than 4, up to 8 units	<u>12</u> ⁴²	<u>17</u> ⁴⁸	<u>21</u> ⁴²	<u>14</u> ²¹	<u>17</u> ⁴⁰	
More than 8 units	<u>30</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>23</u>	
	%	%	%	%	%	
Women						
Drank nothing last week	47	40	40	56	44	
Up to 3 units	14	20	25	30	23	
More than 3, up to 6 units	<u>14</u> ³⁹	<u>19</u> ⁴⁰	<u>23</u> ³⁵	<u>12</u> ¹⁴	<u>18</u> ³³	
More than 6 units	<u>25</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>15</u>	
	%	%	%	%	%	
All persons¹						
Drank nothing last week	44	34	32	46	37	
Up to 4/3 units	16	23	29	37	27	
More than 4/3, up to 8/6 units	<u>13</u> ⁴⁰	<u>18</u> ⁴⁴	<u>22</u> ³⁹	<u>13</u> ¹⁷	<u>18</u> ³⁶	
More than 8/6 units	<u>27</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>18</u>	
<i>Weighted base (000's) = 100%</i>						
<i>Men</i>	2,586	7,046	6,450	3,836	19,918	
<i>Women</i>	2,859	7,877	7,096	4,908	22,740	
<i>All persons</i>	5,446	14,923	13,544	8,744	42,657	
<i>Unweighted sample</i>						
<i>Men</i>	774	2464	2670	1767	7675	
<i>Women</i>	943	3007	3014	2049	9013	
<i>All persons</i>	1717	5471	5684	3816	16688	

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

2 Results for 2006 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

Smoking and drinking among adults 2006

Table 2.13 Drinking 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: 2006²</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	84	72	78	
Higher professional	79	67	73	72
Lower managerial and professional	76	63	69	
Intermediate				
Intermediate	73	55	62	63
Small employers/own account workers	71	56	63	
Routine and manual				
Lower supervisory and technical	70	53	62	
Semi-routine	62	46	53	55
Routine	61	42	51	
Total ¹	71	56	63	
Percentage who drank on 5 or more days last week				
Managerial and professional				
Large employer and higher managerial	30	18	24	
Higher professional	24	16	20	20
Lower managerial and professional	23	14	18	
Intermediate				
Intermediate	21	11	15	17
Small employers/own account workers	24	13	19	
Routine and manual				
Lower supervisory and technical	16	9	13	
Semi-routine	14	8	10	11
Routine	16	6	11	
Total ¹	21	11	16	
<i>Weighted bases (000's) = 100%</i>				
Large employer and higher managerial	1,767	1,821	3,588	
Higher professional	2,064	1,916	3,980	
Lower managerial and professional	4,608	5,277	9,886	
Intermediate	1,390	2,268	3,659	
Small employers/own account workers	2,139	2,046	4,185	
Lower supervisory and technical	2,378	2,231	4,609	
Semi-routine	2,232	3,182	5,413	
Routine	2,493	2,830	5,323	
Total	19,939	22,741	42,680	
<i>Unweighted sample</i>				
Large employer and higher managerial	733	770	1503	
Higher professional	831	805	1636	
Lower managerial and professional	1731	2154	3885	
Intermediate	526	877	1403	
Small employers/own account workers	814	810	1624	
Lower supervisory and technical	898	865	1763	
Semi-routine	837	1248	2085	
Routine	930	1072	2002	
Total	7681	9013	16694	

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.

2 Results for 2006 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

Smoking and drinking among adults 2006

Table 2.14 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

Persons aged 16 and over

Great Britain: 2006³

Socio-economic classification of household reference person ¹	Original method			Improved method		
	Men	Women	All persons	Men	Women	All persons
	Percentage who drank more than 4/3 units on at least one day last week: original method ²			Percentage who drank more than 4/3 units on at least one day last week: improved method ²		
Managerial and professional						
Large employer and higher managerial	37	24	30	47	47	47
Higher professional	32 34	21 22	27 28	42 44	41 40	41 42
Lower managerial and professional	35	21	27	44	37	40
Intermediate						
Intermediate	33	17	23	41	30	34
Small employers/own account workers	35 34	20 18	28 26	41 41	34 32	37 36
Routine and manual						
Lower supervisory and technical	34	20	28	38	30	34
Semi-routine	29 32	17 18	22 24	33 35	26 26	29 30
Routine	32	17	24	35	23	29
Total ¹	33	20	26	40	33	36
	Percentage who drank more than 8/6 units on at least one day last week: original method ²			Percentage who drank more than 8/6 units on at least one day last week: original method ²		
Managerial and professional						
Large employer and higher managerial	20	8	14	27	19	23
Higher professional	15 18	8 8	11 13	21 24	16 17	19 21
Lower managerial and professional	18	8	13	24	17	20
Intermediate						
Intermediate	17	7	11	22	13	16
Small employers/own account workers	19 18	8 8	14 12	23 23	14 13	19 18
Routine and manual						
Lower supervisory and technical	20	7	14	24	13	19
Semi-routine	15 19	9 8	11 13	18 21	13 12	15 16
Routine	20	7	13	22	11	16
Total ¹	18	8	13	23	15	18
<i>Weighted bases (000's) = 100%</i>						
Large employer and higher managerial	1,763	1,821	3,584	1,763	1,821	3,584
Higher professional	2,062	1,916	3,977	2,062	1,916	3,977
Lower managerial and professional	4,598	5,273	9,871	4,598	5,273	9,871
Intermediate	1,390	2,268	3,658	1,390	2,268	3,658
Small employers/own account workers	2,138	2,046	4,185	2,138	2,046	4,185
Lower supervisory and technical	2,383	2,234	4,617	2,383	2,234	4,617
Semi-routine	2,231	3,179	5,410	2,231	3,179	5,410
Routine	2,490	2,829	5,321	2,490	2,829	5,321
Total ¹	19,917	22,739	42,656	19,917	22,739	42,656
<i>Unweighted sample</i>						
Large employer and higher managerial	731	770	1501	731	770	1501
Higher professional	830	805	1635	830	805	1635
Lower managerial and professional	1828	2153	3981	1828	2153	3981
Intermediate	526	877	1403	526	877	1403
Small employers/own account workers	814	810	1624	814	810	1624
Lower supervisory and technical	900	866	1766	900	866	1766
Semi-routine	836	1247	2083	836	1247	2083
Routine	930	1072	2002	930	1072	2002
Total ¹	7674	9013	16687	7674	9013	16687

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.

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

3 Results for 2006 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

Table 2.15 Drinking last week, by sex and usual gross weekly household income

<i>Persons aged 16 and over</i>		<i>Great Britain: 2006²</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	61	62	71	74	79	83	71	
Women	40	51	56	63	64	70	56	
All persons	48	56	63	68	71	76	63	
Drank on 5 or more days								
Men	18	19	19	18	22	26	21	
Women	9	11	12	12	11	14	11	
All persons	12	15	16	15	16	20	16	
<i>Weighted base (000's)</i>								
<i>= 100%</i>								
Men	2,780	3,535	3,131	2,808	1,966	3,979	19,936	
Women	4,467	4,231	3,205	2,905	1,967	4,013	22,742	
All persons	7,247	7,768	6,335	5,713	3,933	7,992	42,678	
<i>Unweighted sample</i>								
Men	1065	1418	1202	1078	730	1501	7681	
Women	1733	1740	1291	1141	757	1565	9013	
All persons	2798	3158	2493	2219	1487	3066	16694	

1 The total includes those for whom household income was not available

2 Results for 2006 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

Table 2.16 Maximum drunk on any one day last week by sex and usual gross weekly household income

<i>Persons aged 16 and over</i>		<i>Great Britain: 2006³</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								
Original method								
Drank more than 4/3 units on at least one day last week ²								
Men	27	23	33	37	43	40	33	
Women	12	16	20	23	27	27	20	
All persons	18	19	26	30	35	34	26	
Drank more than 8/6 units on at least one day last week ²								
Men	14	11	19	22	24	22	18	
Women	5	7	9	11	10	9	8	
All persons	8	9	14	16	17	16	13	
Improved method								
Drank more than 4/3 units on at least one day last week ²								
Men	32	28	38	43	51	51	40	
Women	20	27	33	36	41	47	33	
All persons	25	28	35	39	46	49	36	
Drank more than 8/6 units on at least one day last week ²								
Men	16	14	23	27	30	29	23	
Women	7	11	14	18	20	21	15	
All persons	11	12	19	22	25	25	18	
<i>Weighted base (000's)</i>								
<i>= 100%</i>								
<i>Men</i>	<i>2,782</i>	<i>3,531</i>	<i>3,134</i>	<i>2,807</i>	<i>1,962</i>	<i>3,976</i>	<i>19,913</i>	
<i>Women</i>	<i>4,465</i>	<i>4,230</i>	<i>3,205</i>	<i>2,905</i>	<i>1,967</i>	<i>4,010</i>	<i>22,739</i>	
<i>All persons</i>	<i>7,247</i>	<i>7,764</i>	<i>6,340</i>	<i>5,713</i>	<i>3,928</i>	<i>7,986</i>	<i>42,659</i>	
<i>Unweighted sample</i>								
<i>Men</i>	<i>1066</i>	<i>1417</i>	<i>1204</i>	<i>1077</i>	<i>728</i>	<i>1500</i>	<i>7674</i>	
<i>Women</i>	<i>1732</i>	<i>1740</i>	<i>1291</i>	<i>1141</i>	<i>757</i>	<i>1564</i>	<i>9013</i>	
<i>All persons</i>	<i>2798</i>	<i>3157</i>	<i>2495</i>	<i>2218</i>	<i>1485</i>	<i>3064</i>	<i>16687</i>	

1 The total includes those for whom household income was not available

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

3 Results for 2006 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

Table 2.17 Drinking last week, by sex and economic activity status

<i>Persons aged 16-64</i>		<i>Great Britain: 2006¹</i>			
Drinking last week	Economic activity status				
	Working	Unemployed	Economically inactive	Total	
Percentages					
Drank last week					
Men	76	54	59	72	
Women	65	54	47	59	
All persons	70	54	51	65	
Drank on 5 or more days last week					
Men	20	10	17	19	
Women	11	6	9	10	
All persons	16	9	12	15	
<i>Weighted base (000's)</i>					
<i>= 100%</i>					
Men	12,726	678	2,688	16,092	
Women	12,155	407	5,261	17,823	
All persons	24,880	1,085	7,949	33,914	
<i>Unweighted sample</i>					
Men	4701	229	981	5911	
Women	4709	140	2111	6960	
All persons	9410	369	3092	12871	

1 Results for 2006 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

Table 2.18 Maximum drunk on any one day last week, by sex and economic activity status

<i>Persons aged 16-64</i>		<i>Great Britain: 2006²</i>			
Drinking last week	Economic activity status				
	Working	Unemployed	Economically inactive	Total	
Percentages					
Original method					
Drank more than 4/3 units on at least one day ¹					
Men	39	34	31	38	
Women	27	25	17	24	
All persons	34	30	22	31	
Drank more than 8/6 units on at least one day ¹					
Men	23	18	16	21	
Women	12	10	7	10	
All persons	17	15	10	15	
Improved method					
Drank more than 4/3 units on at least one day ¹					
Men	47	37	35	45	
Women	43	35	27	38	
All persons	45	36	30	41	
Drank more than 8/6 units on at least one day ¹					
Men	28	22	20	27	
Women	21	16	12	18	
All persons	25	20	15	22	
<i>Weighted base (000's)</i>					
<i>= 100%</i>					
Men	12,714	674	2,686	16,074	
Women	12,157	407	5,260	17,824	
All persons	24,871	1,081	7,945	33,897	
<i>Unweighted sample</i>					
Men	4696	228	980	5904	
Women	4710	140	2111	6961	
All persons	9406	368	3091	12865	

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

2 Results for 2006 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

Table 2.19 Drinking last week, by sex and usual gross weekly earnings

<i>Persons aged 16-64</i>		<i>Great Britain: 2006²</i>			
Drinking last week	Economic activity status				
	Working	Unemployed	Economically inactive	Total	
Percentages					
Original method					
Drank more than 4/3 units on at least one day ¹					
Men	39	34	31	38	
Women	27	25	17	24	
All persons	34	30	22	31	
Drank more than 8/6 units on at least one day ¹					
Men	23	18	16	21	
Women	12	10	7	10	
All persons	17	15	10	15	
Improved method					
Drank more than 4/3 units on at least one day ¹					
Men	47	37	35	45	
Women	43	35	27	38	
All persons	45	36	30	41	
Drank more than 8/6 units on at least one day ¹					
Men	28	22	20	27	
Women	21	16	12	18	
All persons	25	20	15	22	
<i>Weighted base (000's)</i>					
<i>=100%</i>					
<i>Men</i>	<i>12,714</i>	<i>674</i>	<i>2,686</i>	<i>16,074</i>	
<i>Women</i>	<i>12,157</i>	<i>407</i>	<i>5,260</i>	<i>17,824</i>	
<i>All persons</i>	<i>24,871</i>	<i>1,081</i>	<i>7,945</i>	<i>33,897</i>	
<i>Unweighted sample</i>					
<i>Men</i>	<i>4696</i>	<i>228</i>	<i>980</i>	<i>5904</i>	
<i>Women</i>	<i>4710</i>	<i>140</i>	<i>2111</i>	<i>6961</i>	
<i>All persons</i>	<i>9406</i>	<i>368</i>	<i>3091</i>	<i>12865</i>	

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

2 Results for 2006 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

Table 2.20 Maximum drunk on any one day last week, by sex and usual gross weekly earnings

<i>Persons aged 16-64 in full-time employment</i>		<i>Great Britain: 2006³</i>						
Drinking last week	Usual gross weekly earnings ¹ (£)							
	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								
Original method								
Drank more than 4/3 units on at least one day ²								
Men	39	37	43	46	41	39	41	
Women	31	31	30	30	27	34	30	
All persons	36	33	38	41	36	38	37	
Drank more than 8/6 units on at least one day ²								
Men	26	21	26	27	23	19	24	
Women	18	16	14	13	7	12	13	
All persons	23	18	21	22	18	17	20	
Improved method								
Drank more than 4/3 units on at least one day ²								
Men	47	42	48	51	49	54	49	
Women	42	43	44	48	51	58	46	
All persons	44	42	46	50	50	55	47	
Drank more than 8/6 units on at least one day ²								
Men	30	23	30	34	31	28	29	
Women	24	24	23	25	24	28	24	
All persons	27	23	27	31	29	28	27	
<i>Weighted base (000's)</i> = 100%								
Men	834	1,394	2,083	2,932	1,344	1,644	11,195	
Women	606	1,581	1,427	1,476	635	458	6,649	
All persons	1,440	2,974	3,511	4,410	1,979	2,101	17,844	
<i>Unweighted sample</i>								
Men	301	492	742	1084	517	656	4172	
Women	222	580	544	557	255	180	2522	
All persons	523	1072	1286	1641	772	836	6694	

1 Usual gross weekly earnings for the respondent

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

3 Results for 2006 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

Table 2.21 Drinking last week, by sex and Government Office Region

Government Office Region	Drinking last week		Great Britain: 2006 ¹	
	Drank last week	Drank on 5 or more days last week	Weighted base (000's) = 100%	Unweighted sample
Men				
	Percentages			
North East	70	19	802	310
North West	76	20	2,219	900
Yorkshire and the Humber	77	21	1,805	723
East Midlands	72	24	1,698	686
West Midlands	68	21	1,748	677
East of England	73	20	1,990	786
London	62	19	2,237	662
South East	72	23	2,858	1115
South West	76	24	1,824	745
England	72	21	17,182	6604
Wales	69	23	1,021	410
Scotland	67	14	1,732	667
Great Britain	71	21	19,935	7681
Women				
North East	53	11	919	368
North West	60	10	2,669	1110
Yorkshire and the Humber	62	14	1,980	819
East Midlands	58	14	1,749	741
West Midlands	52	11	1,933	773
East of England	57	11	2,201	907
London	46	7	2,656	796
South East	59	14	3,235	1301
South West	59	15	2,126	884
England	57	12	19,468	7699
Wales	53	11	1,151	476
Scotland	52	9	2,123	838
Great Britain	56	11	22,742	9013
All persons				
North East	61	14	1,722	678
North West	67	15	4,888	2010
Yorkshire and the Humber	69	17	3,785	1542
East Midlands	65	19	3,446	1427
West Midlands	60	16	3,681	1450
East of England	65	15	4,191	1693
London	53	12	4,893	1458
South East	65	18	6,093	2416
South West	67	19	3,949	1629
England	64	16	36,651	14303
Wales	61	16	2,172	886
Scotland	58	11	3,856	1505
Great Britain	63	16	42,679	16694

1 Results for 2006 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

Smoking and drinking among adults 2006

Table 2.22 Maximum drunk on any one day last week, by sex and Government Office Region

Persons aged 16 and over

Great Britain: 2006²

Government Office Region	Original method		Improved method		Weighted base (000's) = 100%	Unweighted sample
	Drank more than 4/3 units on at least one day ¹	Drank more than 8/6 units on at least one day ¹	Drank more than 4/3 units on at least one day ¹	Drank more than 8/6 units on at least one day ¹		
Percentages						
Men						
North East	37	18	43	21	803	310
North West	41	26	47	31	2,216	899
Yorkshire and the Humber	41	23	48	29	1,794	718
East Midlands	34	18	41	23	1,703	688
West Midlands	31	16	37	19	1,745	676
East of England	30	15	37	20	1,987	785
London	30	16	35	21	2,239	662
South East	29	14	37	20	2,858	1115
South West	32	17	39	21	1,819	743
England	33	18	40	23	17,162	6596
Wales	36	18	42	22	1,024	411
Scotland	33	18	40	23	1,732	667
Great Britain	33	18	40	23	19,918	7674
Women						
North East	20	7	33	11	915	367
North West	27	12	40	20	2,668	1110
Yorkshire and the Humber	28	14	40	23	1,977	818
East Midlands	18	9	32	14	1,749	741
West Midlands	17	7	29	13	1,932	773
East of England	17	5	30	12	2,200	907
London	14	5	27	11	2,656	796
South East	18	8	32	15	3,237	1302
South West	21	7	34	16	2,126	884
England	20	8	33	15	19,465	7698
Wales	19	7	34	12	1,152	477
Scotland	20	7	33	14	2,124	838
Great Britain	20	8	33	15	22,741	9013
All persons						
North East	28	12	37	16	1,719	677
North West	34	18	43	25	4,886	2009
Yorkshire and the Humber	34	18	44	26	3,772	1536
East Midlands	26	13	36	18	3,451	1429
West Midlands	24	11	33	16	3,677	1449
East of England	23	10	33	15	4,189	1692
London	21	10	31	15	4,896	1458
South East	23	11	34	17	6,095	2417
South West	26	12	36	18	3,943	1627
England	26	13	36	19	36,628	14294
Wales	27	12	38	17	2,175	888
Scotland	26	12	36	18	3,856	1505
Great Britain	26	13	36	18	42,659	16687

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

2 Results for 2006 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).