

 **Drug and Alcohol FINDINGS** Your selected document

This entry reproduces with minor amendments the original abstract or equivalent of a document collected by Drug and Alcohol Findings. Findings collects any scientific or UK policy document relating to evaluations of drug or alcohol interventions or to the interpretation and use of their findings. Unlike documents selected for fuller analysis, its citation here does not imply that this document is particularly relevant to Britain and of particular merit (though it may well be both) and no attempt has been made to validate the facts or interpretations given by the authors or to offer a critical commentary. The original document was not published by Findings; click on the [Title](#) to obtain copies. Links to source documents are in [blue](#). Hover mouse over [orange](#) text for explanatory notes.

Click [HERE](#) and enter e-mail address to be alerted to new studies and reviews

► [Purchasing patterns for low price off sales alcohol: evidence from the Expenditure and Food Survey.](#)

Ludbrook A.

Health Economics Research Unit, University of Aberdeen, 2010.

Poor drinkers in the UK consume a relatively high proportion of their alcohol in the form of very cheap products, but wealthier drinkers also drink these; a moderately high minimum price would spread the impact. Findings informed a Home Office assessment of the likely impact of a rise in the price of alcohol in Britain.

Original abstract

Key points summary

- All income groups purchase low price off sales alcohol.
- The relationship between income group and the amount of alcohol purchased at the cheapest price (below 30p a unit) is not straightforward. Although the lowest income group buys more than the highest at this price, there is little difference between the middle income groups and the lowest.
- At prices of 30p to 40p and 40p to 50p, the amount purchased tends to increase with income.
- Middle-to-higher income groups are the main purchasers of alcohol priced between 30p and 50p.
- For individual alcohol types (beer, lager, table wine and spirits), the lowest income groups purchase less than the average number of units below 30p and below 40p.
- Low income households are less likely to purchase off sales alcohol at all.

Summary

These data from the Expenditure and Food Survey suggest that the purchasing of low priced alcohol occurs across the income distribution. If anything, middle income groups appear to purchase more of the lower price alcohol. One potential explanation may be that these households have sufficient discretionary income to allow them to take advantage of discounted special offers. This cannot be tested with the data available,

however. The tendency for middle and higher income groups to buy more low price alcohol is more noticeable in the price bands at 30p to 40p and 40p to 50p than in the price band below 30p. This may suggest that higher values for a minimum price (40p or 50p rather than 30p) will spread the effect more evenly across income groups.



This is one of the reports which informed a [UK Home Office assessment](#) published in January 2011 of the likely impact of a rise in the price of alcohol in Britain.

Last revised 09 February 2011

[▶ Comment on this entry](#) • [▶ Give us your feedback on the site \(one-minute survey\)](#)

Unable to obtain the document from the suggested source? Here's an [alternative](#).

Top 10 most closely related documents on this site. For more try a [subject or free text search](#)

[Economic impacts of alcohol pricing policy options in the UK](#) ABSTRACT 2011

[Independent review of the effects of alcohol pricing and promotion](#) STUDY 2008

[The likely impacts of increasing alcohol price: a summary review of the evidence base](#) ABSTRACT 2011

[Estimated effect of alcohol pricing policies on health and health economic outcomes in England: an epidemiological model](#) ABSTRACT 2010

[Model-based appraisal of alcohol minimum pricing and off-licensed trade discount bans in Scotland](#) STUDY 2009

[Alcohol misuse: tackling the UK epidemic](#) REVIEW 2008

[Effects of alcohol tax and price policies on morbidity and mortality: a systematic review](#) REVIEW 2010

[Alcohol pricing, consumption and criminal harm: a rapid evidence assessment of the published research literature](#) ABSTRACT 2010

[The effectiveness of tax policy interventions for reducing excessive alcohol consumption and related harms](#) REVIEW 2010

[Effects of beverage alcohol price and tax levels on drinking: a meta-analysis of 1003 estimates from 112 studies](#) REVIEW 2009