

Binge drinking costs billions

Britain's binge drinking culture is costing the country £20 billion a year, according to a government report. The study shows 17 million **working days** are lost to **hangovers** and alcohol-related **illness** each year.

Billions more are spent **dealing with** alcohol-related **crime** and social problems. In addition, alcohol is **responsible for** 22,000 **premature deaths** each year. The report found that there are 1.2 million **incidents** of alcohol-related **violence** a year. **Accidents** due to **intoxication** and alcohol-related illnesses land around 150,000 people in hospital each year.

It shows that one in three men and one in five women **indulge in** binge drinking. In addition, youngsters are starting to binge-drink at an earlier age. The binge-drinking period that was once **confined to** the late **teens** now often runs from 16 to 24, it said.

Ministers are planning to publish a strategy to **tackle** binge drinking and other alcohol-related problems next year.

Home Office Minister Hazel Blears said there would be a **drive** to give more information to young people about the risks of drinking too much. Ms Blears told Radio 4's Today programme: 'Information means young people can **make choices**, so I think education and **prevention** are going to be a big part of our **policy**.'

Professor Ian Gilmore, of the Royal College of Physicians, **urged** ministers to **act on** the report's **findings**: 'It's **crucial** that the government **follows up** this report **urgently** with strong **recommendations** to tackle the problem, including **labelling** of alcohol **content** and **health warnings** on drinks.'

Rob Hayward, chief executive of the British Beer and Pub Association, said: 'Alcohol **misuse** needs to be tackled and **treated**. We also need to get to the **root causes**. What **motivates** a significant number of people to go out on a Friday or Saturday night, **get drunk** and indulge in **drunken, antisocial behaviour**?'

▶ binge drinking	Komasaufen	phr	to go on a (drinking) binge
▶ working day	Arbeitstag	cf	weekday – Wochentag
▶ hangover	Kater	phr	to have a ~
▶ illness	Krankheit	≈	sickness, disease
▶ to deal with	fertig werden mit	≈	to cope with
▶ crime	Kriminalität	adj	criminal
▶ responsible for	verantwortlich für	n	responsibility
▶ premature ['preməʃə]	vorzeitig, frühzeitig	≈	(too) early
▶ death	Tod(esfall)	≈	fatality
▶ incident	Zwischenfall	≈	occurrence
▶ violence	Gewalt	adj	violent
▶ accident	Unfall	adj	accidental
▶ intoxication	Trunkenheit	adj	intoxicated
▶ to indulge in	Gefallen finden an	adj	indulgent
▶ confined to	beschränkt auf	≈	limited to
▶ teens	Jugend(jahre)	≈	teenage years
▶ to tackle	in Angriff nehmen	≈	to deal with
▶ drive	Aktion	≈	(concerted) effort
▶ to make choices	Entscheidungen treffen	cf	to choose (between)
▶ prevention	Vorbeugung	vt	to prevent
▶ policy	Politik	phr	government ~
▶ to urge sb to do sth	jdn drängen, etw zu tun	≈	to advise sb strongly to do sth
▶ to act on sth	handeln nach	adj	active
▶ findings	Ergebnisse	≈	results
▶ crucial ['kru:ʃl]	äußerst wichtig	≈	vital
▶ to follow sth up	etw weiterverfolgen	n	follow-up
▶ urgently	dringend	n	urgency
▶ recommendation	Empfehlung	vt	to recommend
▶ to label	kennzeichnen	n	label
▶ content	Gehalt	vt	to contain
▶ health warning	Hinweis auf Gesundheits- gefahren	vt	to warn (sb about sth)
▶ misuse [ˈmɪsˈju:s]	Missbrauch	≈	abuse
▶ to treat	behandeln	n	treatment
▶ root cause	Fehlerursache	≈	underlying cause
▶ to motivate	motivieren	n	motivation
▶ to get drunk	sich betrinken	<>	to stay sober
▶ drunken	betrunken	n	drunkenness
▶ anti-social	asozial	≈	offensive
▶ behaviour	Verhalten	vi	to behave