

Drink Driving Statistics released by Greater Manchester Police between January 2015 and December 2015

Summary

This is an analysis of alcohol-related motoring convictions across Greater Manchester throughout 2015. The data is broken down by gender, month, type of arrest and whether the offender was charged or not.

This report looks at any patterns of behaviour over the twelve months between both genders, puts forward reasons for any significant increases and suggests recommendations to reduce what is widespread and complex social problem.

Introduction

This report analyses motoring convictions relating to drink driving across Greater Manchester released by the Greater Manchester Police (GMP) throughout 2015.

Across the UK, 3000 people are killed or seriously injured each year in drink driving collisions on average.¹ On top of these figures, there is a further 5000 other casualties who suffer minor injuries.²

Around one in six of all deaths on the road involve drivers who are over the legal alcohol limit.³

In Manchester, 2012 (more recent figures leading up to 2016 can only be based on estimates) saw 336 collisions caused by alcohol. Five people lost their lives, 66 were seriously injured and 265 received slight injuries.⁴

It has been well-documented that drink driving is a serious problem in the Great Manchester area. According to official police records, children as young as 12 have been caught drink driving in the region.⁵

In fact, across the whole of the UK, five drink drivers under the age of 18 were caught by police across the country each week since 2008.

The records also show that Greater Manchester holds the highest number of under-age drink drivers, with 409 under-18s pulled over by police between 2008 and 2013.⁶

We look at the fluctuations across the year, the types of motoring offence being committed under the influence of alcohol and the gender disparity that sees drink driving a predominantly “male” problem.

Motoring offences relating to alcohol across Greater Manchester in 2015

¹ http://www.drinkdrivingfacts.com/drinkdriving/drink_driving_facts.aspx

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/ras51-reported-drinking-and-driving#table-ras51005>

³ http://www.drinkdrivingfacts.com/drinkdriving/drink_driving_facts.aspx

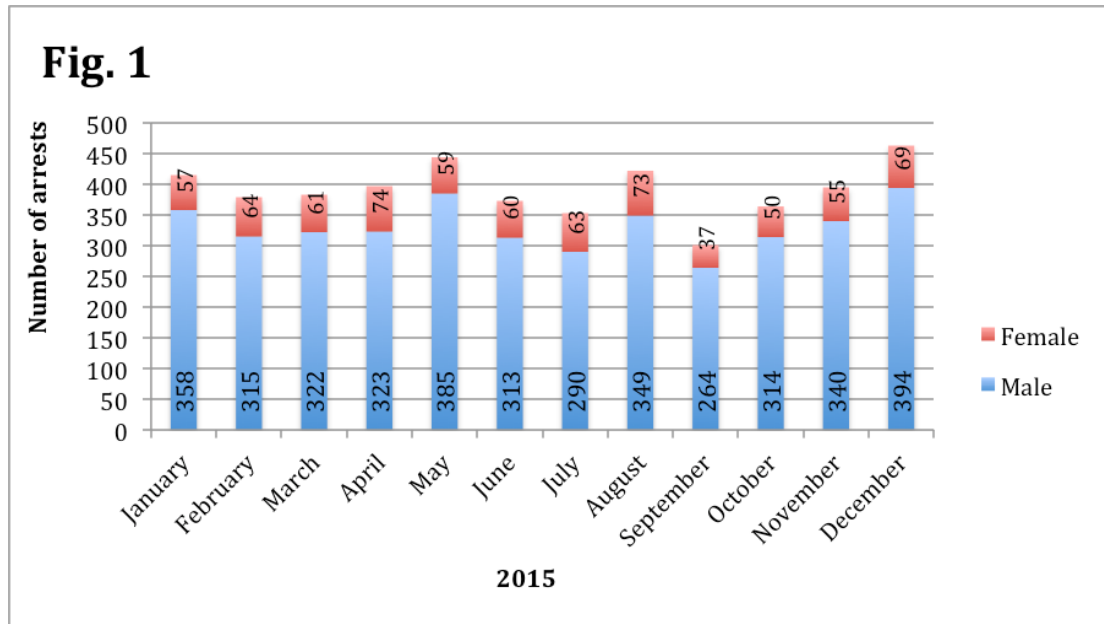
⁴ <http://www.gmp.police.uk/content/WebsitePages/EDF0E752151262FE80257C2A002E679D>

⁵ <http://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/greater-manchester-news/children-young-twelve-caught-drink-7869729>

⁶ <http://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/greater-manchester-news/children-young-twelve-caught-drink-7869729>

Greater Manchester Police have released full data on convictions relating to drink driving throughout the twelve months of 2015.

The information shows a clear spike in the amount of drink and driving arrests over the Christmas period. In Fig. 1 below, we can see the amount of offences reaches its peak in both May (444 arrests) and December (463 arrests)



While the December increase can be apportioned to the Christmas period, the May rise is unclear. However, the number of bank holidays and the onset of warmer weather could be possible reasons for encouraging a surge in alcohol consumption.

Female arrests are significantly less than male arrests. Throughout 2015, women accounted for between 12% and 18% of the overall monthly figures. In terms of percentage rates with their male counterparts, May and September were the lowest months for women at 13% and 12% respectively. April was the highest at 18%.

While a high majority of the figures relate to straightforward arrests for driving under the influence, there were other offences relating to alcohol such as robbery, affray, rape, perverting the course of justice and failure to stop after a road traffic accident.

Again, the vast majority of these related offences were committed by men. According to the data, women account for 0.7% of these related arrests.

Charges

The data conducted by GMP also provided information on those arrests that eventually led to charges.

The results are pretty consistent throughout the year. Of all males who get arrested, those who get charged stay around the 65%-70% area. Female charges also stay around this area. The figures even keep in line despite the rise in May and December.

Conclusions and recommendations

There is no doubt that drink driving is a deep and complex problem affecting every age group across all social strata. While traditional methods include annual Christmas crackdowns and campaigns, the problem exists throughout the year, often at a similar intensity.

What this report exposes is a need for a greater focus on the causes of drink driving. Emotional and mental health, drug abuse, previous criminal convictions, lack of opportunity, lack of rehabilitation services and even poor public transport services are some of the many factors responsible for the levels of arrests analysed in this report.

The fact that over 80% of these crimes are committed by men is significant. Figures on car owners, and those who consume alcohol are split fairly between both genders. However, looking at overall crime figures split between men and women, and this figure ties in – roughly 80% of arrests in the UK are male⁷. Despite this, this report would recommend increasing resources to help and work with young males from an early age when it comes to education on alcohol, drugs, emotional issues and career prospects.