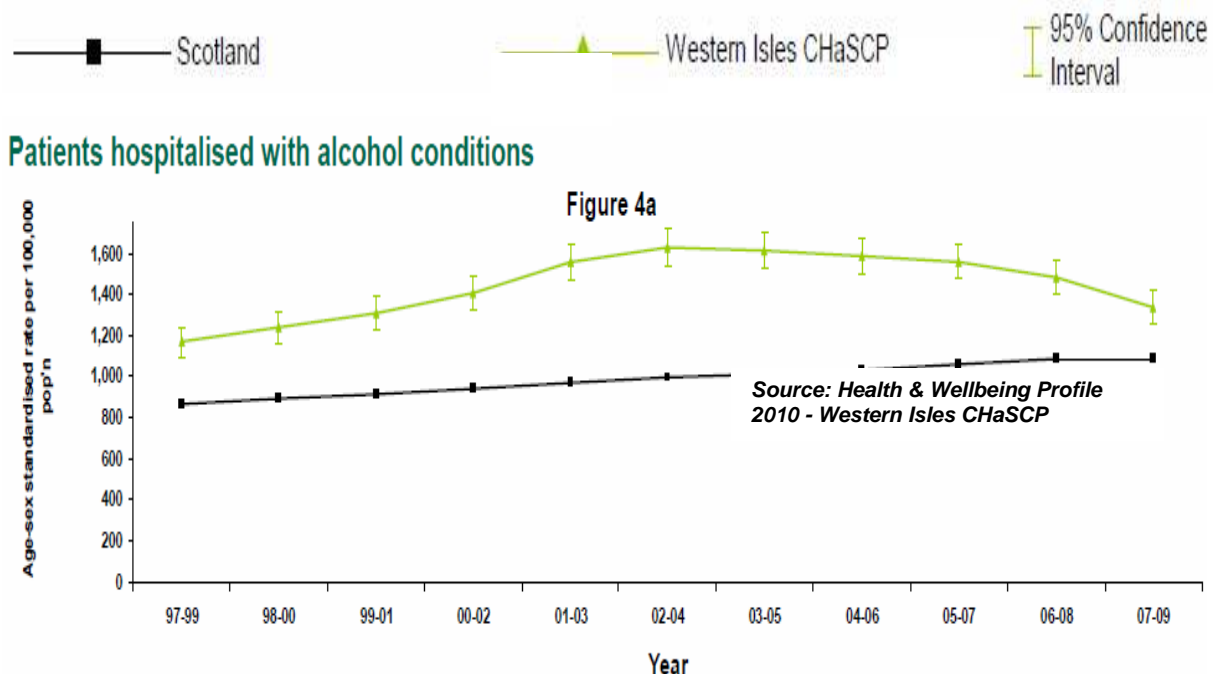


Alcohol - Local Statistics: 2005-2009

In the last five years the number of alcohol related discharges from general acute hospitals in the Outer Hebrides has been declining.

Between 2007/2008 and 2008/2009, the number of alcohol related discharges in the Outer Hebrides fell by more than 15%. Although it can be said that the number of alcohol related discharges has fallen in recent years it remains the case that the number of discharges in Outer Hebrides is still above the national average and is one of the highest in Scotland. There were 308 alcohol related discharges in the Outer Hebrides in 2008/09 – this represents a rate of 1,135 discharges per 100,000 population. In comparison the rate of discharges across Scotland was much lower – 762 per 100,000. This illustrates that the Outer Hebrides is one of the worst areas in Scotland with respect to alcohol related hospital discharges.

The Scottish Public Health Observatory (ScotPHO) collaborates and publishes Health and Wellbeing Profiles for all Scottish Community Health Partnerships (CHPs) on a biennially basis. The latest publication shows that there is a significantly high proportion of the population hospitalised with alcohol conditions. The rate of patients hospitalised with an alcohol related condition in the Outer Hebrides is statistically significantly 'worse' than the Scottish average.

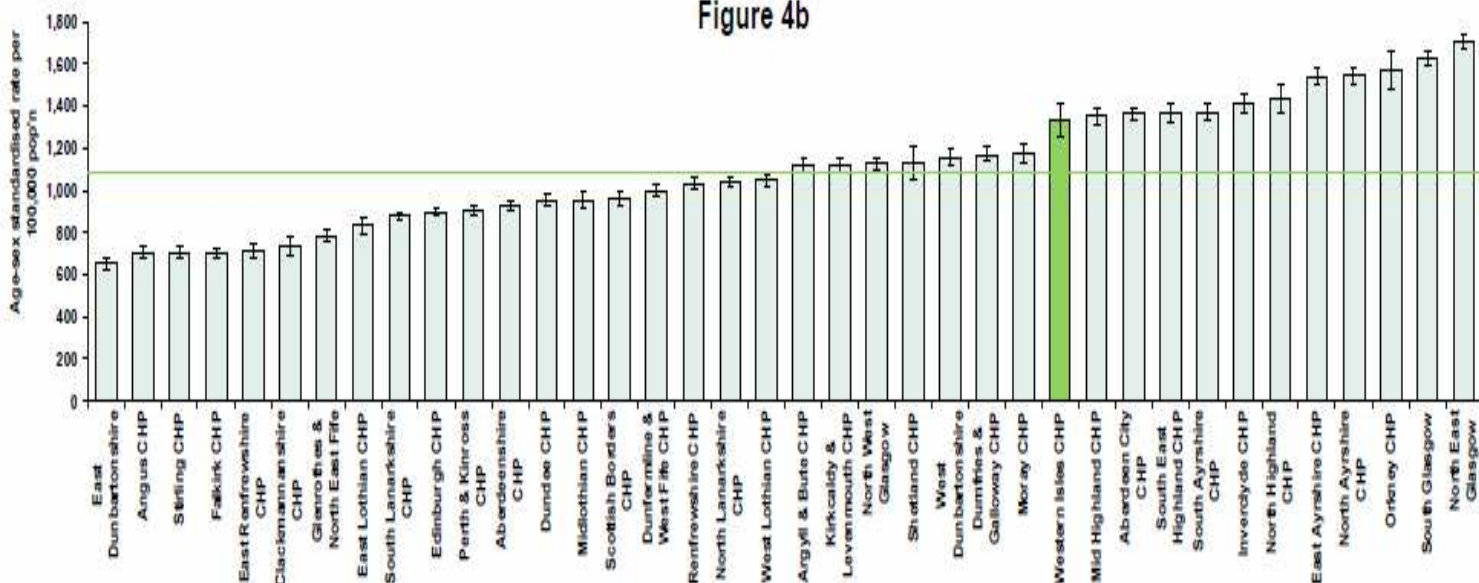


The patient hospitalisation rate for alcohol related conditions in the Outer Hebrides is one of the highest in the whole of Scotland. There are 38 CHPs across Scotland, and the Outer Hebrides has the 12th highest hospitalisation rate for alcohol related conditions.

Patients hospitalised with alcohol co

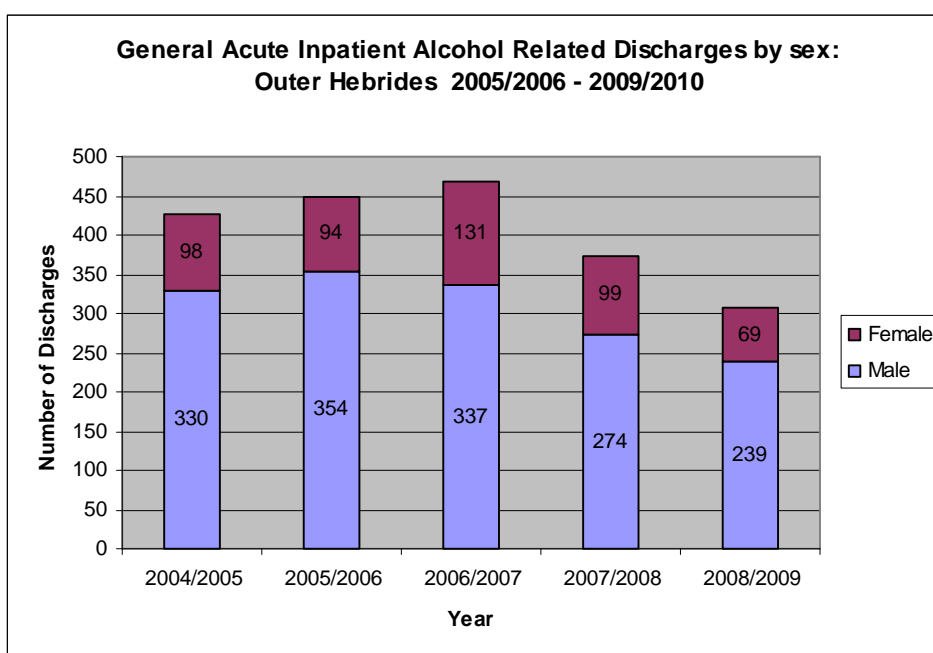
95% Confidence Interval

Figure 4b



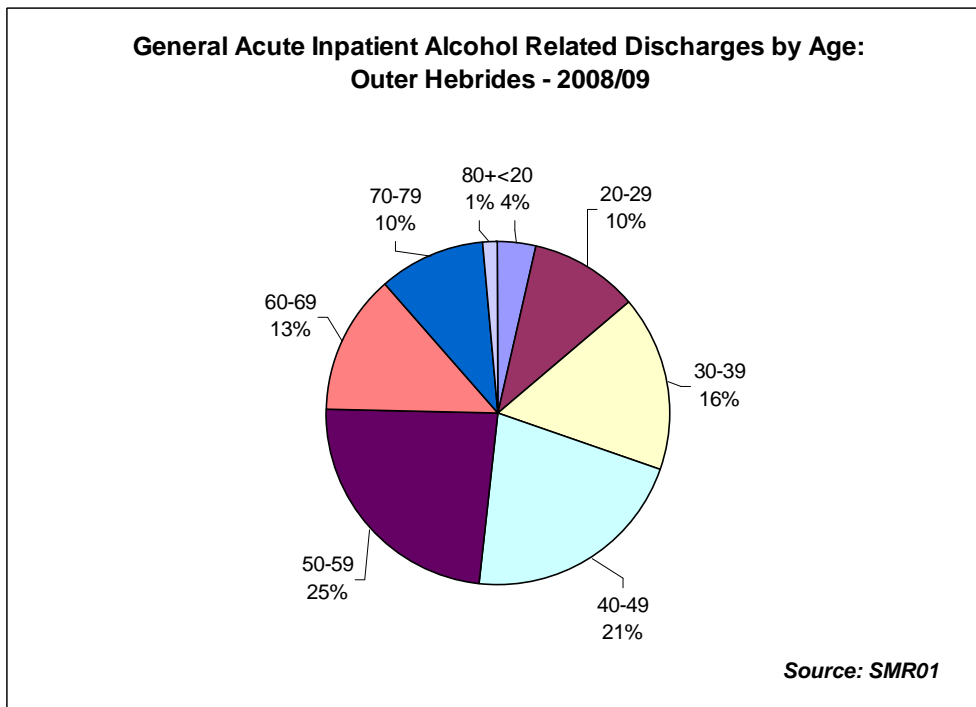
Source: Health & Wellbeing Profile 2010 - Western Isles CHaSCP

92% of the alcohol related admissions to general acute hospitals in the Outer Hebrides during 2008/09 were emergency admissions and 47% of these patients were admitted between Friday and Sunday. In both 2008/2009 77% of the alcohol related discharges in the Outer Hebrides were male. The number of male alcohol related discharges has remained reasonably stable over the last five-year period with it varying from 72% in 2006/2007 to 79% in 2005/2006 and has never fallen below 70% during that period. This also mirrors national figures, where male patients account for approximately 70% of all alcohol related discharges in the last five years.

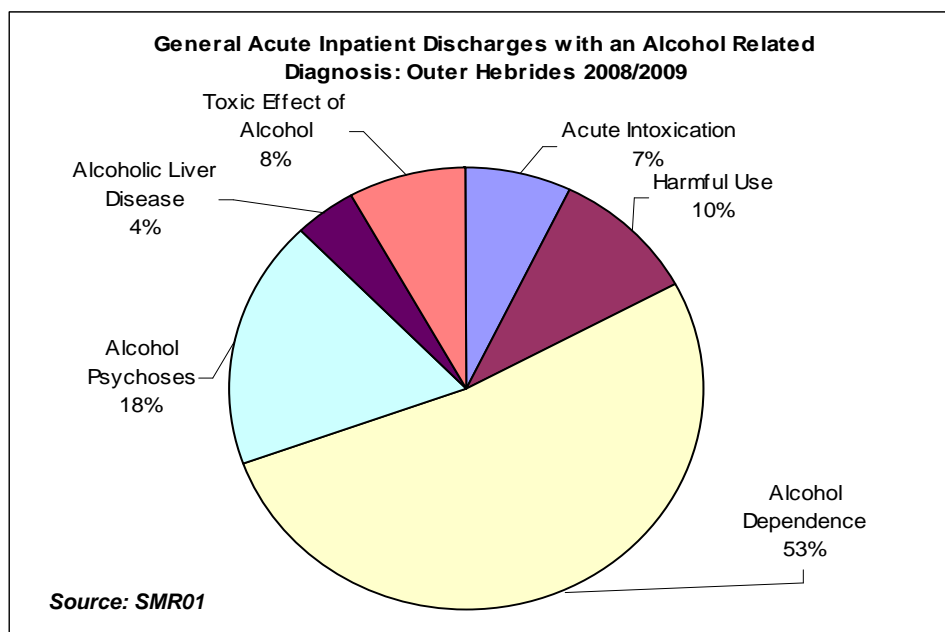


Within the Outer Hebrides in 2008/09 the greatest incidence of alcohol related discharges occurred in the 50-59 years age group; closely followed by the 40-49 years age group. These results are similar to national figures, which show that on average

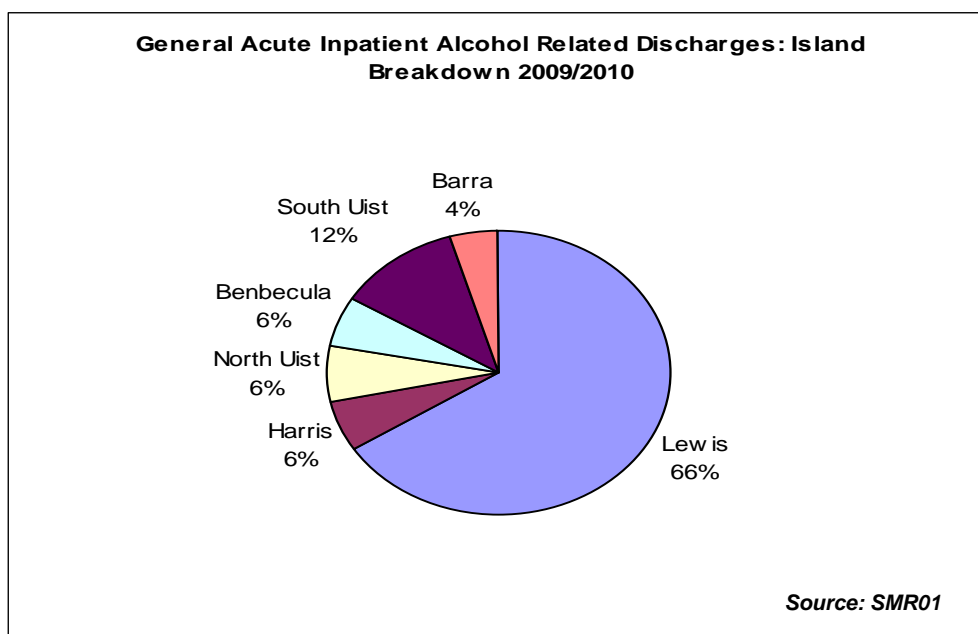
the greatest incidence of alcohol related discharges across Scotland occurs in the 40-49 and the 50-59 years age group. The number of alcohol related discharges in young people (<25 years), is relatively low both in the Outer Hebrides and across Scotland. In the last five years there has been a significant decrease in the number of alcohol related discharges for those aged ≤ 16 years in the Outer Hebrides. The majority of these discharges were in the 14-15 years age group and there appears to be no difference between male and female drinkers.



The majority of alcohol related hospital admissions in the Outer Hebrides is due to alcohol dependency, and accounts for over 50% of the alcohol related admissions in 2008/09 alone. The proportion of alcohol related admissions for alcohol dependency is far greater in the Outer Hebrides than it is on a national level with alcohol dependency accounting for just over 10% for the alcohol related admissions across the whole of Scotland. In comparison, the number of admissions with a diagnosis of harmful use of alcohol accounted for almost a third of the total admissions. This suggests that the Outer Hebrides has a larger problem than anywhere else of entrenched alcohol dependency and less of a problem with the harmful use of alcohol.

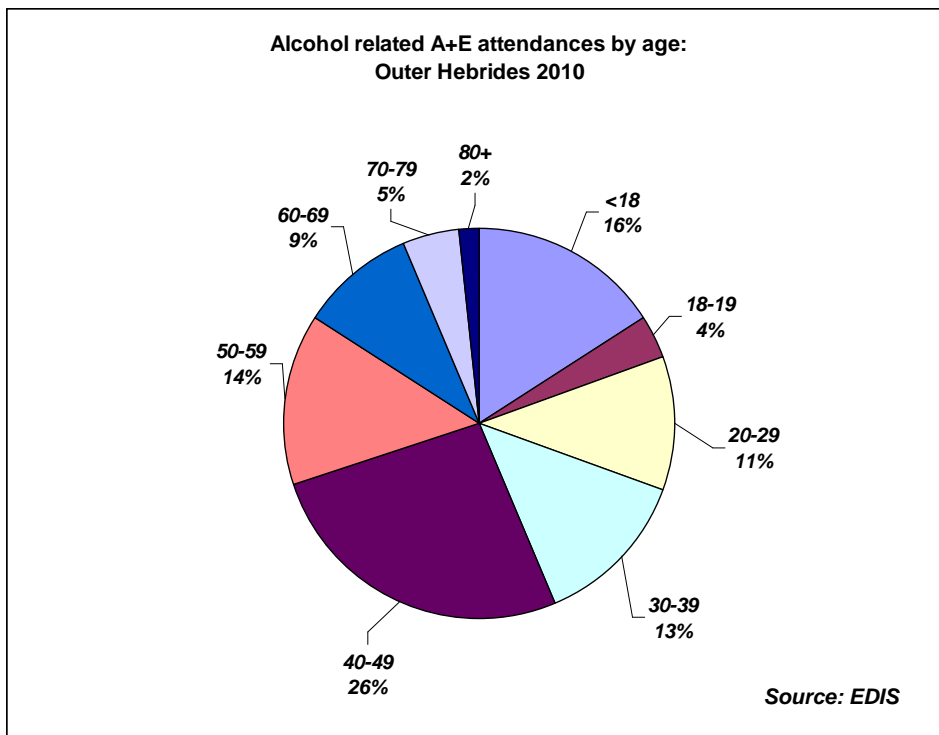


The majority of patients admitted to general acute hospitals in the Outer Hebrides with alcohol related diagnosis in 2009/10 lived in Lewis. However, in recent years the proportion of these patients who are admitted with alcohol related diagnosis and live in Lewis has been falling. In the last five years there has been an increase in the number of alcohol related discharges among residents of Harris and South Uist. The number of alcohol related discharges in the other areas of the Outer Hebrides has remained reasonably stable over the last five years.

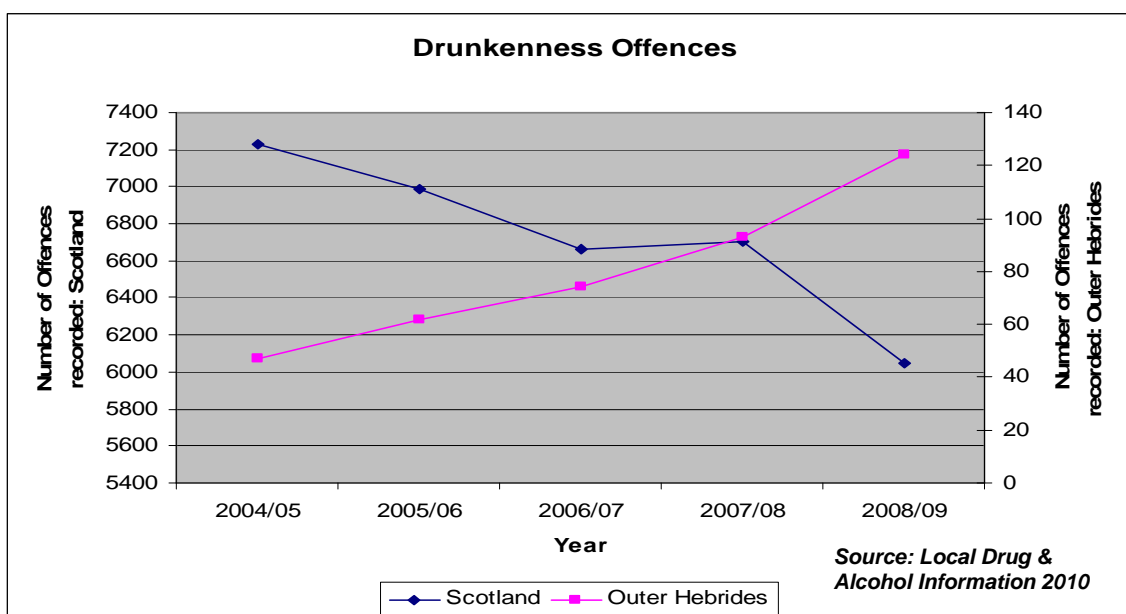


For the last 5 years the episodes of alcohol related discharges from the psychiatric unit in the Outer Hebrides has been especially low. The number of discharges in 2008/2009 was below the permissible level for reporting. Over the last 5 years the numbers of alcohol related discharges from the psychiatric unit has been fluctuating and on the majority of occasions the discharges are categorised as 'mental and behavioural disorders' relating to alcohol use. None of the patients that were seen in 2008/2009 were under 16 years of age. It is important to note that there is no psychiatry hospital in the Outer Hebrides and that there is only an Acute Psychiatry Unit which has been reducing its bed numbers steadily over recent years. Therefore, caution must be taken when interpreting the data and when making comparisons to national figures.

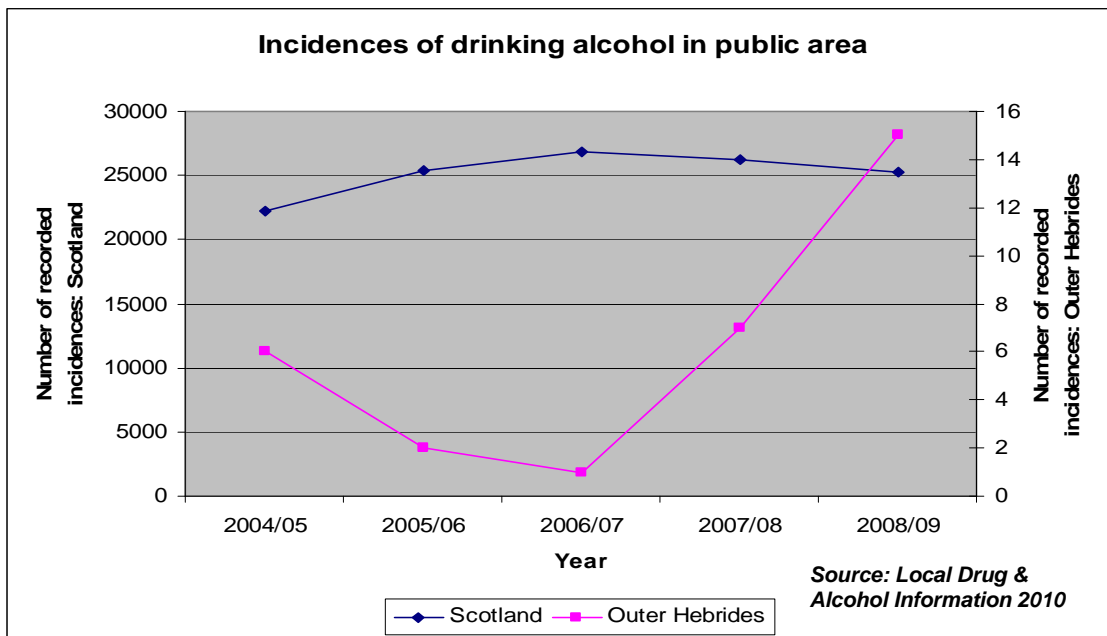
In 2010 there were 184 alcohol-related attendances at A+E in the Outer Hebrides – an average of 15.3 attendances per month. Half of these attendees were then admitted to hospital. The majority of attendees (41%) were seen for an injury or laceration that occurred while under the influence of alcohol. Furthermore, a large proportion (18%) was seen in A+E simply for being intoxicated. Out of all the alcohol related A+ E attendances that were recorded in the Outer Hebrides in 2010, there were 140 individual patients seen. Therefore the average number of alcohol related attendances per patient was 1.3, thus suggesting that several patients were seen in A+E numerous times for alcohol-related issues during 2010. Attendees varied in age from 13 years to 86 years with the median age being 41. The majority of attendees were aged 40-49 and account for over a quarter of all alcohol related attendances at A+E in 2010. A large number of alcohol related A+E attendances were among those ages <18 years. The majority of under 18's were seen for being intoxicated and almost a third of these children were subsequently admitted to hospital.



The number of drunken offences recorded in the Outer Hebrides has been increasing year on year in the last five years. Between 2007/08 and 2008/09 alone the recorded number of drunken offences increased by a third from 93 to 124. However, national figures show the complete reverse - the number of drunken offences in Scotland as a whole has fallen in the last five years. In 2004/05 there were 7,234 offences recorded while in 2008/09 6,045 offences were recorded.



While the number of incidences of drinking alcohol in public areas across the whole of Scotland had remained fairly constant in the last five years the same cannot be said of the Outer Hebrides. The number of incidences reported fell between 2004/05 and 2006/07; however since 2006/07 the number of incidences has increased considerably. In 2006/07, there was only 1 reported incident of drinking alcohol in a public area while in 2008/09 there were 15 reported incidences.



The number of drink driving offences reported in the Outer Hebrides over the last five years has been fluctuating, peaking in 2005/06 with 117 incidences being reported. In 2008/09 only 73 drink driving offences were reported, this was the lowest number of incidences in the last five years. National figures have also fluctuated in recent years, peaking in 2006/07 with 11,704 incidences being reported. However since then the number has fallen with only 9,800 incidences being reported in 2008/09.

