

## Carly Lightowlers

A study of the development of drinking patterns and violent behaviour amongst young people in England and Wales: secondary analysis of the Offending Crime and Justice Survey.

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### PhD summary

Whilst alcohol is consumed safely and sensibly by many, specific alcohol consumption patterns such as heavy episodic drinking (sometimes referred to as 'binge drinking') have been associated with interpersonal assault. Young people in the UK drink more heavily than their European counterparts and experience higher levels of alcohol-related harm, including violence. Despite recent concerns surrounding gang, gun and knife crime, most violent incidents are less serious day to day assaults of which many are thought to be fuelled by alcohol. Subsequently, young people's drinking and associated violence have been identified as serious public health and criminal justice concerns.

In light of the destructive impact that both alcohol consumption and violence can have on society, looking at young people's drinking behaviour and associated violent behaviour is essential in order to understand how drinking behaviours are adopted and how these are associated with violent behaviour. My research addresses the question of whether the development of particular alcohol consumption patterns and attitudes towards alcohol consumption are associated with the development of violent behaviour amongst young people.

**Research questions:** The research questions I intend to address include:

- Is the development of alcohol consumption patterns associated with the development of violent behaviour amongst young people? and
- How do attitudes and expectancies mediate the relationship between alcohol consumption and violent behaviour in adolescence and young adulthood?

### Methods

I intend to run secondary statistical analyses on data from the Home Office Offending Crime and Justice Survey (OCJS); a survey offering an insight into young people's lives, their drinking and offending behaviour over four successive annual sweeps. A number of cross-sectional models will be run to look at the predictors of violent offending, the role of alcohol consumption and associated expectancies. These will then be extended to longitudinal models to examine change over time and developmental trajectories in relation to alcohol consumption and violent behaviour. Collectively these models will form a detailed exploration of how alcohol consumption and associated expectancies influence the development of violent behaviour amongst young people and hopefully offer some insight into ways in which alcohol-related violent behaviour can potentially be moderated.

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