# Alcohol-Related Harm Costs England £27.4 Billion Annually, Outstripping Tax Revenues



The estimated annual cost of alcohol-related harm in England is £27.4 billion, as reported by the Institute of Alcohol Studies (IAS). This marks a notable increase of over 40% since 2003. In contrast, tax revenues from alcohol amount to approximately £12.5 billion each year. According to the IAS, these figures underscore the financial burden of alcohol harm compared to its tax contributions.

The costs associated with alcohol harm encompass £4.9 billion for the NHS, equivalent to nearly half of the salaries for nurses in England. Moreover, £14.58 billion is tied to crime and disorder, and £5.06 billion relates to diminished workplace productivity. The North East region bears the highest per capita cost, estimated at £562 annually.

Representatives from various organizations, including the Alcohol Health Alliance and Turning Point, expressed concerns over the rising impact of alcohol harm. They highlighted the need for comprehensive governmental strategies and early intervention to address this issue.

Conversely, Matt Lambert of the Portman Group, representing the alcohol industry, emphasized the economic benefits of moderate alcohol consumption and pointed out the sector’s commitment to promoting responsible drinking.

The Department of Health and Social Care mentioned ongoing efforts to support alcohol and drug programs, including reforms to alcohol duty and funding for specialist alcohol care teams in high-need hospitals.