

Ladette binge-drinking violence soars by 300% in just seven years

By [Simon Walters](#)

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Violent attacks by binge-drinking teenage girls have risen by nearly 300 per cent in seven years in a frightening wave of 'ladette' violence.

And while more and more teenage girls are going on the rampage, criminal behaviour by teenage boys is on the decrease.

The extraordinary turnaround in teenage lawlessness emerges in figures that have been obtained by the highly respected Youth Justice Board.

It claims that new research suggests the number of violent offences against the person carried out by girls aged between ten and 17 has increased from 6,000 in 2001 to almost 23,000 last year.

Alcohol is one of the main factors: approximately one in three girls aged 15 to 16 admits that she binge-drinks.

Binge drinking: There has been a rise in teenage girls going on the rampage while criminal behaviour by teenage boys is reducing

The total number of offences by girls aged ten to 17 resulting in court action in 2007/08 was 58,500, a ten
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per cent rise in two years.

Nearly four in ten crimes committed by girls involved violent assault. Nearly one in three involved handling stolen goods.

The girls with the worst record in the group are aged 15 and 16.

However, while the total number of offences by teenage boys is still much higher – 120,000 – the number has fallen by six per cent in the same period.

If the trends were to continue, the number of crimes by teenage girls could catch up with their male counterparts in four to five years.

These findings are from research conducted by the Youth Justice Board based on cases in 2007/08 which led to courts imposing a community or custodial sentence or a supervision order.

It also included a MORI survey which asked young people how much they drink and whether they have broken the law.

In December, Home Secretary Jacqui Smith announced a new alcohol offensive that would bar pubs and supermarkets from mounting 'irresponsible' promotions, with anyone in breach of the rules hit with up to six months in jail and a £20,000 fine.

However, a series of measures initially intended to be included in the offensive were shelved at the last minute amid fears that during a recession, responsible drinkers would object to plans to end cut-price, loss-leading deals such as happy hours.

Plans to put health warnings on alcohol labels, to raise the minimum age at which children can drink at home and proposed rules for supermarkets to have specific checkouts for alcohol sales were also shelved.

Ms Smith's office said the Government was aiming for a 'targeted approach' rather than a 'blanket ban'.

The word 'ladette', defined as a young woman who behaves in a boisterously assertive or crude manner and engages in heavy drinking sessions, entered the dictionary in 2001 after first emerging as a modern phenomenon in the mid-Nineties.

It was publicised and encouraged by the brash, tomboyish public behaviour of celebrities such as Radio 1 DJs Sara Cox and Zoe Ball, and has subsequently been given a boost by social networking sites like Facebook.

Hundreds of thousands of women have signed up to online forums where they boast about their antics and proudly post pictures showing them in various states of inebriation and undress, including kneeling over lavatories, being sick, exposing themselves or answering a call of nature in public.

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All thanks to Labour.

- Dino Fancellu, Epsom, Surrey, 01/3/2009 09:12

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New Labour will insist that their relaxation of the laws on alcohol has not caused this but the country knows different and hopefully will vote the evil scum out of office at the next General Election.

Just imagine what the health costs are going to be in years to come with all the diseases which will manifest themselves. Of course there will be fewer adults paying national insurance to cover the costs. Privatisation of the NHS will be the only alternative or perhaps forcing these drunken slobs to pay for their own healthcare.

- DG, Haywards Heath, 01/3/2009 09:09

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Teenage girls behaving like 'ladettes', don't you mean 'sluts'?

- Katie, Stoke, 01/3/2009 09:06

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- Tez, Leominster, Herefordshire, 01/3/2009 08:54

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It is time to place strict limits on the hours pubs and clubs can open. If people cannot control their alcohol consumption, then control must be enforced upon them. Pity about the few people left who just enjoy an occasional social drink with friends though.

- Renee, Melbourne, Australia, 01/3/2009 08:48

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When will people in general, not just these pathetic ladettes (and lads its got to be said) begin to appreciate 'having a good time' doesn't have to involve alcohol? Alcohol brings so much unhappiness and problems. Increasingly people are using alcohol to have a 'bad time'. Perverse or what! I wish as a society we had a more mature attitude to alcohol.

- Steve H, Hapton, England, 01/3/2009 08:45

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