



Risk ... Boozing

Mums' booze binges cause kid disorder

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BINGE drinking young women are causing a rise in kids born with learning disabilities.

A top Government adviser issued the warning.

Professor Barry Carpenter said huge numbers of 19 to 24-year-olds are boozing heavily, having unplanned pregnancies, then drinking in the vital first 13 weeks.

Prof Carpenter, the national director for special educational needs, told a nursing summit there had been a 25 per cent rise in children with learning disabilities in the past five years, taking the number to 950,000.

Foetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder - caused by poisoning in the womb - has also soared and is now thought to affect one in 100. The condition causes facial deformities, severe learning problems and hyperactivity.

Prof Carpenter told journal Learning Disability Practice: "Drunken young women are poisoning their babies - it's child abuse by umbilical cord." He added: "Thirty per cent of people with FASD commit suicide in later life because their lives are unbearable."

Mervi Jokinen of the Royal College of Midwives said: "We would advise women trying to start a family to stop drinking alcohol."

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