Scotland Alcohol Profile



September 2025

There are 16,560 places you can buy alcohol in Scotland:

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11,405 on-sales premises (pubs and restaurants)





5,155 off-sales premises (supermarkets and shops)

Scottish Liquor Licensing Statistics 2020-21.



Parental drinking was a concern identified for 19% of children on the child protection register in Scotland.

Children's Social Work Statistics 2021-22.

1 in 6 of ambulance callouts in 2019 were alcohol related.

Manca, F. et al (2021).













There were 35,187 alcohol-related hospital admissions in 2021-22.

Someone is hospitalised because of alcohol every 15 minutes.



Alcohol related hospital statistics 2021-22.

In 2024, 1,185 people lost their lives due to conditions caused solely by alcohol.

Alcohol-specific deaths 2024 (NRS, 2025)

The true number of alcohol deaths is over 3 times as high when including conditions such as cancer and cardiovascular diseases.



NHS Health Scotland.

In 2023, 1 in 5 people drank more than the Chief Medical Officer's low-risk quidelines.

This includes 14% of women and 28% of men.



Scottish Health Survey 2023

33% of S2 students and 59% of S4 students in Scotland drink alcohol.

10% of S2 students and 33% of S4 students in Scotland drink alcohol at least once a month.

Health and Wellbeing Census Scotland 2021- 2022.

Alcohol consumption accounted for 8% of the burden of disease in Scotland in 2015.

This includes years in poor health, hospital admissions, and deaths due to alcohol.

Scottish Public Health Observatory 2018.

Every year, alcohol costs Scotland at least £3.6 billion. This includes:

Health service	£268m
Social care	£231m
Crime	£727m
Productive capacity	£866m



The Societal Cost of Alcohol Misuse in Scotland for 2007.

For full references and explanatory notes, visit www.alcohol-focus-scotland.org.uk/alcohol-information/local-alcohol-profiles

About Alcohol Focus Scotland



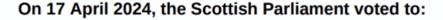
Alcohol is seen as an integral part of Scottish life which contributes to the economy.

However, alcohol also:

- Causes more than 200 health conditions and is linked to seven types of cancer
- · Causes relationship breakdowns, family difficulties, and makes children feel unsafe
- Costs Scotland immeasurable damage to individuals and those around them, and at least £3.6 billion each year



The Scottish Government has significant powers to legislate and protect people from alcohol harm



- √ Continue MUP beyond the end of April 2024
- ✓ Increase MUP to 65p per unit from 30 September 2024



What we need next:

- An automatic uprating mechanism to link MUP to affordability into the future
- An alcohol harm prevention levy on retailers' profits from MUP, to support local action on preventing alcohol harms and improving treatment and recovery support



Alcohol Focus Scotland

We are the national charity working to prevent and reduce alcohol harm.

We want to see fewer people have their health damaged or lives cut short due to alcohol, fewer children and families suffering as a result of other people's drinking, and communities free from alcohol-related crime and violence.

To help achieve this vision, we campaign for evidence-based policies to reduce alcohol-related harm.



For more information on our work, please visit <u>alcohol-focus-scotland.org.uk</u> or follow us on Twitter @AlcoholFocus

