

# Argyll & Bute Alcohol Profile

March 2026

There are **602 places to buy alcohol** in Argyll & Bute:

**451 on-sales premises**  
(pubs and restaurants)

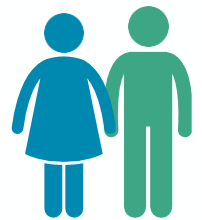


**151 off-sales premises**  
(supermarkets and shops)

*Scottish Liquor Licensing Statistics 2021-22.*

In Argyll & Bute, **23% of people** drink above the Chief Medical Officers' low-risk guidelines.

This includes **15% of women** and **32% of men**.



This compares to **20% of people** in Scotland who drink above the guidelines.

*Scottish Health Survey.*



Parental drinking was a concern identified for **7% of children** on the child protection register in Argyll & Bute.

*Children's Social Work Statistics 2022-23.*

**44% of 13-year-olds** and **78% of 15-year-olds** in Argyll & Bute have drunk alcohol.

Of those who have ever drunk alcohol, **56% of 13-year-olds** and **74% of 15-year-olds** have been drunk.



*Scottish Schools Adolescent Lifestyle and Substance Use Survey 2018.*

There were **585 alcohol-related hospital admissions** in Argyll & Bute in 2024-25.

*PHS Alcohol related hospital statistics 2024-25.*

The admission rate was higher than for Scotland as a whole.

*PHS Alcohol related hospital statistics 2024-25.*

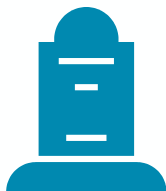


In Argyll & Bute, **22 people** died because of alcohol in 2024, from conditions solely caused by alcohol.

*Alcohol-specific deaths 2024 (NRS, 2025).*

The death rate was higher than Scotland as a whole.

*Alcohol-specific deaths 2024 (NRS, 2025).*



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

*Public Health Scotland.*

Every year, alcohol costs Argyll & Bute **£27.98m** or **£314 per person**.

This includes:

Health Service	£4.01m
Social Care	£3.45m
Crime	£10.42m
Productive Capacity	£10.10m



*The Societal Cost of Alcohol Misuse in Scotland for 2007.*

For full references and methods, visit [www.alcohol-focus-scotland.org.uk/harm-profiles/](http://www.alcohol-focus-scotland.org.uk/harm-profiles/)

## About Alcohol Focus Scotland

Alcohol Focus Scotland (AFS) is the national charity working to prevent and reduce alcohol harm.

Alcohol Focus Scotland is a Registered Scottish Charity (SC009538) and a Company Limited by Guarantee (Scottish Company No. SC094096)