

# City of Edinburgh Alcohol Profile

March 2026

There are **1,952 places to buy alcohol** in Edinburgh:

**1,467 on-sales premises**  
(pubs and restaurants)

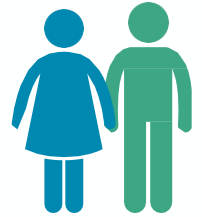


**485 off-sales premises**  
(supermarkets and shops)

*Scottish Liquor Licensing Statistics 2021-22.*

In Edinburgh, **28% of people** drink above the Chief Medical Officers' low-risk guidelines.

This includes **21% of women** and **36% 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 **19% of children** on the child protection register in Edinburgh.

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

**38% of S2 and S4 students** in Edinburgh drink alcohol.

**16% of S2 and S4 students** in Edinburgh drink alcohol at least once a month.



*Health and Wellbeing Census Scotland 2021- 2022.*

There were **2,004 alcohol-related hospital admissions** in Edinburgh in 2024 -25.

*Alcohol related hospital statistics 2024-25.*

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

*Alcohol related hospital statistics 2024-25.*

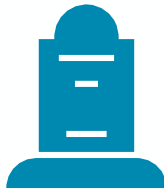


In Edinburgh, **92 people** died because of alcohol in 2024, from conditions solely caused by alcohol.

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

The death rate was lower 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 Edinburgh **£221.28m** or **£455 per person**.

This includes:

Health Service	£23.36m
Social Care	£29.91m
Crime	£82.21m
Productive Capacity	£85.70m



*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)