

Orkney Islands Alcohol Profile

March 2026

There are **104 places to buy alcohol** in the Orkney Islands:

66 on-sales premises
(pubs and restaurants)



38 off-sales premises
(supermarkets and shops)

Scottish Liquor Licensing Statistics 2021-22.

In the Orkney Islands, **22% of people** drink above the Chief Medical Officers' low-risk guidelines.

This includes **17% of women** and **27% of men**.



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

Scottish Health Survey.

There were **93 alcohol-related hospital admissions** in the Orkney Islands in 2024-25.

Alcohol related hospital statistics 2024-25.

The admission rate was lower to Scotland as a whole.

Alcohol related hospital statistics 2024-25



39% of 13-year-olds and **76% of 15-year-olds** in the Orkney Islands have drunk alcohol.

Of those who have ever drunk alcohol, **40% of 13-year-olds** and **71% of 15-year-olds** have been drunk.

Scottish Schools Adolescent Lifestyle and Substance Use Survey 2018.



Every year, alcohol costs the Orkney Islands **£6.30m or £313 per person**.

This includes:

Health Service	£1.07m
Social Care	£0.95m
Crime	£1.60m
Productive Capacity	£2.67m

The Societal Cost of Alcohol Misuse in Scotland for 2007.



In the Orkney Islands, **2 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.

For full references and methods, visit 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.

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