

# Scotland Alcohol Profile

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



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



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

*Scottish Liquor Licensing Statistics 2020-21.*

In 2022, **22%** of people drank more than the Chief Medical Officer's low-risk guidelines.

This includes **15%** of women and **31%** of men.



*Scottish Health Survey 2022.*

**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.*

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



*Children's Social Work Statistics 2020-21.*

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

*Manca, F. et al (2021).*



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

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

*Scottish Public Health Observatory 2018.*

There were **29,430** alcohol-related hospital admissions in 2024-25.

Someone is hospitalised because of alcohol **every 15 minutes**.

*Alcohol related hospital statistics 2024-25.*



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.*

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

*Alcohol-specific deaths 2025.*

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

*NHS Health Scotland.*



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.

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