

Scottish Borders Alcohol Profile

March 2026

There are **456 places to buy alcohol** in Scottish Borders:

343 on-sales premises
(pubs and restaurants)

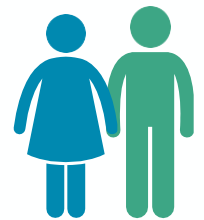


113 off-sales premises
(supermarkets and shops)

Scottish Liquor Licensing Statistics 2021-22.

In Scottish Borders, **25% of people** drink above the Chief Medical Officers' low-risk guidelines.

This includes **17% of women** and **35% 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 **12% of children** on the child protection register in Scottish Borders.

Children's Social Work Statistics 2022-23.

There were **348 alcohol-related hospital admissions** in Scottish Borders 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.

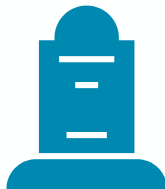


In Scottish Borders, **20 people** died because of alcohol in 2024, from conditions solely caused by alcohol.

Alcohol-specific deaths 2024 (NRS, 2025).

The death rate was lower than for 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.

53% of S2 and S4 students in Scottish Borders drink alcohol.

28% of S2 and S4 students in Scottish Borders drink alcohol at least once a month.

Health and Wellbeing Census Scotland 2021- 2022.



Every year, alcohol costs Scottish Borders **£30.50m or £270 per person**.

This includes:

Health Service	£4.31m
Social Care	£5.27m
Crime	£10.62m
Productive Capacity	£10.29m



The Societal Cost of Alcohol Misuse in Scotland for 2007.

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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