

Shetland Islands Alcohol Profile

March 2026

There are **147 places to buy alcohol** in the Shetland Islands:

104 on-sales premises (pubs and restaurants)

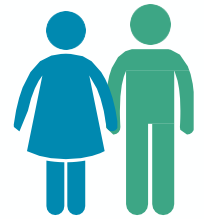


43 off-sales premises (supermarkets and shops)

Scottish Liquor Licensing Statistics 2021-22.

In the Shetland Islands, **19% of people** drink above the Chief Medical Officers' low-risk guidelines.

This includes **12% of women** and **27% 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 **5% of children** on the child protection register in the Shetland Islands.

Children's Social Work Statistics 2022-23.

There were **75 alcohol-related hospital admissions** in the Shetland Islands in 2024-25.

Alcohol related hospital statistics 2024-25.

The admission rate was less than Scotland as a whole.

Alcohol related hospital statistics 2024-25.



60% of S2 and S4 students in the Shetland Islands drink alcohol.

34% of S2 and S4 students in the Shetland Islands drink alcohol at least once a month.

Health and Wellbeing Census Scotland 2021- 2022.

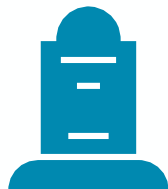


In the Shetland Islands, **3 people** died because of alcohol in 2024, from conditions solely caused by alcohol.

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 the Shetland Islands **£8.84m** or **£395 per person**.

This includes:

Health Service	£1.33m
Social Care	£1.96m
Crime	£2.10m
Productive Capacity	£3.45m



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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