Highland Alcohol Profile



November 2024

There are 1,244 places to buy alcohol in Highland:

922 on-sales premises (pubs and restaurants)





322 off-sales premises (supermarkets and shops)

Scottish Liquor Licensing Statistics 2021-22.

In Highland, 20% of people drink above the Chief Medical Officers' low-risk guidelines.

This includes 14% 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 15% of children on the child protection register in Highland.

Children's Social Work Statistics 2022-23.

39% of 13-year-olds and 72% of 15-year-olds in Highland have drunk alcohol.

Of those who have ever drunk alcohol, 52% of 13-year-olds and 72% of 15-year-olds have been drunk.

Scottish Schools Adolescent Lifestyle and Substance Use Survey 2018.

There were 1,260 alcohol-related hospital admissions in Highland in 2022-23.

Alcohol related hospital statistics 2022-23.

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





In Highland, 53 people died because of alcohol in 2023, from conditions solely caused by alcohol.

Alcohol-specific deaths 2023.

The death rate was higher than Scotland as a whole.



Alcohol-specific deaths 2023.

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 Highland £84.85m or £383 per person.

This includes:

Health Service	£10.40m	
Social Care	£8.51m	
Crime	£33.11m	
Productive Capacity	£32.83m	£

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