

# Orkney Islands Alcohol Profile

November 2024

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 **123 alcohol-related hospital admissions** in the Orkney Islands in 2022-23.

*Alcohol related hospital statistics 2022-23.*

The admission rate was similar to Scotland as a whole.



*ScotPho Profiles.*

**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, **5 people** died because of alcohol in 2023, from conditions solely caused by alcohol.

*Alcohol-specific deaths 2023.*

The death rate was lower 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.*

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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