

National Records of Scotland – Alcohol Related Deaths Report

Main points

- In 2014, there were 1,152 alcohol-related deaths, on the basis of the current definition (details available via [Alcohol Related Deaths - the Coverage of the Statistics](#) section); an increase of 52 (five per cent) compared with 1,100 in 2013, and the third lowest annual total since 1997. The 1,080 such deaths registered in 2012 was the lowest number since 1997, and the 2013 figure was the second lowest.
- These figures may fluctuate from year to year. [Chart 1](#) shows the number for each year, together with the 5-year moving annual average (as an indication of any overall trend) and the likely range of statistical variability around it (which is explained in the [Background](#) paper - PDF 21 Kb). It will be seen that almost all the year-to-year fluctuations over the period since 1979 have been within what would be expected to be the likely range of statistical variability.
- The number of alcohol-related deaths was relatively stable, at roughly 600 per year, during the 1980s. It then increased rapidly during the 1990s and early 2000s, to around 1,500 per year in the mid-2000s. The figure of 1,546 in 2006 was the largest so far recorded: since then, the trend has appeared to be downwards, as the rises in some years have been small (compared to the falls in the other years) and could well be due to year-to-year variability. Having two consecutive increases does not necessarily mean a change to the long-term downward trend, because 1,152 alcohol-related deaths registered in 2014 is not far from the figure for that year that one would obtain by extrapolating the downward trend shown by the values of the 5-year moving annual average since the mid-2000s. Two consecutive but relatively small increases could arise as a result of year-to-year fluctuations.
- [Table 1](#) shows that the 1,152 alcohol-related deaths in 2014 consisted of 784 male deaths and 368 female deaths. Over the years since 1979, there have been roughly twice as many male deaths as female deaths, with the two figures tending to rise and fall together (although there have been some exceptions, as the ratio has been as low as 1.4:1 and as high as 2.4:1).
- In 2014, there were 146 alcohol-related deaths of people who in the 30-44 age-group, 18 fewer than in 2013 and the second lowest figure since 1995 (2012 had the lowest). The number of deaths of people aged 45-59 was 482, 10 more than in 2013, and the third lowest figure since 1997. There was an increase of 36 in deaths of 60-74 year olds, to 395, which was the third lowest figure since 1999. However, the 118 deaths of people aged 75 and over represented 23 more than in 2013: it was the highest number ever recorded for that age-group, just exceeding the 117 registered in 2003. There were 11 deaths aged under 30, one more than in 2013, and the second lowest number since 1996 (deaths in this age group have fluctuated between 10 and 19 over the last decade). The table shows that the 45-59 age-group has had the largest number of alcohol-related deaths in almost every year since 1979.
- [Tables 2 and 3](#) give figures for each NHS Board area and council. As the figures can fluctuate markedly from year to year, 3-and 5-year averages are shown for NHS Boards and 5-year averages are shown for councils. This should indicate better any overall trend.

Table 1: Alcohol related deaths¹, Scotland by sex and age group, 1979-2014

Year	Persons					Males					Females							
	All ages	Under 30	30-44	45-59	60-74	75+	All ages	Under 30	30-44	45-59	60-74	75+	All ages	Under 30	30-44	45-59	60-74	75+
1979	641	11	91	276	214	49	418	8	55	193	135	27	223	3	36	83	79	22
1980	595	16	95	234	215	35	371	11	55	149	137	19	224	5	40	85	78	16
1981	611	8	78	254	215	56	393	6	55	172	135	25	218	2	23	82	80	31
1982	582	5	86	227	218	46	355	4	57	143	128	23	227	1	29	84	90	23
1983	574	15	78	232	200	49	359	12	52	144	123	28	215	3	26	88	77	21
1984	572	12	83	206	226	45	335	9	52	118	134	22	237	3	31	88	92	23
1985	600	11	78	246	218	47	376	6	52	162	132	24	224	5	26	84	86	23
1986	568	12	83	220	200	53	352	10	48	149	122	23	216	2	35	71	78	30
1987	569	11	72	229	215	42	364	7	52	145	139	21	205	4	20	84	76	21
1988	627	12	96	229	250	40	403	11	68	147	158	19	224	1	28	82	92	21
1989	626	9	89	255	225	48	395	8	65	158	142	22	231	1	24	97	83	26
1990	657	14	111	259	225	48	415	9	74	166	143	23	242	5	37	93	82	25
1991	624	6	119	237	204	58	379	4	72	149	128	26	245	2	47	88	76	32
1992	582	6	97	218	211	50	371	4	63	145	128	31	211	2	34	73	83	19
1993	633	8	97	258	218	52	414	6	72	167	142	27	219	2	25	91	76	25
1994	741	10	129	284	263	55	482	10	78	191	177	26	259	-	51	93	86	29
1995	832	7	121	353	285	66	531	6	78	236	182	29	301	1	43	117	103	37
1996	983	4	167	438	308	66	653	3	112	301	203	34	330	1	55	137	105	32
1997	1,061	13	193	445	338	72	720	7	136	299	235	43	341	6	57	146	103	29
1998	1,127	12	200	514	335	66	755	10	137	358	211	39	372	2	63	156	124	27
1999	1,249	21	232	539	377	80	847	17	161	359	264	46	402	4	71	180	113	34
2000	1,292	20	216	573	402	81	900	12	153	399	284	52	392	8	63	174	118	29
2001	1,398	14	223	596	477	88	964	11	150	406	344	53	434	3	73	190	133	35
2002	1,487	17	223	673	484	90	1,023	14	152	467	338	52	464	3	71	206	146	38
2003	1,525	12	230	660	506	117	1,056	9	161	446	362	78	469	3	69	214	144	39
2004	1,478	19	245	647	464	103	1,037	13	170	448	339	67	441	6	75	199	125	36
2005	1,513	12	231	680	485	105	1,021	7	152	455	340	67	492	5	79	225	145	38
2006	1,546	14	261	679	523	69	1,040	9	185	444	359	43	506	5	76	235	164	26
2007	1,399	14	230	646	429	80	959	8	159	439	305	48	440	6	71	207	124	32
2008	1,411	12	236	616	460	87	971	10	155	413	338	55	440	2	81	203	122	32
2009	1,282	15	214	535	426	92	837	8	141	354	278	56	445	7	73	181	148	36
2010	1,318	19	195	569	449	86	909	14	125	385	329	56	409	5	70	184	120	30
2011	1,247	12	200	502	445	88	815	3	123	325	313	51	432	9	77	177	132	37
2012	1,080	14	145	420	394	107	741	13	94	286	270	78	339	1	51	134	124	29
2013	1,100	10	164	472	359	95	741	7	107	316	243	68	359	3	57	156	116	27
2014	1,152	11	146	482	395	118	784	6	90	314	296	78	368	5	56	168	99	40

Footnote

1) 1979-1999: ICD9 codes 291, 303, 305.0, 425.5, 571.0, 571.1, 571.2, 571.3, 571.4, 571.5, 571.8, 571.9, E860.
 2000 onw ards: ICD10 codes F10, G31.2, G62.1, I42.6, K29.2, K70, K73, K74.0, K74.1, K74.2, K74.6, K86.0, X45, X65, Y15.

Table 2: Alcohol-related deaths¹, Scotland by NHS Board area^{2,3}, 1979-2014, and 3- and 5-year moving averages

	Year																																				
	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	
Scotland	641	595	611	582	574	572	600	568	569	627	626	657	624	582	633	741	832	983	1,061	1,127	1,249	1,292	1,398	1,487	1,525	1,478	1,513	1,546	1,399	1,411	1,282	1,318	1,247	1,080	1,100	1,152	Scotland
Ayrshire and Arran	34	39	46	30	37	28	34	43	33	45	38	58	45	32	41	40	45	63	104	79	80	84	91	106	109	100	87	116	86	105	102	102	81	75	89	Ayrshire and Arran	
Borders	6	7	9	6	11	5	6	4	2	11	6	8	6	7	12	11	8	10	16	10	13	19	12	22	13	9	23	10	12	22	15	20	16	25	Borders		
Dumfries and Galloway	11	12	6	11	17	12	8	16	8	15	7	13	12	11	14	14	15	15	19	16	20	23	25	31	26	31	33	28	26	36	34	19	14	22	18	Dumfries and Galloway	
Fife	30	18	32	31	26	25	17	31	20	32	33	27	20	36	33	40	41	28	51	55	75	57	63	61	76	80	79	74	83	82	92	64	66	50	Fife		
Forth Valley	25	21	23	23	30	19	21	19	26	27	18	34	28	26	36	33	26	29	51	49	54	58	72	62	64	67	59	61	63	67	71	57	61	40	62	54	Forth Valley
Grampian	38	30	23	36	33	38	41	19	28	35	39	53	48	46	52	54	66	66	62	63	92	97	99	85	95	96	97	88	105	96	105	86	74	84	87	92	Grampian
Greater Glasgow and Clyde	270	267	244	236	203	222	219	224	220	214	234	236	184	170	207	257	304	403	403	426	447	459	508	521	524	479	496	545	444	446	334	364	386	317	302	314	Greater Glasgow and Clyde
Highland	24	32	31	32	43	38	34	28	34	40	31	26	44	36	38	55	59	48	58	59	73	72	78	90	86	79	86	99	89	86	101	70	58	67	65	Highland	
Lanarkshire	71	59	61	63	67	52	62	63	55	64	60	80	80	81	90	96	111	130	154	165	149	156	194	189	197	217	215	195	195	183	191	185	175	167	181	Lanarkshire	
Lothian	80	72	89	78	72	86	84	72	66	92	105	82	95	83	70	92	98	124	130	130	164	187	191	194	204	196	221	171	172	171	144	157	146	123	152	Lothian	
Orkney	4	3	3	1	3	1	6	3	3	2	2	1	3	1	1	4	3	3	4	2	5	10	4	7	3	2	7	5	4	4	9	3	Orkney				
Shetland	-	2	3	3	-	3	1	2	2	6	6	1	3	2	3	3	1	4	3	1	5	3	6	6	4	3	9	4	-	1	3	Shetland					
Tayside	44	28	33	28	35	37	39	26	43	35	44	44	45	51	49	53	58	63	60	67	83	72	92	100	125	128	109	103	86	115	107	100	102	88	86	94	Tayside
Western Isles	3	4	2	3	2	4	6	3	4	2	3	4	2	3	4	9	6	3	5	7	3	3	11	13	12	12	11	6	8	9	8	8	8	15	Western Isles		
Not known	1	1	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Not known				

3-year moving annual averages

	3-year period																																					
	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014		
Scotland	616	596	589	576	582	580	579	588	607	637	636	621	613	652	735	852	959	1,057	1,146	1,223	1,313	1,392	1,470	1,497	1,505	1,512	1,486	1,452	1,364	1,337	1,282	1,215	1,142	1,111	Scotland			
Ayrshire and Arran	40	38	35	32	33	35	37	40	39	47	47	45	39	38	42	49	71	82	88	81	85	94	102	105	99	101	96	102	98	103	95	86	77	80	Ayrshire and Arran			
Borders	7	7	9	7	7	5	4	6	6	8	7	7	8	7	10	10	10	10	11	12	12	11	14	15	16	15	14	15	15	15	16	19	17	20	Borders			
Dumfries and Galloway	10	9	13	13	12	12	11	13	10	12	11	12	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	20	23	26	27	29	30	31	29	30	32	30	22	18	Dumfries and Galloway					
Fife	27	27	30	27	25	27	25	22	24	23	28	28	31	27	28	30	36	38	36	40	45	60	62	69	65	66	67	72	78	79	80	79	74	60	Fife			
Forth Valley	23	23	22	25	24	23	20	22	24	24	26	27	32	33	35	32	29	29	35	43	51	64	61	64	66	63	62	61	64	67	65	63	53	54	Forth Valley			
Grampian	32	33	33	36	39	45	42	38	47	47	49	49	51	57	62	65	64	74	84	94	93	92	96	94	97	96	102	96	88	81	82	88	Grampian					
Greater Glasgow and Clyde	260	249	229	220	222	216	210	223	228	218	219	217	211	216	226	218	216	226	231	237	411	426	445	471	496	518	508	500	507	495	478	408	381	361	356	325	311	Greater Glasgow and Clyde
Highland	29	32	35	36	38	33	32	34	35	36	32	34	35	39	43	51	54	55	55	63	68	74	80	85	85	84	90	97	98	91	92	86	80	68	67	Highland		
Lanarkshire	64	61	64	61	61	63	62	66	74	70	71	66	75	80	84	89	99	112	132	150	156	157	166	180	193	201	210	209	202	191	190	186	184	176	174	Lanarkshire		
Lothian	80	80	86	79	81	81	74	77	88	93	94	87	83	82	87	105	117	128	141	160	181	196	199	208	197	188	171	162	157	149	142	140	141	Lothian				
Orkney	3	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	4	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	4	6	6	6	6	4	4	5	5	5	5	4	6	5	5	Orkney			
Shetland	2	2	2	1	1	2	2	2	3	4	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	2	3	2	3	3	3	2	2	2	3	3	5	6	5	4	5	4	2	1	Shetland	
Tayside	35	30	32	34	33	36	36	37	37	42	44	47	48	51	55	57	60	66	69	75	83	94	103	111	113	110	108	104	102	102	102	93	90	Tayside				
Western Isles	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	3	3	2	3	2	4	5	5	5	6	5	4	6	7	8	10	12	11	10	9	8	8	8	8	9	9	Western Isles			
Not known	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Not known						

5-year moving annual averages

	5-year period																										
	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983																						

Table 3: Alcohol-related deaths¹, Scotland by Council area, 1979-2014

5-year moving annual average: