

## Description of strategy

These interventions increase the price for alcohol products through municipal, state, or federal legislation that raises the excise tax on alcohol. Alcohol excise taxes affect the price of alcohol, and are intended to reduce alcohol-related harms, raise revenue, or both. Alcohol taxes are implemented at the state and federal level, and are beverage-specific (i.e., they differ for beer, wine and spirits). These taxes are usually based on the amount of beverage purchased (not on the sales price), so their effects can erode over time due to inflation if they are not adjusted regularly (Guide to Community Preventive Services, 2007). Such increases make the use of alcohol products less attractive to young people who have limited incomes and a variety of ways to spend their money (Guide to Community Preventive Services, 2007).

## Discussion of effectiveness

*Alcohol*  
Evidence suggests that increasing the unit price of alcohol is effective in reducing excessive alcohol consumption, adolescent drinking, alcohol-impaired driving, and mortality from liver cirrhosis (Elder et al., 2010).

Intervening Variable	
Retail Pricing	
Retail availability	
Social availability	
Law Enforcement	
Community norms	
Promotion & media	

In North Dakota, tax rates are imposed according to the following schedule:

- Beer in bulk containers \$.08 (.021 per liter) per wine gallon
- Beer in bottles and cans \$.16 (.042 per liter) per wine gallon
- Wine, including sparkling wine, containing less than 17% alcohol per volume .52 (.132 per liter) per wine gallon
- Wine containing 17%-24% alcohol by volume .60 (.159 per liter) per wine gallon
- Distilled spirits 2.50 (.66 per liter) per wine gallon
- Alcohol 5.04 (1.07 per liter) per wine gallon.

(N.D.C.C. §5-03-07 - Imposition of Tax Rate, 2013)

## References for description of strategy

Guide to Community Preventive Services. (2007). Preventing excessive alcohol consumption: Increasing alcohol taxes. Retrieved July 24, 2012, from: [www.thecommunityguide.org/alcohol/increasingtaxes.html](http://www.thecommunityguide.org/alcohol/increasingtaxes.html)

## Evidence base

Elder, R.W., Lawrence, B., Ferguson, A., Naimi, T.S., Brewer, R.D., Chattopadhyay, S.K., Toomey, T.L., and Fielding, J.E. (2010). The Effectiveness of tax policy interventions for reducing excessive alcohol consumption and related harms. *American Journal of Preventative Medicine*, 38 (2):217–229.

Guide to Community Preventive Services. (2007). Preventing excessive alcohol consumption: Increasing alcohol taxes. Available at: [www.thecommunityguide.org/alcohol/increasingtaxes.html](http://www.thecommunityguide.org/alcohol/increasingtaxes.html)

## Further reading

Alcohol Justice (2011). Increasing Alcohol Taxes- Myth v. Reality. Available at: [http://alcoholjustice.org/images/stories/11MI0701\\_taxmyth\\_1.pdf](http://alcoholjustice.org/images/stories/11MI0701_taxmyth_1.pdf)

Cook, P. J., & Moore, M. J. (2002). The economics of alcohol abuse and alcohol-control policies. *Health Affairs*, 21(2), 120–133. doi:10.1377/hlthaff.21.2.120

Wagenaar, A. C., Salois, M. J., & Komro, K. A. (2009). Effects of beverage alcohol price and tax levels on drinking: a meta-analysis of 1003 estimates from 112 studies. *Addiction*, 104(2), 179–190. doi:10.1111/j.1360.0443.2008.02438.x