

# APPLY APPROPRIATE PENALTIES FOR MINORS IN POSSESSION OF ALCOHOL

Other names/examples: None

## Description of strategy

The majority of states have laws that prohibit minors from purchasing, possessing, and/or using alcohol products. Of those states, over 75 percent enacted laws that impose sanctions upon minors who violate the purchase, use, and/or possession laws. Penalties vary by state and range from confiscation of the product to fixed or graduated monetary fines, participation in alcohol education programs or community service, suspension of driving privileges, and/or imprisonment (National Cancer Institute, n.d).

North Dakota law prohibits minors from possessing alcohol if they are under the age of 21 years of age. A violation results in a class B misdemeanor and alcohol and drug education (N.D.C.C. §5-01-08.—Individuals under 21 years of age prohibited from using alcoholic beverages or entering licensed premises, 2013).

## Discussion of effectiveness

*Alcohol*  
Evidence on the effectiveness of applying appropriate penalties for minors in possession of alcohol suggests the presence of such laws is associated with lower numbers of alcohol-related crashes (Fell, Fisher, Voas, Blackman, & Tippetts, 2008).

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

## References for description of strategy

National Cancer Institute. (n.d.) Tobacco purchase possession and use: An examination of state laws and penalties. Retrieved August 21, 2012, from: [www.sclد-nci.net/linkdocs/products/presentations168.pdf](http://www.sclد-nci.net/linkdocs/products/presentations168.pdf)

## Evidence base

Fell, J. C., Fisher, D. A., Voas, R. B., Blackman, K., & Tippetts, A. S. (2008). The relationship of underage drinking laws to reductions in drinking drivers in fatal crashes in the United States. *Accident Analysis & Prevention*, 40(4), 1430–1440. doi:10.1016/j.aap.2008.03.006