

LIMIT AND RESTRICT THE LOCATION AND DENSITY OF ALCOHOL RETAIL OUTLETS

Other names/examples: None

Description of strategy

Alcohol outlet density indicates the number of physical locations where alcohol is sold per population or geographic area (such as a square mile, census tract, or city block). It is often regulated at the local level through zoning and business licensing. State alcohol control agencies can also stipulate density levels. Regulations can either reduce alcoholic beverage outlet density or limit the increase of alcoholic beverage outlet density in an area (Guide to Community Preventive Services, 2007). Regulating the number of alcohol outlets per unit of area may decrease the retail availability of alcohol, which may lead to a decrease in excessive consumption of alcohol and its related harms.

In North Dakota, current state law does not regulate alcohol outlet density however, restrictions can be implemented locally.

Discussion of effectiveness

Alcohol
Evidence strongly suggests restricting the location and density of alcohol retail outlets is an effective local policy to decrease excessive alcohol consumption, alcohol-related crashes, and hospitalizations (Guide to Community Preventive Services, 2007).

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

References for description of strategy

Guide to Community Preventive Services. (2007). Preventing excessive alcohol consumption: regulation of alcohol outlet density. Retrieved July 24, 2012, from: www.thecommunityguide.org/alcohol/outletdensity.html

Evidence base

Campbell, C. A., Hahn, R. A., Elder, R., Brewer, R., Chattopadhyay, S., Fielding, J., ... Middleton, J.C. (2009). The effectiveness of limiting alcohol outlet density as a means of reducing excessive alcohol consumption and alcohol-related harms. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, 37(6), 556–569. doi:10.1016/j.amepre.2009.09.028

Chen, M.-J., Gruenewald, P. J., & Remer, L. G. (2009). Does alcohol outlet density affect youth access to alcohol? *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 44(6), 582–589. doi:10.1016/j.jadohealth.2008.10.136

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Holder, H. D., Gruenewald, P.J., Ponicki, W.R., Treno, A.J., Grube, J.W., Saltz, R.F., ... Roeper, P. (2000). Effect of community-based interventions on high-risk drinking and alcohol-related injuries. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 284(18), 2341-2347.

Popova, S., Giesbrecht, N., Bekmuradov, D., & Patra, J. (2009). Hours and days of sale and density of alcohol outlets: Impacts on alcohol consumption and damage: A systematic review. *Alcohol and Alcoholism*, 44(5), 500–516. doi:10.1093/alcalc/agg054

Further reading

Alcohol Justice. (2011). Alcohol outlet density and public health. Available at: http://alcoholjustice.org/images/stories/11MI0705_outletdensity_3.pdf

Promise Neighborhoods Research Consortium. (n.d.). Policy factsheet: Alcohol outlet density. Available at: <http://promiseneighborhoods.org/policies/alcohol-outlet-density/>