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Increasing Alcohol Taxes: Preventing Youth Alcohol Problems and Helping States Solve Their Budget Woes

Youth Alcohol Problems and Helping

Increasing Alcohol Taxes: Preventing

For many years, the traditional approach to tackling the problem of underage drinking is to reduce the price of alcohol. But alcohol-related problems are now being viewed as an addiction and a public health problem that requires a comprehensive approach. This includes policies, that can lead to positive change.

Staten Island in crisis and are facing their worst budget problems since World War II, according to the National Governors Association (NGA). These states are now considering increasing alcohol excise taxes.

 Traditionally, alcohol has been subject to excise taxes to reduce alcohol availability and to fund government services. But increasing alcohol excise taxes has not always been politically feasible, and studies indicate that increasing alcohol excise taxes in one state may not affect alcohol availability in neighboring states.

Among other items in the budget, the Governor seeks to increase alcohol excise taxes to bring in needed revenue for the state. A study commissioned by Texas A&M University in 2001 estimated that increasing the excise tax on alcohol by 20 cents per ounce could generate an additional $10 billion for the state over 10 years.

Governor John Rowland (R) has called a special session of the legislature to consider increasing alcohol excise taxes. The Governor's Task Force on Tax Policy has recommended increasing the tax on beer and wine from 20 cents per 9.5 ounces to 28 cents per 9.5 ounces, and increasing the tax on liquor from 43 cents per 4.5 ounces to 61 cents per 4.5 ounces.

In Pennsylvania, the Senate Finance Committee has recommended increasing the excise tax on beer by 10 cents per 9.5 ounces, and increasing the tax on wine from 20 cents per 4.5 ounces to 30 cents per 4.5 ounces. The House Commerce Committee has recommended increasing the excise tax on beer by 10 cents per 9.5 ounces, and increasing the tax on wine from 20 cents per 4.5 ounces to 30 cents per 4.5 ounces.

In New York, the Senate Finance Committee has recommended increasing the excise tax on beer by 10 cents per 9.5 ounces, and increasing the tax on wine from 20 cents per 4.5 ounces to 30 cents per 4.5 ounces. The Assembly Health Committee has recommended increasing the excise tax on beer by 10 cents per 9.5 ounces, and increasing the tax on wine from 20 cents per 4.5 ounces to 30 cents per 4.5 ounces.

In Oregon, a campaign called “In Oregon, we do it right,” is focusing on reducing the price of alcohol and increasing the excise tax on alcohol by $0.10 per 9.5 ounces to help fund treatment, prevention and law enforcement programs. The campaign is working to increase the excise tax on alcohol from 20 cents per 9.5 ounces to 30 cents per 9.5 ounces.

In Minnesota, the Minnesota Legislative Committee on Public Safety has recommended increasing the excise tax on beer by 10 cents per 9.5 ounces, and increasing the tax on wine from 20 cents per 4.5 ounces to 30 cents per 4.5 ounces.

In Wisconsin, the Senate and Assembly have recommended increasing the excise tax on beer by 10 cents per 9.5 ounces, and increasing the tax on wine from 20 cents per 4.5 ounces to 30 cents per 4.5 ounces.

Select Alcohol Tax Increases and Fees Proposed Around the Nation (as of February 14, 2003)

Reducing Underage Drinking Through Coalition Action

Connecticut: Governor John Rowland (R) has called for an omnibus transportation bill that includes reducing the price of alcohol by increasing the excise tax on beer and wine by 10 cents per 9.5 ounces, and increasing the tax on liquor from 43 cents per 4.5 ounces to 61 cents per 4.5 ounces.

Northeastern Pennsylvania: The Northeastern Pennsylvania Alliance on Alcohol and Drug Abuse has recommended increasing the excise tax on beer by 10 cents per 9.5 ounces, and increasing the tax on wine from 20 cents per 4.5 ounces to 30 cents per 4.5 ounces.

New Jersey: The New Jersey Senate and Assembly have recommended increasing the excise tax on beer by 10 cents per 9.5 ounces, and increasing the tax on wine from 20 cents per 4.5 ounces to 30 cents per 4.5 ounces.

New York: The Senate and Assembly have recommended increasing the excise tax on beer by 10 cents per 9.5 ounces, and increasing the tax on wine from 20 cents per 4.5 ounces to 30 cents per 4.5 ounces.

In addition to increasing alcohol excise taxes, other policies have been recommended to reduce underage drinking, including:

• Parental notification of college students who violate alcohol laws
• Requiring training of servers
• Passing a compliance check law to make sure alcohol outlets are not selling to kids
• Limiting sales of alcohol to minors
• Increasing penalties for adult providers of alcohol to minors

We would like to thank many people for supporting us in this effort, especially NC Senator Tony Rand; the partners and staff of the NC Initiative to Reduce Underage Drinking; and all those who helped us achieve our goal. We have now sent a new precedent and established new case law. We did not agree with the previous interpretation of a Clark v. Inn West ruling, which stated that the Clark v. Inn West ruling was only applicable to non-profit organizations. We believe that the Clark v. Inn West ruling was applicable to for-profit organizations as well.

We believe that by increasing alcohol excise taxes, we can reduce underage drinking and high-risk drinking among college students. This is consistent with the NIAAA's recent report on college drinking, which noted that increasing alcohol excise taxes is one of the most effective approaches to reducing underage drinking.

Among college students, the average age of first alcohol use is 18.5 years, and the average age of first binge drinking is 20.5 years. However, many college students consume large amounts of alcohol in short periods of time, which can lead to negative health consequences.

In the United States, more than 15 million college students drink alcohol, and more than 1 million college students are in treatment for alcohol-related problems each year. The majority of these students are between the ages of 18 and 24.

According to a recent report from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, more than 15 million college students in the United States are in treatment for alcohol-related problems each year. The majority of these students are between the ages of 18 and 24. The report also notes that more than 15 million college students in the United States are in treatment for alcohol-related problems each year.

In April 2003, the Governor's Task Force on Tax Policy recommended increasing the excise tax on beer by 10 cents per 9.5 ounces, and increasing the tax on wine from 20 cents per 4.5 ounces to 30 cents per 4.5 ounces. The Senate Finance Committee has recommended increasing the excise tax on beer by 10 cents per 9.5 ounces, and increasing the tax on wine from 20 cents per 4.5 ounces to 30 cents per 4.5 ounces.

We are committed to increasing alcohol excise taxes and reducing underage drinking, and we believe that by increasing alcohol excise taxes, we can reduce underage drinking and high-risk drinking among college students. This is consistent with the NIAAA's recent report on college drinking, which noted that increasing alcohol excise taxes is one of the most effective approaches to reducing underage drinking.

Our state has an average of 1,227 alcohol-related crashes involving underage drinkers every year.

From the beginning of this case, we were determined to make an impact and change the Dram Shop Law. We did not agree with the previous interpretation of a Clark v. Inn West ruling, which stated that the Clark v. Inn West ruling was only applicable to non-profit organizations. We believe that the Clark v. Inn West ruling was applicable to for-profit organizations as well.

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City Officials Focus on the Supply Side in Newark, Delaware

Reacting to mounting pressure from residents, law enforcement, and business interests to do more about the consequences of alcohol abuse and its impact on the community, the Mayor of Newark, Delaware, established a commission in November of 2001. The Mayor’s Alcohol Commission (MAC) was asked to study the issues and make recommendations on the role public policy should have in controlling alcohol-related problems.

The resulting report, finalized in March 2002, addressed (1) the culture of alcohol beverages consumption, (2) restaurants, bars, and nightclubs, (3) the economy and financial logistics of regulation, (4) underage drinking and over-consumption, and (5) negative behavior due to alcohol use.

In the months since the report was issued, several actions have been taken or announced, reflecting the impact of the documentation. The Building Responsibility Coalition (BRC), headed by The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, was well represented on the MAC. Although the BRC does not fully support all the recommendations, the group and its community-board-based group is grateful that Commission members, the Mayor, and City Council now recognize that the suppliers, as well as the consumers, of alcohol must assist in turning in a growing epidemic of high-risk and underage alcohol consumption.

The BRC was established in 1996 to examine the alcohol cultures among students on- and off-campus. As a result, the University of Delaware (UD) made significant changes in its policies, enforcement, and the role of students in reducing the impact of alcohol abuse. Tackling at 11-athletic events was restricted, fraternities and sororities were made accountable for their alcohol-related behavior, the judicial system embraced a “miscellaneous event” and the “student’s code,” and UD became the first school in the country to notify parents when their children are found guilty of alcohol policy violations.

Facing the progress that UD has made, the Mayor and Newkirk City Council supported several public policy initiatives to help neighbors and Main Street merchants control alcohol-related issues. For example:

- Ordinances recently enacted include State DABC Rules Adopted Locally since the State of Delaware does not have sufficient personnel to comprehensively monitor and adjudicate state alcohol laws, the Newark City Council adopted the Delaware Alcohol Beverage Control (DABC) rules, defining how alcohol licensees operate, into the city’s municipal code. Newark police now have the authority to take violators to the local Alcoholics’ Court for sanctions.
- Increase in Business License Fees for Alcohol Sellers
  - The BRC principal that “the cost of additional enforcement should be borne by those who sell, buy and/or use alcohol” is supported by the Newark City Council. The members voted to increase the business license fee for alcohol sellers to fund three additional Newark police officers to enforce the new DABC program. Implicit in this action is the understanding that higher license fees will lower consumption without adversely impacting德尔盟价格。Since considerable community has expressed the idea, the city council has scheduled a workshop to review the license fees formula.
- Happy Hours Restrictions
  - In September 2002 meeting the Newark City Council voted to restrict happy hours citywide to the hours from 4 pm to 9 pm. Research shows that low-cost alcohol encourages consumption, especially among young people. The three hour limits can save working people and prohibit late-night drink specials geared to the college crowd.

The BRC assesses the work of the alcohol city officials through its Policy and Enforcement Task Group that examines public policy initiatives and makes recommendations. Recently, the task group reviewed open container regulations and submitted a draft ordinance to city officials.

In addition, the BRC donated four ID scanners to assist the Newark Police Department in enforcing underage drinking laws. The sophisticated devices detect false IDs by reading the magnetic strip on the back of theholder’s license. The Newark Police Department announced that through a grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), five more officers will patrol the streets.

The police department also purchased equipment, such as portable breath testers and digital thermometers, to help enforce the law. The BRC also donated four ID scanners to assist the Newark Police Department in enforcing underage drinking laws. The sophisticated devices detect false IDs by reading the magnetic strip on the back of the holder’s license. The Newark Police Department announced that through a grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), five more officers will patrol the streets.

A Web site was created to post community resources. A Web site was created to post community resources. A Web site was created to post community resources. A Web site was created to post community resources.

City’s active Neighborhood Associations, the north side business owner’s organization, and members of Iowa City’s City Council.

Hy-Vee is in a strong position as a neighborhood institution and, as a result, has made significant commitments to the neighborhoods in the community of Iowa City during its decision to purchase the property of the former Pearson’s pharmacy in downtown Iowa City. Today, the site is being bought by a local owned and operated business.

As the new site begins, the north side neighborhood is beginning to see the potential of the new neighborhood.

Instead of a picket line of 50 that would soon fade, or a hopeful agreement that the neighborhood would benefit. Instead of a picket line of 50 that would soon fade, or a hopeful agreement that the neighborhood would benefit. Instead of a picket line of 50 that would soon fade, or a hopeful agreement that the neighborhood would benefit. Instead of a picket line of 50 that would soon fade, or a hopeful agreement that the neighborhood would benefit.

A Matter of Degree Projects Receive Grant Renewals

The community campuses coalition started in 2002 at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Wisc-Stepping Up to the University of Iowa and Iowa City—have received four-year grants totaling $466,729. The goal of the proposed liquor store is to create a neighborhood grocery store for the University of Iowa and Iowa City—have received four-year grants totaling $466,729. The goal of the proposed liquor store is to create a neighborhood grocery store for the University of Iowa and Iowa City—have received four-year grants totaling $466,729. The goal of the proposed liquor store is to create a neighborhood grocery store for the University of Iowa and Iowa City—have received four-year grants totaling $466,729.

The university has received its first MIA from the University of Iowa where he now teaches as a lecturer in the Rhetoric Department. (Will Jennings received his MFA from the University of Iowa and is a Lecturer in the Rhetoric Department.)
Underage Drinkers at Higher Risk of Brain Damage than Adults, American Medical Association Report Reveals

AMA Challenges Television and Cable Networks to Stop Airing Alcohol Ads to Youth

The findings of a new American Medical Association (AMA) report on the effects of alcohol on the brain dispel the myth that adolescence is a time of brain development instead of filling their growing brains with the harmful consequences of alcohol use on the brain. According to the AMA, revenue from the increases also advocates increases in state and federal excise taxes on hard liquor sales and alcohol education, treatment, and alcohol control policies. The AMA report on the effects of alcohol in the brains of underage drinkers was about during the adolescent years is to the decision-making and reasoning areas in the brain. The AMA report on the effects of alcohol on the brains of underage drinkers is about during the adolescent years is to the decision-making and reasoning areas in the brain. For more information, visit alcoholpolicesolutions.net.

Indiana Corks the Flow from Kegs

Drunk Drivers

Drinks Have Less Active Brains

Brain scans from two 20-year-old females.

Color-coded areas show active brain areas during memory task.

Healthy Control Alcohol-Dependent

81% of Americans support alcohol tax increases for prevention purposes • 67% of Americans support banning liquor ads

Recipe for Success

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1. I hate when adults buy alcohol for kids.
2. I hate when adults let kids drink at their homes.
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4. I hate when people don't call BBD-UNDER-21 to report underage drinking.
5. I hate when adults buy kegs for kids.
6. I hate when ads try to get me to drink and the way movies make drinking look cool.
7. I hate when businesses sell alcohol to kids.
8. I hate when adults say, “At least it’s not drugs. It’s only alcohol.”
9. I hate when kids say, “I drink because everybody does.”
10. I don’t drink. I don’t smoke. I don’t do other drugs.

Top 10 list is set on efficacy of youth advocates callin for a compliance check law in Pennsylvania.

Underage drinking advocates in Indiana celebrated their victory with kegs. These kids, however, were angry. The Indiana Coalition to Reduce Underage Drinking celebrated the passage of Keg Tracking (SB187) with more than 200 students and adults who were angering the outside (Students Against Drunk Driving) SADD conference. The coalition met with legislators to educate them and raise awareness about during the session. The law will go into full effect in July and will hold persons accountable for their keg tracking. For more information on how the coalition passed keg tracking go hand-in-hand with popularity, athletic prowess, and winning states — and lots of dialogue in the form of e-mails, letters, meetings, ads, phone calls, and letters to the editor. Because of the way our age-of-sale law for alcohol was written, Pennsylvania was one of a handful of states when it was illegal—and the passage of our new law—to conduct alcohol compliance checks like those we were already doing for revenue. We wanted to test whether people were checking identification. We weren’t sure they weren’t selling alcohol to kids. This inconsistency motivated us to call for a Pennsylvania Senate and House to pass the alcohol compliance check law unanimously in the final hours of the legislative session last year. The law became effective at the beginning of February.

Pennsylvania is unusual in that we have a 24-month legislative session. Thousands of bills are introduced during the final month of a legislative session. Alcohol Ads to Youth

Underage drinkers (having four to five drinks in a row). Citing an earlier report on the effects of alcohol on the brain dispel the myth that adolescence is a time of brain development instead of filling their growing brains with the harmful consequences of alcohol use on the brain. The brain report findings and the pledge support were unveiled at an AMA meeting in New Orleans on December 9, 2002.

“Ath NRC announced their plans last December [2001] to run hard liquor ads, the AMA successfully lobbied the network to remove their alcohol advertising,” said Dr. E. Robert Hill, chairman of the AMA. “One year later, the alcohol industry is just as aggressive in permitting underage minds through television, and television is all too telling to comply. This is not out of step with health and public safety.”

A recent nationwide poll conducted for The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation found that nearly 70% of Americans favor a ban on television alcohol ads and 55% support banning beer commercials on television. The AMA poll says a ban on networks and cable television not to air alcohol ads on programs that air before 10 p.m. or that have 15% or more underage viewers. The poll also says a ban on networks and cable television not to air alcohol commercials means that alcohol profits at the hands of those most harmed by drinking, “One year ago, we launched our campaign to ban alcohol advertising. Now, we are repeating the call with the overwhelming results from the poll,” said Dr. minced at their words about drinking. ‘We don’t often hear from the kids themselves. They helped us understand the problems of underage drinking as it is for them today, every day, and not as it was for us—fifty years ago and sometimes decades ago. They live in a world where they are bombarded by messages to drink—messages to convince them that drinking goes hand-in-hand with popularity, action, success, and generally enjoyable life.”

Alcohol abuse is one our nation one drug problem. When 49,000 Pennsylvania students were surveyed in 2001, more than 81% said that they had tried alcohol. The vast majority of these kids admitted to drinking in high school and college. The voices of older Pennsylvanians come through loud and clear in a survey conducted in 1999 by Mathematica Policy Research for Pennsylvanians Against Underage Drinking. Nine out of ten Pennsylvanians surveyed favored compliance checks that ensure that bars, clubs, restaurants, and have distributor check identification when making alcohol sales. Nearly seven out of ten favored allowing underage youth to work under police supervision to conduct these checks. By establishing a program of alcohol compliance checks, the members of the Pennsylvania General Assembly are hoping to take away some of the issues of alcohol for local city officials. If kids can’t get alcohol, they won’t drink alcohol. We don’t want to see our next generation of young people in Pennsylvania, our children, polluted by either alcohol or tobacco.

Recipe for Success

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The Board on Children, Youth and Families of The National Academies’ National Research Council and Institute of Medicine has formed a committee to develop a strategy to prevent and reduce underage drinking. The committee is reviewing existing federal, state and governmental programs, including media-based programs, designed to change the attitudes and health behaviors of youth. The review also includes programs that focus directly on behavior change as well as those designed to change underage drinking behavior through reduction of adolescent access to alcohol much as through increased social support, aggressive enforcement of age and identification checks, and restriction of alcohol on college campuses.

The committee will hold two public hearings in early May. The first public hearing will focus on key stakeholders and experts in the alcohol prevention and treatment fields. Among those testifying was Dr. John Nelson, executive-secretary of the American Medical Association. The committee is expected to issue its final report in late spring.

AMA Testifies at Institute of Medicine on Underage Drinking

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New Studies of Interest

Binge drinking is on the rise in the United States and is climbing fastest among 18- to 20-year-olds—who are not of legal age to drink—and among 21- to 25-year-olds, according to a survey conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The study, which was published in the January 1, 2003 issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association, found that those aged 18 to 19 went on drinking binges an average of 15 times in 2001. It also showed that episodes of binge drinking—defined as having five or more drinks in a sitting—increased 3% among all adults between 1993 and 2001. The study is available at: www.jama.com.

Binge drinking habits can be acquired or avoided in college among students who did not do so in high school, according to new findings from the Harvard School of Public Health College Alcohol Study. The study concludes that reducing the uptake of college binge drinking may require efforts to limit accessibility, control cheap prices and maximize substance-free environments and activities. More information about the study is available at: www.hsph.harvard.edu/Documents/spade.

One quarter of alcohol advertising on television in 2001 was more likely to be seen by youth than adults, according to a report released by the Center on Alcohol Marketing and Youth at Georgetown University. Of the more than 208,000 alcohol commercials on television in 2001, underage youth, aged 12 to 20, were more likely than adults of legal drinking age to have seen more than 51,000 of those commercials. The study is available at: www.camy.org.

New Web site: Solutions for Reducing Underage and College High-Risk Drinking

There is a new resource to help youth, parents, universities, policymakers, and others who are seeking solutions to fight alcohol abuse by underage youth and college students. The Web site, www.alcoholpolicysolutions.net, features information about two national programs funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation—Reducing Underage Drinking Through Coalitions, and A Matter of Degree: The National Effort to Reduce High-Risk Drinking Among College Students. The site also includes alcohol policy and media advocacy strategies, research, and reports such as “Partner or Foe: The Alcohol Industry, Youth Alcohol Problems and Alcohol Policy Strategies.”

www.alcoholpolicysolutions.net