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ImpacTeen is a Policy Research Partnership to Reduce Youth Substance Use.

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Alcohol Policies in the U.S.  
A Chartbook of Highlights

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University of Minnesota  
Division of Epidemiology  
School of Public Health
Introduction

• Social Costs of Alcohol
• Public Policies Effective Tools of Change
• Policy Advocates Need Information
• Research Summaries Advocacy Tool
Goals of Presentation

- Description of Chartbook
- Features Useful for Policy Advocates
  - Design
  - Findings
- Conclusions
Alcohol Policy Chartbook

- Compilation of Research on Policies
- University of Minnesota – Alcohol Epidemiology Program & ImpacTeen
- Trends, Research Findings, Current Status
- All 50 U.S. States
Types of Policies

- Distribution Systems:
  - Licensure
  - State Control (monopoly)

- Purchase & sales:
  - Keg Registration
  - Server Training

- Taxation:
  - Beer, Wine, Spirits

- Drinking & driving:
  - BAC – auto, boat, snowmobile

- Penalties:
  - Min/Max – jail, fines, license, vehicle
Useful Design Features

- Description of Each Policy
- Summaries of Research Findings
- Overall Trends Across U.S.
- Visual Displays: maps, charts, tables
- State-Specific Pages: status of policies
- Copy-Ready
- Available on the Internet (PDF)
States regulate the sale of alcoholic beverages under two general systems: a control or a licensure system. For this report, when a state directly controls the pricing of some types of alcoholic beverages – through operating state stores, regulating agency stores, or directly setting the retail price – these types of beverages are considered to be under direct state control and the state is considered a “control” or “monopoly” state. When a state government indirectly controls the sale and distribution of alcohol through licensing of privately owned establishments, it is considered a “licensure” or “privatized” state.
Many research studies have clearly established that increases in alcohol taxes and/or increases in the retail price of alcoholic beverages are associated with decreases in alcohol consumption. Alcohol-related traffic crashes, violent crime and liver cirrhosis, among other social and health problems, also significantly decline with increased taxes (Toomey & Wagenaar, 1999; Chaloupka et al., 1993; Oshfeldt & Morrissey, 1997; Markowitz & Grossman, 1998; Smart & Mann, 1998; Cook & Moore, 1993). Several studies have shown that youth are especially sensitive to changes in price, which means that when prices rise, there are greater reductions in consumption and alcohol-related problems among youth than among the general adult population (Grossman et al., 1994).
Blood alcohol concentration limits for the general driver have gradually declined over the past three decades. From 1968 to 2000, the average general BAC limit across the states moved from 0.14 g/dL to 0.09 g/dL. At the beginning of 1968, nearly two-thirds of the states had BAC limits of 0.15 g/dL; only one state, Utah, had a limit of 0.08 g/dL. By the year 2000, no states mandated BAC limits of over 0.10 g/dL and 19 set BAC limits at 0.08 g/dL. In October 2000, U.S. Transportation Appropriations bill S.2720 was signed into law imposing reductions in highway funds as a penalty on states that fail to adopt 0.08 g/dL by 2004. As a result, most states will likely move to the lower limit within the next few years.
Map Example
Beer Tax Erosion, p. 16

Erosion of Beer Excise Tax
1968 - 2000 (adjusted for inflation)

- None (6)
- Less than 25% erosion (1)
- 25% to 49% erosion (9)
- 50% to 74% erosion (25)
- More than 75% erosion (10)
New Mexico:
Trend of Taxes 1968-2000

Chart Example
Alcohol Tax Trends, New Mexico, p. 53
Massachusetts:
Trend of taxes 1968-2000
## Table Example

### DUI Penalties, California, p. 27

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Offense</th>
<th>Fine ($)</th>
<th>Jail (days)</th>
<th>License Suspension/Revocation</th>
<th>Vehicle</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Min</td>
<td>Max</td>
<td>Pre- Min Max</td>
<td>Post- Min Max</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>390 1,000</td>
<td>2 180</td>
<td>120 120</td>
<td>180 Undef</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>390 1,000</td>
<td>90 365</td>
<td>365 365</td>
<td>730 Undef</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>390 1,000</td>
<td>120 365</td>
<td>365 365</td>
<td>1095 Undef</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Texas

Selected State Alcohol Policies as of January 1, 2000

Distribution System
License state: All wholesale and retail made by private licensed entities. State does not directly control any part of the distribution system, but indirectly regulates all sales through placing conditions on the licenses.

Purchase and Sales
- Keg Registration: None statewide
- Server Training: Permissive

Taxes
Trend of Taxes: 1968-2000 (adjusted for inflation; 2000 dollars)

Cents Per Drink

Current Alcoholic Beverage Taxes
- Beer: $6.00 per barrel (31 gallons) cents per drink: 1.81
- Spirits: $2.40 per gallon cents per drink: 2.62
- Wine: $0.20 per gallon cents per drink: 0.80

Drinking and Driving
Blood Alcohol Content Limits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General BAC</th>
<th>Youth BAC</th>
<th>Boating BAC</th>
<th>Snowmobile BAC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0.10</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.08</td>
<td>0.08</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Penalties for Violating General BAC Limits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fines</th>
<th>Jail (days)</th>
<th>License Suspension/Revocation (days)</th>
<th>Vehicle</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fine</td>
<td>Pre-Conviction</td>
<td>Post-Conviction</td>
<td>Ignition Interlock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Min</td>
<td>Max</td>
<td>Min</td>
<td>Max</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Offense</td>
<td>$3000</td>
<td>30*</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Offense</td>
<td>$4000</td>
<td>30*</td>
<td>365</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Offense</td>
<td>$10000</td>
<td>730*</td>
<td>3650</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Mandatory minimum
* Nondelinquent driver available

Source: Alcohol Epidemiology Program, University of Minnesota
**State Averages**

**Selected State Alcohol Policies as of January 1, 2000**

**Distribution System**
Of the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 18 are control states, with direct state involvement in some-sector of the alcohol distribution system. One additional state, Maryland, has control structure on the county level. All other states have indirect government involvement in the alcohol distribution system, through a license system.

**Purchase and Sales**
- Keg Registration: 13 states
- Server Training: 21 states

**Taxes**
Trend of Taxes 1968-2000 (adjusted for inflation; 2000 dollars)

- **Cents Per Drink**
  - 1968: 15 cents
  - 1978: 3 cents
  - 1988: 2 cents
  - 1999: 0.3 cents

**Current Alcoholic Beverage Taxes**
- Beer: 2.51 cents per drink
- Spirits: 4.13 cents per drink
- Wine: 2.82 cents per drink

**Drinking and Driving**

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<td>--------------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Offense</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Offense</td>
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<tr>
<td>713</td>
<td>2639</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Offense</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1300</td>
<td>9160</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>971</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Alcohol Epidemiology Program, University of Minnesota
Conclusions

• Authoritative Source
• Variety of Formats
• Easy to Use
• Effective
PDF Versions Available

www.epi.umn.edu/alcohol

www.impacteen.org