

Reduce Excessive Drinking to Build Healthier Communities



One in five adults in Colorado drinks alcohol excessively.



Excessive drinking can cause injuries, violence, and chronic disease.



Excessive drinking cost Colorado \$5 billion in 2010, with almost half of the cost paid by taxpayers.



This is similar to the cost of providing 150,000 students in Colorado with four years of college tuition.



Effective policies to reduce excessive drinking:



Limit alcohol outlet density



Limit days and hours of sale



Strengthen liability laws



Increase alcohol taxes



Evidence-Based Policies to Reduce Excessive Drinking

Limit Alcohol Outlet Density



Density refers to how many and how close together alcohol outlets (such as bars, restaurants, or liquor stores) are in an area. **High alcohol outlet density increases** excessive drinking, along with **disorderly conduct, public nuisance, and property damage.**

Limit Days and Hours of Sale



Colorado allows the **sale of alcohol** up to **seven days a week, 19 hours a day.** Extending hours of sale can increase motor vehicle crashes, emergency room visits, alcohol-related injuries, and violent crimes.

Strengthen Liability Laws



A licensed alcohol establishment can be sued for knowingly selling alcohol to a person under the age of 21 or a visibly intoxicated person in Colorado. **Strengthening** these **laws can reduce** excessive drinking and related harms such as **alcohol-impaired driving, crashes, and fatalities.**

Increase Alcohol Taxes



Even a small increase in the price of alcohol can lead to reductions in excessive drinking. The current excise tax in Colorado is **only one cent** for a **12-ounce beer,** which is the **third-lowest beer tax** in the country.