



# *State Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup Alcohol Policy Brief*

Colorado Substance Abuse Trend and Response Task Force  
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**COLORADO**  
Department of Public  
Health & Environment



# *SEOW Overview*

- Who and what is the SEOW?
- Our Mission
- Our Funding
- Our Future



# Partnering Organizations



**COLORADO**  
Office of Behavioral Health  
Department of Human Services



**COLORADO**  
Department of Revenue



**COLORADO**  
Department of Public  
Health & Environment



**COLORADO**  
Department of Public Safety



University of Colorado  
Denver

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**CONSORTIUM**  
for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention



# *Today's Goals*

- What is excessive drinking?
- What is the impact?
- What can be done about it?







# WHAT IS CONSIDERED A "DRINK"?

## U.S. STANDARD DRINK SIZES



**12** OUNCES  
OF 5% ABV  
BEER



**8** OUNCES  
OF 7% ABV  
MALT LIQUOR

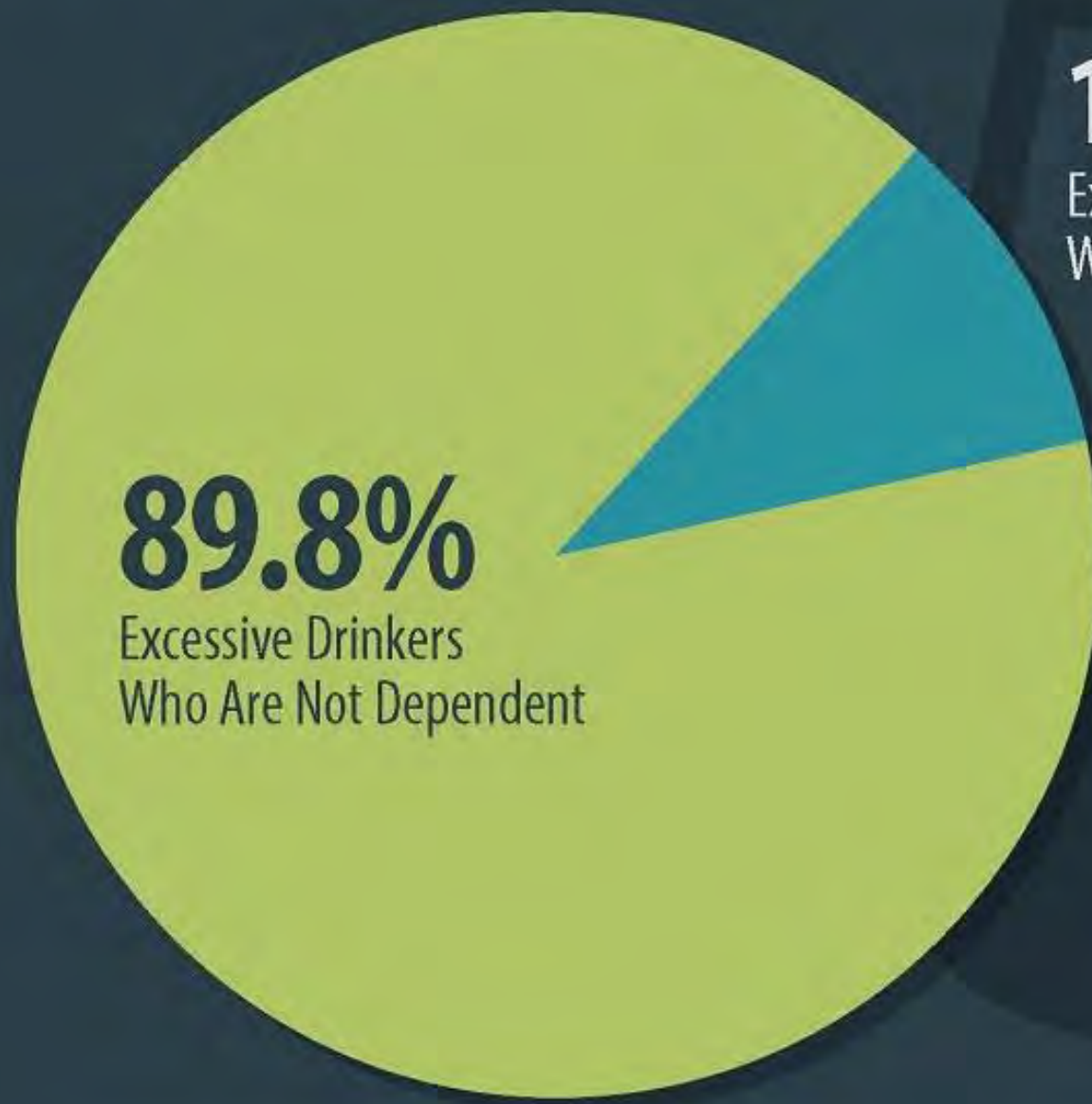


**5** OUNCES  
OF 12% ABV  
WINE



**1.5** OUNCES  
OF 40% ABV  
(80-PROOF)  
DISTILLED SPIRITS  
OR LIQUOR  
(Examples: gin, rum,  
vodka, whiskey)

**9 out of 10** excessive drinkers are **not** alcohol dependent.



**10.2%**

Excessive Drinkers  
Who Are Dependent

**89.8%**

Excessive Drinkers  
Who Are Not Dependent



CS252939-A

**PREVENTING CHRONIC DISEASE**

PUBLIC HEALTH RESEARCH, PRACTICE, AND POLICY

[www.cdc.gov/pcd/issues/2014/14\\_0329.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/pcd/issues/2014/14_0329.htm)

[www.cdc.gov/alcohol](http://www.cdc.gov/alcohol)



**COLORADO**

Source: Esser et al, Preventing Chronic Disease (2014)



# 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.



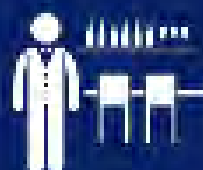
## Effective policies to reduce excessive drinking:



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.

For more information visit the Colorado State Epi Outcomes Workgroup [website](https://tinyurl.com/coloradoseow).

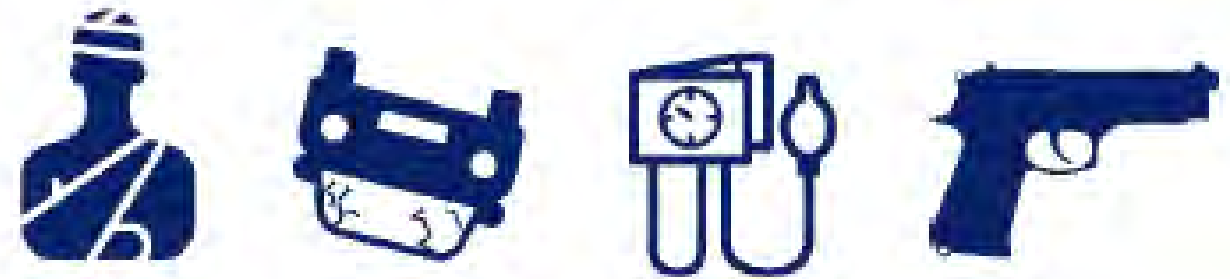




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# Evidence-Based Policies to Reduce Excessive Drinking



Limit alcohol  
outlet density



Limit days and  
hours of sale



Strengthen  
liability laws



Increase  
alcohol taxes



# Limit Alcohol Outlet Density

- Applying regulatory authority (e.g. licensing, zoning, nuisance ordinances) to reduce density or limit the increase of density of alcohol outlets
- Alcohol outlet - a place where alcohol is legally sold for the buyer to drink on-premises (e.g. bars, restaurants) or off-premises (e.g. liquor stores)



# Limit Days and Hours of Sale




Maintain existing limits  
(e.g. limit extending hours at liquor stores)

Expand current limits  
(e.g. reduce # of hours a bar may be open)



# Strengthen Liability Laws



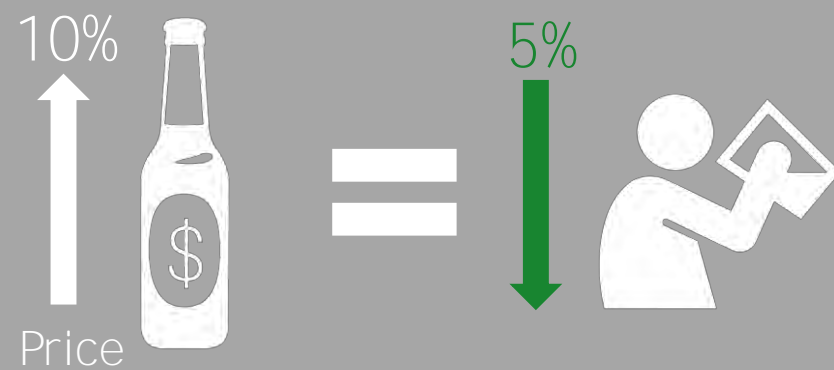
Liability to the licensee of an alcohol outlet if a patron is served and then causes harm, including death, injury, or other damages to another person



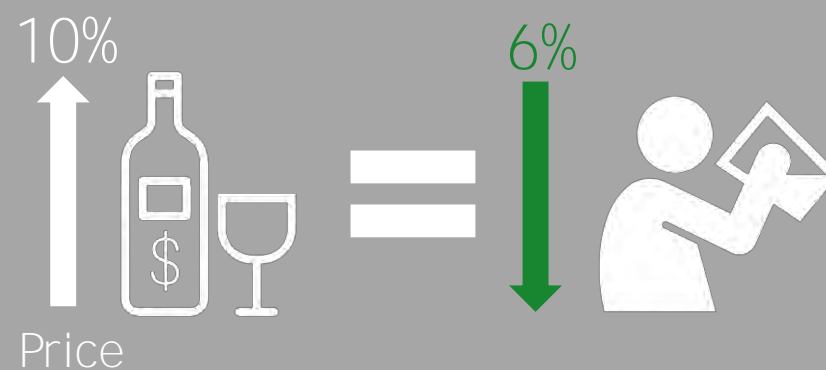
# Increase Alcohol Taxes

- Alcohol excise taxes are charged to the manufacturers or the first licensee to receive alcohol from out-of-state

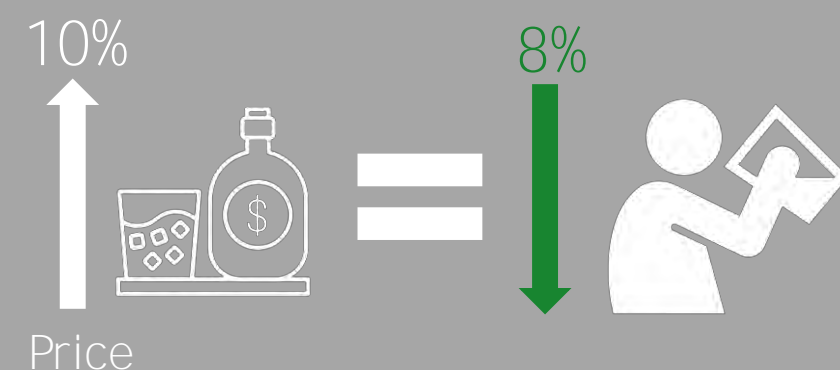
Beer



Wine



Spirits





# Increase Alcohol Taxes

- Current excise tax rate by alcohol type:
  - Beer = \$0.01 per drink
  - Wine = \$0.01 per drink
  - Spirits = \$0.03 per drink
- Economic cost of excessive drinking:
  - \$2.14 for each drink sold

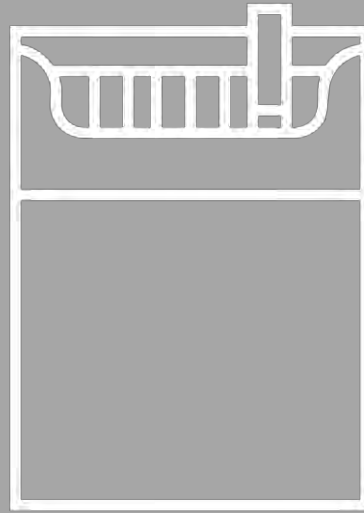


# Increase Alcohol Taxes



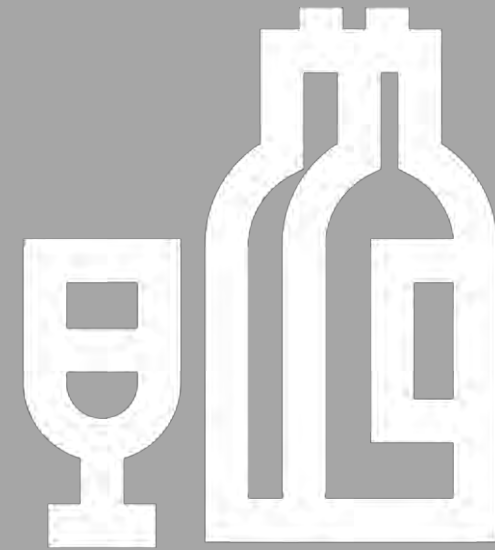
Taxable at the  
local level

Portion of funds  
generated from  
taxes support  
prevention efforts



Taxable at the  
local level\*

Portion of funds  
generated from  
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prevention efforts



Nationally one of the states with  
the lowest alcohol excise taxes

Not taxable at local level

Taxes do not support  
prevention efforts

\*If local governments (e.g. cities and towns) levy a cigarette tax, they forfeit their portion of the state tobacco tax 'share back'.



# *Communities with Stronger Alcohol Policies have less:*

- Adult alcohol-related impaired driving
- Alcohol-related motor vehicle crash deaths among youth and adults
- Adult binge drinking
- Youth drinking, youth binge drinking
- Alcohol-Related homicides, suicides
- Alcoholic cirrhosis and mortality rates



# *Next Steps for the brief*

- Dissemination planning and implementation
- Evaluation of dissemination efforts





*Thank you!*



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