

Alcohol Outlet Density Handout
Presented to Legislative Health and Human Services Interim Subcommittee
October 23, 2018

- There are a number of evidence-based, recommended strategies for reducing alcohol related harm (*Community Preventive Services Task Force, Excessive Alcohol Consumption, www.thecommunityguide.org/topic/excessive-alcohol-consumption*). Examples include:
 - Reducing hours and days of sale
 - Increasing alcohol taxes
 - Decreasing alcohol outlet density
- Alcohol outlet density refers to the number of locations that provide alcohol to the public in a geographic area.
- With the exception of increasing alcohol taxes, decreasing alcohol outlet density is considered to be the alcohol prevention strategy with the strongest evidence and the largest effect. (*Nelson TF, et al. Efficacy and the strength of evidence of U.S. alcohol control policies. Am J Prev Med. 2013 Jul;45(1):19-28*)
- Studies have shown that increased alcohol outlet density was associated with a number of alcohol-related harms, including:
 - Suicide (*Giesbrecht N, et al. Acute alcohol use among suicide decedents in 14 US states: impacts of off-premise and on-premise alcohol outlet density. Addiction. 2015 Feb;110(2):300-7*)
 - Intimate partner violence (*Snowden AJ. Alcohol Outlet Density and Intimate Partner Violence in a Nonmetropolitan College Town: Accounting for Neighborhood Characteristics and Alcohol Outlet Types. Violence Vict. 2016;31(1):111-23*)
 - Child maltreatment (*Freisthler B, et al. Alcohol outlets and child physical abuse and neglect: applying routine activities theory to the study of child maltreatment. J Stud Alcohol. 2004 Sep;65(5):586-92*)
- A study conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Georgia Department of Health found that even small decreases in alcohol outlet density can result in significant declines in violent crime (*Zhang X, et al. Changes in density of on-premises alcohol outlets and impact on violent crime, Atlanta, Georgia, 1997-2007. Prev Chronic Dis. 2015 May 28;12:E84*).
- A study conducted by the New Mexico Department of Health found that even in small metropolitan communities, such as Gallup and Las Cruces, alcohol outlet density is positively correlated with violent crime (*Presented by Naomi Greene at the Alcohol Policy 18 Conference, April 11-13, 2018 Washington, DC, http://files.www.alcoholpolicyconference.org/presentations/C-24_AP18_-_GREENE.pdf*)
- Increasing local authority to decrease alcohol outlet density, for example allowing local authorities control over denying a license based on a community's alcohol outlet density, is a strategy measured by the Centers for Disease Prevention Status Reports to rate a state's ability to control alcohol outlet density (*CDC, Prevention Status Reports 2013, www.cdc.gov/psr/2013/alcohol/index.html#3*).