

Alcohol Taxes *Save* Lives & Money

Every New Mexican Pays Over \$400 a Year in Taxes to Subsidize Excessive Drinking Whether They Drink or Not!

Distribution of Alcohol Consumption Among Adults (age 18+) in New Mexico's Population



Source: Center for Disease Control's 2011 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System survey of adults aged 18 years and older.

Half of New Mexicans don't drink alcohol and most New Mexicans drink responsibly. But our current tax system has the responsible 80% of New Mexicans paying over \$400 a year in taxes to subsidize excessive drinking. New Mexico taxpayers are footing a bill that equals \$1.00 for each drink consumed to pay for the costs of the extra police, incarceration, ambulances, emergency room visits and court hearings resulting from excessive drinking.

The Solution:

Make Excessive Drinking Pay for its Share of Alcohol-Related Costs it Creates by Increasing New Mexico's Alcohol Excise Tax 25¢ Per Drink

- Consumers will pay in proportion to how much they drink—the bulk of the tax increase will be paid by the small percentage of those who consume the most alcohol, which causes the greatest economic and societal harm.
- The 49% of New Mexicans who do not drink will not pay an additional cent. The 32% of New Mexicans who do not drink excessively will only pay an average of \$9.85 additional per year. Excessive drinkers will pay an average additional cost of \$51.14 per year.
- The increased cost of alcohol will result in a 10% decrease in consumption and will lower the costs of health insurance, as well as the costs cities & counties incur for police, emergency medical care, and detention and court cases.
- A 25¢ per drink increase in New Mexico's alcohol excise tax would result in \$154,090,910 in new state revenues.

*Excessive Drinking includes: 1) binge drinking—5 or more in a sitting by men, 4 or more by women, 2) heavy drinking—15 or more drinks per week by men, 8 or more for women, 3) drinking by pregnant women, 4) drinking by people under age 21.

Visit alcoholtaxessavelives.org for the complete public health report & economic modeling.