

Welcome Back!

June, 2010

We hope you continue to enjoy the newsletter and are encouraged to share and give any feedback or ideas you have for the site, newsletter, or topics in general.

A brief overview of issues related to outlet density is presented in this issue. It is from the PRC Resources site.

We are continuing to provide updates on national and international news. We have also included local news in this edition. If you have any information you would like to share in the newsletter, such as an upcoming event, outcomes of a community project, please feel free to contact us.

Focus on Research

New to Resources at PRC!

Article: *The Role of Outlet Location and Density in Alcohol Problems: What Communities Can Do*

This new article gives an overview of outlet density research. Basic problems associated with neighborhoods with high alcohol access include:

- Underage drinking
- Drinking and driving
- Violence
- Domestic violence

A discussion of research by Prevention Research Center scientists and others addresses questions such as:

- Why is outlet density important?
- What do we mean by outlet density and location?
- How is alcohol outlet density related to underage drinking?
- How is alcohol outlet density related to violence?
- How do governments regulate outlet density?

Outlets include places where people drink on site (i.e., restaurant, bar) and places where alcoholic beverages are purchased to take away and drink at another location (i.e., liquor store, grocery store). Regardless of type, outlets are usually not distributed evenly and tend to be concentrated in low income/minority neighborhoods, near college campuses, and areas for entertainment and nightlife. And where there are more outlets, there is an increased number of alcohol related problems.

People tend to drink more when obtaining alcohol is more convenient and inexpensive, whether they are of drinking age or not, as more outlets make it easier for underage drinkers to find willing sellers. Underage drinkers who live in areas with higher alcohol outlet densities tend to have higher levels of drinking and excessive drinking. Areas with high densities of outlets also have more traffic crashes related to alcohol, more assaults and other violent crime, and more domestic violence.

For more discussion on outlet density, click on the articles/link below:

http://resources.prev.org/centergrant_outletlocation.html

More on Alcohol Density Outlets...and Drinking and Driving

What is the relationship between outlet density and violence?

A number of studies have found that in and near neighborhoods where there is a high density of places that sell alcohol, there is a higher rate of violence.

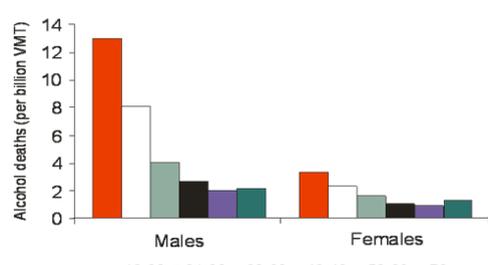
- In a study of Camden, New Jersey, neighborhoods with alcohol outlet density had more violent crime (including homicide, rape, assault, and robbery).
- In a study of 74 cities in Los Angeles County, California, a higher density of alcohol outlets was associated with more violence, even when levels of unemployment, age, ethnic and racial characteristics, and other community characteristics were taken into account.
- In a six-year study of changes in numbers of alcohol outlets in 551 urban and rural zip code areas in California, an increase in the number of bars and off-premise places (e.g., liquor, convenience and grocery stores) was related to an increase in the rate of violence.
- Violence committed by youth was more common in minority neighborhoods where there are many outlets that sell alcohol for consumption off the premises (such as liquor and convenience stores).
- In neighborhoods where there are many outlets that sell high-alcohol beer and spirits, more violent assaults occur.
- Large taverns and nightclubs and similar establishments that are primarily devoted to drinking have higher rates of assaults among customers.

*for references, refer to original article at:

<http://resources.prev.org/documents/AlcoholViolenceGruenewald.pdf>

Drinking and Driving: Youth vs. Adult Drivers

- Young drinkers consume larger amounts of alcohol in a single sitting
- Teen passengers greatly increase the crash risk of teen drivers
- Adult drivers experience either no change in risk or a small safety benefit from having passengers
- Crashes involving alcohol, speeding, and carrying of passengers: **20 times more likely** for teens than for middle aged adults
- Have higher risk of crashing while drinking and driving despite being less likely than older adults to drink and drive



Drinking Diver Death Rates Per Annual Miles

*Excerpts taken from **The Young Impaired Driver Problem: Recent Developments and Future Progress** by Kathy Stewart and Barry Sweedler. Available as [text](#) or power point available at the [Underage Drinking Resources](#).

Local Events

On May 6, the Alameda County Office of Education hosted the 13th Annual Northern California Tobacco, Alcohol, Drug, School Wellness and Youth Development Conference.

The Keynote Address by Ken Winters, Ph.D., "This is Your Brain on Adolescence", pointed out how the human brain does not fully develop until the age of 25, yet teens can drive at 16, gamble (in some locations), join the military and smoke at 18, drink at 21, but are not able to rent a car or get lower car insurance rates until the age of 25.

Ralph Cantor was acknowledged for his work with youth and presented "Marijuana and Drug Prevention Strategies" where he discussed the importance of authenticity, credibility, and being non-judgmental. Others who have experience with youth would probably agree that telling the scientific truth can be a powerful learning tool. It helps young people think about issues from a different, unique and mature perspective. Mr. Cantor also remarked on how similar Dorothy and friends' adventure was in the Wizard of Oz as compared to a teen's life – from searching for brains, heart, and courage, yet can find themselves lost in a field of poppies.

Some of the conference presentations are available online at My Prevention:

<http://www.mypreventioncommunity.org/?page=ATODConf2010wrkshpL>

International News

New Zealand: possible changes in liquor laws urged by the Law Commission consist of more than just raising the drinking age to 20. Other possible changes include restrictions in marketing and increases on alcohol taxes. Since the alcohol drinking age was lowered to 18, consumption and availability have increased while prices have decreased. Drinking behaviors for teens have also changed, such as younger age for onset of drinking, and increases in weekly drinking and volume consumption. Changes to alcohol law are expected to impact the total population, particularly the heavy drinking patterns of their youth population. (April 28, 2010).

United Kingdom: Recent statistics in Wales shocked readers with results that 45% of adults consume more than the recommended daily amount at least one time a week, and more than 25% binge drink at least once a week. Further, the Health Minister reported that alcohol is responsible for as much as 5% of work absences and near 1,000 deaths per year. To reduce these numbers, proposals are being made to set minimum prices and increase taxes on alcohol, and taxes may be determined by the strength of the alcohol sold. (April 28, 2010)

Updates: The bill to set a minimum price for alcohol is already losing. Despite the British Medical Association and other experts stating that raising alcohol prices will save lives, opponents argue there is no evidence to support the policy and that it would harm the whiskey industry. (June 11, 2010)

However, another article cites that alcohol consumption is related to 8,000 deaths in the UK each year, and that over 500,000 people experience hangovers at their workplaces each day (and that numbers will likely increase during the World Cup). (June 11, 2010)

Local News

San Bernardino: researchers exploring the relationship between crime and alcohol consumptions are hoping to help the city toughen local alcohol policy on sales. Focusing on Liquor store sales, the law would restrict single-item sales such as tall cans and "forties". Research presented to the city included Robert Parker's studies linking violence to the high availability of single-sales. (April 5, 2010)

Dr. Parker, a former Senior Research Scientist at the Prevention Research Center, and colleagues recently presented their study examining retail alcohol availability and youth homicide rates for victims from two age groups (13-17 and 18-24). Data included 100 cities from between 1984-2006. Alcohol had a significant effect on youth homicide for the 18-24 aged group. The evidence suggests that reducing retail outlets will help reduce crime.

The paper was presented at the KBS Alcohol and Violence thematic meeting 15-18 March, 2010. For a complete listing of topics, visit: http://www.turningpoint.org.au/research/alcohol_policy_research/alcviol.htm

The International Institute for Alcohol Awareness (iiaaonline.org) gives daily news articles alcohol related news.



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International Research Recommendation:

From your PRC liaison, an article on changes in alcohol policy: **Dissemination of prevention: Community action targeting alcohol use-related problems at licensed premises.** Wallin, E. (2007). *Substance Use & Misuse*, 42, 2085-2097. *Summary:* After a successful program aimed at reducing alcohol related problems in the community, other communities in Stockholm county, Sweden, efforts to adopt the program in other communities in the county are discussed. Benefits from the initial program include refusal rates to serving intoxicated customers increased from 5% to 70% in a five year period, and reports of violence by the police decreasing 29%.