

**Physical Availability of
Alcohol:
*Latest Research
Developments***

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November 14, 2008

Environmental Influence

- (1) Physical - Proximity of alcohol outlets
Places of public use**
- (2) Social - Family, peers and larger
social networks**
- (3) Economic - Opportunity cost to obtain
alcohol .
Economic geography of
availability**

For Example, Public Drinking

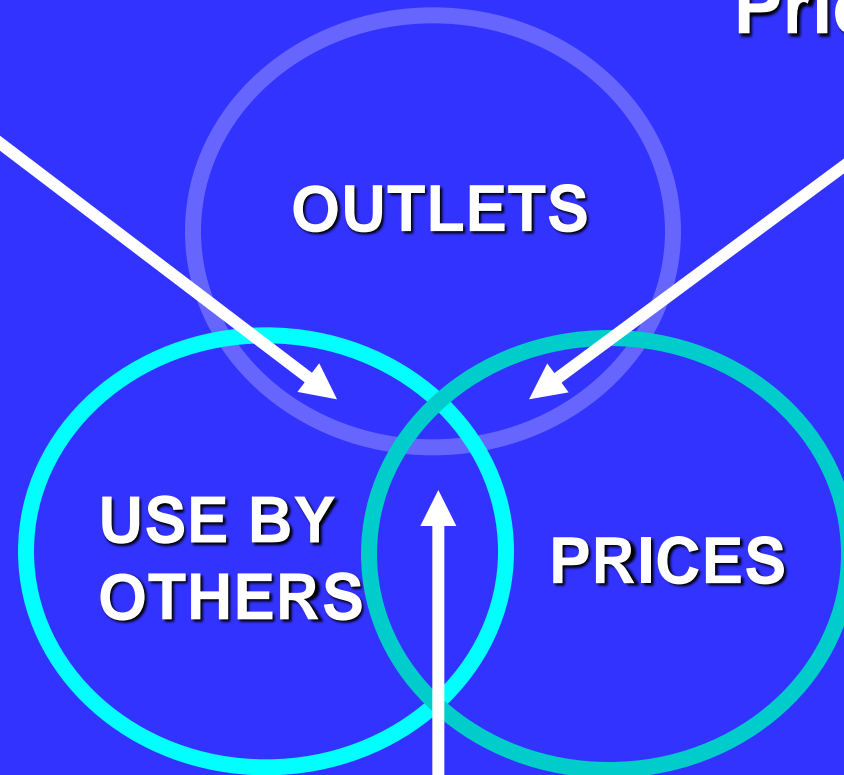
Physical

Drinking by
others
at Outlets

Prices at Outlets

Social

Economic



Purchasing Patterns of Others

Scientific Evidence

Policy Strategies Affecting Physical Availability :

Solid Evidence

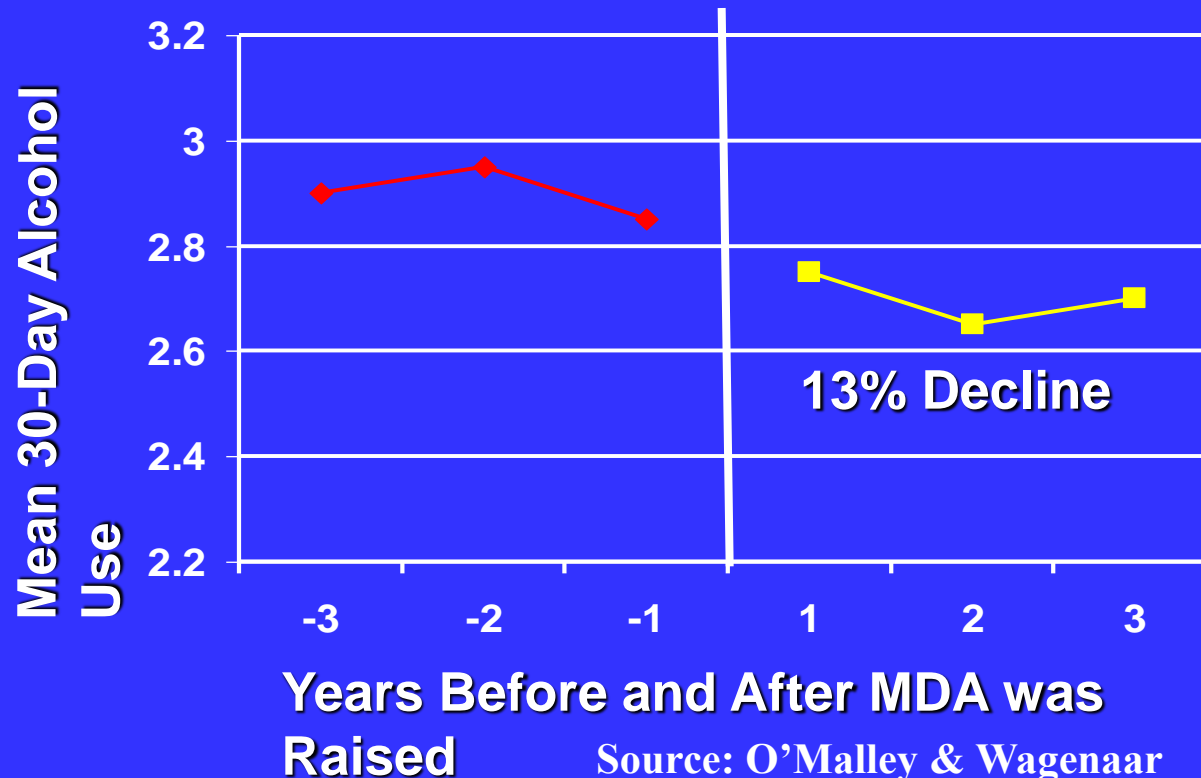
- ❏ Hours and Days of Sale
- ❏ Minimum drinking/purchase age
- ❏ Density & location of alcohol outlets
- ❏ Retail Monopolies for Alcohol
- ❏ Low absolute alcohol content
- ❏ On Premise--Responsible Beverage Service
- ❏ Form and style of retail sale

Environment



Person Activities

Alcohol Use (30-day mean) Before and After Minimum Drinking Age (MDA) was Raised--United States



Source: O'Malley & Wagenaar (1991)



“Mountain of Beer”

Responsible Beverage Service

Goal:

Reduce alcohol intoxication or impairment for patrons of bars and restaurants

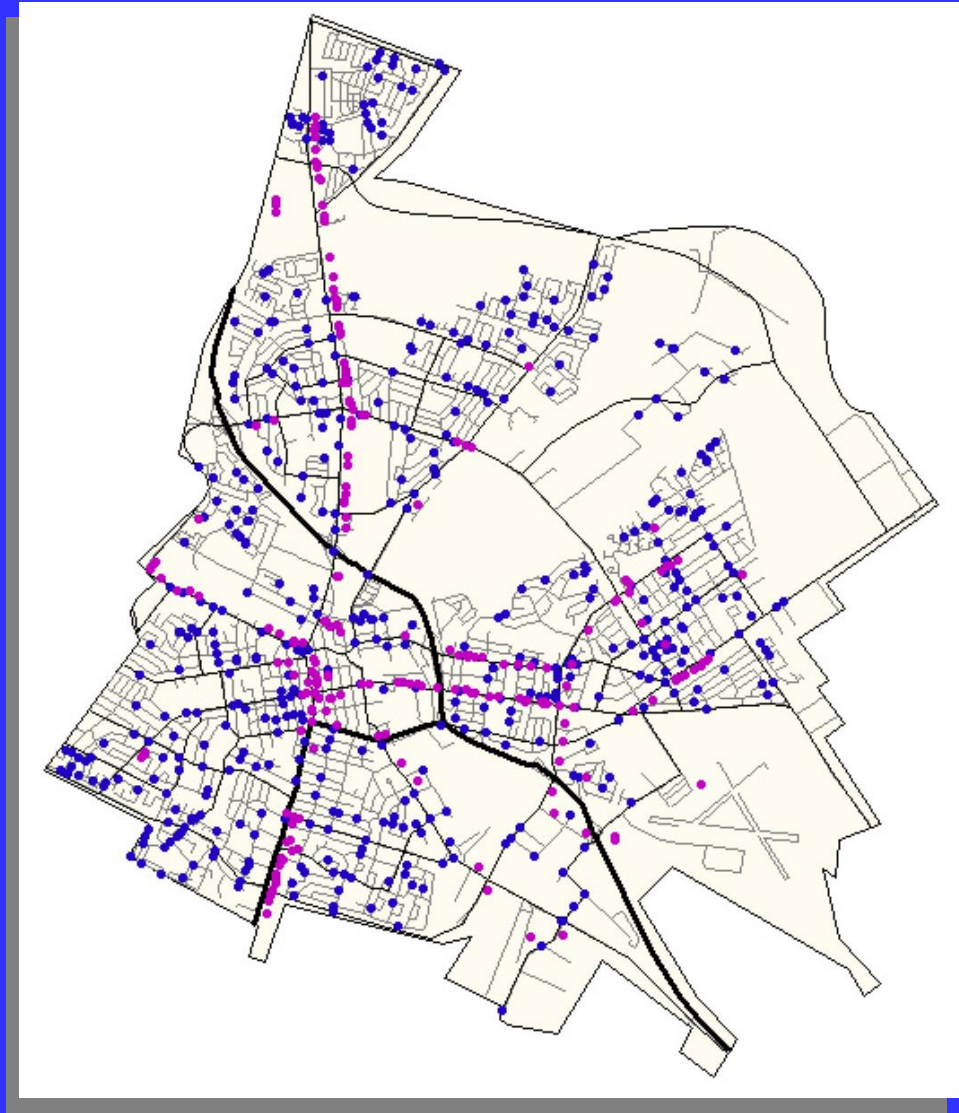
Actions:

- Server and manager training
- New alcohol serving policies (price promotions, reduce serving sizes, promote non-alcoholic beverages and food)
- Enforcement of no service to underage and obviously intoxicated patrons

Communities Grow and Evolve Over Time

Alcohol outlets include:

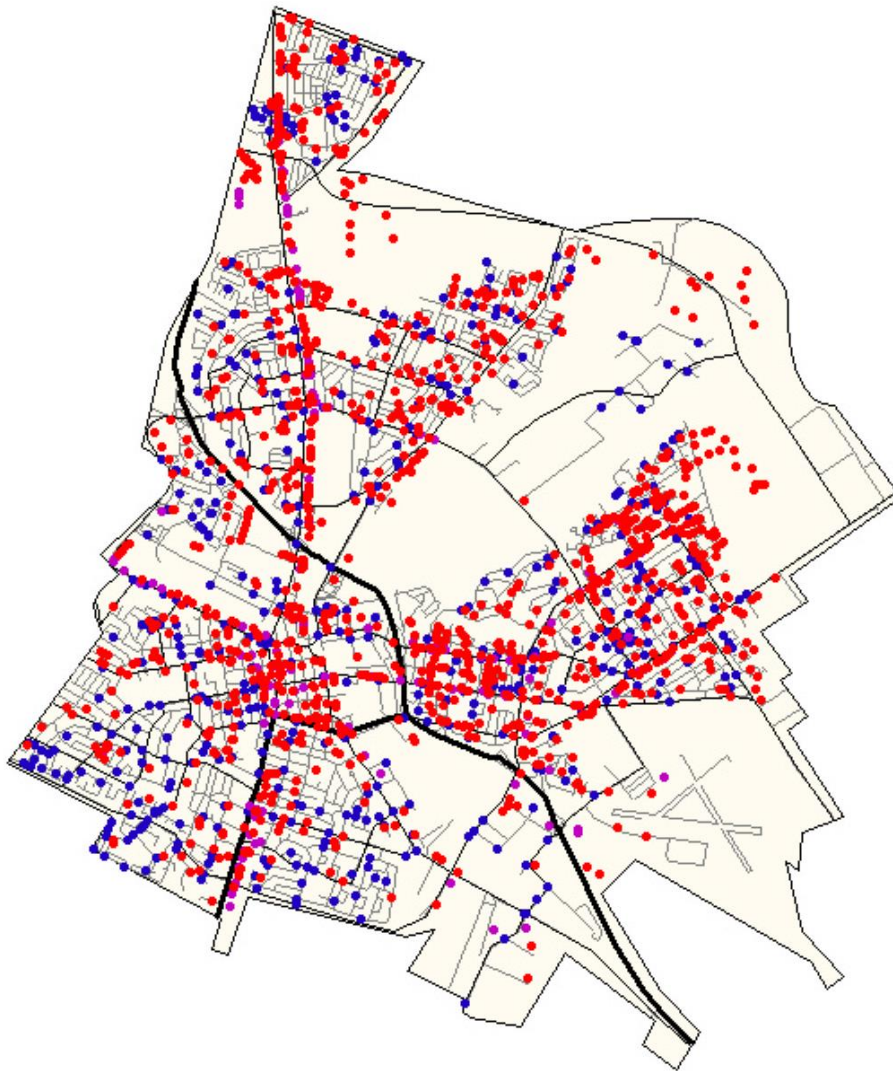
- Bars
- Restaurants
- Alcohol outlets



Unfortunately, there are some problems associated with alcohol outlets

Problems

- Pedestrian Injury Collisions
- Arrests for Drunken Driving
- Assaults



Latest Scientific Advance:
Mix of
evidence-based prevention strategies at
local level

Community Action Trials which use
complimentary policies.

EXAMPLES OF COMMUNITY ACTION PROJECTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD



Unresolved and Needed Research

Social Availability of alcohol

- **Alcohol availability in parties—youth & heavy drinking**
- **Provision of alcohol to underage youth by adults**
- **Purchase of alcohol for underage youth by adults and strangers.**

Unresolved and Needed Research

Delay of Drinking Onset

- **Relationship of age of drinking to later problems—cross section not longitudinal.**
- **Uncertainty if actual delay of initiation actually reduces later problems including dependency?**
- **What are policy strategies which can be shown to actually affect drinking initiation?**



Scientific Evidence

Alcohol Availability

	Effectiveness	Cross Cultural Testing	Cost/Effectiveness	Comments
Total Ban--Prohibition	***	***	**	Has associated problems
Minimum drinking/purchase age	***	*	**	Effectiveness linked to enforcement
Rationing	**	**	*	Specific to one country
Government Retail Monopoly	***	***	***	Politically challenging
Hours/Days of Sale	***	***	***	Option available to communities
Density of alcohol outlets	**	*	***	Option available to communities
Server Liability	***	*	***	Requires publicity of risk
Low Strength Alcohol	**	**	***	Effective IF price difference
Alcohol Price/Taxes	***	***	***	Strongest evidence, politically challenging

Scientific Evidence

Altering the Drinking Context & Promotion

	Effectiveness	Cross Cultural Testing	Cost/Effectiveness	Comments
Server Training to reduce over serving	***	***	**	Related to compliance
Server Training to prevention violence & Aggression	*	*	**	Effectiveness linked to enforcement
Voluntary codes of bar practice	0	*	0	Little effect w/o enforcement
Enforcement of on-premise regulations	**	**	**	Essential for regulations to be effective
Safer bar environment & containers	?	*	?	
Alcohol Advertising Bans	*	*	***	Mixed results on total advertising bans
Advertising content regulations	?	0	?	
Alcohol Free Activities	0	**	0	No evidence of effects

