

ALCOHOL OUTLET DENSITY REGULATION

Positive outcomes
from outlet
density regulation

Reduced
alcohol
consumption

Lower
violence rates

Lower
suicide rates

Health Equity

What is alcohol outlet density regulation?

Alcohol outlet density regulation is when a regulatory entity such as a municipality limits the number of alcohol retailers such as bars, restaurants and liquor stores in a given area through licensing or zoning processes. Regulatory powers can work with their communities to discuss neighborhood economic development and investment by limiting the number of alcohol outlets.



Areas with higher alcohol outlet density have higher levels of heavy drinking. Regulating the number of outlets in a geographic area is an effective strategy for reducing excessive alcohol consumption.



Excessive alcohol use plays a large role in violent crime. Communities with greater alcohol outlet density have more homicides, aggravated assaults and sexual assaults.



Alcohol policies such as outlet density regulation may help prevent suicide on a general population level and reduce alcohol-involved suicide deaths. More alcohol outlets in a community have been associated with higher suicide rates.



Low-income communities and communities of color historically have a higher alcohol outlet density—the greater the density, the greater the harm. Support communities to raise their voices to restrict the number of alcohol outlets.

Source: CityHealth, an initiative of the de Beaumont Foundation and Kaiser Permanente, released a report in 2021, [Preventing Violence in American Cities with Safer Alcohol Sales: Tools Cities Can Use to Address Increasing Alcohol Use and Violence Since the Onset of COVID-19](#)

Source: Xuan, Z., Naimi, T., Kaplan, M., Bagge, C., Few, L., Maisto, S., Saitz, R. and Freeman, R., 2016. [Alcohol Policies and Suicide: A Review of the Literature](#). *Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research*, 40(10), pp.2043-2055.

<https://www.prevention.org/alcohol-policy-resource-center>