**ALCOHOL OUTLET DENSITY**

An alcohol outlet is a place where alcohol may be legally sold for the buyer to drink there (on-premises outlets, such as bars or restaurants) or elsewhere (off-premises outlets, such as liquor stores).

Density refers to the number of alcohol outlets in a given area.

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**EXCESSIVE ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION**

Individuals living in areas with high concentrations of liquor stores and low concentrations of other retail markers are more likely to binge drink.

46%


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**A LARGE NUMBER** of New Mexico counties are at least 100% or more over the liquor license quota per every 2,000 population.

- [www.rld.state.nm.us/alcoholandgaming/](http://www.rld.state.nm.us/alcoholandgaming/)

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**MORE LIQUOR LICENSES EQUALS AN INCREASE IN ALCOHOL OUTLET DENSITY**

College students living closer to alcohol outlets are more likely to drink compared with students who live farther from alcohol outlets.


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**GREATER ALCOHOL DENSITY IS ASSOCIATED WITH...**

- Increased risk of sexually transmitted diseases
- Injury
- Increased exposure to many forms of violence

**NEIGHBORHOOD OUTCOMES**

- Increased rates of child abuse
- Increased rates of child neglect

WHY CARE ABOUT ALCOHOL OUTLET DENSITY?

MENTAL HEALTH
New Mexico counties with the greatest number of alcohol outlets per 1000 population have

50% HIGHER ALCOHOL-RELATED SUICIDE RATES compared to counties with the fewest alcohol outlets per 1000 population.

These counties also have TWICE the alcohol-related CRASH FATALITY rate.


MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS
New Mexico counties with the greatest number of alcohol outlets per 1000 population have

50% HIGHER ALCOHOL-RELATED CRASH RATES compared with counties with the lowest number of alcohol outlets per 1000 population.

These counties also have TWICE the alcohol-related CRASH FATALITY rate.


INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE
A one unit increase in the number of off-premise alcohol outlets is associated with a

4% INCREASE in police calls related to intimate partner violence and a 3% INCREASE in crime reports related to intimate partner violence.


UNDERAGE DRINKING
Adolescents living in environments with greater alcohol outlet density are MORE LIKELY TO DRINK FREQUENTLY compared to adolescents living in environments with less alcohol outlet density.


PREVENTION STRATEGIES
INCREASE LOCAL CONTROL OVER ALCOHOL OUTLET DENSITY
- Zoning regulations prevent alcohol-related harm by REDUCING the number of establishments permitted to sell alcohol.
- Collaborating with an alcohol epidemiologist IMPROVES research methods needed for addressing alcohol outlet density concerns.

NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
February 2016

For more, please see: