



Washington

State Profile and Underage Drinking Facts

State Population: 6,724,540
Population Ages 12–20: 826,000

	Percentage	Number
Ages 12–20		
Past-Month Alcohol Use	28.0	231,000
Past-Month Binge Alcohol Use	18.3	151,000
Ages 12–14		
Past-Month Alcohol Use	6.9	17,000
Past-Month Binge Alcohol Use	3.8	9,000
Ages 15–17		
Past-Month Alcohol Use	21.5	59,000
Past-Month Binge Alcohol Use	12.7	35,000
Ages 18–20		
Past-Month Alcohol Use	51.3	156,000
Past-Month Binge Alcohol Use	35.4	107,000
		Number
Alcohol-Attributable Deaths (under 21)		76
Years of Potential Life Lost (under 21)		4,512

	Percentage of All Traffic Fatalities	Number
Traffic Fatalities, 15- to 20-Year-Old Drivers with BAC > 0.01	32.0	29

Laws Addressing Minors in Possession of Alcohol

Underage Possession of Alcohol

Possession is prohibited with the following exception(s):

- Parent/guardian

Underage Consumption of Alcohol

Consumption is prohibited with the following exception(s):

- Parent/guardian

Internal Possession by Minors

Internal possession is not explicitly prohibited.

Note: Although Washington does not prohibit internal possession, it has a statutory provision that makes it unlawful for a minor to “be in a public place...while exhibiting the effects of having consumed liquor” (Wash. Rev. Code § 66.44.270). Laws that punish minors for displaying “indicators of consumption” or for “exhibiting the effects” of having consumed alcohol, but which do so without reference to a blood, breath, or urine test, are not considered as prohibiting internal possession, for purposes of this report.

Underage Purchase of Alcohol

Purchase is prohibited and there is NO ALLOWANCE for youth purchase for law enforcement purposes.

False Identification for Obtaining Alcohol

Provision(s) Targeting Minors

- Use of a false ID to obtain alcohol is a criminal offense.
- Penalty may include driver’s license suspension through a judicial procedure.

Provision(s) Targeting Suppliers

- It is a criminal offense to lend, transfer, or sell a false ID.
- It is a criminal offense to manufacture or distribute a false ID.

Provisions Targeting Retailers

- Specific affirmative defense—the retailer inspected the false ID and came to a reasonable conclusion based on its appearance that it was valid.

Laws Targeting Underage Drinking and Driving

BAC Limits: Youth (Underage Operators of Noncommercial Motor Vehicles)

- BAC limit: 0.02
- BAC level at or above the limit is per se (conclusive) evidence of a violation
- Applies to drivers under age 21

Loss of Driving Privileges for Alcohol Violations by Minors (“Use/Lose Laws”)

Use/lose penalties apply to minors under age 18.

Type(s) of Violation Leading to Driver’s License Suspension, Revocation, or Denial

- Underage purchase
- Underage possession
- Underage consumption

Authority To Impose Driver’s License Sanction

- Mandatory

Length of Suspension/Revocation

- 365 days

Graduated Driver’s License

Learner Stage

- Minimum entry age: 15
- Minimum learner-stage period: 6 months
- Minimum supervised driving requirement: 50 hours—10 of which must be at night

Intermediate Stage

- Minimum age: 16
- Unsupervised night driving
 - Prohibited after: 1 a.m.
 - No primary enforcement of the night-driving rule
- Passenger restrictions exist: First 6 months, no one under age 20 not in the immediate family; after 6 months, no more than three passengers under age 20 not in the immediate family
 - No primary enforcement of the passenger-restriction rule

License Stage

- Minimum age to lift restrictions: 17

Laws Targeting Alcohol Suppliers

Furnishing Alcohol to Minors

Furnishing is prohibited with the following exception(s):

- Parent/guardian

Compliance Check Protocols

No data

Penalty Guidelines for Sales to Minors

No data

Responsible Beverage Service***Mandatory Beverage Service Training for Managers, Servers***

- Applies only to on-sale establishments
- Applies to both new and existing outlets

Note: On November 8, 2011, voters in Washington approved Initiative 1183. In addition to privatizing the wholesale distribution and retail sale of liquor, Initiative 1183 triggers changes to laws currently coded for several policy topics. Implementation of the measure is ongoing, however, and will continue during 2012. Until implementation is complete, it is not possible to fully and accurately report information for this policy topic.

Minimum Ages for Off-Premises Sellers

- Beer: 18
- Wine: 18
- Spirits: 21

Condition(s) That Must Be Met in order for an Underage Person To Sell Alcoholic Beverages

- Manager/supervisor is present.

Minimum Ages for On-Premises Sellers

- Beer: 18 for servers and 21 for bartenders
- Wine: 18 for servers and 21 for bartenders
- Spirits: 18 for servers and 21 for bartenders

Condition(s) That Must Be Met in order for an Underage Person To Sell Alcoholic Beverages

- Manager/supervisor is present.

Dram Shop Liability

- There is no statutory liability.
- The courts recognize common law dram shop liability.

Social Host Liability Laws

There is no statutory liability.

Note: In *Reynolds v. Hicks*, the court held that a social host who furnishes alcohol to a minor can be held liable for resulting harms to the minor who was furnished but is not liable for injuries caused by the minor to third parties.

Host Party Laws

Social host law is not specifically limited to underage drinking parties

- Action by underage guest that triggers violation: Consumption
- Property type(s) covered by liability law: Residence, outdoor, other
- Standard for hosts' knowledge or action regarding the party: Negligence—host must have known or should have known of the event's occurrence.
- Exception(s): Family

Direct Sales/Shipments of Alcohol by Producers

Direct sales/shipments from producers to consumers are permitted for wine with the following restrictions:

Age Verification Requirements

- Common carrier must verify age of recipient.

State Approval/Permit Requirements

- Producer/shipper must obtain State permit.

Reporting Requirements: None

Shipping Label Statement Requirements

- Recipient must be 21.

Keg Registration

- Keg definition: 4 gallons or more
- Prohibited:
 - Possessing an unregistered, unlabeled keg—maximum fine/jail: \$5,000/1 year
 - Destroying the label on a keg—maximum fine/jail: \$5,000 /1 year
- Purchaser information collected:
 - Purchaser’s name and address
 - Verified by a government-issued ID
 - Address where keg will be consumed
- Warning information to purchaser: Active—purchaser action required (e.g., signature)
- Deposit: Not required
- Provisions do not specifically address disposable kegs.

Note: Under a special endorsement from the liquor control board, a grocery store licensee may sell malt liquor in containers no larger than 5½ gallons. Research revealed no similar container size restriction imposed on other licensees (see Wash. Rev. Code § 66.28.200).

Alcohol Pricing Policies

Home Delivery

- Beer: Permitted—to sell via the Internet, a new license applicant must request Internet sales privileges. Existing licensees must notify the board.
- Wine: Permitted—to sell via the Internet, a new license applicant must request Internet sales privileges. Existing licensees must notify the board.
- Spirits: No law

Alcohol Tax

- Beer (5 percent alcohol): Control State
- Wine (12 percent alcohol): Control State
- Spirits (40 percent alcohol): Control State

Drink Specials

- Free beverages: Not prohibited—licensee may offer a free drink on a case-by-case basis.

- Multiple servings at one time: Not prohibited
- Multiple servings for same price as single serving: Prohibited
- Reduced price at specified day or time: Not prohibited
- Unlimited beverages: Not prohibited
- Increased volume: Not prohibited

Wholesale Pricing

Pricing restrictions exist.

- Beer (5 percent alcohol): Control State
- Wine (12 percent alcohol): Control State
- Spirits (40 percent alcohol): Control State

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Washington State Survey Responses

State Agency Information	
<i>Agency with primary responsibility for enforcing underage drinking laws:</i> Washington State Liquor Control Board (WSLCB)	
<i>Methods by which local and State enforcement agencies coordinate their efforts to enforce laws prohibiting underage drinking:</i> WSLCB enforcement officers conduct virtually all of the compliance checks and liquor license inspections in the State. Local law enforcement officers are authorized to do that work, but their more usual involvement with underage drinking enforcement is breaking up underage drinking events and parties.	
Enforcement Strategies	
<i>State law enforcement agencies use:</i>	
Cops in Shops	No
Shoulder Tap Operations	No
Party Patrol Operations or Programs	No
Underage Alcohol-Related Fatality Investigations	Yes
<i>Local law enforcement agencies use:</i>	
Cops in Shops	Yes
Shoulder Tap Operations	Yes
Party Patrol Operations or Programs	Yes
Underage Alcohol-Related Fatality Investigations	No
<i>State has a program to investigate and enforce direct sales/shipment laws</i>	
Primary State agency responsible for enforcing laws addressing direct sales/shipments of alcohol to minors	Not applicable
Such laws are also enforced by local law enforcement agencies	No
Enforcement Statistics	
<i>State collects data on the number of minors found in possession</i>	
Number of minors found in possession by State law enforcement agencies	1,925
Number pertains to the 12 months ending	12/31/2010
Data include arrests/citations issued by local law enforcement agencies	No data
<i>State conducts underage compliance checks/decoy operations² to determine if alcohol retailers are complying with laws prohibiting sales to minors</i>	
Data are collected on these activities	Yes
Number of licensees checked for compliance by State agencies	2,442
Number of licensees that failed State compliance checks	457
Numbers pertain to the 12 months ending	12/31/2010
<i>Local agencies conduct underage compliance checks/decoy operations to determine if alcohol retailers are complying with laws prohibiting sales to minors</i>	
Data are collected on these activities	No
Number of licensees checked for compliance by local agencies	Data not collected
Number of licensees that failed local compliance checks	Data not collected
Numbers pertain to the 12 months ending	Data not collected
Sanctions	
<i>State collects data on fines imposed on retail establishments that furnish minors</i>	
Number of fines imposed by the State ³	346
Total amount in fines across all licensees	\$192,450
Numbers pertain to the 12 months ending	12/31/2010
<i>State collects data on license suspensions imposed on retail establishments specifically for furnishing minors</i>	
Number of suspensions imposed by the State ⁴	111
Total days of suspensions across all licensees	669
Numbers pertain to the 12 months ending	12/31/2010
<i>State collects data on license revocations imposed on retail establishments specifically for furnishing minors</i>	
	Yes

Number of license revocations imposed ⁵	4
Numbers pertain to the 12 months ending	12/31/2010

Additional Clarification
No data

- ¹ Or having consumed or purchased per State statutes
- ² Underage compliance checks/decoy operations to determine whether alcohol retailers are complying with laws prohibiting sales to minors
- ³ Does not include fines imposed by local agencies
- ⁴ Does not include suspensions imposed by local agencies
- ⁵ Does not include revocations imposed by local agencies

**Underage Drinking Prevention Programs Operated or Funded by the State:
Programs SPECIFIC TO Underage Drinking**

Reducing Underage Drinking (RUaD)	
Number of youth served	5,000
Number of parents served	1,000
Number of caregivers served	No data
Numbers pertain to the 12 months ending	12/31/2010
Program has been evaluated	Yes
Evaluation report is available	Contact Scott Waller, scott.waller@dshs.wa.gov
URL for evaluation report	No data
URL for more program information	http://www.starttalkingnow.org or contact Deb Schnellman, schneda@dshs.wa.gov

Program description: RUaD consists of State-level efforts and community-based strategies. The State RUaD Coalition - the Washington State Coalition to Reduce Underage Drinking - has members who represent 22 State agencies and organizations. A major current effort is a media campaign called "Let's Draw the Line Between Youth and Alcohol" that includes a Web site, <http://www.starttalkingnow.org>; paid and donated media, primarily on the Internet; local efforts to localize the statewide media message; and Spanish-language public service announcements on television and radio. Other statewide efforts are directed at enhancing the enforcement of laws pertaining to underage use of alcohol and reducing youth exposure to alcohol industry messaging.

Strategic Prevention Framework-State Incentive Grant (SPF-SIG)	
Number of youth served	8,593
Number of parents served	332
Number of caregivers served	No data
Numbers pertain to the 12 months ending	07/31/2010
Program has been evaluated	Yes
Evaluation report is available	Yes
URL for evaluation report	Contact Scott Waller, scott.waller@dshs.wa.gov
URL for more program information	No data

Program description: The SPF-SIG project was a community-based research project designed to reduce underage drinking. Through the 5-year project, community coalitions developed, implemented, and evaluated community-specific strategic plans. The goals of the project were to: (1) prevent the onset and progression of substance abuse; (2) reduce alcohol-related problems in communities; (3) build a prevention capacity and infrastructure at the State and community levels; and (4) implement a process of infusing data into the decisionmaking process.

Substance Abuse Prevention Intervention Services Program (SAPISP)	
Number of youth served	16,000
Number of parents served	1,200
Number of caregivers served	No data

Numbers pertain to the 12 months ending	06/30/2010
Program has been evaluated	Yes
Evaluation report is available	Yes
URL for evaluation report	Contact Dixie Grunenfelder, dixie.grunenfelder@k12.wa.us
URL for more program information	http://www.k12.wa.us/PreventionIntervention/default.aspx
Program description: The SAPISP program, operated by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, places specialists in schools to implement comprehensive student assistance programs that address problems associated with substance abuse and other at-risk behaviors.	

Underage Drinking Prevention Programs Operated or Funded by the State: Programs RELATED TO Underage Drinking	
Athena Forum Web site	
URL for more program information	http://www.theathenaforum.org
Program description: This is the primary Web site for prevention professional development in Washington State. There is extensive information about underage drinking, but also about other general prevention issues. The site features informational maps and community profiles that indicate the geographic location of high-risk areas for various problem behaviors. The Web site has a public view and a members-only side. Through the public view, individuals can access most of the resource information, including information about upcoming prevention events and training. Through the members-only side, individuals can post information on the site and participate in discussions and blogs.	
Target Zero Task Forces	
URL for more program information	http://www.wtsc.wa.gov/programs-priorities/task-forces
Program description: The 41 Target Zero tasks forces are a key community-based component of the Washington Traffic Safety Commission's plan to reduce Washington traffic fatalities to zero. The task forces focus on addressing local traffic safety concerns, including impaired driving, young drivers, speeding, and safety restraint usage. Many of the Target Zero task forces operate driving under the influence (DUI) Victim Impact panels for adults and youth and/or have law enforcement partnerships that implement party intervention patrols.	

Additional Information Related to Underage Drinking Prevention Programs	
<i>State collaborates with federally recognized Tribal governments in the prevention of underage drinking</i>	Yes
Program description: The Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery (DBHR) provides direct funding to the State's 29 federally recognized Tribes to support services that prevent or treat substance abuse problems. Most of the Tribes use these funds to support prevention efforts, most of which focus on youth issues including underage drinking.	
<i>State has programs to measure and/or reduce youth exposure to alcohol advertising and marketing</i>	Yes
Program description: As part of the current Let's Draw the Line Between Youth and Alcohol media campaign, the campaign consultant - RadarWorks - developed methods for tracking the number of times campaign messages were accessed on the Internet.	
<i>State has adopted or developed best practice standards for underage drinking prevention programs</i>	Yes
Best practice standards description: The implementation of the prevention set-aside from the Federal Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) block grant requires that a minimum of 50 percent of programs are evidence based. Many of DBHR's county-level prevention subcontractors focus their SAPT prevention funds on efforts to prevent underage drinking.	
Additional Clarification	
No data	

State Interagency Collaboration	
<i>A State-level interagency governmental body/committee exists to coordinate or address underage drinking prevention activities</i>	Yes
<i>Committee contact information:</i> Name: Earlyse Swift Email: earlyse.swift@dshs.wa.gov Address: PO Box 45330, Olympia, WA 98504-5330 Phone: 360-725-3807	
<i>Agencies/organizations represented on the committee:</i> Office of the Governor Office of the Lieutenant Governor Office of the Attorney General Washington State Patrol Washington State Liquor Control Board Washington State Department of Health Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction Washington Traffic Safety Commission Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery Washington State Department of Commerce Governor's Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee National Governor's Spouses College Coalition for Substance Abuse Prevention Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs Washington State Parent-Teacher Association Mothers Against Drunk Driving Tribes Youth Parents/families Faith community Court services/diversion Medical Washington State Coalition of Coalitions Students Against Destructive Decisions Washington National Guard Counterdrug Task Force	
<i>A Web site or other public source exists to describe committee activities</i> URL	Yes http://www.starttalkingnow.org

Underage Drinking Reports	
<i>State has prepared a plan for preventing underage drinking in the last 3 years</i> Prepared by Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery, Washington State Liquor Control Board and the Washington State Coalition to Reduce Underage Drinking Plan can be accessed via	Yes Earlyse Swift, earlyse.swift@dshs.wa.gov
<i>State has prepared a report on preventing underage drinking in the last 3 years</i> Prepared by Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery and Washington State Liquor Control Board Report can be accessed via	Yes Earlyse Swift, earlyse.swift@dshs.wa.gov
Additional Clarification	
The Washington State Coalition to Reduce Underage Drinking is co-chaired by the Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery and Washington State Liquor Control Board, so those two agencies generally take the lead on creation of plans and reports. The documents are then brought to the coalition for review and approval.	

State Expenditures for the Prevention of Underage Drinking	
<i>Compliance checks/decoy operations in retail outlets:</i>	
Estimate of State funds expended	Data unavailable
Estimate based on the 12 months ending	Data unavailable
<i>Checkpoints and saturation patrols:</i>	
Estimate of State funds expended	Data unavailable
Estimate based on the 12 months ending	Data unavailable
<i>Community-based programs to prevent underage drinking:</i>	
Estimate of State funds expended	\$4,800,000
Estimate based on the 12 months ending	06/30/2010
<i>K-12 school-based programs to prevent underage drinking:</i>	
Estimate of State funds expended	\$4,000,000
Estimate based on the 12 months ending	06/30/2010
<i>Programs targeted to institutes of higher learning:</i>	
Estimate of State funds expended	\$10,500
Estimate based on the 12 months ending	06/30/2010
<i>Programs that target youth in the juvenile justice system:</i>	
Estimate of State funds expended	Data unavailable
Estimate based on the 12 months ending	Data unavailable
<i>Programs that target youth in the child welfare system:</i>	
Estimate of State funds expended	Data unavailable
Estimate based on the 12 months ending	Data unavailable
<i>Other programs:</i>	
Programs or strategies included	No data
Estimate of State funds expended	No data
Estimate based on the 12 months ending	No data

Funds Dedicated to Underage Drinking	
<i>State derives funds dedicated to underage drinking from the following revenue streams:</i>	
Taxes	No
Fines	No
Fees	No
Other	No data
<i>Description of funding streams and how they are used:</i> No data	
Additional Clarification	
No data	