

## Public Health Perspective and Approach to Alcohol Outlet Density

*Evidence supporting the implementation of alcohol outlet density policies as a public health strategy to reduce harm related to alcohol misuse and abuse*

1. Information on the relationship between high alcohol outlet density and various health related problems:
  - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2011). The *Task Force on Community Preventive Services* “recommends the use of regulatory authority (e.g., through licensing and zoning) to limit alcohol outlet density on the basis of sufficient evidence of a positive association between outlet density and excessive alcohol consumption and related harms”. Retrieved from: <http://www.thecommunityguide.org/alcohol/outletdensity.html>. Supporting evidence table: <http://www.thecommunityguide.org/alcohol/supportingmaterials/SETAlcoholOutletDensity.pdf>. Related information published in The American Journal for Preventive Medicine: <http://www.thecommunityguide.org/alcohol/EffectivenessLimitingAlcoholOutletDensityMeansReducingExcessiveAlcoholConsumptionAlcohol-RelatedHarms.pdf>
  - The Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation. (2011). The location and operation of bars, stores, and restaurants that serve and sell alcohol affect the level and type of various problems in the community, including violence, impaired driving, neighborhood quality of life, and underage drinking. Retrieved from: <http://resources.prev.org/alcoholoutlet.htm>
  - UW Madison – Population Health Institute. (2011). What Works for Health. Policies and Programs to Improve Wisconsin’s Health – website includes listing The Community Guide (above) along with additional sources related to college and underage drinking. Retrieved from: <http://whatworksforhealth.wisc.edu/program.asp?t1=21&t2=13&t3=38&id=74>
  - The Prevention Institute published - A Primary Prevention Framework for Substance Abuse and Mental Health (2009): guides public health approaches to reduce the conditions in the community that lead to inappropriate use of alcohol by “enhancing place” as one multi-faceted solution to address not only individual and families but environments and communities. Retrieved from: <http://www.preventioninstitute.org/component/jlibrary/article/id-53/127.html>
  - FACE. (2009). Community Action Kits: Outlet Density. Retrieved from: <http://faceproject.org/tools/kits/OutletDensity.pdf>

2. Viewed as a health equity issue: populations-at-risk (college students) are denied opportunities to be as healthy as others when their environment enables and promotes substance abuse. When alcohol availability is reduced through restrictions on alcohol outlet density, less drinking occurs. Retrieved from:  
<http://www.casacolumbia.org/articlefiles/380-Wasting%20the%20Best%20and%20the%20Brightest.pdf>
3. Public Health Madison & Dane County believes that health begins where we live, work and play. Alcohol density regulation has the potential to be one component of a multi-faceted approach to address alcohol abuse/misuse by targeting the built environment. As such PHMDC supports the original intent of ALDO.