



Understanding New Yorkers' Opinions on Policies to Reduce Excessive Alcohol Use

Excessive alcohol use is an important public health issue in New York with 1 in 5 New Yorkers reporting excessive alcohol use in the form of either binge or heavy drinking.¹ Excessive alcohol use can cause injuries, violence, and chronic diseases.² More than 8,050 New Yorkers die each year due to excessive alcohol use.³ Moreover, the economic impact is staggering, costing the state's economy an estimated \$16.3 billion in 2010.⁴ The harmful effects of alcohol are disproportionately felt in low income communities and communities of color.⁵ The health, safety, and socioeconomic harms attributable to alcohol can be effectively reduced through evidence-based policies and

prevention programs. A January 2023 survey of adult residents of New York found that support for alcohol-related policies varies.

- Three-quarters (75%) of New York adults support requiring additional health warnings on alcohol containers and 56% support banning outdoor advertising of alcohol.
- Nearly half of New York adults support increasing the sales tax on alcohol products and just under half (47%) support limiting the days or hours that alcohol is sold.
- Forty-one percent support decreasing the number of stores that sell alcohol products.

Figure 1: Support for Policies to Reduce Excessive Alcohol Use Among NYS Adults



Data Source: Siena College Research Institute/New York State Department of Health, January 2023

Public Health Opportunity

Policies that reduce the availability and affordability of alcohol can reduce excessive drinking and promote safer and healthier communities. An understanding of public sentiment towards alcohol-related policies is important for educational efforts that aim to raise awareness of and build support for policies. Increasing awareness among New Yorkers of the harms associated with excessive alcohol use and that there are well-researched, effective policies that can reduce these harms can foster implementation of these effective policies.

For more information about this report or other alcohol-related data and resources in New York State, visit the Department of Health's Alcohol Surveillance and Epidemiology Program's [website](https://www.health.ny.gov/alcohol) or contact AlcoholData@health.ny.gov.

References:

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