

Alcohol & Violence

Baltimore City has more than three times as many alcohol outlets as the state of Rhode Island ¹ despite only having ~ 60% of the population.²

THE PROBLEM

Alcohol is the most commonly used drug in the U.S.³

53% of adults are drinkers⁴

16% of adults are binge drinkers⁴

7% of adults are heavy drinkers⁴

In Baltimore in 2015, alcohol caused⁵


1,182
robberies


161
homicides


1,354
aggravated
assaults


80
sexual
assaults

The cost of alcohol-attributable violence in Baltimore in 2016 was **\$289.8 million**⁵

City taxpayers pay for **49%** of these costs⁶

Each additional alcohol outlet in a census tract is associated with more violent crime⁹

Alcohol is the #1 drug used by homicide offenders⁷

48% Positive BAC⁸

37% Intoxicated⁸

These business practices are associated with increased violence



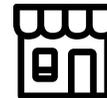
Longer operating hours¹⁸



Single serves¹⁹



Advertising²⁰



On-premise outlets (Bars & restaurants)

3.1%
more crime



Off-premise outlets (liquor stores)

4.8%
more crime

Baltimore City has **1,296** liquor licenses¹⁰

Increased physical availability of alcohol is associated with increases in


Homicide⁸


Suicide¹⁰


Intimate partner violence¹¹


Child maltreatment²³


Robbery⁸


Sexual Assault⁸


Aggravated assault⁸


Underage drinking¹³

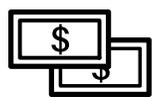

Hospital admissions¹⁴


Alcohol use disorders¹⁵


Motor vehicle crashes¹⁶


Gonorrhea¹⁷

Areas with more restrictive alcohol policy environments tend to have lower rates of alcohol-involved homicides.²¹ **The following practices have been used in other cities to regulate alcohol outlets and protect the public's health, safety and quality of life:** ²²



Increase alcohol taxes/price of alcohol



Enforce the minimum legal drinking age law



Create more accountability for liquor licensees for illegal sales practices (e.g. dram shop liability)



Enforce laws prohibiting sales to intoxicated individuals



Regulate excessive price discounting practices



Regulate alcohol-related marketing (e.g. window signage, billboards)



Place limits on hours and days of sales for alcohol outlets



Regulate alcohol outlet density through licensing and zoning processes

TAKE ACTION

- Have a BGNC member come speak to your organization
- Contact your legislators (city and state) to tell them what you've learned about the connection between alcohol and violence
- Submit a letter to the editor on the connection between alcohol and violence
- Join regular calls to discuss moving the action plan forward
- Engage with the state task force to study alcohol regulation when opportunities arise



For a detailed list of references, visit www.bmoreneighborly.org