### Alcohol & Violence

**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

Alcohol is the #1 drug used by homicide offenders⁸

- **48%** Positive BAC⁹
- **37%** Intoxicated⁹

In Baltimore in 2015, alcohol caused⁵

- 1,182 robberies
- 1,354 aggravated assaults
- 161 homicides
- 80 sexual assaults

The cost of alcohol-attributable violence in Baltimore in 2016 was $289.8 million⁶

City taxpayers pay for **49%** of these costs⁷

Each additional alcohol outlet in a census tract is associated with more violent crime¹³

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Business Practice</th>
<th>On-premise outlets (Bars &amp; restaurants)</th>
<th>Off-premise outlets (liquor stores)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Longer operating hours¹⁰</td>
<td>3.1% more crime</td>
<td>4.8% more crime</td>
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<td>Single serves¹¹</td>
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<td>Advertising¹²</td>
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Baltimore City has **1,296** liquor licenses¹⁴

Increased physical availability of alcohol is associated with increases in

- Homicide¹³
- Suicide¹⁵
- Intimate partner violence¹⁶
- Child maltreatment¹⁷
- Robbery¹³
- Sexual Assault¹³
- Aggravated assault¹³
- Underage drinking¹⁸
- Hospital admissions¹⁹
- Alcohol use disorders²⁰
- Motor vehicle crashes²¹
- Gonorrhea²²
Areas with more restrictive alcohol policy environments tend to have lower rates of alcohol-involved homicides. The following practices have been used in other cities to regulate alcohol outlets and protect the public’s health, safety and quality of life:

- 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

To see a detailed reference list, visit bmoreneighborly.org

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