

Washington Alcohol Policy Landscape: A Case Study for Prevention

Washington Prevention Summit



November 3, 2020



NABCA

Cassandra Tourre
Director of Public Policy

Sara Cooley-Broschart
Public Health Education Liaison



Washington State
Liquor and Cannabis Board

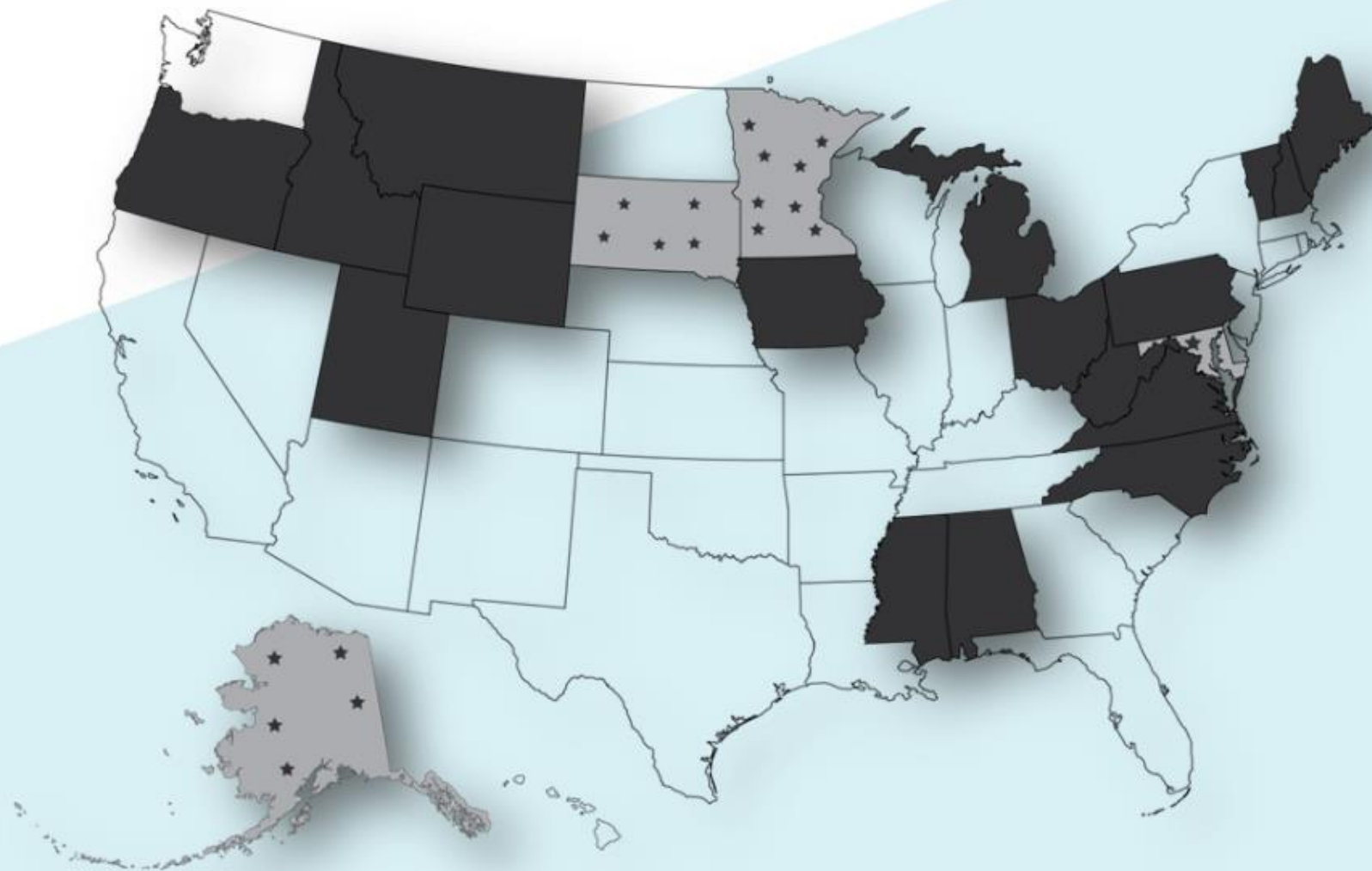


NABCA

NATIONAL ALCOHOL BEVERAGE
CONTROL ASSOCIATION

- Established in 1938
- Represent "Control Systems" jurisdictions with direct role in sale cycle (wholesale and/or retail)
- Not an advocacy or lobbying organization
- Not a beverage alcohol industry organization

CONTROL SYSTEMS IN THE UNITED STATES



- Alabama
- Iowa
- Idaho
- Maine
- Maryland (Montgomery County)
- Michigan
- Mississippi
- Montana
- New Hampshire
- North Carolina
- Pennsylvania
- Ohio
- Oregon
- Utah
- Vermont
- Virginia
- West Virginia
- Wyoming

All Jurisdictions Achieve Objectives by:

License everyone who sells alcohol

Enforce laws to reduce underage and excessive drinking

Regulate days/hours of sale, location of premises, and density of outlets

Require products to flow through a 3-tier system



PRODUCER/
MANUFACTURERS



DISTRIBUTORS/
WHOLESALEERS



RETAILERS

SIDE BY SIDE: STATE COMPARISON



LICENSE
ALASKA

Department of Commerce,
Community and Economic
Development - Alcohol & Marijuana
Control Office



Alcoholic Beverage
Control Board



(Licensing + Enforcement)

CONTROL
Idaho

Office of the Governor and
Idaho State Police



State Liquor Division oversees
distribution and retail sales
of spirits

State Police Alcohol Beverage Control
Bureau oversees licensing of beer and
wine outlets and carries out
enforcement of state alcohol laws



(Licensing + Enforcement)

CONTROL
OREGON

Office of Governor



Oregon Liquor Control
Commission - Public
Safety Division



(Licensing + Enforcement)

LICENSE
WASHINGTON

Department of Revenue



Washington Liquor and
Cannabis Board

Licensing
and
Regulation
Division



Enforcement
and
Education
Division



(Licensing + Enforcement)

U.S. Alcohol Control Policies

Research focused on building tools to
compare the relative efficacy of policies and
assess the strength of states' policy
environments

*National Institutes of Alcohol Abuse
and Alcoholism (R01 AA018377;
T.Naimi, PI)*



POLICIES TO CHANGE ENVIRONMENT

(National Institutes of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (R01 AA018377; T. Naimi, PI)



Enforcement countermeasures

Compliance checks, dram shop liability, false ID laws, furnishing alcohol to minors, impaired driving countermeasures, overservice monitoring, place of last drink data collection



Regulatory oversight

Training for licensees, alcohol control systems, fetal alcohol spectrum disorders signage, administrative inspections and sanctions



Limits on place, products, price

Restrict consumption in public places, local control options, Sunday sales bans, direct shipment and outlet restrictions, retail and wholesale price restrictions, minimum unit pricing laws, taxes



Promotional restrictions

Bans on mass media advertising, outdoor advertising, promotional materials and giveaway restrictions, retail signage restrictions



Higher APS = Fewer Harms

States with higher Alcohol Policy Scores have lower rates of drink driving, binge drinking (youth, adults), homicide victimization and cirrhosis mortality.

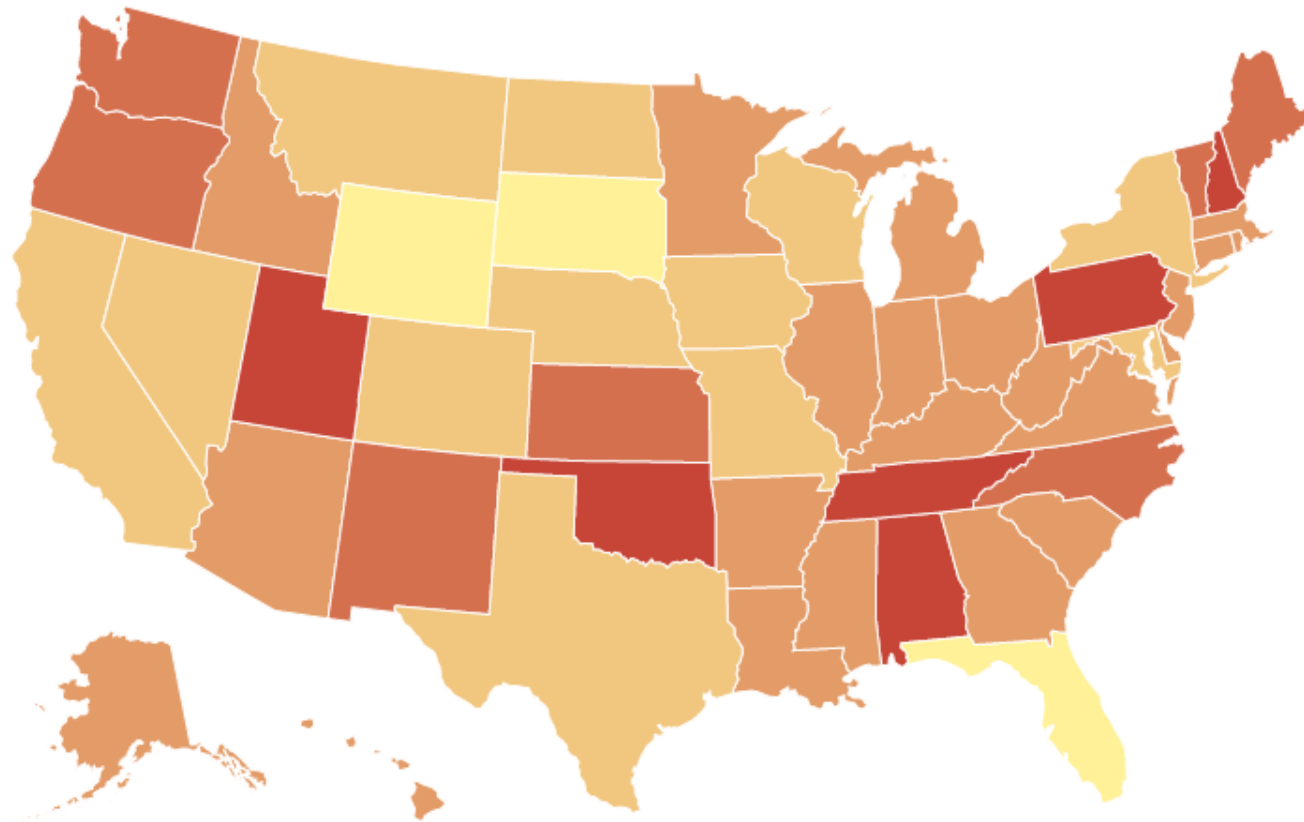
(National Institutes of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (R01 AA018377; T. Naimi, PI)

ALCOHOL POLICY SCORES

Changes Over Time

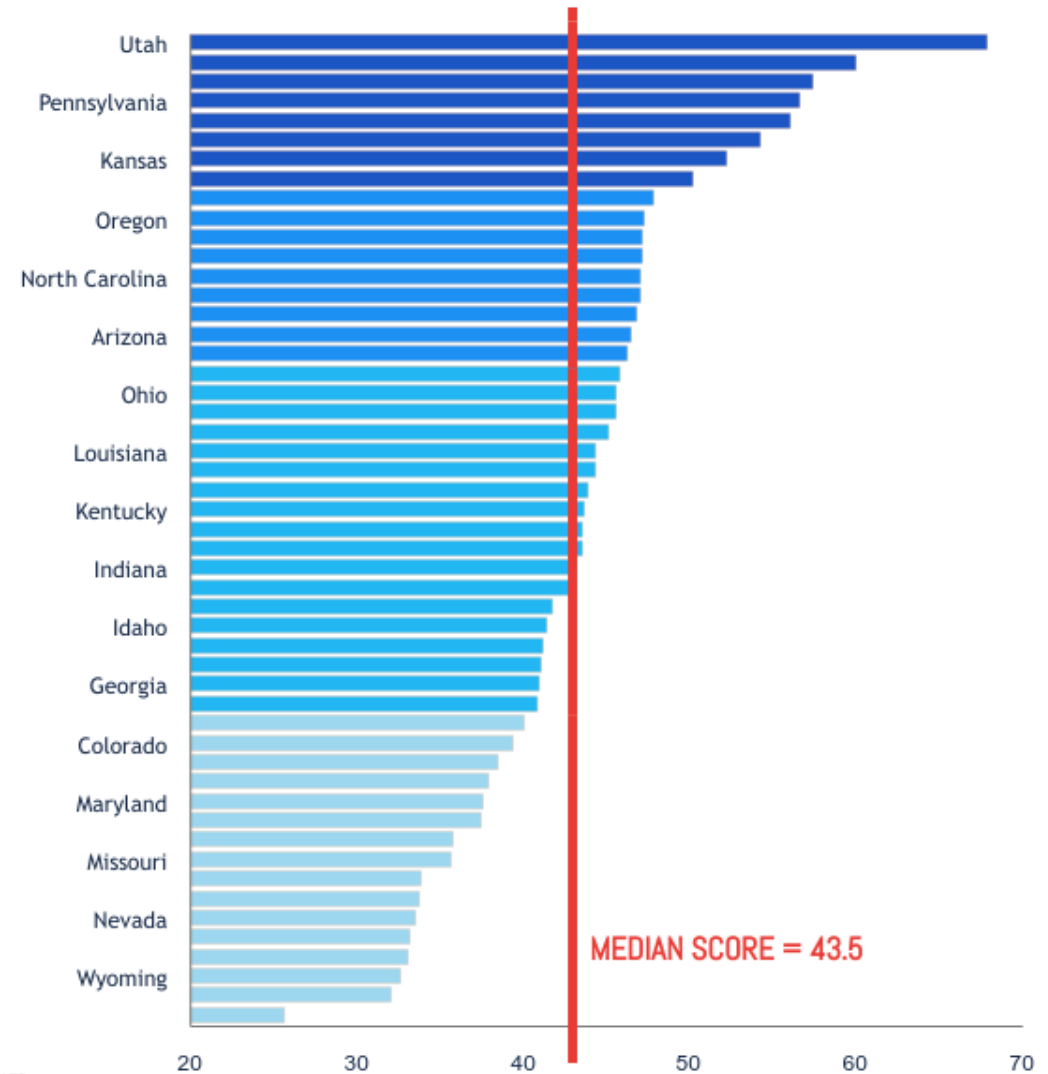
Ranked from Highest to Lowest

2018 SCORES & RANKING



Alcohol Policy Score

< 33 33 - 40 40 - 47 47 - 54 > 54



ALCOHOL POLICY SCORES

Changes Over Time

Median score = 43.5 (based on a 0-100 range)

2018 SCORES & FINDINGS

The median change in state APS scores from 1999-2018 was positive indicating increases in the restrictiveness of policy environments, with decreases in only five states.

1999 median 39.1 to 43.5 in 2018

Most increase in APS scores were primarily attributable to the implementation of stronger alcohol impaired driving laws, while policies to reduce excessive drinking were unchanged.

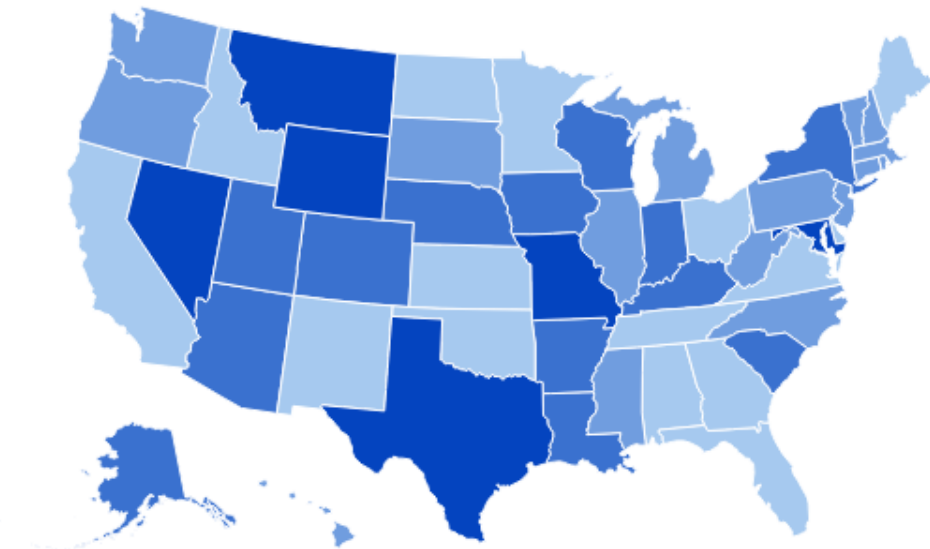
Based on this policy scale, few states have restrictive policy environments.

Alcohol Policy Score

■ < 33 ■ 33 - 40 ■ 40 - 47 ■ 47 - 54 ■ > 54

ALCOHOL POLICY SCORES

CHANGE FROM 1999 - 2018

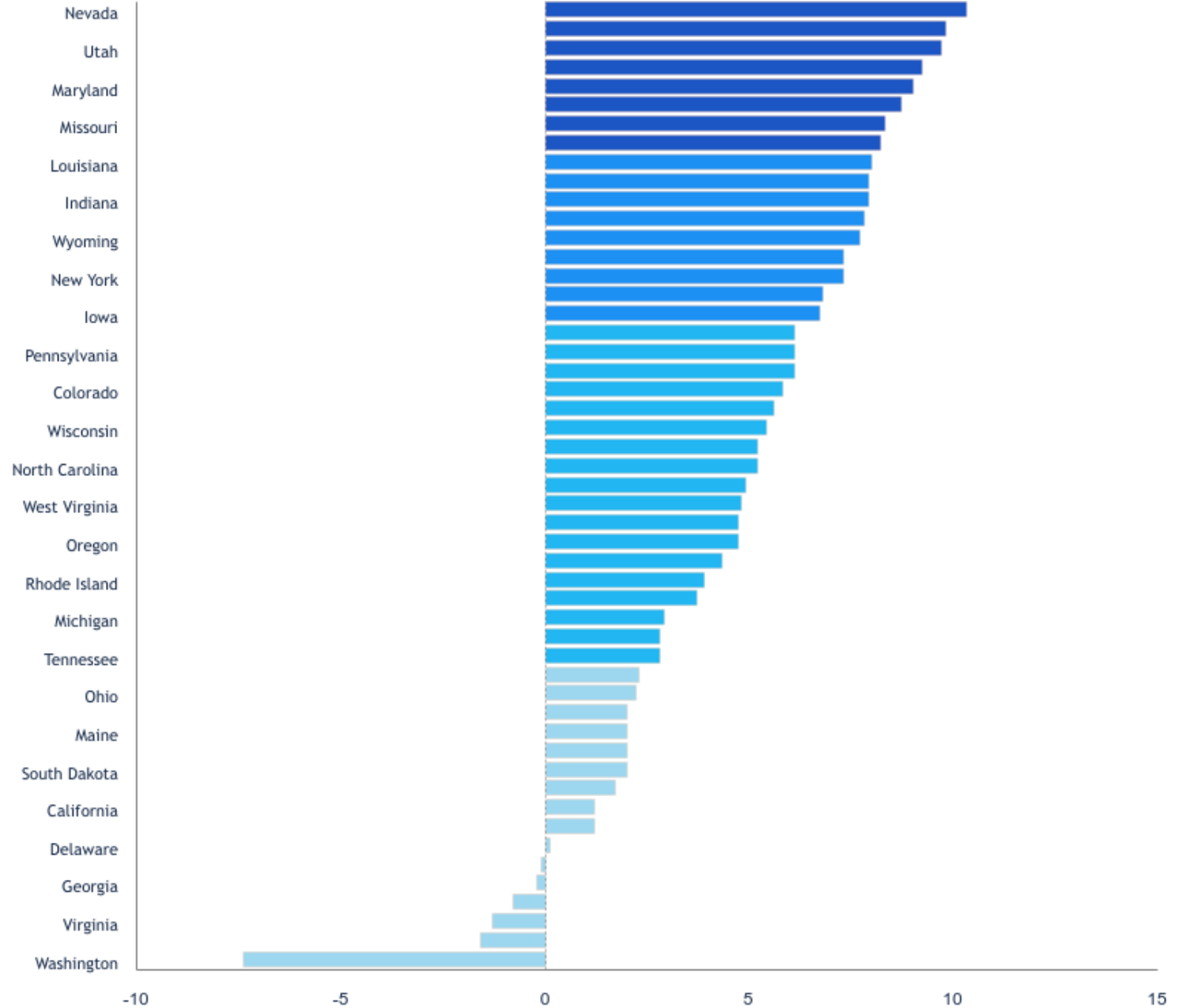


ALASKA | 24% INCREASE

IDAHO | 2% INCREASE

OREGON | 11% INCREASE

WASHINGTON | 14% DECREASE



AFTER PRIVATIZATION: RESULTS IN WASHINGTON STATE

Washington is the only control jurisdiction in recent history that has chosen to fully privatize its alcohol retail and distribution system, providing a natural experiment for researchers to study the policy implications.

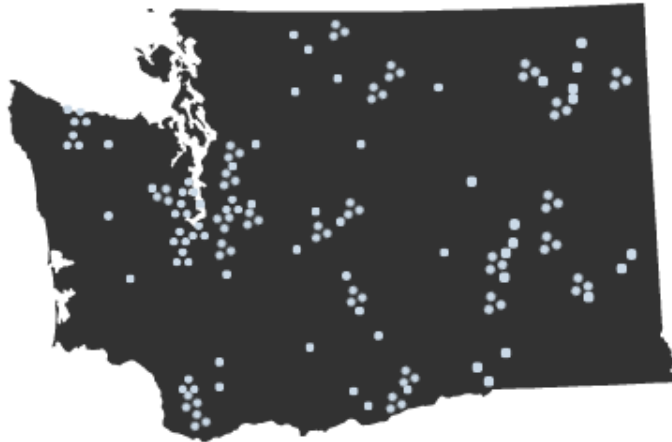


In 2011, Washington residents voted to pass Initiative -1183 to privatize its alcohol regulatory system.

OUTLET DENSITY

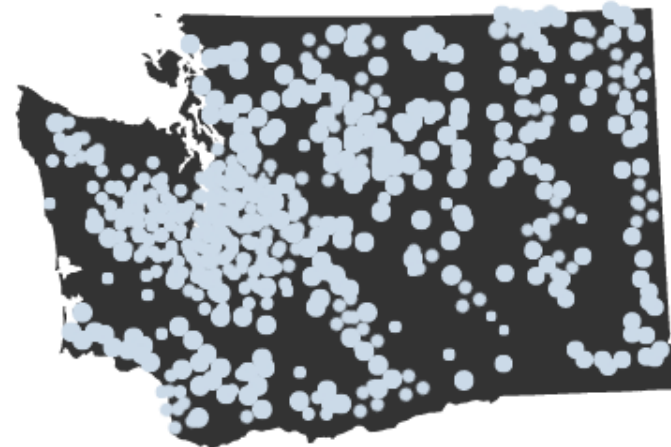
after
PRIVATIZATION

BEFORE



330 OUTLETS¹

AFTER



1,600 OUTLETS²

THERE ARE ALMOST **5X** AS MANY LIQUOR OUTLETS TODAY

1. Subbaraman MS, Kerr WC. Opinions on the Privatization of Distilled-Spirits Sales in Washington State: Did Voters Change Their Minds? *J Stud Alcohol Drugs*. 2016 Jul;77(4):568-76. PubMed PMID: 27340960; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC4987069.

2. Ye Y, Kerr WC. Estimated increase in cross-border purchases by Washington residents following liquor privatization and implications for alcohol consumption trends. *Addiction*. 2016 Nov;111(11):1948-1953. doi: 10.1111/add.13481. Epub 2016 Jul 21. PMID: 27262730; PMCID: PMC5056797.

Liquor Price Increased



To compensate for lost state revenue, Washington imposed a number of new fees and taxes on retailers and distributors.

17%

Licensees are taxed 17% for all liquor sales *

In addition to an annual renewal fee of

\$316

for off-premise retailers **

Distributors must pay

5%

of total revenue

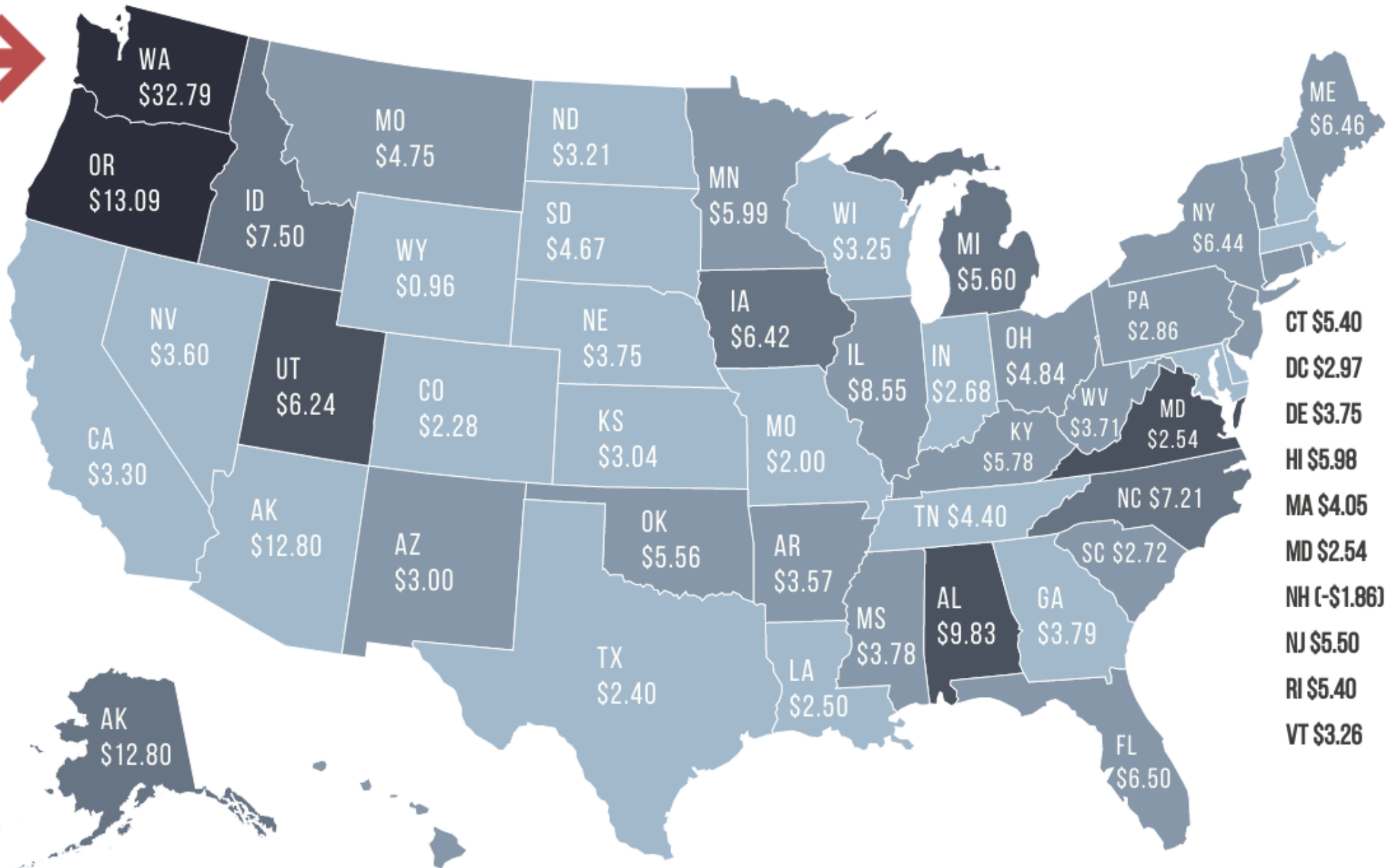
Source: * SYe Y, Kerr WC. Estimated increase in cross-border purchases by Washington residents following liquor privatization and implications for alcohol consumption trends. *Addiction*. 2016 Nov;111(11):1948-1953. doi: 10.1111/add.13481. Epub 2016 Jul 21. PMID: 27262730; PMCID: PMC5056797.

Source: ** Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board. Report: Retail Liquor Licenses and Endorsement Description and Fees Information. LIQ 180 7/17

Today:



Washington still has the highest spirit tax rate in the United States.



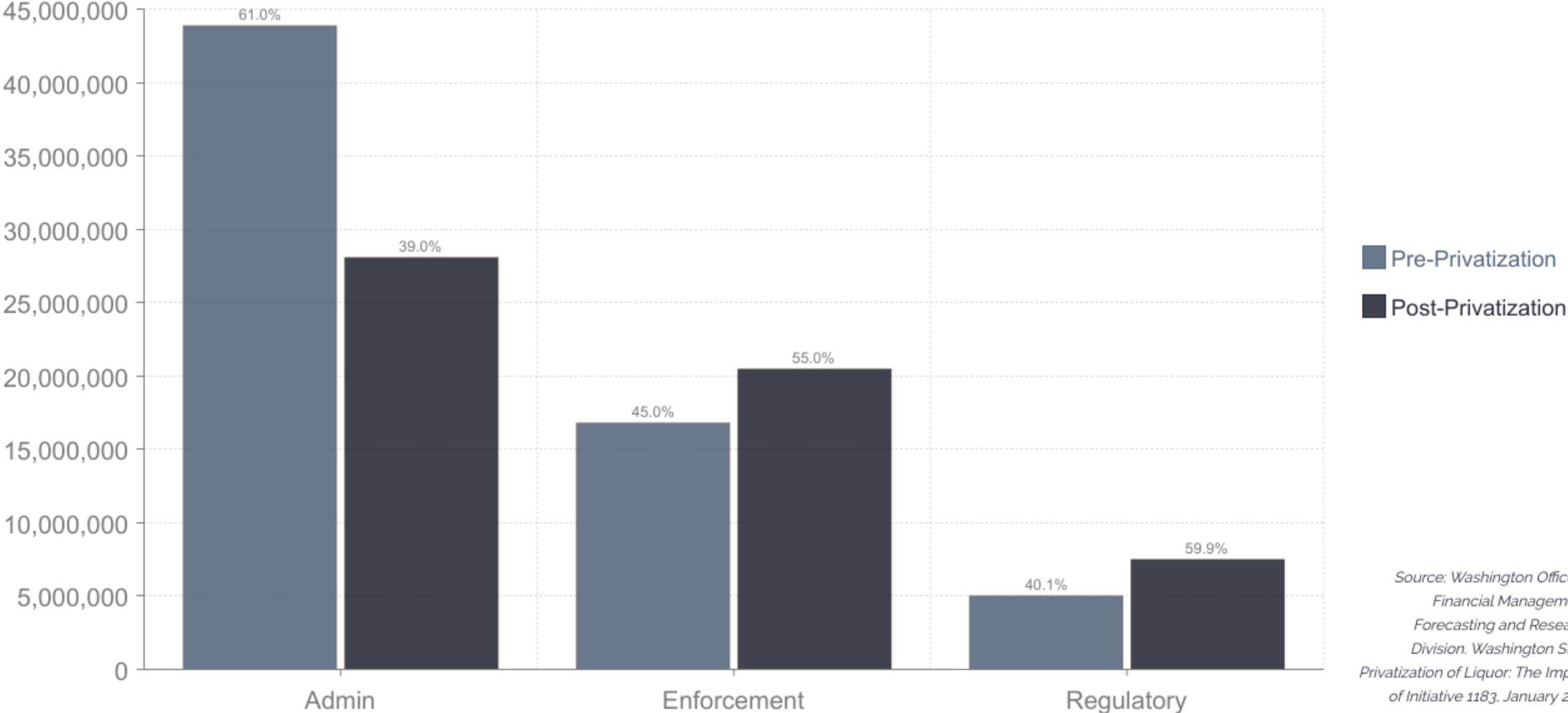
Source: Alcohol Research Group.
Report State Alcohol Tax Rates, 2018

INFRASTRUCTURE



Liquor Control Board Budget

Before and After Privatization



Source: Washington Office of Financial Management, Forecasting and Research Division. Washington State Privatization of Liquor: The Impact of Initiative 1183. January 2015

Assaults

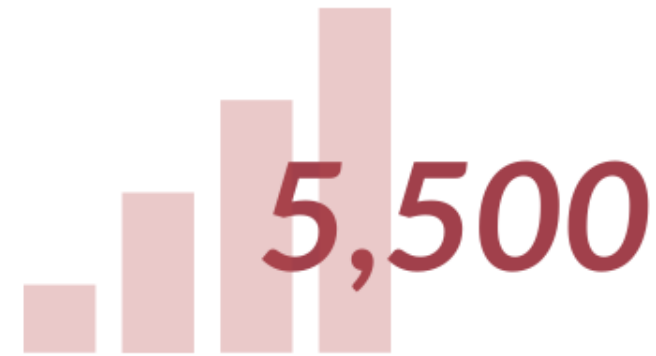
In Seattle, researchers found that for each additional off-premise alcohol outlet (liquor store) in a given census block group, *there was an 8% increase in aggravated assaults and a 6% increase in non-aggravated assaults.*



8%

6%

Emergency Department Visits



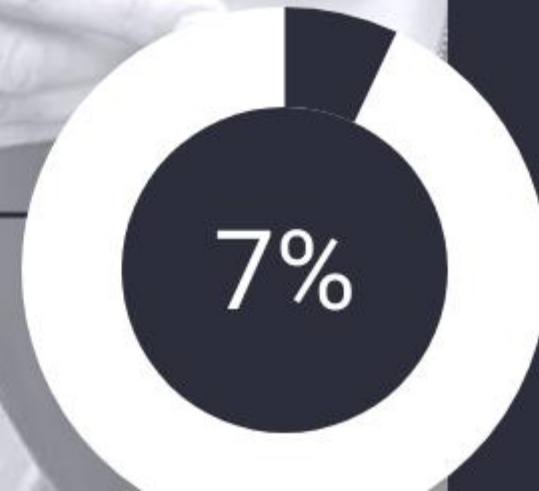
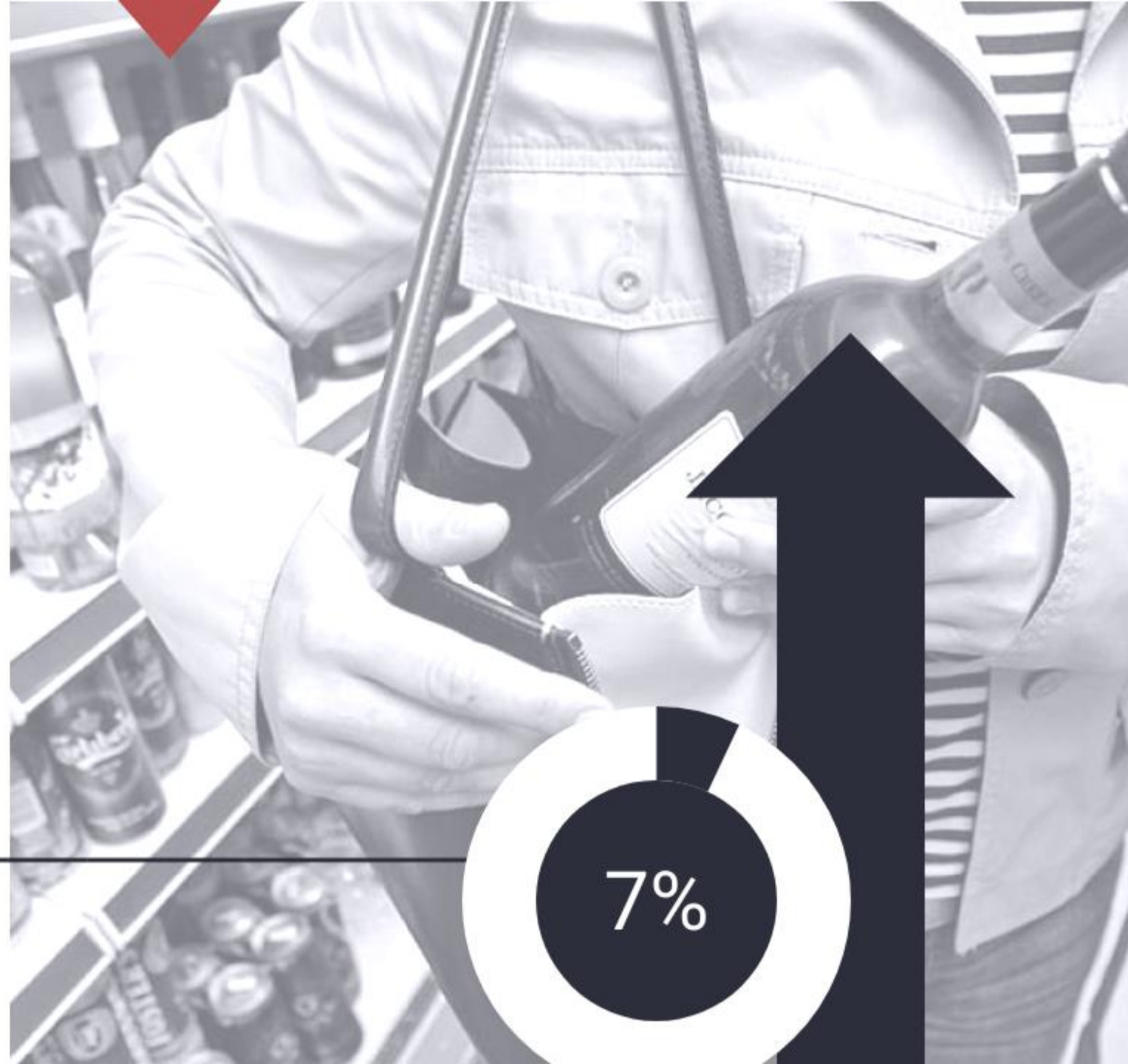
King County saw an estimated excess of *5,500 alcohol-related emergency department visits in the 16 months following privatization, significantly greater than expected for both minors and men and women ages 40+*

Source: Dilley JA, Baer A, Duchin J, Maher JE. Using a Syndromic Surveillance System to Evaluate the Impact of a Change in Alcohol Law. *Online J Public Health Inform.* 2015 Feb 26;7(1):e70. doi: 10.5210/ojphi.v7i1.5736. PMID: PMC4512469.

Youth & Crime

Following privatization, the percentage of youth who reported "stole from a store" as a source of alcohol increased from 3% in 2008 to 7% in 2014.

Source: Segawa, M., Hong, G., Fallis, R., Dilley, J.A. (2015, November) Impact of Washington State Initiative 1183 (alcohol system de-regulation). Presentation presented at the 28th annual National Prevention Network Conference, Seattle, WA.



The vote is in

If voters could have foreseen the implications of passing the referendum, 20% said they would have voted no on Initiative 1183.

THOSE WHO VOTED
YES WERE
7.7 TIMES
MORE LIKELY TO
REGRET
THEIR DECISION



Laws, Regulations, Ordinances

Laws (Statutes)

- Enacted by legislative body
- Enacted by voters

Regulations (Rules)

- Developed by regulatory body to implement laws
- Clarifies what is allowed or not allowed under law
- Cannot change the law in any way
- Public and transparent process

Ordinances

- Enacted by local municipality

Understanding the Regulatory Landscape

Current policies

- Where do they originate?
- Who can make changes?
- Does the law need to change or the rules that implement the law?
- How do I know when new policies or changes are being proposed?


New policies

- Who has the power?



Educate!

Those receiving federal or state funds **CAN** educate elected officials at any level of government about:

- Who you are
 - What you do
 - The issues impacting your community
 - Your local data
 - What you are doing to address these issues
 - Your successes and outcomes
- 

If your organization is solely funded with Federal/State/County dollars, can you educate your elected officials?

YES!

Education is not considered lobbying.

You are permitted to educate elected officials about issues you are facing and how to address them, as long as you are not taking specific positions on specific bills.

Advocacy

What is advocacy in a policy context?

Advocacy is actively raising awareness about an issue and how generally to address it.

Lobbying

[Lobbying is reported to the IRS by nonprofits in their form 990 annually. It is considered to be direct lobbying or indirect (grassroots) lobbying.]

Lobbying is advocacy for specific legislation, specific regulatory or judicial reform, or support for or against a ballot initiative.

Lobbying language:

Support, oppose, object, pass, vote no, vote for, vote against. . .

When Can You Lobby?

When using funds that do not come from federal/state/county funds and are not matches for those funds

When acting as an individual on your own dime or time

Examples Not Considered Lobbying

- Meeting with a legislator to talk about a social problem without mentioning a specific legislative proposal.

- Providing a legislator with educational materials about a specific piece of legislation without calling for specific action.

- Responding to a written request from a legislative committee or subcommittee for information about a specific piece of legislation.

Is It Considered Lobbying. . .

. . . If you are speaking against an ordinance that is on the city council agenda?

. . . If you telling the City Council you would like to see a billboard ban developed in your city?

. . . If you are talking to your Senator's staff about the harms of youth alcohol use and youth use data before a hearing on expanding alcohol access?



What Steps Will You Take?

- Create a strategy
- Build capacity – divide tasks
- Track bills and rules
- Gather information, data, and stories
- Develop issue briefs
- Make contacts
- Be proactive as well as reactive



THANK YOU



QUESTIONS?

Cassandra Tourre

Director, Public Policy

NABCA

Cassandra.Tourre@nabca.org

Sara Cooley-Broschart

Public Health Education Liaison

WSLCB

Sara.Broschart@lcb.wa.gov