# Rhode Island

State Profile and Underage Drinking Facts*

State Population: 1,050,292  
Population Ages 12–20: 128,000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ages 12–20</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Past-Month Alcohol Use</td>
<td>32.4</td>
<td>41,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Past-Month Binge Alcohol Use</td>
<td>21.0</td>
<td>27,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ages 12–14</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Past-Month Alcohol Use</td>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Past-Month Binge Alcohol Use</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ages 15–17</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Past-Month Alcohol Use</td>
<td>23.6</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Past-Month Binge Alcohol Use</td>
<td>12.8</td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ages 18–20</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Past-Month Alcohol Use</td>
<td>60.8</td>
<td>30,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Past-Month Binge Alcohol Use</td>
<td>41.7</td>
<td>21,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Alcohol-Attributable Deaths (under 21)</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years of Potential Life Lost (under 21)</th>
<th>Percentage of All Traffic Fatalities</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Traffic Fatalities, 15- to 20-Year-Old Drivers with BAC &gt; 0.01</td>
<td>50.0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* See Appendix C for data sources.
Laws Addressing Minors in Possession of Alcohol

Underage Possession of Alcohol
Possession is prohibited—no explicit exceptions noted in the law.

Underage Consumption of Alcohol
Consumption is not explicitly prohibited.

Internal Possession by Minors
Internal possession is not explicitly prohibited.

Underage Purchase of Alcohol
Purchase is prohibited, but youth may purchase for law enforcement purposes.

False Identification for Obtaining Alcohol

Provision(s) targeting minors
- Use of a false ID to obtain alcohol is a criminal offense.
- Penalty may include driver’s license suspension through a judicial procedure.

Provision(s) targeting suppliers
- It is a criminal offense to lend, transfer, or sell a false ID.
- It is a criminal offense to manufacture or distribute a false ID.

Provision(s) targeting retailers
- Licenses for drivers under age 21 are easily distinguishable from those for drivers age 21 and older.
- Retailers are permitted to seize apparently false IDs.
- Specific affirmative defense—the retailer inspected the false ID and came to a reasonable conclusion based on its appearance that it was valid.

Laws Targeting Underage Drinking and Driving

BAC Limits: Youth (Underage Operators of Noncommercial Motor Vehicles)
- BAC limit: 0.02
- BAC level at or above the limit is per se (conclusive) evidence of a violation
- Applies to drivers under age 21

Loss of Driving Privileges for Alcohol Violations by Minors (“Use/Lose Laws”)
Use/lose penalties apply to minors under age 21.

Type(s) of violation leading to driver’s license suspension, revocation, or denial
- Underage purchase
- Underage possession

Authority to impose driver’s license sanction
- Mandatory
**Length of suspension/revocation**
- 30 days

**Graduated Driver’s License**

**Learner stage**
- Minimum entry age: 16
- Minimum learner stage period: 6 months
- Minimum supervised driving requirement: 50 hours, of which 10 must be at night

**Intermediate stage**
- Minimum age: 16 years, 6 months
- Unsupervised night driving
  - Prohibited after: 1 a.m.
  - Primary enforcement of the night-driving rule
- Passenger restrictions exist: No more than one passenger under 21, unless an immediate family or household member
  - Primary enforcement of the passenger-restriction rule

**License stage**
- Minimum age to lift restrictions: 17 years, 6 months

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**Laws Targeting Alcohol Suppliers**

**Furnishing of Alcohol to Minors**
Furnishing is prohibited with the following exception(s):
- Parent/guardian

**Compliance Check Protocols**
No data

**Penalty Guidelines for Sales to Minors**
No data

**Responsible Beverage Service**

**Mandatory provisions**
*Mandatory beverage service training for managers, servers*
- Applies only to on-sale establishments
- Applies only to existing outlets

**Voluntary provisions**
*Voluntary beverage service training*
- The law does not specify on- or off-sale establishments.
- The law does not specify new or existing outlets.

**Incentives for training**
- Defense in dram shop liability lawsuits
Minimum Ages for Off-Premises Sellers
- Beer: 18
- Wine: 18
- Spirits: 18

Minimum Ages for On-Premises Sellers
- Beer: 18 for both servers and bartenders
- Wine: 18 for both servers and bartenders
- Spirits: 18 for both servers and bartenders

Distance Limitations for New Alcohol Outlets near Universities and Schools

Colleges and universities
- No distance limitation

Primary and secondary schools
- Prohibitions against outlet siting:
  - Off-premises outlets: Yes—within 200 feet
  - On-premises outlets: Yes—within 200 feet
  - Alcohol products: Beer, wine, spirits

Note: There are numerous exceptions for specific locations within cities and towns.

Dram Shop Liability
Statutory liability exists.

Note: R.I. Gen. Laws § 3-14-12 includes a responsible beverage service defense.

Social Host Liability Laws
There is no statutory liability.

Host Party Laws
Social host law is not specifically limited to underage drinking parties
- Action by underage guest that triggers violation: Consumption
- Property type(s) covered by liability law: Residence, outdoor
- Standard for hosts’ knowledge or action regarding the party: Knowledge—host must have actual knowledge of the occurrence
- Exception(s): Family

Retailer Interstate Shipments of Alcohol
Retailer interstate shipments are prohibited for all types of beverages.

Direct Sales/Shipments of Alcohol by Producers
Direct sales/shipments from producers to consumers are not permitted.

Keg Registration
- Keg definition: Undefined
- Prohibited: Destroying the label on a keg—maximum fine/jail $500
• Purchaser information collected:
  – Purchaser’s name and address
  – Verified by a government-issued ID
• Warning information to purchaser: Passive—no purchaser action required
• Deposit: Not required
• Provisions do not specifically address disposable kegs

*Note:* No particular volume or range of volumes is specified for kegs in Rhode Island.

**Home Delivery**

• Beer: Permitted
• Wine: Permitted
• Spirits: Permitted

**Alcohol Pricing Policies**

**Alcohol Tax**

*Beer (5 percent alcohol)*

• Specific excise tax: $0.10 per gallon

*Wine (12 percent alcohol)*

• Specific excise tax: $0.60 per gallon

*Spirits (40 percent alcohol)*

• Specific excise tax: $3.75 per gallon

**Drink Specials**

• Free beverages: Not prohibited
• Multiple servings at one time: Not prohibited
• Multiple servings for same price as single serving: Prohibited
• Reduced price, specified day or time: Prohibited
• Unlimited beverages: Prohibited
• Increased volume: Prohibited

**Wholesale Pricing**

No pricing restrictions


### Rhode Island State Survey Responses

#### State Agency Information

**Agency with primary responsibility for enforcing underage drinking laws:**
Rhode Island Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals (BHDDH). Rhode Island does not have a separate alcohol beverage control agency. The Department cannot issue citations, fines, or the like. Enforcement is at the local level.

#### Enforcement Strategies

**State law enforcement agencies use:**
- Cops in Shops: No
- Shoulder Tap Operations: No
- Party Patrol Operations or Programs: No
- Underage Alcohol–Related Fatality Investigations: Yes

**Local law enforcement agencies use:**
- Cops in Shops: Yes
- Shoulder Tap Operations: Yes
- Party Patrol Operations or Programs: Yes
- Underage Alcohol–Related Fatality Investigations: Yes

**State has a program to investigate and enforce direct sales/shipment laws:** Yes

- Primary state agency responsible for enforcing laws addressing direct sales/shipments of alcohol to minors: State Police or Attorney General's Office
- Such laws are also enforced by local law enforcement agencies: Don't know

#### Enforcement Statistics

**State collects data on the number of minors found in possession**
- Yes
- Number of minors found in possession by state law enforcement agencies: 2
- Number pertains to the 12 months ending 6/30/2013
- Data include arrests/citations issued by local law enforcement agencies: Yes

**State conducts underage compliance checks/decoy operations**
- to determine if alcohol retailers are complying with laws prohibiting sales to minors: Yes
- Data are collected on these activities: Yes
- Number of retail licensees in state: 1,701
- Number of licensees checked for compliance by state agencies: 360
- (including random checks)
  - Number of licensees that failed state compliance checks: 19
  - Numbers pertain to the 12 months ending 6/30/2013
  - Compliance checks/decoy operations conducted at on-sale, off-sale, or both retail establishments: Both on- and off-sale establishments

**State conducts random underage compliance checks/decoy operations**
- Yes
- Number of licensees subject to random state compliance checks/decoy operations: 225
- Number of licensees that failed random state compliance checks: 27

**Local agencies conduct underage compliance checks/decoy operations to determine if alcohol retailers are complying with laws prohibiting sales to minors**
- Yes
- Data are collected on these activities: Yes
- Number of licensees checked for compliance by: 200
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>local agencies</th>
<th>Number of licensees that failed local compliance checks</th>
<th>14</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Numbers pertain to the 12 months ending</td>
<td>12/31/2012</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Sanctions**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State collects data on fines imposed on retail establishments that furnish minors</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of fines imposed by the state(^4)</td>
<td>Not applicable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total amount in fines across all licensees</td>
<td>Not applicable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smallest fine imposed</td>
<td>Not applicable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Largest fine imposed</td>
<td>Not applicable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Numbers pertain to the 12 months ending</td>
<td>Not applicable</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**State collects data on license suspensions imposed on retail establishments specifically for furnishing minors**

| Number of suspensions imposed by the state\(^5\)                                   | Not applicable |
| Total days of suspensions across all licensees                                     | Not applicable |
| Shortest period of suspension imposed (in days)                                    | Not applicable |
| Longest period of suspension imposed (in days)                                     | Not applicable |
| Numbers pertain to the 12 months ending                                           | Not applicable |

| State collects data on license revocations imposed on retail establishments specifically for furnishing minors | Don’t know |
| Number of license revocations imposed\(^6\)                                       | Not applicable |
| Numbers pertain to the 12 months ending                                           | Not applicable |

**Additional Clarification**

Unless otherwise indicated, the “state alcohol law enforcement agency” refers to the Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals (BHDDH). RI does not have an “Alcohol Beverage Control”-type enforcement agency. BHDDH uses federal funds, which are allocated to local police departments, to support conducting an alcohol purchase survey, and compliance checks of a random sample of on- and off-premise alcohol retailers. The survey is conducted by local law enforcement agencies. BHDDH also provides some funding to local law enforcement agencies for underage sales compliance activities.

1 Or having consumed or purchased per state statutes.

2 Underage compliance checks/decoy operations to determine whether alcohol retailers are complying with laws prohibiting sales to minors.

3 Excluding special licenses such as temporary, seasonal, and common carrier licenses.

4 Does not include fines imposed by local agencies.

5 Does not include suspensions imposed by local agencies.

6 Does not include revocations imposed by local agencies.

**Underage Drinking Prevention Programs Operated or Funded by the State**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws (EUDL)</th>
<th>General population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program serves specific or general population</td>
<td>General population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of youth served</td>
<td>225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of parents served</td>
<td>No data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of caregivers served</td>
<td>No data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program has been evaluated</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluation report is available</td>
<td>Not applicable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URL for evaluation report</td>
<td>Not applicable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URL for more program information</td>
<td>No data</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Program Description:** A statewide advisory committee with public education, law enforcement, and youth subcommittees and a statewide youth committee. The advisory committee develops statewide environmental strategies for implementation in local communities. The advisory committee also advises the department on policies related to underage drinking. The advisory committee works closely with local, municipal coalitions and with local and state law enforcement and collects enforcement data and develops and implements statewide public education campaigns.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rhode Island Substance Abuse Prevention Act (RISAPA)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>General population</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program serves specific or general population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of youth served</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not applicable</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of parents served</td>
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</tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not applicable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URL for more program information:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Program Description:** RISAPA is legislation that enables the funding of municipal substance abuse prevention task forces/coalitions—35 coalitions represent all of the state’s 39 cities and towns. Each coalition produces an annual program plan and logic model. For the past few years, all of the coalitions have implemented strategies to reduce underage drinking; included among these strategies are local policy initiatives (environmental strategy) and public education. Number of individuals touched by these activities is not routinely collected.

### Additional Underage Drinking Prevention Programs Operated or Funded by the State

**No data**

URL for more program information: No data

### Program description

**No data**

### Additional Clarification

The EUDL advisory committee is managed under a contract with MADD-Rhode Island.

### Additional Information Related to Underage Drinking Prevention Programs

#### State collaborates with federally recognized Tribal governments in the prevention of underage drinking

**Yes**

Description of collaboration: The Chariho Prevention Coalition, funded by the BHDDH, has been working with the Narragansett Tribe, whose land is within their service area. A member of the Tribe now sits on their coalition and participates in planning of prevention initiatives, including underage drinking.

#### State has programs to measure and/or reduce youth exposure to alcohol advertising and marketing

**No**

Description of program: Not applicable

#### State has adopted or developed best practice standards for underage drinking prevention programs

**Yes**

Agencies/organizations that established best practices standards:

- Federal agency(ies):
  - No
- Agency(ies) within your state: BHDDH requires use of evidence-based programs and practices by all funded prevention providers. The state also promulgated rules and regulations for the certification of prevention programs
  - Yes
- Nongovernmental agency(ies):
  - No
- Other:
  - No

Best practice standards description: No data

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Report to Congress on the Prevention and Reduction of Underage Drinking
**Additional Clarification**
Beyond recommending use of evidence-based practices, we have not published standards specific to underage drinking.

**State Interagency Collaboration**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A state-level interagency governmental body/committee exists to coordinate or address underage drinking prevention activities</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Committee contact information:</td>
<td>Not applicable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agencies/organizations represented on the committee:</td>
<td>Not applicable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A website or other public source exists to describe committee activities</td>
<td>Not applicable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URL or other means of access:</td>
<td>Not applicable</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Underage Drinking Reports**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State has prepared a plan for preventing underage drinking in the last 3 years</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prepared by:</td>
<td>Not applicable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plan can be accessed via:</td>
<td>Not applicable</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State has prepared a report on preventing underage drinking in the last 3 years</th>
<th>Yes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prepared by: Dept. of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals and the Statewide Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup (SEOW)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Additional Clarification**
The reports referenced are not exclusive to underage drinking. One is a product of the SEOW and the other is a report on outcomes of the SPF SIG authored by Stephen Buka and Jasmina Burdzovic-Andreas (Brown University and the SEOW), Elizabeth Kretchman and Charles Williams (RI Dept. of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals), and Paul Florin (University of Rhode Island and the SPF SIG evaluator).

**State Expenditures for the Prevention of Underage Drinking**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Compliance checks in retail outlets:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Estimate of state funds expended</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimate based on the 12 months ending</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Checkpoints and saturation patrols:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Estimate of state funds expended</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimate based on the 12 months ending</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community-based programs to prevent underage drinking:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Estimate of state funds expended</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimate based on the 12 months ending</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>K-12 school-based programs to prevent underage drinking:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Estimate of state funds expended</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimate based on the 12 months ending</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programs targeted to institutes of higher learning:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Estimate of state funds expended</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimate based on the 12 months ending</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programs that target youth in the juvenile justice system:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Estimate of state funds expended</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimate based on the 12 months ending</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programs that target youth in the child welfare system:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Estimate of state funds expended</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimate based on the 12 months ending</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Other programs:

Programs or strategies included: Community-based processes, community coalitions, information dissemination.

| Estimate of state funds expended | $323,620 |
| Estimate based on the 12 months ending | 6/30/2012 |

Funds Dedicated to Underage Drinking

State derives funds dedicated to underage drinking from the following revenue streams:

| Taxes | No |
| Fines | No |
| Fees | No |
| Other | No |

Description of funding streams and how they are used:

Not applicable

Additional Clarification

The state funds Student Assistance Programs (SAPs) in a number of middle and high schools and has a school-based prevention initiative. SAPs and the school-based initiatives work to prevent underage drinking, but are not funded expressly for this purpose. The state uses federal dollars to support alcohol compliance surveys and activities; these are carried out by local law enforcement.