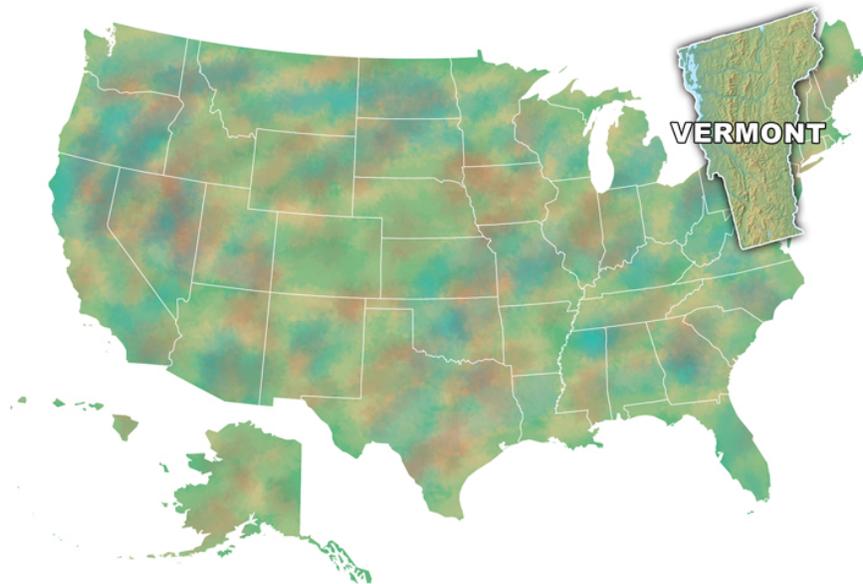


State Report

Vermont

This document is excerpted from:

The June 2015 Report to Congress on the Prevention and Reduction of Underage Drinking



Vermont

State Profile and Underage Drinking Facts*

State Population: 626,011
Population Ages 12–20: 75,000

	Percentage	Number
Ages 12–20		
Past-Month Alcohol Use	35.2	26,000
Past-Month Binge Alcohol Use	24.0	18,000
Ages 12–14		
Past-Month Alcohol Use	7.4	2,000
Past-Month Binge Alcohol Use	3.6	1,000
Ages 15–17		
Past-Month Alcohol Use	27.3	7,000
Past-Month Binge Alcohol Use	16.9	4,000
Ages 18–20		
Past-Month Alcohol Use	62.1	18,000
Past-Month Binge Alcohol Use	44.8	13,000
Alcohol-Attributable Deaths (under 21)		6
Years of Potential Life Lost (under 21)		382
	Percentage of All Traffic Fatalities	Number
Traffic Fatalities, 15- to 20-Year-Old Drivers with BAC > 0.01	29.0	2

* 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 prohibited—no explicit exceptions noted in the law.

Internal Possession by Minors

Internal possession is not explicitly prohibited.

Note: Although Vermont does not prohibit Internal Possession as defined in this report, it has a statutory provision that makes it unlawful for a minor to “consume malt or vinous beverages or spirituous liquors. A violation of this subdivision may be prosecuted in a jurisdiction where the minor has consumed malt or vinous beverages or spirituous liquors, or in a jurisdiction where the indicators of consumption are observed.” Laws that punish minors for displaying “indicators of consumption” or for “exhibiting the effects” of having consumed alcohol, but do so without reference to a blood, breath, or urine test, are not considered as prohibiting Internal Possession for purposes of this report.

Underage Purchase of Alcohol

Purchase is NOT prohibited and there is no specific allowance for youth 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.
- No driver’s license suspension procedure

Provision(s) targeting retailers

- Licenses for drivers under age 21 are easily distinguishable from those for drivers age 21 and older.
- 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”)

No use/lose law

Graduated Driver’s License

Learner stage

- Minimum entry age: 15
- Minimum learner stage period: 12 months
- Minimum supervised driving requirement: 40 hours, of which 10 must be at night

Intermediate stage

- Minimum age: 16
- Unsupervised night driving
 - Night driving is not restricted
- Passenger restrictions exist: During first 3 months, restricted to driving alone or with a licensed parent, instructor, or person at least 25 years old. During next 3 months, may also transport family members.
 - No primary enforcement of the passenger-restriction rule

License stage

- Minimum age to lift restrictions: 16 years, 6 months

Laws Targeting Alcohol Suppliers

Furnishing of Alcohol to Minors

Furnishing is prohibited—no explicit exceptions noted in the law.

Compliance Check Protocols

Age of decoy

- Minimum: 18
- Maximum: 20

Note: Director’s permission required for 17-year-olds.

Appearance requirements

- Exhibit a young adult appearance
- Male: No facial hair
- Female: No excessive makeup

ID possession

- Required

Verbal exaggeration of age

- Prohibited

Decoy training

- Not specified

Penalty Guidelines for Sales to Minors

- Time period/conditions: Not specified
- First offense: Written warning or fine of \$250
- Second offense: \$300 fine or 3-day license suspension (compliance-check setting only)
- Third offense: \$500 fine or 5-day license suspension (compliance-check setting only)

- Fourth offense: Mandatory hearing to consider license suspension or revocation (compliance-check setting only)

Note: Written warning allowed in compliance-check setting. For noncompliance check setting, \$500 fine applies to sales to 19-year-olds; \$250 fine applies to sales to 20-year-olds; hearing required for sales to those under 18 years old.

Responsible Beverage Service

Mandatory beverage service training for licensees, managers, servers

- Applies to both on-sale and off-sale establishments
- Applies to both new and existing outlets

Minimum Ages for Off-Premises Sellers

- Beer: 16
- Wine: 16
- Spirits: Not specified

Note: Vermont statutes and regulations are silent regarding the minimum age of seller for distilled spirits sold for off-premises consumption, which occur only in state-controlled outlets. Vermont's Liquor Control Board establishes minimum age of seller in its outlets as a matter of internal board policy.

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

- No distance limitation

Dram Shop Liability

Statutory liability exists.

Note: Vt. Stat. Ann. tit. 7, § 501 includes a responsible beverage service defense.

Social Host Liability Laws

Statutory liability exists.

Host Party Laws

No state-imposed liability for hosting underage drinking parties

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 permitted for wine with the following restrictions:

Age verification requirements

- Common carrier must verify age of recipient.

State approval/permit requirements

- Producer/shipper must obtain state permit.
- State must approve common carrier.

Reporting requirements

- Producer must record/report purchaser's name.

Shipping label statement requirements

- Contains alcohol
- Recipient must be 21

Keg Registration

- Keg definition: At least 5 gallons
- Prohibited: Destroying the label on a keg—maximum fine/jail \$1,000/2 years
- Purchaser information collected:
 - Purchaser's name and address
 - Verified by a government-issued ID
- Warning information to purchaser: Active—purchaser action required (e.g., signature)
- Deposit required: \$25
- Provisions do not specifically address disposable kegs

Note: Although Vermont does not require a retailer to record the number of a keg purchaser's ID, it does require that the purchaser's name, address, and date of birth be recorded as they appear on the purchaser's identification.

Home Delivery

- Beer: No law
- Wine: No law
- Spirits: No law

Alcohol Pricing Policies

Alcohol Tax

Beer (5 percent alcohol)

- Specific excise tax: \$0.27 per gallon
- Ad valorem excise tax (on-premises retail): 10 percent
 - Sales tax does NOT apply
 - Sales tax: 6 percent
 - Sales tax adjusted retail ad valorem rate: 4 percent

Wine (12 percent alcohol)

- Specific excise tax: \$0.55 per gallon
- Ad valorem excise tax (on-premises retail): 10 percent
 - Sales tax does NOT apply
 - Sales tax: 6 percent
 - Sales tax adjusted retail ad valorem rate: 4 percent

Spirits (40 percent alcohol)

- Control state

Drink Specials

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

Wholesale Pricing

Pricing restrictions exist.

Beer (5 percent alcohol)

- Volume discounts: Banned
- Price posting requirements: Post and hold—14 days minimum hold. Each licensee in wholesale dealer's territory must receive at least one opportunity to buy at changed price.
- Retailer credit: Not permitted

Wine (12 percent alcohol)

- Retailer credit: Not permitted

Spirits (40 percent alcohol)

- Control state

Vermont State Survey Responses

State Agency Information	
<i>Agency with primary responsibility for enforcing underage drinking laws:</i> Vermont Department of Liquor Control	
Enforcement Strategies	
<i>State law enforcement agencies use:</i>	
Cops in Shops	Yes
Shoulder Tap Operations	No
Party Patrol Operations or Programs	Yes
Underage Alcohol–Related Fatality Investigations	Yes
<i>Local law enforcement agencies use:</i>	
Cops in Shops	No
Shoulder Tap Operations	No
Party Patrol Operations or Programs	No
Underage Alcohol–Related Fatality Investigations	No
<i>State has a program to investigate and enforce direct sales/shipment laws</i>	
Primary state agency responsible for enforcing laws addressing direct sales/shippments of alcohol to minors	Yes Vermont Department of Liquor Control
Such laws are also enforced by local law enforcement agencies	No
Enforcement Statistics	
<i>State collects data on the number of minors found in possession</i>	
Number of minors found in possession by state law enforcement agencies	Yes 2,748
Number pertains to the 12 months ending	6/30/2012
Data include arrests/citations issued by local law enforcement agencies	Yes
<i>State conducts underage compliance checks/decoy operations² to determine if alcohol retailers are complying with laws prohibiting sales to minors</i>	
Data are collected on these activities	Yes
Number of retail licensees in state ³	2,500
Number of licensees checked for compliance by state agencies (including random checks)	688
Number of licensees that failed state compliance checks	53
Numbers pertain to the 12 months ending	12/30/2012
Compliance checks/decoy operations conducted at on-sale, off-sale, or both retail establishments	Both on- and off-sale establishments
<i>State conducts random underage compliance checks/decoy operations</i>	
Number of licensees subject to random state compliance checks/decoy operations	Yes 688
Number of licensees that failed random state compliance checks	53
<i>Local agencies conduct underage compliance checks/decoy operations to determine if alcohol retailers are complying with laws prohibiting sales to minors</i>	
Data are collected on these activities	No
Number of licensees checked for compliance by local agencies	No
Number of licensees that failed local compliance checks	Not applicable
Numbers pertain to the 12 months ending	Not applicable
Sanctions	
<i>State collects data on fines imposed on retail establishments that furnish minors</i>	
Number of fines imposed by the state ⁴	Yes 8
Total amount in fines across all licensees	\$2,100
Smallest fine imposed	\$100
Largest fine imposed	\$500
Numbers pertain to the 12 months ending	12/31/2012

<i>State collects data on license suspensions imposed on retail establishments specifically for furnishing minors</i>	Yes
Number of suspensions imposed by the state ⁵	29
Total days of suspensions across all licensees	35
Shortest period of suspension imposed (in days)	1
Longest period of suspension imposed (in days)	7
Numbers pertain to the 12 months ending	12/31/2012
<i>State collects data on license revocations imposed on retail establishments specifically for furnishing minors</i>	Yes
Number of license revocations imposed ⁶	0
Numbers pertain to the 12 months ending	12/31/2012
Additional Clarification	
No data	

¹Or having consumed or purchased per state statutes.

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

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

⁴Does not include fines imposed by local agencies.

⁵Does not include suspensions imposed by local agencies.

⁶Does not include revocations imposed by local agencies.

Underage Drinking Prevention Programs Operated or Funded by the State	
School-Based Substance Abuse Services (SBSAS) Program	
Program serves specific or general population	Specific population
Number of youth served	31,000+ students are enrolled in grantee areas
Number of parents served	No data
Number of caregivers served	No data
Program has been evaluated	No
Evaluation report is available	Not applicable
URL for evaluation report:	Not applicable
URL for more program information:	
http://healthvermont.gov/adap/sap/StudentAssistanceProgram.aspx	
<p>Program Description: The purpose of the SBSAS grant is to provide and enhance substance abuse prevention and early intervention services in Vermont schools, leading to reductions in students' alcohol and other drug use. Twenty-one awards, up to \$40,000 each (totaling approximately \$800,000), were made based in a competitive process that considered need, readiness, strength of proposed plan, budget, and number of students to be served. A 10 percent match in funds or in-kind services was required. We anticipate these will be 3-year continuation grants contingent on satisfactory performance and availability of funds. Training and evaluation services will be supported statewide with up to \$30,000.</p> <p>For the funded services, required activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support of coordinated school health initiatives (all 21 grantees) • Screening and referral to substance abuse and mental health services (all 21 grantees) <p>Optional activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support of classroom health curricula (17 grantees) • Advising and training of youth empowerment groups (20 grantees) • Delivery of parent information and educational programs (20 grantees) • Delivery of teacher and support staff training (21 grantees) • Delivery of educational support groups (17 grantees) 	

ParentUp	
Program serves specific or general population	Specific population
Number of youth served	No data
Number of parents served	9,600
Number of caregivers served	No data
Program has been evaluated	Yes
Evaluation report is available	No
URL for evaluation report:	Not applicable
URL for more program information: http://www.ParentUpVT.org	
<p>Program Description: In 2010, the Health Department’s Prevention Unit of the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs (ADAP) created the ParentUp campaign to educate parents about their roles and responsibilities related to the dangers of underage drinking. The campaign addresses parents of middle school and high school students with age-specific information. An online resource center was created and promoted with direct mail, radio ads, and online advertising. With limited funds, ADAP continues to advertise ParentUp. The overall program goals are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the number of parents who talk with their children about underage drinking • Increase parents’ awareness of underage drinking laws and consequences 	
Stop Teen Alcohol Risk Team (START)	
Program serves specific or general population	General population
Number of youth served	Not applicable
Number of parents served	Not applicable
Number of caregivers served	Not applicable
Program has been evaluated	Yes
Evaluation report is available	No
URL for evaluation report:	Not applicable
URL for more program information: http://healthvermont.gov/adap/start/start.aspx	
<p>Program Description: START is a statewide system of taskforces to reduce underage drinking in Vermont. Each county receives START funding to increase levels of enforcement for underage drinking and to support implementation of research-based prevention being undertaken by substance abuse coalitions. START programs are encouraged to increase enforcement of the underage drinking laws by addressing locally identified, unmet needs. This program is funded by the Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws (EUDL) program and will end on June 30, 2013.</p>	
We Check ID – 1 866 ITS FAKE	
Program serves specific or general population	General population
Number of youth served	Not applicable
Number of parents served	Not applicable
Number of caregivers served	Not applicable
Program has been evaluated	No
Evaluation report is available	Not applicable
URL for evaluation report:	Not applicable
URL for more program information: http://liquorcontrol.vermont.gov/education/wecheckkids.html	
<p>Program Description: This statewide telephone system uses computers and staff to answer a telephone line. The line supports stores with identification (ID) verification. We Check ID – 1 866 ITS FAKE is the publicized name of the project aimed at preventing sales to minors. Clerks can call 1 866 ITS FAKE to verify the match between the name on ID (from any state) and the date of birth. Note: This is a federally funded program (EUDL) and will end on June 30, 2013.</p>	

College Symposium	
Program serves specific or general population	General population
Number of youth served	Not applicable
Number of parents served	Not applicable
Number of caregivers served	Not applicable
Program has been evaluated	Yes
Evaluation report is available	No
URL for evaluation report:	Not applicable
URL for more program information:	No data
<p>Program Description: In October 2012, Norwich University hosted the first annual College Symposium to Address High Risk Drinking sponsored by the VT Dept. of Health (VDH). High-risk drinking on college campuses is a critical public health issue that places intense pressure on residential services on college campuses, and on everyone who is part of a campus and the surrounding community. Keynote presentations provided information on effective evidence-based strategies, how best to work collaboratively with community partners, and how to support the role of students in addressing the issue. Roundtable discussions and a networking lunch provided an opportunity for participants to share successes and challenges. There were 112 participants representing 19 colleges and universities, community coalitions, law enforcement, and VDH staff. Analysis of the event evaluations will provide direction on next steps to support campus and community efforts to address this important public health issue. A second annual symposium was planned for fall 2013. Note: This program is federally funded.</p>	
Partnership for Success (PFS)	
Program serves specific or general population	General population
Number of youth served	Not applicable
Number of parents served	Not applicable
Number of caregivers served	Not applicable
Program has been evaluated	No
Evaluation report is available	Not applicable
URL for evaluation report:	Not applicable
URL for more program information:	No data
<p>Program Description: The PFS grant is a 3-year (10/1/12–9/30/15) cooperative agreement with SAMHSA. Its purpose is to reduce underage drinking and prescription drug misuse and abuse. In collaboration with multiple state and local community partners, the VDH supports regional prevention strategies in the 6 out of 12 VDH Districts identified through an analysis of prevalence data, size of target population, and socioeconomic disparities. The grant also supports training and communications activities aimed at strengthening the prevention infrastructure in all 12 districts of the state.</p>	
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	
With the exception of the School-Based Substance Abuse Services program, all programs related to underage drinking prevention are federally funded.	
Additional Information Related to Underage Drinking Prevention Programs	
<i>State collaborates with federally recognized Tribal governments in the prevention of underage drinking</i>	No recognized Tribal governments
Description of collaboration: Not applicable	
<i>State has programs to measure and/or reduce youth exposure to alcohol advertising and marketing</i>	No
Program description: Not applicable	

<i>State has adopted or developed best practice standards for underage drinking prevention programs</i>	Yes
Agencies/organizations that established best practices standards:	
Federal agency(ies): SAMHSA	Yes
Agency(ies) within your state:	No
Nongovernmental agency(ies):	No
Other:	No
Best practice standards description: Best practice standards are based on the SAMHSA Guidance Document. For Vermont standards, go to http://healthvermont.gov/adap/prevention/SPF/documents/FinalDraftGuidanceNov2008.pdf	
Additional Clarification	
No data	

State Interagency Collaboration	
<i>A state-level interagency governmental body/committee exists to coordinate or address underage drinking prevention activities</i>	Yes
<i>Committee contact information:</i>	
Name: Patty McCarthy Metcalf	
Email: patty@friendsofrecoveryvt.org	
Address: Friends of Recovery – Vermont, 100 State Street, Suite 353, Montpelier, VT 05602	
Phone: 802-229-6103	
<i>Agencies/organizations represented on the committee:</i>	
Vermont Department of Health	
Central Vermont Medical Center	
Vermont State Police	
Lamoille County Mental Health Services	
Vermont Department of Liquor Control	
Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles	
Wit's End Group	
Vermont Association for Mental Health and Addiction Recovery	
Vermont Agency of Education	
Prevention Works! VT	
Centerpoint	
Adolescent Treatment Services	
Vermont Department of Corrections	
Attorney General's Office	
Vermont Council on Problem Gambling, Inc.	
<i>A website or other public source exists to describe committee activities</i>	No
URL or other means of access: Not applicable	

Underage Drinking Reports	
<i>State has prepared a plan for preventing underage drinking in the last 3 years</i>	Yes
Prepared by: Vermont Department of Health and Vermont Strategic Prevention Framework Advisory Council	
Plan can be accessed via: http://healthvermont.gov/adap/prevention/SPF/documents/SPF-ExSumm0110.pdf	
<i>State has prepared a report on preventing underage drinking in the last 3 years</i>	Yes
Prepared by: Vermont's Epidemiological Workgroup	
Plan can be accessed via: http://www.healthvermont.gov/adap/clearinghouse/documents/EpiProfileExecutiveSummary_2012March16.pdf	

Additional Clarification	
No data	

State Expenditures for the Prevention of Underage Drinking	
<i>Compliance checks in retail outlets:</i>	
Estimate of state funds expended	\$25,000
Estimate based on the 12 months ending	6/30/2012
<i>Checkpoints and saturation patrols:</i>	
Estimate of state funds expended	Data not available
Estimate based on the 12 months ending	Data not available
<i>Community-based programs to prevent underage drinking:</i>	
Estimate of state funds expended	Data not available
Estimate based on the 12 months ending	Data not available
<i>K-12 school-based programs to prevent underage drinking:</i>	
Estimate of state funds expended	\$830,000
Estimate based on the 12 months ending	6/30/2013
<i>Programs targeted to institutes of higher learning:</i>	
Estimate of state funds expended	Data not available
Estimate based on the 12 months ending	Data not available
<i>Programs that target youth in the juvenile justice system:</i>	
Estimate of state funds expended	\$930,000
Estimate based on the 12 months ending	6/30/2013
<i>Programs that target youth in the child welfare system:</i>	
Estimate of state funds expended	Data not available
Estimate based on the 12 months ending	Data not available
<i>Other programs:</i>	
Programs or strategies included:	
Estimate of state funds expended	Data not available
Estimate based on the 12 months ending	Data not available

Funds Dedicated to Underage Drinking	
<i>State derives funds dedicated to underage drinking from the following revenue streams:</i>	
Taxes	Yes
Fines	No
Fees	Yes
Other:	No data

Description of funding streams and how they are used:
 Youth who violate Vermont’s underage possession and consumption of alcohol laws (7 VSA §65) may opt to participate in the Teen Alcohol Safety Program (TASP) or face a fine and driver’s license suspension. Participants’ fees and state General Fund dollars support TASP, which is run by the Court Diversion program in each county. Participants meet with a licensed or certified substance abuse counselor for a screening or assessment (and must follow the recommendations of the counselor), and may participate in an educational program and perform community service. TASP case managers support youth to complete the program. Assessment and treatment are not covered through TASP funding

Additional Clarification	
No data	