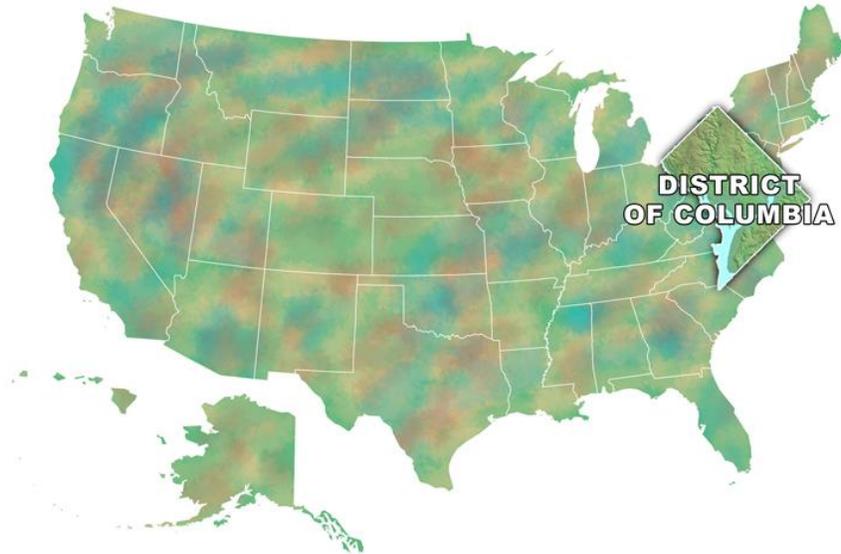


**State Report**

**District of Columbia**

This document is excerpted from:

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



# District of Columbia

## State Profile and Underage Drinking Facts\*

State Population: 646,449

Population Ages 12–20: 60,000

	Percentage	Number
<b>Ages 12–20</b>		
Past-Month Alcohol Use	32.0	19,000
Past-Month Binge Alcohol Use	18.2	11,000
<b>Ages 12–14</b>		
Past-Month Alcohol Use	5.0	1,000
Past-Month Binge Alcohol Use	3	0
<b>Ages 15–17</b>		
Past-Month Alcohol Use	21.5	3,000
Past-Month Binge Alcohol Use	10.7	2,000
<b>Ages 18–20</b>		
Past-Month Alcohol Use	53.3	15,000
Past-Month Binge Alcohol Use	31.1	9,000
<b>Alcohol-Attributable Deaths (under 21)</b>		17
<b>Years of Potential Life Lost (under 21)</b>		999
	<b>Percentage of All Traffic Fatalities</b>	<b>Number</b>
<b>Traffic Fatalities, 15- to 20-Year-Old Drivers with BAC &gt; 0.01</b>	0.0	0

\* 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.

### Underage Purchase of Alcohol

Purchase is prohibited and there is no 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.
- Penalty may include driver's license suspension through a judicial procedure.

#### *Provisions targeting retailers*

- 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: 0.00
- Any detectable alcohol in the blood 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
- Underage consumption

#### *Authority to impose driver's license sanction*

- Mandatory

#### *Length of suspension/revocation*

- 90 days

### Graduated Driver's License

#### *Learner stage*

- Minimum entry age: 16
- Minimum learner stage period: 6 months

- Minimum supervised driving requirement: 40 hours—must log additional 10 hours of nighttime driving at intermediate stage with driver over 21

***Intermediate stage***

- Minimum age: 16 years, 6 months
- Unsupervised night driving
  - Prohibited after 11 p.m. Sunday–Thursday and 12:01 a.m. Saturday–Sunday from September through June; 12:01 a.m. in July and August
  - Primary enforcement of the night-driving rule
- Passenger restrictions exist: First 6 months, one licensed driver at least 21, and any parent or sibling. After 6 months, no more than two passengers under 21 (except parents or siblings) until age 18
  - Primary enforcement of the passenger-restriction rule

***License stage***

- Minimum age to lift restrictions: 18

**Laws Targeting Alcohol Suppliers**

**Furnishing Alcohol to Minors**

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

**Compliance Check Protocols**

***Age of decoy***

- Minimum: Not specified
- Maximum: Under 21

***Appearance requirements***

- Must appear to a reasonable person to be under age 21 and should be dressed consistent with other minors in the target area

***ID possession***

- Discretionary

***Verbal exaggeration of age***

- Prohibited

***Decoy training***

- Recommended

**Penalty Guidelines**

- Time period/conditions: 2 years
- First offense: Warning letter
- Second offense: \$4,000 fine and 10-day suspension, with 6 days served and 4 days stayed for 1 year

*Note:* For first offense, if violation was egregious or licensee had previous violation in past 4 years, penalty is \$2,000 fine and 5-day suspension with 1 day served and 4 days stayed for 1 year or \$3,000 fine with all 5 suspension days stayed for 1 year.

### **Responsible Beverage Service**

#### ***Mandatory beverage service training for managers***

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

### **Minimum Ages for Off-Premises Sellers**

- Beer: 18
- Wine: 18
- Spirits: 18

### **Minimum Ages for On-Premises Sellers**

- Beer: 18 for servers and 21 for bartenders
- Wine: 18 for servers and 21 for bartenders
- Spirits: 18 for servers and 21 for bartenders

### **Distance Limitations for New Alcohol Outlets Near Universities and Schools**

#### ***Colleges and universities***

- Limitations on outlet siting:
  - Off-premises outlets: Yes—within 400 feet
  - On-premises outlets: Yes—within 400 feet
  - Alcohol products: Beer, wine, spirits

*Note:* Exceptions are (1) restaurant, hotel, club, caterer’s, and temporary licenses; and (2) grocery stores with only incidental sale of alcoholic beverages.

#### ***Primary and secondary schools***

- Prohibitions against outlet siting:
  - Off-premises outlets: Yes—within 400 feet
  - On-premises outlets: Yes—within 400 feet
  - Alcohol products: Beer, wine, spirits

*Note:* Exceptions are (1) restaurant, hotel, club, caterer’s, and temporary licenses; (2) grocery stores with only incidental sale of alcoholic beverages; and (3) restaurants located inside hotels, apartment houses, clubs, or office buildings provided there are no signs or displays, and unless specifically approved and Board of Education has no objection.

### **Dram Shop Liability**

- There is no statutory liability.
- The courts recognize common law dram shop liability.

### **Social Host Liability Laws**

There is no statutory liability.

### **Host Party Laws**

No state-imposed liability for hosting underage drinking parties

### **Retailer Interstate Shipments of Alcohol**

No prohibitions on retailer interstate shipments

## Direct Sales/Shipments of Alcohol by Producers

Direct sales/shipments from producers to consumers are permitted for beer, wine, and distilled spirits with the following restrictions:

*Age verification requirements:* None

*State approval/permit requirements:* None

*Reporting requirements:* None

*Shipping label statement requirements:* None

## Keg Registration

- Keg definition: 4 gallons or more
- Purchaser information collected:
  - Purchaser’s name and address
  - Verified by a government-issued ID
  - Address where keg will be consumed
- Warning information to purchaser: Active—purchaser action required (e.g., signature)
- Deposit: Not required
- Provisions specifically address disposable kegs

## Home Delivery

- Beer: Permitted
- Wine: Permitted
- Spirits: Permitted

## Alcohol Pricing Policies

### Alcohol Tax

#### *Beer (5 percent alcohol)*

- Specific excise tax: \$0.09 per gallon
- Ad valorem excise tax (on-premises sales): 10 percent
- Ad valorem excise tax (off-premises sales): 10 percent

General sales tax rate of 5.75 percent does not apply to onsite or offsite sales. The onsite ad valorem retail tax is 10 percent. The “sales tax adjusted” onsite retail ad valorem rate is therefore 4.25 percent. The offsite ad valorem tax of 10 percent is applied at the retail level. The “sales tax adjusted” offsite retail ad valorem rate is therefore 4.25 percent.

#### *Wine (12 percent alcohol)*

- Specific excise tax: \$0.30 per gallon
- Ad valorem excise tax (on-premises sales): 10 percent
- Ad valorem excise tax (off-premises sales): 10 percent

General sales tax rate of 5.75 percent does not apply to onsite or offsite sales. The onsite ad valorem retail tax is 10 percent. The “sales tax adjusted” onsite retail ad valorem rate is therefore 4.25 percent. The offsite ad valorem tax of 10 percent is applied at the retail level. The “sales tax adjusted” offsite retail ad valorem rate is therefore 4.25 percent.

#### *Spirits (40 percent alcohol)*

- Specific excise tax: \$1.50 per gallon

- Ad valorem excise tax (on-premises sales): 10 percent
- Ad valorem excise tax (off-premises sales): 10 percent

General sales tax rate of 5.75 percent does not apply to onsite or offsite sales. The onsite ad valorem retail tax is 10 percent. The “sales tax adjusted” onsite retail ad valorem rate is therefore 4.25 percent. The offsite ad valorem tax of 10 percent is applied at the retail level. The “sales tax adjusted” offsite retail ad valorem rate is therefore 4.25 percent.

### **Drink Specials**

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

### **Wholesale Pricing**

Pricing restrictions exist.

#### ***Beer (5 percent alcohol)***

- Retailer credit: Restricted—45 days maximum

#### ***Wine (12 percent alcohol)***

- Retailer credit: Restricted—45 days maximum

#### ***Spirits (40 percent alcohol)***

- Retailer credit: Restricted—45 days maximum

## District of Columbia State Survey Responses

State Agency Information	
<i>Agency with primary responsibility for enforcing underage drinking laws:</i> Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) and the Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration (ABRA)	
Enforcement Strategies	
<i>State law enforcement agencies use:</i>	
Cops in Shops	Not Applicable
Shoulder Tap Operations	Not Applicable
Party Patrol Operations or Programs	Not Applicable
Underage Alcohol-Related Fatality Investigations	Not Applicable
<i>Local law enforcement agencies use:</i>	
Cops in Shops	Yes
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/shipments of alcohol to minors	Not applicable
Such laws are also enforced by local law enforcement agencies	Not applicable
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	Don't know
Number pertains to the 12 months ending	Not applicable
Data include arrests/citations issued by local law enforcement agencies	Not applicable
<i>State conducts underage compliance checks/decoy operations<sup>2</sup> to determine if alcohol retailers are complying with laws prohibiting sales to minors</i>	
Data are collected on these activities	No
Number of retail licensees in state <sup>3</sup>	1,700
Number of licensees checked for compliance by state agencies (including random checks)	Not applicable
Number of licensees that failed state compliance checks	Not applicable
Numbers pertain to the 12 months ending	Not applicable
Compliance checks/decoy operations conducted at on-sale, off-sale, or both retail establishments	Both on- and off-sale establishments
<i>State conducts <b>random</b> underage compliance checks/decoy operations</i>	
Number of licensees subject to <b>random</b> state compliance checks/decoy operations	Yes
Number of licensees that failed <b>random</b> state compliance checks	No data
<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	Yes
Number of licensees checked for compliance by local agencies	832
Number of licensees that failed local compliance checks	114
Numbers pertain to the 12 months ending	9/30/2013
Sanctions	
<i>State collects data on fines imposed on retail establishments that furnish minors</i>	
Number of fines imposed by the state <sup>4</sup>	Yes
Total amount in fines across all licensees	30
Smallest fine imposed	\$75,000
	\$2,000

Largest fine imposed	\$4,000
Numbers pertain to the 12 months ending	12/31/2013

<i>State collects data on license suspensions imposed on retail establishments specifically for furnishing minors</i>	Yes
Number of suspensions imposed by the state <sup>5</sup>	14
Total days of suspensions across all licensees	20
Shortest period of suspension imposed (in days)	1
Longest period of suspension imposed (in days)	6
Numbers pertain to the 12 months ending	12/31/2013

<i>State collects data on license revocations imposed on retail establishments specifically for furnishing minors</i>	Yes
Number of license revocations imposed <sup>6</sup>	0
Numbers pertain to the 12 months ending	12/31/2013

**Additional Clarification**  
No data

<sup>1</sup> Or having consumed or purchased per state statutes.  
<sup>2</sup> Underage compliance checks/decoy operations to determine whether alcohol retailers are complying with laws prohibiting sales to minors.  
<sup>3</sup> Excluding special licenses such as temporary, seasonal, and common carrier licenses.  
<sup>4</sup> Does not include fines imposed by local agencies.  
<sup>5</sup> Does not include suspensions imposed by local agencies.  
<sup>6</sup> Does not include revocations imposed by local agencies.

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

<b>Addiction Prevention and Recovery Administration (APRA)</b>	
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

**Program Description:** APRA, formerly with the District of Columbia Department of Health, merged with the Department of Mental Health on October 1, 2013, into a new Department of Behavioral Health (DBH). APRA continues to administer the Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant (SPF SIG), which focuses on prevention of underage drinking and marijuana use among youth. The District’s SPF SIG ended June 30, 2014; however, APRA has received approval from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to allocate more than \$3 million in no-cost extension funds. The strategies include building on the “Talk. They Hear You” campaign, tailoring resources to District audiences, and coordinating community action with the four DC Prevention Centers (DCPC). More than 250 District youth have been trained in the SPF planning process as part of the DC Youth Prevention Leadership Corps. The youth are working with DCPC to develop data-driven action plans around the SPF SIG priorities. Funds are also available to implement the action plans. APRA also funded 11 evidence-based pilot prevention programs that address underage drinking and marijuana use in universal, indicated, and selective populations. One subrecipient is the Ward 7 Safe and Drug-Free Communities Coalition, which has implemented an underage drinking environmental strategy to engage and empower the Ward 7 community to address excessive alcohol advertisements, over-the-counter sales of alcohol to underage youth, and proliferation of alcohol licenses in the ward. Key elements of the strategy include ongoing community assessment to determine baseline levels of use, attitudes, knowledge, and awareness; strategic positioning messaging, visual images, and materials for community education and changing norms; generating and facilitating meaningful community partnerships; creating and maintaining mentored teen action groups; and media advocacy. In addition, APRA funded term staff

through the DCPC (CORE Coordinators) to assess 300 individuals in community-based organizations plus an additional subset of parents and youth to identify risk reduction and early screening needs.	
<b>DC Prevention Centers (DCPCs)</b>	
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:	<a href="http://www.dmh.dc.gov">http://www.dmh.dc.gov</a>
<b>Program Description:</b> DBH APRA continues to fund four DCPCs through federal Substance Abuse and Treatment Block Grant-Prevention Set-Aside funds. Each Center supports two wards (Wards 1 and 2; Wards 3 and 4; Wards 5 and 6; Wards 7 and 8) and provides access to prevention (Community Education; Community Leadership; Community Changes) across all eight wards. Underage drinking is a substance abuse prevention priority. DCPCs work with more than 50 community prevention networks and facilitate Strategic Prevention Framework action planning with diverse neighborhoods, communities, and populations. The Centers have reached more than 7,422 youth and 8,457 adults to date this fiscal year. Their “community problem solving” approach focuses on four levels of outcomes: perceptions and attitudes; priority risk factors; community changes; and behavioral/distal outcomes.	
<b>National Capital Coalition to Prevent Underage Drinking (NCCPUD)</b>	
Program serves specific or general population	Specific population
Number of youth served	No data
Number of parents served	No data
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:	No data
<b>Program Description:</b> NCCPUD, a former Robert Wood Johnson grant recipient, continues to initiate underage drinking strategies in the District. For example, NCCPUD receives \$30,000 annually from the District’s ABRA to recruit, train, and schedule minors to participate in the District of Columbia’s Alcohol Enforcement Operations. The NCCPUD Executive Director also serves on the board of the Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP), which provides education and advocacy to District youth. WRAP sponsors an annual Geico Student Award competition that honors high school student groups for their work on promoting alcohol-free lifestyles to their peers.	
<b>Additional Underage Drinking Prevention Programs Operated or Funded by the State</b>	
<b>No data</b>	
URL for more program information: No data	
Program description: No data	
<b>Additional Clarification</b>	
No data	
<b>Additional Information Related to Underage Drinking Prevention Programs</b>	
<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):	No

Agency(ies) within your state: Department of Behavioral Health, Addiction Prevention and Recovery Administration	Yes
Nongovernmental agency(ies):	No
Other:	No
Best practice standards description: SAMHSA funded a 1-year DC Strategic Prevention Enhancement Cooperative Agreement Grant that resulted in a 5-year strategic plan and four miniplans in August 2012. The process was guided by a Prevention Policy Consortium of 14 District agency leaders. One of the strategies was the concept of a DC Prevention Leadership Center to sustain data and evaluation; effective strategies that result in measurable community changes; and prevention innovation. SPF SIG funds have supported development of the concept through a national resource assessment, focus groups, and a monograph with recommendations. Preventing underage drinking will be a priority in the final Prevention Leadership Center recommendations.	
<b>Additional Clarification</b>	
No data	

<b>State Interagency Collaboration</b>	
<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: Judy Donovan E-mail: judith.donovan@dc.gov Address: 1300 1st Street, N.E., Suite 246, Washington, DC 20002 Phone: No data	
<i>Agencies/organizations represented on the committee:</i> District of Columbia Department of Behavioral Health Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) Child and Family Services Agency DC Children and Youth Investment Trust Corporation DC Metropolitan Police Department District of Columbia Department of Health Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration LEGACY - Schroeder Institute for Tobacco Research and Policy Studies	
<i>A website or other public source exists to describe committee activities</i>	No
URL or other means of access: Not applicable; the Prevention website is currently under development.	

<b>Underage Drinking Reports</b>	
<i>State has prepared a plan for preventing underage drinking in the last 3 years</i>	Yes
Prepared by: DC Prevention Policy Consortium Plan can be accessed via: No data	
<i>State has prepared a report on preventing underage drinking in the last 3 years</i>	Yes
Prepared by DC Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup (DCEOW) District and Ward data report Plan can be accessed via: No data	
<b>Additional Clarification</b>	
SPF SIG funds a comprehensive District and ward data report through the DC Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup (DCEOW). DCEOW comprises 10 District agency partners and is administered by the DBHAPRA contractor, Research Triangle Institute (RTI). RTI has completed targeted District and Ward fact sheets on underage drinking: age of first use, trends, perceived risk, underage alcohol, and retailer density. Their scope of work includes:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update alcohol, tobacco, and other drug (ATOD) consumption, consequences, and demographics data</li> </ul>	

- Continue development of a collaborative effort to build a common, systematic methodology for conducting prevention needs assessment based on a risk assessment system to guide prevention policy, program planning and resource allocation
  - Utilize risk and protective factor data and incidence and prevalence data to estimate service needs, target prevention resources, select and/or develop appropriate prevention strategies and evaluate the effects of the prevention system over time
  - Identify the predictive value of risk and protective factor data
  - Identify priority risk and protective factors for an urban area and culturally diverse populations
  - Provide District and Ward reports that can be used for policymakers, consumers, and providers
- In addition, APRA supports a Memorandum of Understanding with the Office of the State Superintendent of Schools to expand the random sample for the District’s Youth Risk Behavioral Survey (YRBS), and add risk and protective factor questions.

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

<i>Compliance checks in retail outlets:</i>	
Estimate of state funds expended	Data not available
Estimate based on the 12 months ending	Data not available
<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	\$30,000
Estimate based on the 12 months ending	12/31/2013
<i>K–12 school-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>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	Data not available
Estimate based on the 12 months ending	Data not available
<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: SPF SIG: APRA continues to administer this federal grant, which focuses on prevention of underage drinking and marijuana use among youth.	
Estimate of state funds expended	\$2,135,724
Estimate based on the 12 months ending	6/30/2014

**Funds Dedicated to Underage Drinking**

<i>State derives funds dedicated to underage drinking from the following revenue streams:</i>	
Taxes	No
Fines	No
Fees	No
Other:	No
<i>Description of funding streams and how they are used:</i>	
Not applicable	
<b>Additional Clarification</b>	
No data	