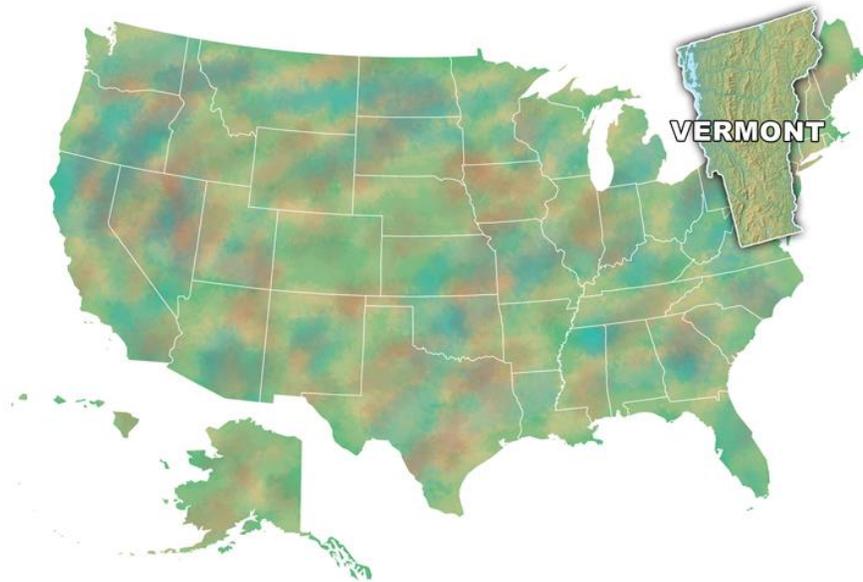


State Report

Vermont

This document is excerpted from:

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



Vermont

State Profile and Underage Drinking Facts*

State Population: 626,630
 Population Ages 12–20: 72,000

	Percentage	Number
Ages 12–20		
Past-Month Alcohol Use	33.6	24,000
Past-Month Binge Alcohol Use	22.5	16,000
Ages 12–14		
Past-Month Alcohol Use	6.0	1,000
Past-Month Binge Alcohol Use	2.8	1,000
Ages 15–17		
Past-Month Alcohol Use	28.1	7,000
Past-Month Binge Alcohol Use	16.5	4,000
Ages 18–20		
Past-Month Alcohol Use	59.1	16,000
Past-Month Binge Alcohol Use	42.5	12,000
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	60	3

* 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, the driver is restricted to driving alone or with a licensed parent, instructor, or person at least 25 years old. During next 3 months, the driver 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: Sale/service (non-compliance check) to 20-year-old: \$250.00 fine; to 19-year-old: \$500.00 fine; to 18-year-old or younger: hearing

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 on 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 beer and 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—there is a 14-day minimum hold. Each licensee in wholesale dealer’s territory must receive at least one opportunity to buy at the 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	
Agency with primary responsibility for enforcing underage drinking laws: Vermont Department of Liquor Control	
Enforcement Strategies	
State law enforcement agencies use:	
Cops in Shops	No
Shoulder Tap Operations	No
Party Patrol Operations or Programs	Yes
Underage Alcohol-Related Fatality Investigations	Yes
Local law enforcement agencies use:	
Cops in Shops	No
Shoulder Tap Operations	No
Party Patrol Operations or Programs	Yes
Underage Alcohol-Related Fatality Investigations	Yes
State has a program to investigate and enforce direct sales/shipment laws	No
Primary state agency responsible for enforcing laws addressing direct sales/shipments of alcohol to minors	Vermont Dept. of Liquor Control
Such laws are also enforced by local law enforcement agencies	No
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	2,819
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 ² 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 ³	2,500
Number of licensees checked for compliance by state agencies (including random checks)	591
Number of licensees that failed state compliance checks	50
Numbers pertain to the 12 months ending	12/31/2013
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	591
Number of licensees that failed random state compliance checks	50
Local agencies conduct underage compliance checks/decoy operations to determine if alcohol retailers are complying with laws prohibiting sales to minors	No
Data are collected on these activities	Not applicable
Number of licensees checked for compliance by local agencies	Not applicable
Number of licensees that failed local compliance checks	Not applicable
Numbers pertain to the 12 months ending	Not applicable
Sanctions	
State collects data on fines imposed on retail establishments that furnish minors	Yes
Number of fines imposed by the state ⁴	7
Total amount in fines across all licensees	\$2,100
Smallest fine imposed	\$300
Largest fine imposed	\$300
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 ⁵	28
Total days of suspensions across all licensees	28
Shortest period of suspension imposed (in days)	1
Longest period of suspension imposed (in days)	1
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 ⁶	0
Numbers pertain to the 12 months ending	12/31/2013
Additional Clarification	
No clarification required.	

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

School-Based Substance Abuse Services (SBSAS) Program

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://healthvermont.gov/adap/sap/StudentAssistanceProgram.aspx	

Program Description: The SBSAS grant provides and enhances 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 resulting from 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.

For the funded services, required activities include (1) support of coordinated school health initiatives (all 21 grantees) and (2) screening and referral to substance abuse and mental health services (all 21 grantees). Optional activities include:

- 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	8,002
Number of caregivers served	No data
Program has been evaluated	Yes

Evaluation report is available URL for evaluation report: URL for more program information: http://www.ParentUpVT.org	Yes only hard copy available
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 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: (1) increase the number of parents who talk with their children about underage drinking and (2) 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	No
Evaluation report is available	Not applicable
URL for evaluation report:	Not applicable
URL for more program information:	No data
Program Description: START started as a statewide system of taskforces to reduce underage drinking in Vermont, but due to decreased funding from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention it no longer operates statewide. Three counties receive START funding to increase 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.	
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:	No data
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 the number to verify the match between the name on an ID (from any state) and the date of birth. This is a federally funded program (EUDL funds).	
Annual 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	No
Evaluation report is available	Not applicable
URL for evaluation report:	Not applicable
URL for more program information:	No data
Program Description: In October 2013, Castleton State College hosted the 2nd Annual College Symposium to address high-risk drinking sponsored by the Vermont Department of Health. The Symposium provided an opportunity to showcase some of the efforts to address this issue, and to learn more about implementation and how those efforts might be replicated on other campuses. St. Michael’s	

<p>College, Middlebury College, the University of Vermont, Castleton State College, Johnson State College, and Marlboro College provided information on their programs and initiatives focused on student engagement, parent engagement, screening, and recovery and community partnerships. More than 100 participants represented 15 colleges and universities, community coalitions, law enforcement, court diversion, and Health Department staff.</p>																	
<p>Partnership for Success (PFS)</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Program serves specific or general population</td> <td>General population</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Number of youth served</td> <td>Not applicable</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Number of parents served</td> <td>Not applicable</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Number of caregivers served</td> <td>Not applicable</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> </table>		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
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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 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Its purpose is to reduce underage drinking and prescription drug misuse and abuse. In collaboration with multiple state and local community partners, the Vermont Department of Health (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. Each region must employ evidence-based prevention strategies. The grant also supports training and communications activities aimed at strengthening the prevention infrastructure in all 12 districts of the state.</p>																	
<p>Additional Underage Drinking Prevention Programs Operated or Funded by the State</p>																	
<p>No data URL for more program information: No data</p>																	
<p>Program description: No data</p>																	
<p>Additional Clarification</p>																	
<p>With the exception of the SBSAS program, all programs related to underage drinking prevention are federally funded.</p>																	
<p>Additional Information Related to Underage Drinking Prevention Programs</p>																	
<p><i>State collaborates with federally recognized tribal governments in the prevention of underage drinking</i></p> <p>Description of collaboration: Not applicable</p>	<p>No recognized tribal governments</p>																
<p><i>State has programs to measure and/or reduce youth exposure to alcohol advertising and marketing</i></p> <p>Program description: The Healthy Retailer Program takes into account that supermarkets provide a larger selection of healthy foods at lower prices compared with smaller grocery and convenience stores. These smaller stores are often frequented by Vermonters who do not have regular access to full-scale supermarkets and thus may be exposed to more unhealthy choices. A public health best practice includes implementation of strategies that create an environment where making a healthy choice is an easy choice. The VDH's Healthy Retailers Program promotes healthy choices at small retailers throughout Vermont and brings together the Tobacco Control, Alcohol and Drug Prevention, and Nutrition Programs.</p> <p>Project Goal: The goal of this initiative is to further health promotion efforts by changing the environment within independently owned grocery and convenience stores. By reducing tobacco and alcohol marketing while promoting healthy foods, independent retailers can make small changes that will make a big impact.</p> <p>Strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> State-level health promotion programs worked collaboratively with a marketing agency to create a resource guide providing background information, strategies for working with retailers, and methods for engaging the community. 	<p>Yes</p>																

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community partners work with retailers to promote healthy choices using VDH's Small Change Big Impact Resource, while limiting point-of-purchase advertising for tobacco and alcohol. Community coalitions work together to determine how to best serve the needs of the retailers, their customers, and the community. Coalitions and community partners receive ongoing technical assistance and networking opportunities as they work collectively to reduce tobacco use, decrease alcohol consumption, and improve healthy choices. VDH provides promotional materials to increase healthy options including fresh fruits and vegetables and serve as a replacement for advertising of some of the unhealthy messages. 	
<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 CSAP's (2009) <i>Identifying and Selecting Evidence-Based Interventions Revised Guidance Document for the Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant Program</i> and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's <i>The Guide to Community Preventive Services</i> (Zaza, Briss & Harris, 2005).	
Additional Clarification	
For Vermont standards, go to http://healthvermont.gov/adap/prevention/SPF/documents/FinalDraftGuidanceNov2008.pdf	

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: Mitch Barron	
Email: mitchb@howardcenter.org	
Address: Centerpoint Adolescent Treatment Services, 1025 Airport Drive, South Burlington, VT 05403	
Phone: 802-488-7711	
<i>Agencies/organizations represented on the committee:</i>	
Vermont Department of Health	
Vermont Department of Mental Health	
Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles	
Vermont Agency of Human Services	
Prevention Works! VT	
Vermont Center for Problem Gambling	
Vermont Association of Mental Health and Addiction Recovery	
Vermont Agency of Education	
Vermont Department of Liquor Control	
Vermont Court Diversion, Office of the Attorney General	
Vermont Department of Corrections	
Vermont National Guard	
Montpelier Public Schools	
Central Vermont Medical Center	
Flood Brook School	
Centerpoint Adolescent Treatment Services	
Northwestern Counseling and Support Services	
Vermont Department of State's Attorneys and Sheriff's Association	
<i>A website or other public source exists to describe committee activities</i>	Yes
URL or other means of access: http://healthvermont.gov/adap/vadaac/advisorycouncil.aspx	

Underage Drinking Reports	
State has prepared a plan for preventing underage drinking in the last 3 years Prepared by: Not applicable Plan can be accessed via: Not applicable	No
State has prepared a report on preventing underage drinking in the last 3 years Prepared by: Vermont's Epidemiological Workgroup Plan can be accessed via: http://healthvermont.gov/adap/clearinghouse/documents/EpiProfileExecutiveSummary_2012March16.pdf	Yes
Additional Clarification	
No data	

State Expenditures for the Prevention of Underage Drinking	
<i>Compliance checks in retail outlets:</i>	
Estimate of state funds expended	\$50,000
Estimate based on the 12 months ending	12/31/2013
<i>Checkpoints and saturation patrols:</i>	
Estimate of state funds expended	\$8,000
Estimate based on the 12 months ending	12/31/2013
<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	6/30/2014
<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	6/30/2014
<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
<i>Description of funding streams and how they are used:</i>	
Youth who violate Vermont's underage possession and consumption of alcohol laws (7 VSA §65) may 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, 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 counselor recommendations), 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	