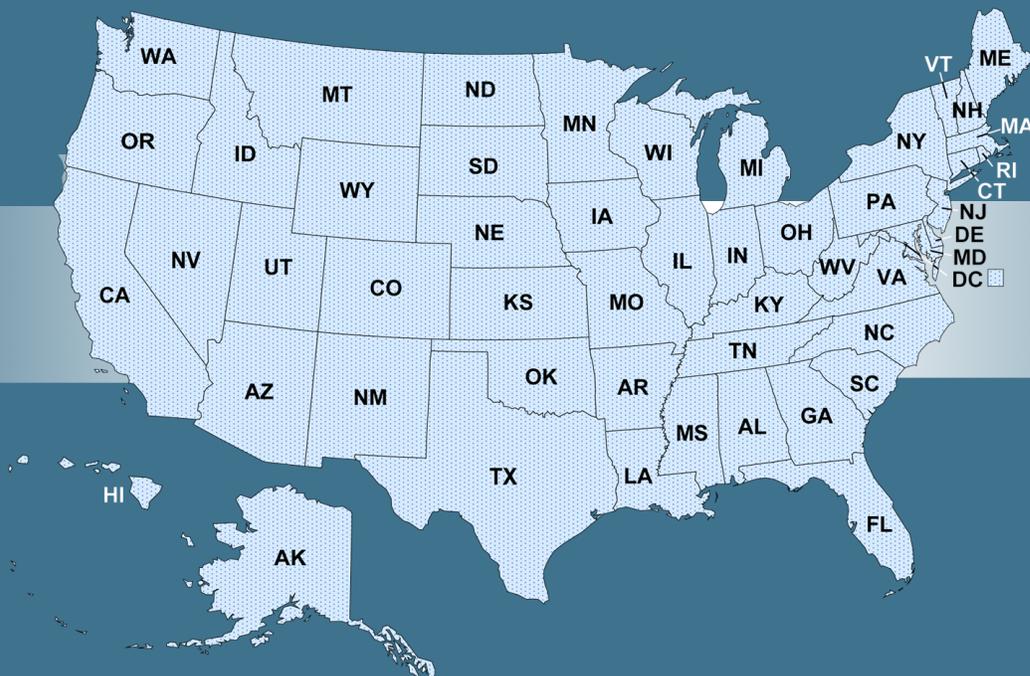


# STATE PERFORMANCE & BEST PRACTICES

*for the Prevention and Reduction of Underage Drinking*

2018



## POLICY SUMMARY:

*Responsible Beverage Service Training*



**SAMHSA**  
Substance Abuse and Mental Health  
Services Administration

The *State Performance and Best Practices* is required by the Sober Truth on Preventing (STOP) Underage Drinking Act (Pub. L. 109-422), which was enacted by Congress in 2006 and reauthorized in December 2016 as part of the 21st Century Cures Act (Pub. L. 114-255). The STOP Act directs the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), working with the Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Prevention of Underage Drinking (ICCPUD), to develop a set of performance measures for evaluating the states' use of best practices in preventing underage drinking, and to consider a set of enumerated categories in doing so. The STOP Act also requires an annual report on each state's performance in enacting, enforcing, and creating laws, regulations, and programs to prevent or reduce underage drinking.

This *State Performance and Best Practices*, and the 51 individual State Reports, were prepared by the ICCPUD, which is chaired by the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

**Time period covered by the 2018 *State Performance and Best Practices*:** The 2018 version primarily includes data from calendar year 2017. The data on state legal policies reflects the state of the law as of January 1, 2017. The state survey data was collected in 2017, and is drawn from the most recent 12-month period in which the states maintained the data.

#### **Recommended Citation**

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Prevention of Underage Drinking (ICCPUD). (2018). *State Performance and Best Practices for the Prevention and Reduction of Underage Drinking*.

## Responsible Beverage Service Training

### Policy Description

Responsible beverage service (RBS) training policies require or incentivize retail alcohol outlets to train licensees, managers, and servers/sellers to effectively implement policies and procedures that prevent alcohol sale and service to minors and intoxicated persons.

Server/seller training focuses on procedures for serving, selling, and checking age identification, along with techniques for recognizing signs of intoxication and intervening with intoxicated patrons. Manager training includes server/seller training, policy and procedures development, and staff supervision. RBS programs typically have distinct training curricula for on- and off-sale establishments because of the differing characteristics of these retail environments. All RBS programs focus on preventing sales and furnishing to minors.

RBS training can be mandatory or voluntary. A program is considered mandatory if state provisions require at least one specified category of individual (e.g., servers/sellers, managers, or licensees) to attend training. States may have either mandatory programs, voluntary programs, or both. For example, a state may make training for new licensees mandatory while also offering voluntary programs for existing licensees. Alternatively, a state may have a basic mandatory program while also offering a more intensive voluntary program that provides additional benefits for licensees choosing to participate in both.

States with voluntary programs usually provide incentives for retailers to participate in RBS training but do not impose penalties for those who decline involvement. Incentives vary by state and include (a) a defense in dram shop liability lawsuits (cases filed by injured persons against retail establishments that provided alcohol to minors or intoxicated persons who later caused injuries to themselves or third parties); (b) discounts for dram shop liability insurance; (c) mitigation of fines or other administrative penalties for sales to minors or sales to intoxicated persons; and (d) protection against license revocation for sales to minors or intoxicated persons.

See the “Dram Shop Liability” policy for further discussion. The “Furnishing of Alcohol to Minors” policy discussion has additional information regarding prevention of alcohol sales to minors, and the “False Identification” policy discussion includes materials related to age identification policies.

### Status of Responsible Beverage Service Training Policies

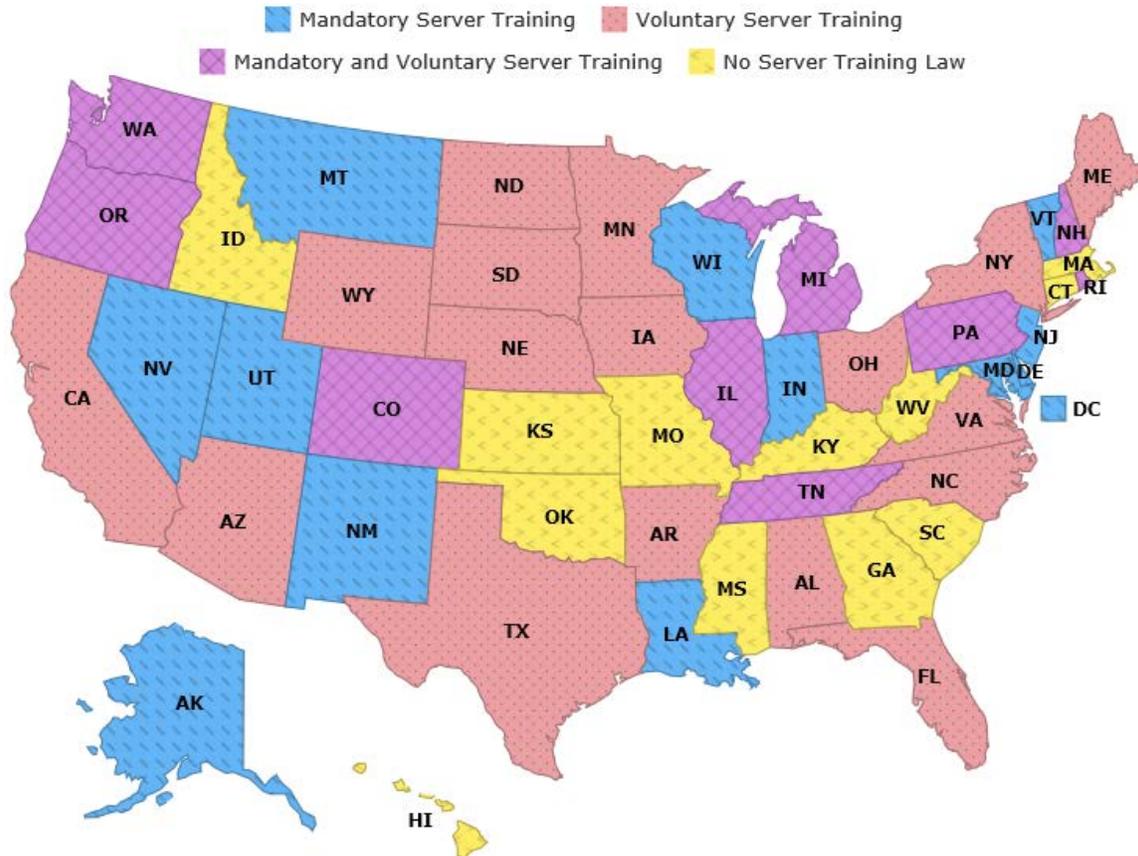
As of January 1, 2017, 38 states and the District of Columbia have some type of RBS training provision (see Exhibit I.21). Of these, 12 states and the District of Columbia have mandatory provisions, 17 states have voluntary provisions, and 9 states have both. The nine states that have both mandatory and voluntary provisions are Colorado, Illinois, Michigan, New Hampshire, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, and Washington.

Of the 22 jurisdictions with mandatory provisions, some apply their provisions to both on-sale (e.g., bars and restaurants) and off-sale (e.g., liquor stores) establishments, whereas some apply to either on-sale or off-sale establishments. Some of the mandatory jurisdictions apply their provisions to both new and existing establishments, whereas others apply them to either existing or new establishments.

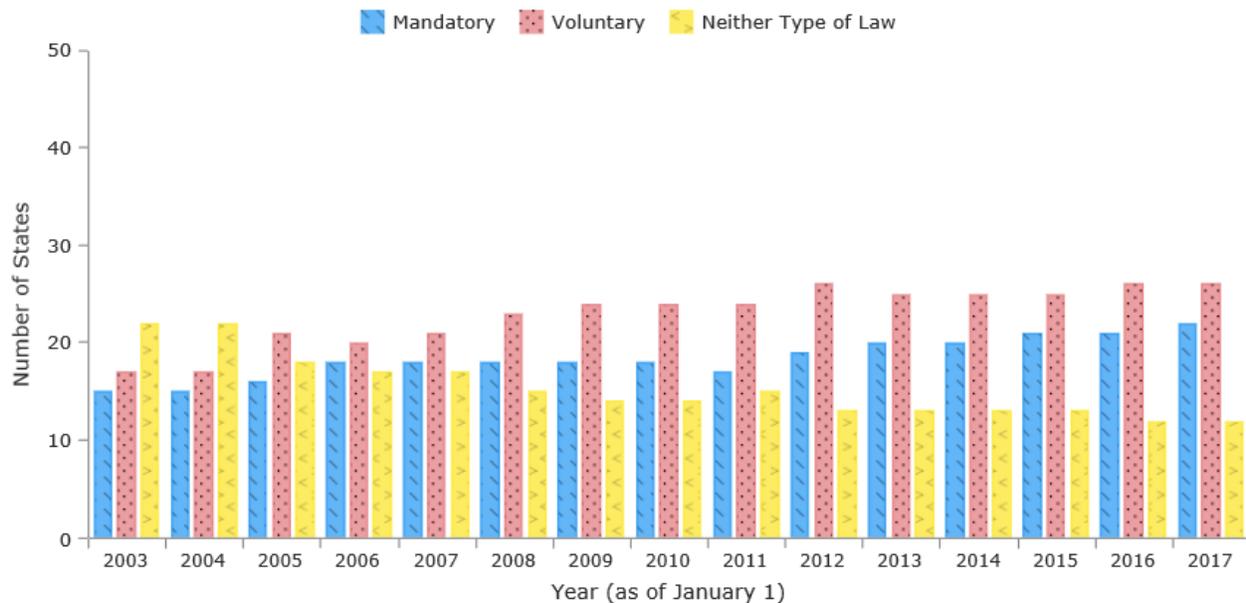
### Trends in RBS Policies

Between 2003 and 2017, the number of jurisdictions with mandatory policies increased from 15 to 22, and the number of states with voluntary policies rose from 17 to 26 (see Exhibit I.22). The number of states with no RBS training policy decreased from 22 to 12.

**Exhibit I.21: Responsible Beverage Service as of January 1, 2017**



**Exhibit I.22: Number of States with Responsible Beverage Service, January 1, 2003, through January 1, 2017**



### Data Sources and Citations

All data for this policy were obtained from <http://www.alcoholpolicy.niaaa.nih.gov>, NIAAA's APIS. Follow links to the policy titled "Beverage Service Training and Related Practices" for further descriptions of this policy and its variables, details regarding state policies, and a review of the limitations associated with the reported data.

Buka, S. L., & Birdthistle, I. J. (1999). Long-term effects of a communitywide alcohol server training intervention. *Journal of Studies on Alcohol*, 60, 27–36.

Dresser, J., Starling, R., Woodall, W. G., Stanghetta, P., & May, P. A. (2011). Field trial of alcohol-server training for prevention of fetal alcohol syndrome. *Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs*, 72(3), 490–496.

Fell, J. C., Fisher, D. A., Yao, J., & McKnight, A. S. (2017). Evaluation of a responsible beverage service and enforcement program: Effects on bar patron intoxication and potential impaired driving by young adults. *Traffic Injury Prevention*, 18(6), 557–565. doi:10.1080/15389588.2017.1285401

Fell, J. C., Scherer, M., & Voas, R. (2015). The utility of including the strengths of underage drinking laws in determining their effect on outcomes. *Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research*, 39(8), 1528–1537.

Fell, J. C., Scherer, M., Thomas, S., & Voas, R. (2016). Assessing the impact of twenty underage drinking laws. *Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs*, 77(2), 249–260.

Fell, J. C., Thomas, S., Scherer, M., Fisher, D. A., & Romano, E. (2015). Scoring the strengths and weaknesses of underage drinking laws in the United States. *World Medical & Health Policy*, 7, 28–58.

- Gosselt, J. F., van Hoof, J. J., & De Jong, M. D. (2012). Why should I comply? Sellers' accounts for (non-)compliance with legal age limits for alcohol sales. *Substance Abuse Treatment, Prevention, and Policy*, 7, 5. doi:10.1186/1747-597X-7-5
- Grube, J. W. (1997). Preventing sales of alcohol to minors: Results from a community trial. *Addiction*, 92(Suppl 2), S251–S260.
- Holder, H. D., & Wagenaar, A. C. (1994). Mandated server training and reduced alcohol-involved traffic crashes: A time series analysis of the Oregon experience. *Accident Analysis & Prevention*, 26, 89–97
- Linde, A. C., Toomey, T. L., Wolfson, J., Lenk, K. M., Jones-Webb, R., & Erickson, D. J. (2016). Associations between responsible beverage service laws and binge drinking and alcohol-impaired driving. *Journal of Alcohol & Drug Education*, 60(2), 35–54.
- Rammohan, V., Hahn, R. A., Elder, R., Brewer, R., Fielding, J., Naimi, T. S., . . . Task Force on Community Preventive Services. (2011). Effects of dram shop liability and enhanced overservice law enforcement initiatives on excessive alcohol consumption and related harms: Two community guide systematic reviews. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, 41(3), 334–343. doi:10.1016/j.amepre.2011.06.027
- Saltz, R. F. (1987). The roles of bars and restaurants in preventing alcohol impaired driving: An evaluation of server intervention. *Evaluation & the Health Professions*, 10, 5–27.
- Scherer, M., Romano, E., Caldwell, S., & Taylor, E. (2018). The impact of retail beverage service training and social host laws on adolescents' DUI rates in San Diego County, California. *Traffic Injury Prevention*, 19(2), 111–117. doi:10.1080/15389588.2017.1350268
- Shults, R. A., Elder, R. W., Sleet, D. A., Nichols, J. L., Alao, M. O., Carande-Kulis, V. G., . . . Task Force on Community Preventive Services. (2001). Reviews of evidence regarding interventions to reduce alcohol-impaired driving. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, 21(4), 66-88.
- Toomey, T. L., Erickson, D. J., Lenk, K. M., Kilian, G. R., Perry, C. L., & Wagenaar, A. C. (2008). A randomized trial to evaluate a management training program to prevent illegal alcohol sales. *Addiction*, 103(3), 405–413.
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2007). *Surgeon General's Call to Action to Prevent and Reduce Underage Drinking*. Rockville, MD: Office of the Surgeon General. Retrieved from <http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/topics/underagedrinking>.
- Wagenaar, A. C., Lenk, K. M., & Toomey, T. L. (2005). Policies to reduce underage drinking: A review of the recent literature. In M. Galanter (Ed.), *Recent developments in alcoholism: Alcohol problems in adolescents and young adults*. New York: Kluwer Academic/Plenum Publishers.
- Wagenaar, A. C., Toomey, T. L., & Erickson, D. J. (2005). Preventing youth access to alcohol: Outcomes from a multi-community time-series trial. *Addiction*, 100, 335–345.