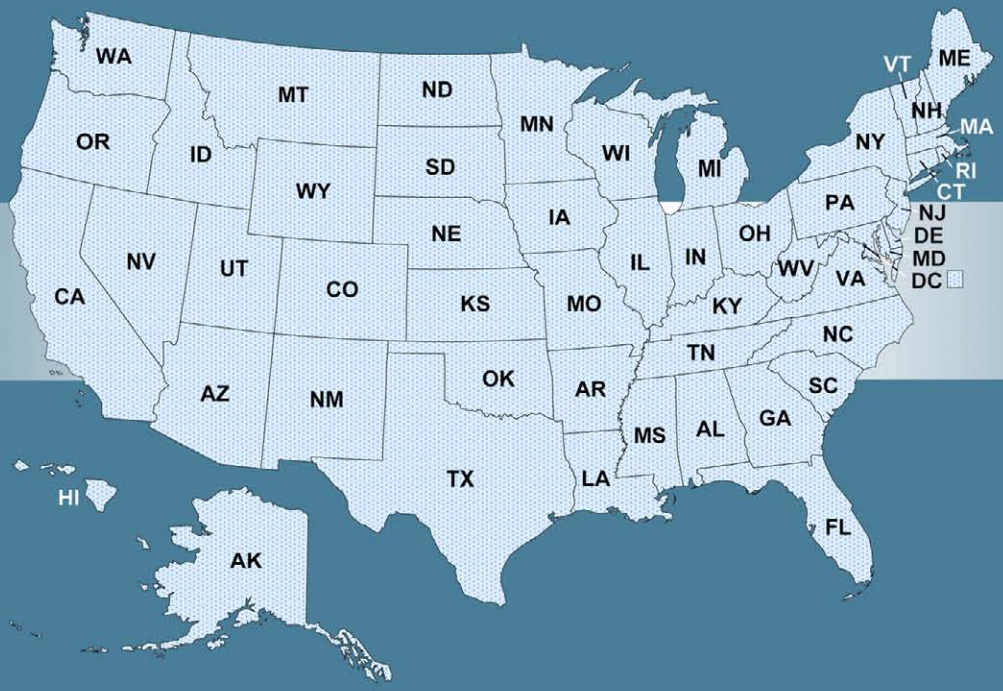
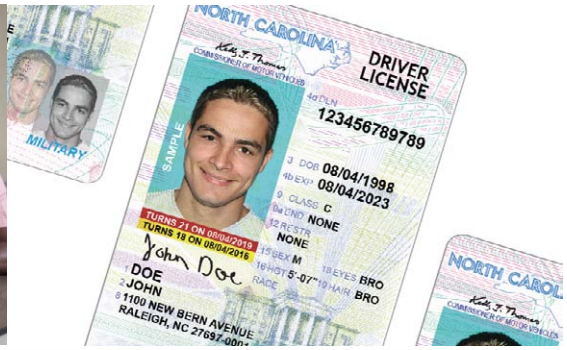
NORTH CAROLINA STATE REPORT

Underage Drinking Prevention and Enforcement

2018





SAMHSA
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

This State Report 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 requires an annual report "on each State's performance in enacting, enforcing, and creating laws, regulations, and programs to prevent or reduce underage drinking." As directed by the STOP Act, the State Reports were prepared by the Interagency Coordinating Committee on Preventing Underage Drinking (ICCPUD), which is chaired by the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

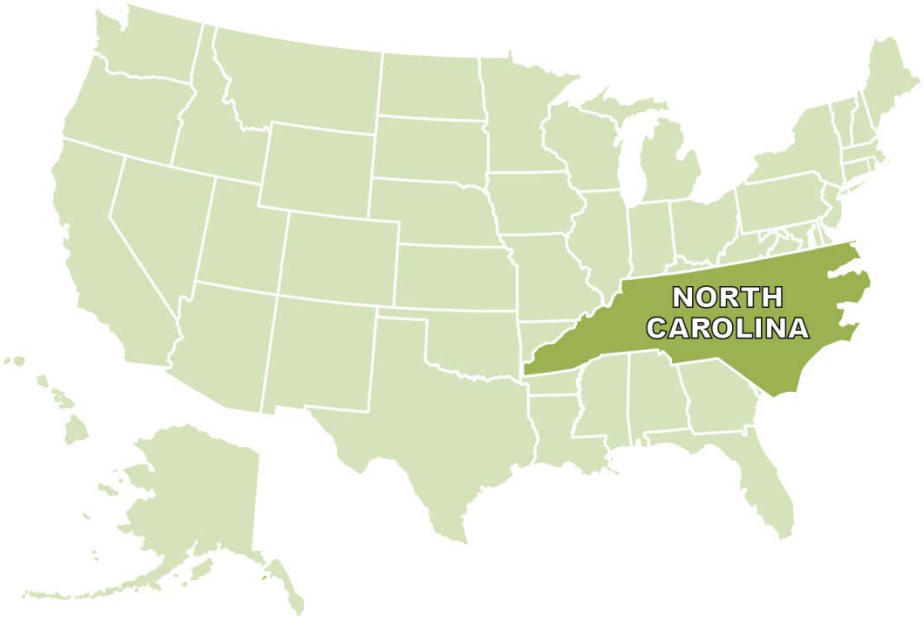
Time period covered by this State Report: The 2018 State Report primarily includes data from calendar year 2017. The state legal data reflects the status of the law as of January 1, 2017. The state survey data was collected in 2017 and was drawn from the most recent 12-month period in which the states maintained the data.

Staff Chair, Interagency Agency Coordinating Committee for the Prevention of Underage Drinking (ICCPUD) Point of Contact:

Robert M. Vincent, MS.Ed
Public Health Analyst
SAMHSA's Center for Substance Abuse Prevention
Division of Systems Development
Phone: (240) 276-1582
Email: Robert.Vincent@samhsa.hhs.gov

North Carolina Governor's Designated Contact for STOP Act State Survey:

Michael Eisen
State Coordinator, PUDI/EUDL
North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Phone: (919) 715-2265
Email: michael.eisen@dhhs.nc.gov



North Carolina

State Population: 10,146,788

Population Ages 12–20: 1,138,000

Past-Month Alcohol Use Among 12- to 20-Year-Olds	
Ages 12–20*	
Past-Month Alcohol Use – Number (Percentage)	176,000 (15.4%)
Ages 12–14	
Past-Month Alcohol Use – Number (Percentage)	11,000 (2.8%)
Ages 15–17	
Past-Month Alcohol Use – Number (Percentage)	52,000 (13.0%)
Ages 18–20	
Past-Month Alcohol Use – Number (Percentage)	113,000 (31.3%)
Alcohol-Attributable Deaths and Years of Potential Life Lost Under the Age of 21	
Alcohol-Attributable Deaths (under 21)	145
Years of Potential Life Lost (under 21)	8,786
Fatal Crashes Involving 15- to 20-Year-Old Driver with BAC > 0.01	
Number of Fatalities Involving 15- to 20-Year-Old Driver with BAC > 0.01	33
Percentage of All Fatal Crashes Involving 15- to 20-Year-Old Driver	16%

*Note that in previous years, the numbers and percentages for past-month binge drinking by age group were included in these profiles. These data are not included as a separate category this year. The definition of binge drinking used in the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) changed in 2015 and insufficient state-level data using the new criteria exist. As more years of consistent data become available, the state profiles will include past-month binge drinking as a separate sub-group of past-month alcohol use. For more information, see https://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/NSDUH-TrendBreak-2015.pdf.

Laws Addressing Minors in Possession of Alcohol

Underage Possession	
Is underage possession of alcoholic beverages prohibited?	Yes
Are there exceptions based on family relationships? • Is possession allowed if parent or guardian is present or consents? • Is possession allowed if spouse is present or consents?	 No No
Is there an exception based on location?	No

Underage Consumption	
Is underage consumption of alcoholic beverages prohibited?	Yes
Are there exceptions based on family relationships? • Is consumption allowed if the parent or guardian is present or consents? • Is consumption allowed if the spouse is present or consents?	 No No
Is there an exception based on location?	No

Underage Internal Possession	
Is underage internal possession of alcoholic beverages prohibited?	Yes
Are there exceptions based on family relationships? • Is internal possession allowed if the parent or guardian is present or consents? • Is internal possession allowed if the spouse is present or consents?	 No No
Is there an exception based on location?	No

Underage Purchase and Attempted Purchase	
Is the purchase of alcoholic beverages prohibited?	Yes
May youth purchase for law enforcement purposes?	No

Underage False Identification for Obtaining Alcohol	
Provisions Targeting Minors	
Is the use of false identification (ID) prohibited?	Yes
Does the use of a false ID result in minor's driver's license suspension?	Yes, through a judicial process
Provisions Targeting Suppliers	
Is the lending or transferring or selling of a false ID prohibited?	Yes
Is the production of a false ID in the context of underage alcohol sales specifically prohibited?	No
Retailer Support Provisions	
Is there an incentive for the retailer to use electronic scanners for information digitally encoded on valid IDs?	Yes
Are state driver's licenses for persons under 21 easily distinguishable from licenses for persons 21 and over?	Yes
May retailers seize apparently false IDs without fear of prosecution even if the ID is ultimately deemed valid?	Yes
Does an affirmative defense exist for the retailer?	Yes
• Is it a specific affirmative defense (retailer reasonably believed ID was valid after examining it)?	Yes

• Is it a general affirmative defense (retailer reasonably believed purchaser was over 21)?	No
Does the retailer have the right to sue the minor for use of a false ID?	No
May a retailer detain a minor who used a false ID?	No

Laws Targeting Underage Drinking and Driving

Youth Blood Alcohol Concentration Limits (Underage Operators of Noncommercial Motor Vehicles)	
What is the maximum blood alcohol concentration (BAC) limit for an underage driver of a motor vehicle?	0
Does a BAC level in excess of limit automatically establish a violation (per se violation)?	Yes
What is the minimum age to which the limit applies?	0
What is the maximum age to which the limit applies?	21

Loss of Driving Privileges for Alcohol Violations by Minors ("Use/Lose" Laws)	
Is there a "use/lose" law that suspends or revokes a minor's driving privileges for alcohol violations?	Yes
What types of violation lead to license suspension or revocation?	
• Purchase of alcohol	Yes
• Possession of alcohol	No
• Consumption of alcohol	No
The law applies to people under what age?	21
Is suspension or revocation mandatory or discretionary?	Mandatory
What is the length of suspension/revocation?	
Minimum number of days	365
Maximum number of days	365

Graduated Driver's Licenses	
Learner Stage	
What is the minimum age for permit to drive with parents, guardians or other adults (other than instructors)?	15
What is the minimum number of months driver must hold learner permit before advancing to intermediate stage?	12
What is the minimum number of hours of driving with parents, guardians or adults before advancing to intermediate stage?	60 (10 of which must be at night; to obtain full license, driver must log 12 hours of driving in intermediate stage, 6 of which are at night)
Intermediate Stage	
What is the minimum age for driving without adult supervision?	16
For night driving, when does adult supervision requirement begin?	9 PM
Can law enforcement stop a driver for night driving violation as a primary offense?	Yes, officer may stop driver for night driving violation
Are there restrictions on passengers?	Yes, no more than one passenger under 21 who is not a member of immediate family or household;

	however, if there is a passenger under 21 who is an immediate family or household member, then no unrelated passengers under 21
Can law enforcement stop driver for violation of passenger restrictions as a primary offense?	Yes, officer may stop driver for passenger restrictions violation
License Stage	
What is the minimum age for full license privileges and lifting of restrictions?	16 years, 6 months

Laws Targeting Alcohol Suppliers

Furnishing Alcohol to Minors	
Is furnishing of alcoholic beverages to minors prohibited?	Yes
Are there exceptions based on family relationships? • Is furnishing allowed if the parent or guardian supplies the alcohol? • Is furnishing allowed if the spouse supplies the alcohol?	 No No
Is there an exception based on location?	No
Affirmative Defense for Sellers and Licensees	
Does law require seller/licensee to be exonerated of furnishing to a minor if the minor has not been charged?	No

Compliance Check Protocols	
Does the state have a written protocol for when an underage decoy is used in compliance checks?	Yes
What is the minimum age a decoy may be to participate in a compliance check?	16
What is the maximum age a decoy may be to participate in a compliance check?	20
Are there appearance requirements for the decoy?	Yes, must look under 21
Does decoy carry ID during compliance check?	Discretionary
May decoy verbally exaggerate his or her actual age?	Prohibited
Is decoy training mandated, recommended, prohibited, or not specified?	Mandated

Penalty Guidelines for Sales to Minors	
Are there written guidelines for penalties that are imposed on retailers for furnishing to a minor?	Yes
What is the time period for defining second, third and subsequent offenses?	Not specified
What is the penalty for the first offense?	$500 or license suspension
What is the penalty for the second offense?	Up to $750 or license suspension
What is the penalty for the third offense?	Up to $1,000 or license suspension
What is the penalty for the fourth offense?	Not specified

Responsible Beverage Service (RBS)	
Is there a state law pertaining to Beverage Service Training?	Yes, voluntary
If training is mandatory, who must participate?	N/A

If training is voluntary, which of the following incentives are offered?	
• Defense in dram shop liability lawsuits	Yes
• Discounts in dram shop liability insurance, license fees, or other	No
• Mitigation of fines or other administrative penalties for sales to minors or intoxicated persons	No
• Protection against license revocation for sales to minors or sales to intoxicated persons	No
Does the RBS law apply to on-premises establishments (such as bars and restaurants) or off-premises establishments (such as liquor stores)?	Unspecified
Does the RBS law apply to new or existing licensees?	Unspecified

Minimum Ages for Sellers of Alcohol–Off-Premises (i.e., Liquor Stores)	
What is the minimum age requirement for off-premises retail establishments?	
Beer	None
Wine	None
Spirits	18
Does a manager or supervisor have to be present?	No

Minimum Age for Alcohol Servers and Bartenders–On-Premises (i.e., Restaurants and Bars)	
What is the minimum age requirement for servers in on-premises establishments?	
Beer	18
Wine	18
Spirits	18
What is the minimum age requirement for bartenders in on-premises establishments?	
Beer	18
Wine	18
Spirits	21
Does a manager or supervisor have to be present?	No

Distance Limitations Applied to New Alcohol Outlets Near Universities, Colleges, and Primary and Secondary Schools	
Colleges and Universities	
Is there a distance requirement for off-premises outlets (i.e., liquor stores)?	Yes, no permits on campus
Is there a distance requirement for on-premises outlets (i.e., restaurants and bars)?	Yes, no permits on campus
To which alcohol products does requirement apply?	Beer, wine
Note: Exceptions are (1) regional sports and entertainment facilities for public use, except for public school or college function; (2) performing arts centers; (3) hotels; (4) nonprofit alumni organizations; and (5) restaurants, eating establishments, food businesses, or retail businesses on the property.	
Primary and Secondary Schools	
Is there a distance requirement for off-premises outlets (i.e., liquor stores)?	Yes, no permits on campus
Is there a distance requirement for on-premises outlets (i.e., restaurants and bars)?	Yes, no permits on campus
To which alcohol products does requirement apply?	Beer, wine

Note: Exceptions are(1) regional sports and entertainment facilities for public use, except for public school or college function; (2) performing arts centers; (3) hotels; (4) nonprofit alumni organizations; and (5) restaurants, eating establishments, food businesses, or retail businesses on the property.

Dram Shop Liability	
Does a statute create dram shop liability?	Yes
Does the statute limit damages that may be recovered?	Yes ($500,000 total award to all injured parties per occurrence)
Does the statute limit who may be sued?	No
Does the statute limit elements or standards of proof?	Yes (injury must be a proximate result of the negligence of an underage driver's negligent operation of a vehicle while intoxicated)
Does common law dram shop liability exist?	No
Note: Although North Carolina courts may recognize third-party common law liability under certain fact patterns where a retailer furnishes an intoxicated minor, they do not recognize a distinct cause of action for furnishing alcohol to minors without regard to the minor's intoxication at the time of sale. North Carolina includes a responsible beverage server defense.	

Social Host Liability	
Does a statute create social host liability?	No
Does the statute limit damages that may be recovered?	N/A
Does the statute limit who may be sued?	N/A
Does the statute limit elements or standards of proof?	N/A
Does common law social host liability exist?	No
Note: Although North Carolina courts may recognize third-party liability under certain fact patterns where an intoxicated minor is furnished by a social host, they do not recognize a distinct cause of action for furnishing alcohol to minors without regard to the minor's intoxication at the time of sale.	

Prohibitions Against Hosting Underage Drinking Parties	
Does a statute prohibit hosting underage drinking parties?	No
Is the statute specific to underage parties, or a general prohibition against permitting underage drinking on the property?	N/A
What action by underage guest triggers a violation?	N/A
Property type covered by the law?	N/A
What level of knowledge by the host is required?	N/A
Does host's preventive action protect him/her from being held liable?	N/A
Are there any exceptions for underage guests?	N/A

Retailer Interstate Shipments of Alcohol	
Are out-of-state retailers prohibited from sending interstate shipments to in-state consumers?	
Beer	Prohibited
Wine	Prohibited
Spirits	Prohibited

Direct Shipments/Sales	
May alcohol producers ship directly to consumers?	Yes
What alcohol types may be shipped?	Wine
Must purchaser make mandatory trip to producer before delivery is authorized?	No
Age verification requirements	
Must the producer/shipper verify purchaser's age before sale?	No
Must the common carrier (deliverer) verify age of recipients?	Yes
State approval/permit requirements	
Must the producer/manufacturer obtain state license or permit?	Yes
Must the common carrier (deliverer) be approved by a state agency?	Yes
Recording/reporting requirements	
Must the producer/manufacturer record/report purchaser's name?	No
Must the common carrier (deliverer) record/report recipient's name?	No
Shipping label requirements	
Must the label state "Package contains alcohol"?	Yes
Must the label state "Recipient must be 21 years old"?	Yes

Keg Registration	
How is a keg defined (in gallons)?	Equal to or more than 7.75
Prohibitions	
Is it illegal to possess an unregistered or unlabeled keg and if so, what is the penalty?	Yes (discretionary fine/45 days)
Is it illegal to destroy the label on a keg, and if so, what is the penalty?	No
What purchaser information is collected?	
Must the retailer collect the name and address?	Yes
Must the retailer collect the ID number, name and address on license or other government information?	Yes
Must the retailer collect the address at which keg will be consumed?	Yes
Must warning information be given to purchaser?	Yes, active (requires an action by purchaser)
Is a deposit required?	No
Does law cover disposable kegs?	No

Home Delivery	
Is home delivery of alcohol permitted?	
Beer	Yes
Wine	Yes
Spirits	No law

High-Proof Grain Alcohol Beverages	
Are there restrictions on the sale of high-proof grain alcohol beverages?	Yes. In addition, this state is a control state, and control states may impose additional restrictions on the sale of products that are not reflected in statute or regulation.

Are restrictions based on Alcohol by Volume (ABV)?	Yes (more than 75.5%)
Are there exceptions to restrictions?	No
Note: The State of North Carolina Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission has issued a written statement that the highest proof liquor sold in North Carolina ABC stores will be 151 proof, which is equivalent to 75.5% alcohol by volume.	

Laws Affecting Alcohol Pricing

Alcohol Taxes	
Beer	
Control system for beer?	No
Specific excise tax per gallon for 5% alcohol beer	$0.62
Ad valorem excise tax (for on-premises sales) on total receipts for 5% alcohol beer	
Wholesale tax rate (if applicable)	
Retail tax rate (if applicable)	
If retail tax rate applies, is there an exemption from general sales tax?	No
• General sales tax rate	Not relevant
• Sales tax adjusted retail tax rate (the retail tax minus the general sales tax, where there is an exemption from the general sales tax)	Not relevant
Ad valorem excise tax (for off-premises sales) on total receipts for 5% alcohol beer	
Wholesale tax rate (if applicable)	
Retail tax rate (if applicable)	
If retail tax rate applies, is there an exemption from general sales tax?	No
• General sales tax rate	Not relevant
• Sales tax adjusted retail tax rate (the retail tax minus the general sales tax, where there is an exemption from the general sales tax)	Not relevant
Additional taxes for 3.2–6% alcohol beer if applicable	
Wine	
Control system for wine?	No
Specific excise tax per gallon for 12% alcohol wine	$1.00
Ad valorem excise tax (for on-premises sales) on total receipts for 12% alcohol wine	
Wholesale tax rate (if applicable)	
Retail tax rate (if applicable)	
If retail tax rate applies, is there an exemption from general sales tax?	No
• General sales tax rate	Not relevant
• Sales tax adjusted retail tax rate (the retail tax minus the general sales tax, where there is an exemption from the general sales tax)	Not relevant
Ad valorem excise tax (for off-premises sales) on total receipts for 12% alcohol wine	
Wholesale tax rate (if applicable)	
Retail tax rate (if applicable)	
If retail tax rate applies, is there an exemption from general sales tax?	No
• General sales tax rate	Not relevant
• Sales tax adjusted retail tax rate (the retail tax minus the general sales tax, where there is an exemption from the general sales tax)	Not relevant
Additional taxes for 6–14% alcohol wine if applicable	

Spirits	
Control system for spirits?	Yes
Specific excise tax per gallon for 40% alcohol spirits	
Ad valorem excise tax (for on-premises sales) on total receipts for 40% alcohol spirits	
Wholesale tax rate (if applicable)	
Retail tax rate (if applicable)	
If retail tax rate applies, is there an exemption from general sales tax?	No
• General sales tax rate	Not relevant
• Sales tax adjusted retail tax rate (the retail tax minus the general sales tax, where there is an exemption from the general sales tax)	Not relevant
Ad valorem excise tax (for off-premises sales) on total receipts for 40% alcohol spirits	
Wholesale tax rate (if applicable)	
Retail tax rate (if applicable)	
If retail tax rate applies, is there an exemption from general sales tax?	No
• General sales tax rate	Not relevant
• Sales tax adjusted retail tax rate (the retail tax minus the general sales tax, where there is an exemption from the general sales tax)	Not relevant
Additional taxes for 15–50% alcohol spirits if applicable	

Low-Price, High-Volume Drink Specials	
Are on-premises retailers prohibited from offering the following types of drink specials?	
Free beverages	No
Multiple servings at one time	Yes
Multiple servings for same price as single serving	Yes
Reduced price for a specified day or time (i.e., happy hours)	Yes (full-day price reductions not banned)
Unlimited beverages for fixed price	No
Increased volume without increase in price	No

Wholesaler Pricing Restrictions	
Beer	
Are volume discounts to retailers allowed?	Banned
Must wholesalers establish a minimum markup or maximum discount for each product sold to retailers?	No law
Must wholesalers publicly post and hold (i.e., not reduce) prices for a set time period?	No law
Is wholesaler permitted to extend credit to retailer and if so, what is the maximum time period?	No
Wine	
Are volume discounts to retailers allowed?	Banned
Must wholesalers establish a minimum markup or maximum discount for each product sold to retailers?	No law
Must wholesalers publicly post and hold (i.e., not reduce) prices for a set time period?	No law

Is wholesaler permitted to extend credit to retailer and if so, what is the maximum time period?	No
Spirits	Control System
Are volume discounts to retailers allowed?	N/A
Must wholesalers establish a minimum markup or maximum discount for each product sold to retailers?	N/A
Must wholesalers publicly post and hold (i.e., not reduce) prices for a set time period?	N/A
Is wholesaler permitted to extend credit to retailer and if so, what is the maximum time period?	N/A

North Carolina State Survey Responses

State Agency Information	
Agency with primary responsibility for enforcing underage drinking laws:	
The Alcohol Law Enforcement Branch of the State Bureau of Investigation	
Enforcement Strategies	
State law enforcement agencies use:	
Cops in Shops	Yes
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	No
Underage Alcohol–Related Fatality Investigations	No
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	Not applicable
Such laws are also enforced by local law enforcement agencies	Not applicable
Enforcement Statistics	
State collects data on the number of minors found in possession	Yes
Number of minors found in possession[1] by state law enforcement agencies	10,076
Number pertains to the 12 months ending	12/31/2016
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]	21,309
Number of licensees checked for compliance by state agencies **(including random checks)**	9
Number of licensees that failed state compliance checks	0
Numbers pertain to the 12 months ending	12/31/2016
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*	No
Number of licensees subject to **random** state compliance checks/decoy operations	Not applicable
Number of licensees that failed **random** state compliance checks	Not applicable
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	No
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]	246
Total amount in fines across all licensees	$555,150
Smallest fine imposed	$500
Largest fine imposed	$500
Numbers pertain to the 12 months ending	12/31/2016

State collects data on license suspensions imposed on retail establishments specifically for furnishing minors	No
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	No
Number of license revocations imposed[6]	Not applicable
Numbers pertain to the 12 months ending	Not applicable

Additional Clarification

No data

[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

NC Preventing Underage Drinking Initiative (NC-PUDi)

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: www.ncpudi.org	

Program Description: The North Carolina Preventing Underage Drinking Initiative (NC-PUDi) focuses on community-based approaches that emphasize environmental management strategies to prevent underage drinking. As the Congressional National Academy of Sciences/Institute of Medicine report *Reducing Underage Drinking: A Collective Responsibility* states,"Underage drinking cannot be addressed by focusing on youth alone. Youth drink within the context of a society in which alcohol use is normative behavior, and images about alcohol are pervasive. They usually obtain alcohol—either directly or indirectly—from adults. Efforts to reduce underage drinking, therefore, need to focus on adults and must engage the society at large" (National Research Council and Institute of Medicine. *Reducing Underage Drinking: A Collective Responsibility*. Committee on Developing a Strategy to Reduce and Prevent Underage Drinking, Richard J. Bonnie and Mary Ellen O'Connell, Editors. Board on Children, Youth, and Families, Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press, 2004).

NC-PUDi offers technical assistance to Community Collaboratives addressing the issue of underage alcohol use. These Collaboratives work within their communities to implement strategies that prevent underage drinking and create a sustainable movement to stop practices that make underage drinking both easy and acceptable. The Collaboratives' primary strategies focus on decreasing underage access to alcohol; changing community norms that promote underage and excessive alcohol consumption; and addressing policies pertaining to underage drinking. NC-PUDi is administered by the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services/Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services, and supported by the SAMSHA Substance Use Block Grant. NC-PUDi continues the initiatives originally funded by the OJJDP Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws program, which supported and enhanced efforts by states and local jurisdictions to prohibit the sale,

purchase, and consumption of alcoholic beverages to and by minors (minors are defined as individuals under 21 years old).

Talk It Out: Start the conversation. Stop underage drinking.

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: www.talkitoutnc.org	

Program Description: *Talk It Out* is a statewide campaign administered by the North Carolina Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission to reduce underage drinking through TV ads and social media and a website to help parents talk to youth. *Talk It Out* has developed resources that provide parents with information to talk with their children about underage drinking.

Additional Underage Drinking Prevention Programs Operated or Funded by the State

Program description: No data

Additional Clarification

Preventing and reducing underage drinking through retail compliance is one of the most effective strategies available (Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation/Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. *Regulatory strategies for preventing youth access to alcohol: Best practices*. Calverton, MD: Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation (PIRE), 1999). Alcohol purchase surveys, unlike compliance checks, can be performed without the assistance of law enforcement as long as the youth attempting to purchase are at least 21 years old. Purchase surveys are designed to facilitate a dialogue between the community and its retailers. Any strong prevention program incorporates citizens, retailers, the media, and law enforcement—alcohol purchase surveys accomplish all four tasks. Specifically, alcohol purchase surveys are used used to:

1. Assess community needs and collect data on which retailers in the community are potentially selling to underage youth.
2. Raise community awareness and build support for efforts to prevent sales to minors.
3. Inform merchants that they are being monitored and motivate them to change non-compliant practices.
4. Inform law enforcement officials with important information.
5. Measure the impact of prevention strategies so that communities can assess the effectiveness of the strategies they implement (PIRE, 1999).

Community Collaboratives return to every retail establishment surveyed to inform store management that the community cares about the issue of underage drinking and is conducting alcohol purchase surveys as a way to monitor alcohol sales practices. At that time, store management is also informed about how their store performed in the alcohol purchase survey and where they can get responsible alcohol sales training for their employees. Following each round of purchase surveys, funded Community Collaboratives submit a press release to local media and a detailed statistical report/complaint to law enforcement. Several studies have shown that generating publicity around underage alcohol sale surveys is an effective way to increase the success of local law enforcement efforts (PIRE, 1999). Therefore, results of the surveys are used for educational purposes including warning letters, congratulatory letters, and use in the media. Community Collaboratives also provide a summary report to local law enforcement. For the Community Collaboratives to effectively serve their “community watch” role, collected data from alcohol purchase surveys must be shared with local law enforcement agencies. Community Collaboratives disseminate the report summarizing the purchase survey findings after each round of surveys. From October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016, the state conducted 2,087 alcohol purchase surveys. Of those surveys, which included targeting problem establishments, 82.4 percent asked for the mock buyer’s identification and passed the survey. Community Collaboratives involve youth in their efforts to prevent underage drinking and foster the development, or encourage the expansion, of an underage drinking prevention youth empowerment movement in their community.

Additional Information Related to Underage Drinking Prevention Programs	
State collaborates with federally recognized tribal governments in the prevention of underage drinking	No
Description of collaboration: Not applicable	
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): Community Preventive Services Task Force; OJJDP; CDC; National Institute of Medicine/National Academy of Sciences; U.S. Dept. of HHS/Surgeon General; NREPP.	Yes
Agency(ies) within your state: NC Institute of Medicine; NC DHHS; NC Practice Improvement Collaborative	Yes
Nongovernmental agency(ies):	No
Other:	No

Best practice standards description: The North Carolina Preventing Underage Drinking Initiative (NC-PUDi) uses and continues to develop innovative strategies to help achieve the long-term goal of preventing underage drinking. This continuing effort is designed to further support and develop Community Collaboratives working to implement environmental management strategies to prevent underage drinking. This objective is responsive to the recommendations outlined in OJJDP's publication, *Strategies to Reduce Underage Alcohol Use* (PIRE, 1999); the National Institute of Medicine/National Academy of Sciences (IOM/NAS) report*, Reducing Underage Drinking: A Collective Responsibility*; the *Surgeon General's Call to Action to Prevent and Reduce Underage Drinking; Guide to Community Preventive Services*; the National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices (NREPP); and the *North Carolina Institute of Medicine Substance Abuse Services Task Force Report*. Although many of the recommended components of the IOM/NAS report and the *North Carolina Institute of Medicine Substance Abuse Services Task Force Report* require significant action at the national and/or state level, the reports specify several areas in which local communities can play significant complementary and reinforcing roles. Not surprisingly, several of the recommendations are consistent with strategies recommended by OJJDP in their 1999 publication, *Strategies to Reduce Underage Alcohol Use* (PIRE, 1999). According to the IOM report, two evidence-based strategic actions that can occur at the community level are community mobilization and restricting access. Community Collaboratives aimed at curbing underage drinking are valuable adjuncts to state and local government interventions. Such Collaboratives, which include people with diverse perspectives, interests, and responsibilities, can provide the political will and organizational support for implementing strategies that have proven effective at preventing underage drinking. They also place emphasis on a local culture in which underage drinking is considered a serious and unacceptable problem. Such local norms lend support to heightened enforcement of laws against underage drinking. By providing a context that supports recommended interventions, community mobilization efforts increase the overall likelihood that such interventions will meet success. To effectively implement this comprehensive approach, the IOM committee recommended the following three strategies:

1. Community leaders assess their community's particular problems and resources and—using effective approaches including community organizing, building Community Collaboratives, and strategic use of the mass media to support policy changes and enforcement—tailor their efforts to combat underage drinking accordingly.
2. Include colleges and universities in collaboration and implementation efforts for a range of interventions.
3. Elementary, secondary, and high school education programs should be evidence-based and should avoid interventions that rely on provision of information alone or fear tactics.

Listed below are the critical elements of effective interventions as summarized in the report:

- Be multicomponent and integrated
- Be sufficient in "dose" and follow-up
- Establish norms that support non-use

- Stress parental monitoring and supervision
- Be interactive
- Be implemented with fidelity
- Include limitations in access
- Be institutionalized
- Avoid an exclusive focus on information
- Avoid congregating high-risk youth
- Promote social and emotional skill development among elementary school students

By urging greater emphasis on restricted access, the report offers a wake-up call for adults from whom youth generally obtain alcohol (parents who allow drinking parties in their homes, adults who have alcohol in the home that is not monitored and secured, strangers who buy alcohol for teenagers waiting outside stores, or sales clerks and bartenders who sell alcohol to minors). State and local communities can work to not only create and enforce laws, but also to explain the reasons why compliance is important and elicit public support for limiting access. Recommended strategy urges that states and localities, working with law enforcement as appropriate, restrict youth access by:

1. Targeting servers and sellers, by:
   a. Increasing compliance checks, supported by media campaigns and license revocation to increase deterrence
   b. Implementing responsible beverage service programs as a condition of retail outlet licensing
   c. Developing new or strengthened server and seller liability laws
   d. Regulating Internet sales and home delivery of alcohol to prevent/reduce underage purchases
2. Targeting parents and other adults to promote compliance with youth access restrictions through:
   a. Keg registration laws
   b. "Shoulder tap" or other prevention programs targeting adults who purchase alcohol for minors
   c. Stronger anti-loitering measures
   d. Measures to hold retailers accountable for loitering
   e. Securing and monitoring alcohol in the home
3. Targeting youth through:
   a. Sobriety checkpoints with swift and certain sanctions for young drunk drivers
   b. Graduated license programs
   c. Modified laws to allow passive breath testing, streamlined administrative procedures, and administrative penalties, such as immediate driver's license revocation
   d. Media campaigns to publicize enforcement and encourage compliance
   e. Identifying and breaking up teen drinking parties and holding relevant adults and youth accountable
   f. Making it more difficult to use false identification (ID) by issuing scannable IDs, allowing retailers to confiscate licenses, and implementing administrative penalties for false ID use
   g. Increasing access to treatment services for young drinkers who need clinical treatment

NC-PUDi has the overall goal of focusing on: community mobilization centered on implementation of environmental management strategies, and restricting access through increased collaboration with law enforcement agencies. Strengthening the bridges that the Community Collaboratives have built with law enforcement in previous rounds of funding remains a top priority. With an emphasis on alcohol purchase surveys, followed by the dissemination of survey results to law enforcement, retailers, and local media, Community Collaboratives directly assess and influence community norms and retail practices related to alcohol access in their communities.

Additional Clarification	
No data	
State Interagency Collaboration	
A state-level interagency governmental body/committee exists to coordinate or address underage drinking prevention activities	No
Committee contact information: Not applicable	
Agencies/organizations represented on the committee:	

Not applicable	
A website or other public source exists to describe committee activities	Not applicable
URL or other means of access: Not applicable	

Underage Drinking Reports

State has prepared a plan for preventing underage drinking in the last 3 years	No
Prepared by: Not applicable	
Plan can be accessed via: Not applicable	
State has prepared a report on preventing underage drinking in the last 3 years	Yes
Prepared by: NC Institute of Medicine; NC DHHS/Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws Program Report	
Plan can be accessed via: http://www.ncpudi.org/about/project-overviews-outcomes/	

Additional Clarification

The state has prepared a plan for substance abuse prevention that is not specific to underage drinking, but is inclusive of it.

State Expenditures for the Prevention of Underage Drinking

Compliance checks in retail outlets:	
Estimate of state funds expended	Data not available
Estimate based on the 12 months ending	Data not available
Checkpoints and saturation patrols:	
Estimate of state funds expended	Data not available
Estimate based on the 12 months ending	Data not available
Community-based programs to prevent underage drinking:	
Estimate of state funds expended	$0
Estimate based on the 12 months ending	12/31/2016
K–12 school-based programs to prevent underage drinking:	
Estimate of state funds expended	$0
Estimate based on the 12 months ending	12/31/2016
Programs targeted to institutes of higher learning:	
Estimate of state funds expended	$0
Estimate based on the 12 months ending	12/31/2016
Programs that target youth in the juvenile justice system:	
Estimate of state funds expended	$0
Estimate based on the 12 months ending	12/31/2016
Programs that target youth in the child welfare system:	
Estimate of state funds expended	$0
Estimate based on the 12 months ending	12/31/2016
Other programs:	
Programs or strategies included: Other programs:	
Talk It Out NC.	
The ABC Commission campaign is funded by revenue from state controlled liquor stores.	
Estimate of state funds expended:	$2.5 million
Estimate based on the 12 months ending:	12/31/2014

Funds Dedicated to Underage Drinking

State derives funds dedicated to underage drinking from the following revenue streams:	
Taxes	No
Fines	No
Fees	No
Other: 1) Revenue from state-controlled liquor store (Talk It Out NC campaign); 2) Seven percent of sales from distilled spirits sold at the ABC stores	Yes

Description of funding streams and how they are used:

1. *Talk It Out NC*—The Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) Commission campaign is funded by revenue from state-controlled liquor stores. *Talk it Out* is the theme of the North Carolina ABC Commission campaign

developed for broadcast, print, and social media markets across North Carolina. Advertising materials provide links to a web site (Talkitoutnc.org) that provides information and resources geared to helping parents and teens have important conversations about alcohol and why children should not drink until they are adults. The campaign is part of the larger ABC Commission's Initiative to Reduce Underage Drinking that includes outreach with the public safety and public health communities as well as partnership with the alcohol industry to address underage drinking issue head-on.

2. Seven percent of sales from distilled spirits sold at the ABC stores are dedicated to training and education and are determined locally through ABC boards and/or county commissioners.

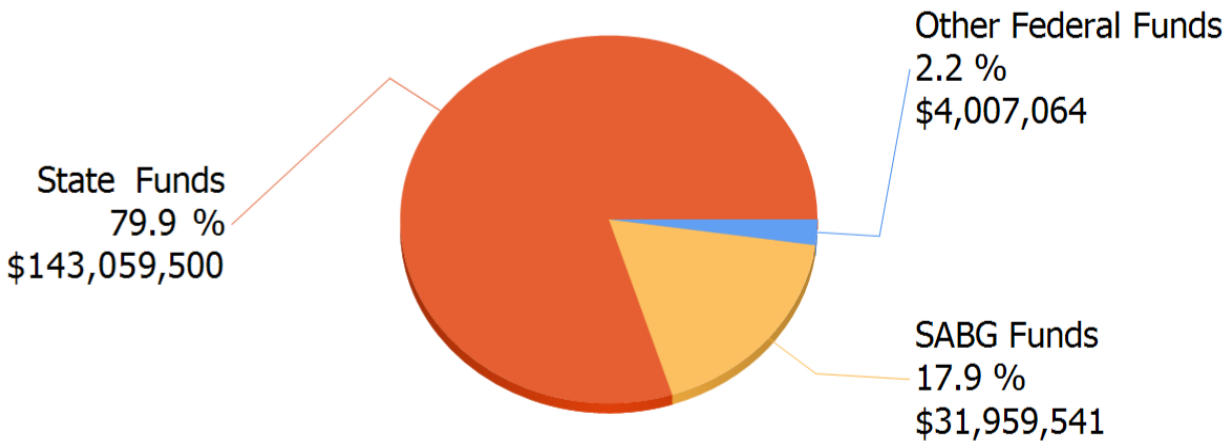
Addtional Clarification

The North Carolina Department of Human Services Preventing Underage Drinking Initiative (NC-PUDi) and additional complementary efforts are federally funded. No state funds are specifically dedicated to the prevention of underage alcohol use.

In addition to the state expenditures on underage drinking prevention reported in the annual STOP Act Survey, all states receive federal funds for substance abuse prevention through Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant (SABG) funds, administered by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Exhibit 1 shows the sources that North Carolina used for expenditures on substance abuse prevention and treatment in 2017. As indicated, state funds and SABG funds account for the largest sources (79.9 percent and 17.9 percent respectively).[13]

States submit Behavioral Assessment and Plan reports that include their priorities for use of SABG funds, as well as planned expenditures. For FY 2018-2019, North Carolina designated treatment of juvenile justice-involved youth for substance abuse as priority number two for use of SABG funds.[14]

Exhibit 1: Source of 2017 Expenditures for Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment



[13] WebBGAS State Profile, 2017 SABG and MHBG Reports– North Carolina 2017

[14] FY 2018/2019 – (North Carolina) State Behavioral Assessment and Plan, Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant, Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, Division of State Programs, Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, Division of State and Community Assistance: Table 1: Priority Areas and Annual Performance Indicators

SAMHSA
Substance Abuse and Mental Health
Services Administration