



**PATERSON COALITION
AGAINST SUBSTANCE ABUSE**
MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY

ALCOHOL POLICY BRIEF

PATERSON, NJ*

2014 - 2015

PATERSON COALITION AGAINST SUBSTANCE ABUSE

The intent of this alcohol brief is to provide educational resources and policy recommendations to residents, community coalitions, policy makers, municipal government, and others assessing potential responses to excess liquor outlets in Paterson, New Jersey. The information contained herein is derived from numerous data sources, such as: the City of Paterson Department of Health and Human Services, Paterson Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) Board, Paterson Police Department, Paterson Public School District, and the New Jersey Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC). This policy brief is not intended nor was written to serve as legal analysis or to serve as legal advice.

Alcohol Outlet Density in Paterson, New Jersey

According to the New Jersey Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC), a municipality may issue one consumption license for every 3,000 of its population; and regarding the sale of alcohol for off-premise consumption, a municipality may issue one license for every 7,500 of its population. Based on these parameters, the city of Paterson, New Jersey, with 145,948 residents, should not exceed a total of 49 consumption licenses (restaurants and bars), and 19 off-premise licenses (liquor stores and bodegas). As of May 2015, Paterson has 200 liquor-selling establishments,

The Association between Alcohol Outlet Density and Assaultive Violence

The sheer density of alcohol outlets in only 8.4 square miles has also contributed to the city's violent crimes. Figure 1 provides a graphic representation of the rates of assaultive violence and the density of alcohol-selling outlets. This map illustrates the high incidence of assaultive violence offenses, with darkened segments representing the aggregation of the actual location of assaultive offenses to a given area (census block). Dot density mapping of

PATERSON HAS 200 LIQUOR-SELLING ESTABLISHMENTS

including both on-and-off premise locations); and this figure exceeds the NJ Division of ABC guidelines for the number of alcohol outlets in a given municipality by almost three times.

Assaultive Violence and Alcohol Outlet Density in Paterson, NJ, Census Block Groups



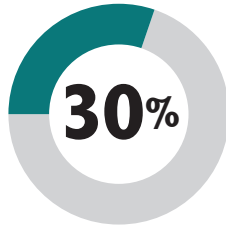
FIGURE 1

alcohol-selling outlets was used to convey the geographical association with assaultive violence. The map clearly shows a strong (statistically significant) relationship between the rates of assaultive violence and the density of alcohol outlets.

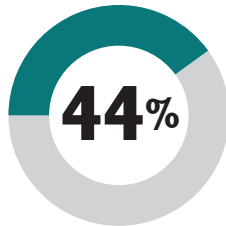
Alcohol and Paterson Youth

In 2014, a comprehensive needs assessment survey was administered to 1,733 youth (12-18). Findings from this study revealed the following risk factors associated with alcohol use:

- 30% of the sample used alcohol before the age of 13, which is two times higher than both state and national averages.
- 44% of those youth who drank alcohol in the past 30 days were more inclined to engage in a physical fight, as compared to 20% who did not drink alcohol.
- Youth who drank alcohol in the past 30 days were 3 times more likely to smoke marijuana before the age of 14.
- Adolescents who drank alcohol in the past 30 days were twice as likely to also use illicit drugs (e.g., marijuana, cocaine, heroin, and methamphetamines).
- 40% of adolescents said adults purchase alcohol for them from liquor stores. When asked why they believed adults purchased alcohol, more than 20% stated, "Because adults don't care about consequences."



**USED
ALCOHOL
BEFORE
AGE 13**



**USED
ALCOHOL
AND WERE
INCLINED
TO FIGHT**

**60% OF YOUTH STATED THEY
PURCHASED ALCOHOL FROM LIQUOR
STORES.**

- 60% of kids stated they purchased alcohol from liquor stores. Most common drinks were beer, hard liquor, and "lean." And more than one third of the kids said they accessed alcohol at either family gatherings or community events.

Alcohol-related fines in Paterson, New Jersey

Between 2010 and 2013, there were \$401,045 in fines

\$401,045 IN FINES

levied against both on- and off-premise liquor-selling establishments in the city of Paterson, which included:

- More than \$200,000 for on-premise "illegal activities," such as lewd or indecent acts
- More than \$80,000 for selling alcohol to minors (under 21 years of age)

The Paterson Municipal Alliance Prevention Program (MAPP)

The Municipal Alliance Prevention Program (MAPP) is a Division within the Paterson Department of Health and Human Services. It is comprised of stakeholders who represent various sectors of the community, such as the educational system, municipal government, law enforcement agencies, clergy, and local businesses. Through this collective effort, the MAPP is dedicated to developing and implementing educational programs with an emphasis on alcohol and substance abuse prevention throughout the city. Paterson receives \$61,641 from Passaic County, and \$15,410 from the city to implement the MAPP.

Policy Recommendations

Considering that there are more than 30,000 youth throughout the Paterson community, there is a pressing need to fund initiatives that will help prevent alcohol and drug use among this potentially vulnerable and at-risk population. Based on our geographic information system (GIS) analysis examining the relationship between alcohol outlet density and assaultive violence rates, review of current drinking trends among Paterson's youth, and gaps in current municipal ordinances, we recommend the following:

Problem Statement

According to the General Ordinances of the City of Paterson, NJ, § 113-1 Article I. Licensing: Regulations, "the number of plenary retail consumption licenses outstanding in the city at the same time shall not exceed 300."

In addition, the current city ordinance states that "the number of plenary retail distribution licenses outstanding in the city at the same time shall not exceed 35"; however, there are presently 58 retail distribution licenses throughout the city, which exceeds the recommendations set forth by the New Jersey Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control, and 39% higher than what the current municipal ordinance stipulates.

Recommendation

Efforts need to be undertaken that will curtail the opening of any additional liquor-selling establishments within the city limits.

Problem Statement

Through our analysis, we identified one particular establishment that had more than 18 offenses amounting to \$141,400 in fines over a five-year period.

Recommendation

Ordinances should be enacted and enforced that will lead to the revocation and/or cancellation of liquor-selling licenses among chronic offenders.

Problem Statement

From 2010 to 2014, there were a total of 42 offenses related to the sale of alcohol to minors, which resulted in \$42,600 in fines levied against alcohol retailers in Paterson.

Recommendation

Training for Intervention ProcedureS (TIPS®) is the global leader in education and training for the responsible service, sale, and consumption of alcohol. Proven effective by numerous independent studies, TIPS® is a skills-based training program that is designed to prevent intoxication, underage drinking, and drunk driving by enhancing the fundamental "people skills" of servers, sellers, and consumers of alcohol. TIPS® provides individuals the knowledge and confidence they need to recognize potential alcohol-related problems and intervene to prevent alcohol-related tragedies.

Currently, servers and sellers in the city of Paterson are not mandated to participate in TIPS® training. We are recommending that the Paterson Municipal Alliance Prevention Program (MAPP), in collaboration with the Paterson Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) Board, coordinate and facilitate training for all licensed alcohol-selling establishments.

Problem Statement

From 2010-2013, alcohol-selling establishments (both on and off premises) in the city of Paterson paid a total of \$401,045 in alcohol-related fines to the State of New Jersey. However, Paterson did not see any of these dollars returned to the city.

Recommendation

We are recommending that a percentage of the fines collected by the state be allocated toward the Paterson Municipal Alliance Prevention Program (MAPP) to help expand its reach to meet the needs of more than 30,000 Paterson youth.