

# MINIMUM AGE OF SELLER/SERVER REQUIREMENTS

Other names/examples: None

## Description of strategy

Age of seller/server requirements establish the minimum age necessary for servers and clerks at alcohol establishments to legally serve or sell alcohol. State laws specify this requirement. In most states, seller/servers of alcohol must be at least 18 years old but younger employees may be allowed to stock coolers with alcohol, bag purchased alcohol, or clear alcoholic beverages from tables. Minimum age of seller/server policies may reduce the likelihood that underage people will obtain alcohol from peers working at alcohol establishments. (University of Minnesota Alcohol Epidemiology Program, 2009).

In North Dakota, the minimum legal age to serve alcohol is 21 except in restaurants where 18-20 year olds may serve and collect money for alcoholic beverages (beer, wine, or spirits) if under direct supervision of an individual (manager or supervisor) who is of legal drinking age (N.D.C.C. § 5-02-06, 2013).

## Discussion of effectiveness

*Alcohol*  
Effectiveness of minimum age of seller/server requirements is unclear. Evidence is mixed for alcohol-related outcomes; two studies found that the age of server was not associated with sales of alcohol to underage youth. Another study found alcohol use and underage student binge drinking rates were significantly lower for states that have laws establishing 21 as the minimum age to sell alcohol (Britt, Toomey, Dunsmuir, & Wagenaar, 2006; Freisthler, Gruenewald, Treno, & Lee, 2003; Wechsler, Lee, Nelson, & Kuo, 2002)

Intervening Variables	
Retail Pricing	
Retail availability	
Social availability	
Law Enforcement	
Community norms	
Promotion & media	

## References for description of strategy

University of Minnesota Alcohol Epidemiology Program. (2009). Minimum age of seller requirements. Retrieved July 23, 2012, from: <http://www.epi.umn.edu/alcohol/policy/sellrage.shtm>

## Evidence base

Britt, H., Toomey, T. L., Dunsmuir, W., & Wagenaar, A. C. (2006). Propensity for and correlates of alcohol sales to underage youth. *Journal of Alcohol and Drug Education, 50*(2), 25–42.

Freisthler, B., Gruenewald, P. J., Treno, A. J., & Lee, J. (2003). Evaluating alcohol access and the alcohol environment in neighborhood areas. *Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research, 27*(3), 477–484. doi:10.1097/01.ALC.0000057043.04199.B7

Wechsler, H., Lee, J., Nelson, T. F., & Kuo, M. (2002). Underage college students' drinking behavior, access to alcohol, and the influence of deterrence policies. *Journal Of American College Health, 50*(5), 223.

## Further reading

Alcohol Policy Information System, National Institute for Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. (n.d.). Underage drinking: Minimum ages for on-premises servers and bartenders. Available at: [http://www.alcoholpolicy.niaaa.nih.gov/Minimum\\_Ages\\_for\\_On-Premises\\_Servers\\_and\\_Bartenders.html](http://www.alcoholpolicy.niaaa.nih.gov/Minimum_Ages_for_On-Premises_Servers_and_Bartenders.html)