

## Description of strategy

Responsible Beverage Service Training programs give owners, managers, and staff of establishments that serve alcohol knowledge and skills to help them serve alcohol responsibly and fulfill the legal requirements of alcohol service. Training programs for managers and owners most often provide guidance on implementation of service policies and practices. Training programs for servers may address: checking IDs, serving practices that reduce the likelihood of excessive consumption, identifying and responding to early signs of excessive consumption (for example, rapid consumption), identifying intoxicated patrons and refusing service to them, and intervening to prevent intoxicated patrons from driving (Guide To Community Preventive Services, 2010).

In North Dakota, current state law does not require Responsible Beverage Service Training however, several communities have local ordinances mandating this type of training

## Discussion of effectiveness

*Alcohol*  
Responsible Beverage Service Training was found to be an effective strategy for reducing alcohol consumption as part of multi-component intervention (Birdthistle & Buka, 1999; Holder et al., 2000). However, there is insufficient evidence to determine the effectiveness of Responsible Beverage Service Training at reducing excessive alcohol consumption and related harms at the community level (Guide to Community Preventive Services, 2010; Ker & Chinnock, 2008; Stockwell, 2001).

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

## References for description of strategy

Guide to Community Preventive Services. (2010). Preventing excessive alcohol consumption: Responsible beverage service training. Retrieved July 24, 2012, from: [www.thecommunityguide.org/alcohol/beverage\\_service.html](http://www.thecommunityguide.org/alcohol/beverage_service.html)

## Evidence base

Birdthistle, I. J., & Buka, S. L. (1999). Long-term effects of a community-wide alcohol server training intervention. *Journal of Studies on Alcohol*, 60(1), 27.

Guide to Community Preventive Services. (2010). Preventing excessive alcohol consumption: Responsible beverage service training. Available at: [www.thecommunityguide.org/alcohol/beverage\\_service.html](http://www.thecommunityguide.org/alcohol/beverage_service.html). Last updated: 12/16/2011.

Holder, H. D., Gruenewald, P.J., Ponicki, W.R., Treno, A.J., Grube, J.W., Saltz, R.F., ... Roeper, P. (2000). Effect of community-based interventions on high-risk drinking and alcohol-related injuries. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 284(18), 2341-2347.

Ker, K., & Chinnock, P. (2008). Interventions in the alcohol server setting for preventing injuries. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews. John Wiley & Sons, Ltd. Available at: <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/14651858.CD005244.pub3/abstract>

Stockwell, T. (2001). Responsible alcohol service: Lessons from evaluations of server training and policing initiatives. *Drug and Alcohol Review*, 20(3), 257-265.

Toomey, T. L., & Wagenaar, A. C. (2002). Environmental policies to reduce college drinking: options and research findings. *Journal of Studies on Alcohol. Supplement*, (14), 193-205.

## Further reading

Moskowitz, H. (2006). Detecting alcohol impairment by observation of intoxication. Presented at Traffic Safety and Alcohol Regulation: A Symposium, Transportation Research Board of the National Academies, Irvine, CA. Available at: <http://www.its.pdx.edu/cstsp/pdf/ec123.pdf#page=195>

TIPS (website). Available at: <http://www.gettips.com/index.shtml>

Wagenaar, A. C., & Tobler, A. L. (2006). Alcohol sales and service to underage youth and intoxicated patrons: Effects of RBS training and enforcement interventions. Presented at Traffic Safety and Alcohol Regulation: A Symposium, Transportation Research Board of the National Academies, Irvine, CA. Available at: <http://www.its.pdx.edu/cstsp/pdf/ec123.pdf#page=195>