

## Description of strategy

Employees at retail outlets that sell alcohol are responsible for checking the identification of customers who attempt to purchase alcohol. Age identification policies are written guidelines at stores, bars, and restaurants that provide employees with instructions on checking age identification of customers attempting to buy alcohol. Consistent use of these guidelines may reduce illegal sales of alcohol to underage youth by encouraging employees to refuse to sell to any customer who does not have a valid ID showing they are of age and by increasing employees detection of fake IDs (University of Minnesota Alcohol Epidemiology Program, 2009).

In North Dakota, retail employees can seize a form of identification if they have reason to believe that the ID has been altered, falsified, or is being used unlawfully to obtain alcoholic beverages.

(N.D.C.C. § 5-01-08.3, Proof of age—Seizure of false identification, 2013).

## References for description of strategy

University of Minnesota Alcohol Epidemiology Program. (2009). Checking Age Identification. Retrieved July 23, 2012, from: <http://www.epi.umn.edu/alcohol/policy/checkid.shtm>

## Evidence base

Toomey, T. L., Wagenaar, A. C., Gehan, J. P., Kilian, G., Murray, D. M., & Perry, C. L. (2001). Project ARM: Alcohol Risk Management to Prevent Sales to Underage and Intoxicated Patrons. *Health Education & Behavior*, 28(2), 186–199. doi:10.1177/109019810102800205

Wagenaar, A. C., Murray, D. M., Gehan, J. P., Wolfson, M., Forster, J. L., Toomey, T. L., ... Jones-Webb, R. (2000). Communities Mobilizing for Change on Alcohol: Outcomes from a randomized community trial. *Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs*, 61(1), 85.

## Further reading

National Association of Governors' Highway Safety Representatives. (2001). Community how to guides on underage drinking prevention: Guide 5, Enforcement. Washington, DC: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Available at: [http://www.nhtsa.gov/people/injury/alcohol/community%20guides%20html/Book5\\_Enforcement.html#Shoulder%20tap](http://www.nhtsa.gov/people/injury/alcohol/community%20guides%20html/Book5_Enforcement.html#Shoulder%20tap)

## Discussion of effectiveness

### *Alcohol*

Evidence from studies that evaluated multicomponent college campus alcohol prevention programs found a significant reduction in alcohol access. Checking ID for alcohol sales was a part of the program (Toomey, 2001; Wagenaar, 2000). Evidence is insufficient to evaluate checking ID for alcohol sales as an independent prevention strategy.

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