

Fair Alcohol Taxes

A Few Excessive Drinkers Are Costing You \$400 A Year In Hidden State & Local Taxes

Distribution of Alcohol Consumption Among Adults (age 18+) in New Mexico's Population



Source: Center for Disease Control's 2011 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System survey of adults aged 18 years and older.

Half of New Mexicans don't drink and most drinkers drink responsibly. But our current tax system has the responsible 80% of us paying \$400 a year in hidden state and local taxes to subsidize excessive drinkers.¹ Right now you pay \$1.00 a drink in hidden state and local taxes whether you drink or not. That's not fair!



Source: Sacks, et al. [State Costs of Excessive Alcohol Consumption, 2006](#) [PDF - 190KB] *et al. American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, 2013

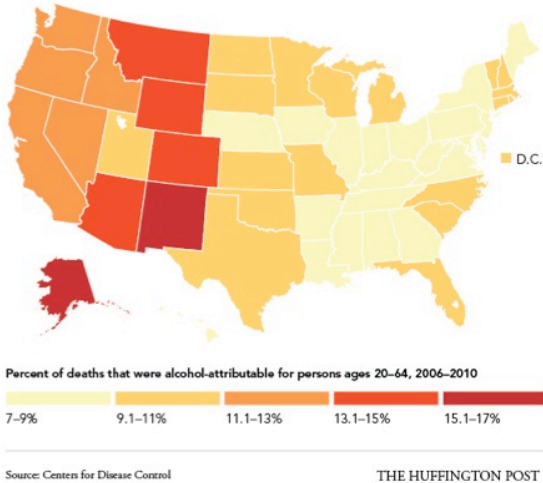
CDC tool at www.cdc.gov/features/costsofdrinking/index.html#map

In addition to harming our economy through lost work days, and increased insurance and health care costs, excessive drinkers cause each of us to pay \$1.00 per drink in hidden state & local taxes to cover the costs of their alcohol related police encounters, ambulances, detox and hospitalization. Raising alcohol taxes 25¢ per drink is a fair way to shift part of that tax burden back to the excessive drinkers causing the problem.

¹ Excessive Drinking is binge drinking (5 or more in a sitting by men, 4 or more by women), heavy drinking (15 or more drinks per week by men, 8 or more for women), any drinking by pregnant women, or people younger than age 21.

This Is Where People Are Drinking Themselves To Death

On average, about one in 10 deaths among working-age people in the U.S. can be attributed to alcohol. These causes of death include violence, alcohol poisoning and motor vehicle collisions, as well as conditions like breast cancer and heart disease.



New Mexico Leads the Nation in People Drinking Themselves to Death

16.4% of deaths in New Mexico are caused by alcohol. That means 1 out of every 6 deaths are caused by alcohol.

After reviewing over 1,000 published studies, The Centers for Disease Control concluded that increasing alcohol taxes is the most effective way to curb excessive drinking and reduce the costs of the harms excessive drinking causes.

The Benefits of a 25¢ per drink increase in Alcohol Taxes

- \$154 Million a year in additional tax revenue to help pay for the costs of excessive drinking and to provide more health care to New Mexicans.
- Annual Increased Economic Productivity: \$128,390,000
- Annual Economy Cost Savings: \$187,610,000
- Net New Jobs Created: 616
- Lives Saved Annually: 32

Underage Drinkers are the extremely price sensitive. A 25¢ per drink alcohol tax would lead to a 13% decrease in underage drinking. That's 11,180 fewer teens and young adults drinking each year! Less adolescent alcohol abusers now translates to less adult who abuse alcohol later.

The Fair Alcohol Taxes coalition will be holding a summit on May 8, 2015 to determine a unified stance for all stakeholders to take in advocating how to earmark the revenues generated from raising alcohol taxes 25¢ per drink during the 2017 Legislative Session.

If you're interested in joining us, please contact:

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He'd love to meet with your organization to discuss the need for raising alcohol taxes in New Mexico, our plan to do this, and how your organization can participate.