



NEWSLETTER

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Local Influence on Alcohol Regulation - How Important is It?

In Eugene, Oregon three convenience stores voluntarily stopped selling certain containers of malt liquor for three months. Reported crime dropped 70%! The ban was launched after a murder occurred in a local park that had become a haven for transients with alcohol problems.

This story illustrates the reason for some level of influence over the sale of alcohol in local areas. The number of outlets in an area does make a difference. According to a study of Cincinnati neighborhoods by Indiana University, "More alcohol sales sites in a neighborhood equate to more violence, and the highest assault rates are associated with carry-out sites selling alcohol for off-premise consumption..." (See [IU News Room](#), February 22, 2010).

New York Wineries Oppose Selling Wine in Grocery Stores!

Nearly 100 New York wineries have joined forces to oppose Governor David Patterson's proposal to allow grocery stores to sell wine. "Big box stores will stock the most popular, lowest-priced brands on their shelves, leaving little space for New York wines. In addition wine stores around the state will be forced out of business severely curtailing our ability to reach our customers," said William Ouwelleen of Eagle Crest Vineyards. (See [The Oneida Daily Dispatch](#), "Wineries oppose governor's plan to see wine in supermarkets.")

New Ideas to Combat Cheap Alcohol in the UK

Those who want to sell cheap alcohol may be required to install new safeguards. That's the latest idea coming from the United Kingdom where alcohol problems are epidemic. Cheap alcohol has fueled large increases in liver disease, public order crimes and underage binge drinking. Despite high taxes, supermarkets continue to use alcohol as a loss leader. Alcohol prevention advocates are calling for mandatory minimum prices but competition laws have been an obstacle.

Now elected officials in Manchester have come up with a new idea. While they don't establish minimum prices, they will require extra safeguards for a retailer that sells alcohol below 50 pence a unit. (That's about \$.75 per drink in US currency.) If a retailer wants to sell alcohol under the minimum price, they must have a separate area for alcohol, not allow underage customers in that area, and have a dedicated guard present at all times. According to Mark Alcock, a council cabinet member in the Manchester area, "What we have found is that a lot of small retailers have been very supportive because they see it as a chance to have a level playing field." (Nigel Huddleston, "Manchester councils call for minimum pricing." [Off License News](#), March 5, 2010)

For more information on alcohol regulation go to www.healthyalcoholmarket.com or contact Pamela S. Erickson, CEO, Public Action Management, PLC, pam@pamaction.com