



AN INITIATIVE OF

the de Beaumont Foundation + Kaiser Permanente

Safer Alcohol Sales

POLICY BREAKDOWN

“Too many communities in Los Angeles have been saturated with liquor stores and alcohol establishments while losing out on other community resources. Every neighborhood should have the chance to build a vibrant local economy, a safe place to live, and opportunities for children and families.”

- David Ryu, Los Angeles
City Council Member



CityHealth helps cities thrive through policies that improve people’s day-to-day quality of life, well-being and health.

CityHealth, an initiative of the de Beaumont Foundation and Kaiser Permanente, works to advance a package of evidence-based policy solutions that will help millions of people live longer, better lives in vibrant, prosperous communities.

Our assessment of how the nation’s 40 largest cities fare in nine policies is based in research, backed by qualified experts

and shown to have bipartisan support. With these policies in place, cities will attract families who want the best for themselves and their children, young people looking for interesting places to work and businesses that need high-quality talent. The bottom line: Policies like safer alcohol sales will improve lives and help cities thrive.

FOCUS ON POLICY: SAFER ALCOHOL SALES

Regulations—from licensing to zoning—can allow cities to specify the number and density of alcohol outlets in a given neighborhood. Neighborhoods with high concentrations of alcohol sales are linked to more drinking and higher rates of violence, underage drinking, and driving under the influence. Policies that control the amount of alcohol sales in a neighborhood can have a significant impact on residents’ safety, well-being, and health. These are just some of the benefits of safer alcohol sales policy:

- **Makes communities safer:** Reducing the density of alcohol retail outlets results in safer communities with fewer drinking-related crimes and injuries.
- **Reduces excessive drinking:** Laws that reduce the concentration of retail alcohol establishments can be one of the most cost-effective approaches to reducing excessive drinking by limiting the physical availability of alcohol.
- **Reduces illegal drinking:** Safer alcohol sales density rules are effective strategies for reducing drinking among underage youth.

MEDALS BY CITY

Albuquerque	⊘
Atlanta	🥇
Austin	⊘
Baltimore	⊘
Boston	🥇
Charlotte	⊘
Chicago	🥇
Columbus	⊘
Dallas	⊘
Denver	🥇
Detroit	⊘
El Paso	⊘
Fort Worth	⊘
Fresno	⊘
Houston	⊘
Indianapolis	⊘
Jacksonville	⊘
Kansas City	🥇
Las Vegas	🥇
Long Beach	⊘
Los Angeles	⊘
Louisville	⊘
Memphis	⊘
Mesa	⊘
Milwaukee	🥇
Nashville	⊘
New York	⊘
Oklahoma City	⊘
Philadelphia	⊘
Phoenix	⊘
Portland	⊘
Sacramento	⊘
San Antonio	⊘
San Diego	⊘
San Francisco	⊘
San Jose	⊘
Seattle	⊘
Tucson	⊘
Virginia Beach	⊘
Washington, D.C.	🥇

HOW CITIES STACK UP

The State of Safer Alcohol Sales in Big U.S. Cities



The Gold Standard for Safer Alcohol Sales

CityHealth's 40-city assessment combined innovative legal analysis with the input of national experts to determine the "gold standard" for each policy. We identified which elements are necessary for the best quality policy (gold), a good quality policy (silver), and a passable

quality policy (bronze). Cities with no policy received no medal. Our assessment of safer alcohol sales laws includes information about city-specific laws, along with the relevant county- and state-level laws, valid through May 1, 2019.

How did we award safer alcohol sales control policy medals?

City has a law that applies to *all* alcohol sales, addresses public health and safety, and authorizes the city to close an alcohol retailer for failing to comply with the law.

City has a law that applies to *some* alcohol sales (such as only new retailers, or only retailers selling for off-premises consumption, e.g. grocery or convenience stores), addresses public health and safety, and authorizes the city to close an alcohol retailer for failing to comply with the law.

