

SAFER ALCOHOL SALES RESEARCH PROTOCOL

October 1, 2021

City Outlet Regulation Research

The medal rankings for the Safer Alcohol Sales topic are current through September 30, 2021.

Coding of both the initial and expanded cities involved conducting original research within each city's municipal code. Every city tracked by CityHealth makes their code available online in a digital format. To identify relevant local laws addressing the regulation of alcohol retailers, a search with alcohol-related keywords was conducted in each city code. The search string used in each city depended on how the code was structured and indexed. However, the keywords (and their derivations) remained constant: alcohol, beer, wine, liquor, spirit, malt, vinous.

All results were reviewed, and relevant laws collected for coding. Relevant laws were those laws that indicated that the city directly regulated alcohol retailers. Examples of the types of laws that indicated direct regulation included local licensing of retailers, ability to block a specific new licensee, ability to impose alcohol-related operating conditions on retailers, and ability to pull a license to operate.

A gold medal was awarded to those cities that had a comprehensive set of local laws addressing alcohol sales for both on- and off-premises consumption of all beverage types (beer, wine, and distilled spirits), and gave the city the authority to address these both prospectively (new retailers) and retrospectively (existing retailers). A silver medal was awarded to those cities that had a law or laws addressing at least one aspect of those listed above, but not all. Cities with no local laws directly regulating outlets received no medal.

The update process for the previously coded cities involved reviewing each citation and confirming whether there were any relevant changes. A search with alcohol-related keywords was conducted in each city code (including those previously coded as "no medal") to determine if there were any new laws.

In addition to the initial coding and updating, monitoring of each city was conducted using online news service searches to bring the research current through September 30, 2021. This monitoring was necessary because the expanded city research was completed in June 2021 and the existing cities update completed in August 2021. This news monitoring did not identify any reports involving ordinances addressing changes to alcohol laws relevant to this Safer Alcohol Sales topic. As a result, the findings from the summer of 2021 remain current through September 30, 2021.