



☆☆ Simple Information ☆☆

The Bottom Line to Your Wallet:

- Excessive alcohol use costs you, as a Texan, \$695 a year, adding up to a total cost of \$19 billion in 2013. Costs include healthcare, lost productivity, property damage, criminal justice system, and insurance administration related costs.¹
- A 10 cent per drink increase in alcohol taxes would only cost a moderate drinker in Texas \$4.53 a year.²

Raising Alcohol Excise Taxes a Dime a Drink Would:

- Raise \$708 million annually in new revenues for the State of Texas. As 25% of revenue from alcohol excise taxes is earmarked for education, the result would be \$177 million annually in new revenue for public education.³
- Add 15,189 jobs in Texas created by increased consumer spending on other goods and services when spending on alcohol is reduced in response to tax increases, as well as the jobs created by government spending of new alcohol tax revenues.⁴
- Save 113,205 Texans from alcohol use disorders, reduce teen pregnancy by 359 cases, and reduce both alcohol-impaired fatalities and babies being born with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome by nine percent each year.⁵
- Reduce the overall alcohol consumption in the State of Texas by 8.6%, primarily by reducing excessive/risky drinking and underage alcohol use.⁶
- Save 167 lives from impaired driving related traffic deaths and homicides.⁷

Current Alcohol Excise Taxes in Texas:

- Alcohol excise taxes have not changed since 1984. Ronald Reagan was president and a gallon of gas was \$1.10.
- Alcohol excise taxes are not indexed for inflation and have lost over half their value in today's dollars.
- Compared to neighboring states, Texas has the lowest alcohol excise tax for beer and distilled spirits and the second lowest for wine.⁸

Research on Alcohol Excise Taxes has Found:

- A majority of Texans polled say increasing alcohol taxes would be their first or second choice to raise additional revenue to cover budget shortfalls, according to the 2010 Texas Lyceum Poll.⁹
- Extensive empirical research confirms that increases in alcohol excise taxes reduce underage drinking, binge drinking, drinking frequency and intensity, driving under the influence, crime, rape, homicides, suicides, fetal alcohol syndrome, sexually transmitted diseases, violence against children, and other harmful consequences of excessive drinking.
- Raising excise taxes as a means of reducing underage consumption is recommended by: The Surgeons General, The National Academy of Sciences, the World Health Organization, The National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (2013 Texas Impaired Driving Plan), the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, and the Center for Disease Control's Guide to Community Preventive Services.
- Excessive alcohol use is the fourth leading cause of preventable death in the United States.¹⁰

Alcohol in Texas

- Excessive alcohol use kills 6,514 Texans each year, including 1,296 in fatal traffic accidents.¹¹
- Every year, 372 young people under the age of 21 die in Texas because of excessive alcohol use. The majority of these deaths are from motor vehicle traffic crashes, homicides, and suicides.¹²

^{1,2,3,4,5,6,7} Diaz, M., Chaloupka, F., Jernigan, D. The Effects of Alcohol Excise Tax Increases in Texas, 2014.

⁸ Alcohol Policy Information System, <http://alcoholpolicy.niaaa.nih.gov>, 1/1/2013

⁹ Texas Lyceum poll, Fall 2010, Texas Statewide Survey

¹⁰ Gonzales, K., Roeber, J. Alcohol-Attributable Deaths and Years of Potential Life Lost. Centers for Disease Control, March 14, 2014. 63 (10); 213-216.

^{11,12} Diaz, M., Chaloupka, F., Jernigan, D. The Effects of Alcohol Excise Tax Increases in Texas, 2014.