



The Extra Mile

Advocating for evidence-based policies and practices to prevent and reduce alcohol-related harms

Going the Distance: Making Community Voices Heard

Project Extra Mile provides testimony on rule changes

At our September Coalition meeting, former executive director of Project Extra Mile, Diane Riibe, shared with us the importance of community engagement in the legislative, regulatory, and licensing processes that shape the health and safety of our communities. Without the involvement of concerned citizens and organizations, decision makers will likely only hear from an already-powerful alcohol industry and will make their decisions based on what the industry claims is better for businesses and the state's economy. We mustn't forget that these decision makers are ultimately responsible to the public they serve. When citizens make their voices heard and share personal stories, statistics, and detail how the issue impacts their community, it becomes more difficult for these public servants to ignore these concerns.



Last month, the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission (LCC) held multiple public hearings on proposed changes to their rules. Project Extra Mile provided written testimony on two sections: Rule 237-LCC2 and Rule 237-LCC6. One of the changes to Rule 237-LCC2 would eliminate the requirement for double fencing for Special Designated Licenses (SDL). The organization expressed how this rule had been in place for decades to prevent patrons at an outdoor event where alcohol is being sold to be able to easily pass alcohol to minors that are able to access areas adjacent to the event. There appears to be no good reason for changing this longstanding provision. We suspect that the change has been proposed to reduce paperwork for the LCC and possibly to allow very large events from being required to utilize this protective measure. SDLs such as the Nebraska State Fair, which in the last two years has been allowed to license its entire fairgrounds, would surely benefit from this change while public health and safety would suffer.

Rule 237-LCC3 had a variety of proposed changes. The first change moved to strike the requirement that a 16-year-old employee be accompanied by an adult over 21 when carrying an alcoholic beverage from the licensed establishment. The organization made the LCC aware of the current statutory language on this particular provision, which it believes does not allow for the proposed change to be made as drafted since the statute currently states, “Nothing in the act shall prevent... (5) Persons who are sixteen years old or older from carrying an alcoholic liquor from licensed establishments when they are accompanied by a person not a minor.”

With regard to alcoholic liquor being imported into Nebraska, we suggested a requirement for common carriers to check the identification of the person receiving the delivery and providing it to the commission requiring that shippers provide their license number on the packaging slip. Requiring the age of the receiving party will help ensure that common carriers like UPS and FedEx are not delivering alcohol to someone under the legal drinking age. States like North Carolina have found an alarming rate of deliveries to underage youth and a review of delivery services found that age verification has been inconsistent and ineffective nearly 50% of the time. Adding a requirement for the shipping license will reduce the administrative burden of the LCC and make it easier to identify illegal shipments.

The LCC may alter these changes based on our and the industry’s comments. The final versions of any changes will need to be reviewed by the Attorney General’s office and the Governor’s Policy Research Office prior to any changes becoming permanent.

Miles to Go: Special Designated License Causes Problems in Clearwater

Local governments have significant control over if and how SDLs are granted

Fundraisers and community events are a way to bring the community together to raise money for a cause or celebrate an occasion. In Nebraska, it is increasingly rare that these events do not feature alcohol sales, which is sad and only exacerbates our already-significant problems related to excessive alcohol consumption.

When a business or a non-profit organization wishes to have alcohol at their event, they must apply for a [special designated license \(SDL\)](#) from the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission (LCC). An SDL is required anytime alcoholic products are being consumed, sold, sampled, or given away.

Unfortunately, these events are not held to the same standards as a licensed business. Often these events are staffed by volunteers, who are unlikely to have been trained, be familiar with the Liquor Control Act, and don’t know how to effectively prevent sales to a minor or how to spot someone who has already had too much to drink and not serve them. A recent example of such an event was Clearwater’s Big Rodeo hosted by the Clearwater Chamber of Commerce in June, at which there were three minors in possession and two procuring for a minor criminal citations issued. The LCC indicated that there were allegations of minors consuming alcohol, service to already intoxicated individuals, and multiple drinks being sold for the price of one as reasons for calling in the two local businesses in charge of alcohol sales for that event. Mandatory meetings are informal, and the business does not face suspension, cancellation, or revocation of their license and because SDL licenses are temporary in nature, the LCC cannot hold them accountable administratively.

Policies could be put in place to require all SDL applicants to be trained in responsible beverage service prior to the event taking place, but there are currently no statewide training requirements. However, cities like Lincoln, North Platte, and Ogallala have local requirements for managers and/or employees to be trained prior to allowing them to sell or serve alcoholic beverages at a licensed premise or during events that require an SDL.

Five Kearney Businesses Cited for Selling Alcohol to Minors

On September 22nd, Project Extra Mile helped coordinate alcohol retail compliance

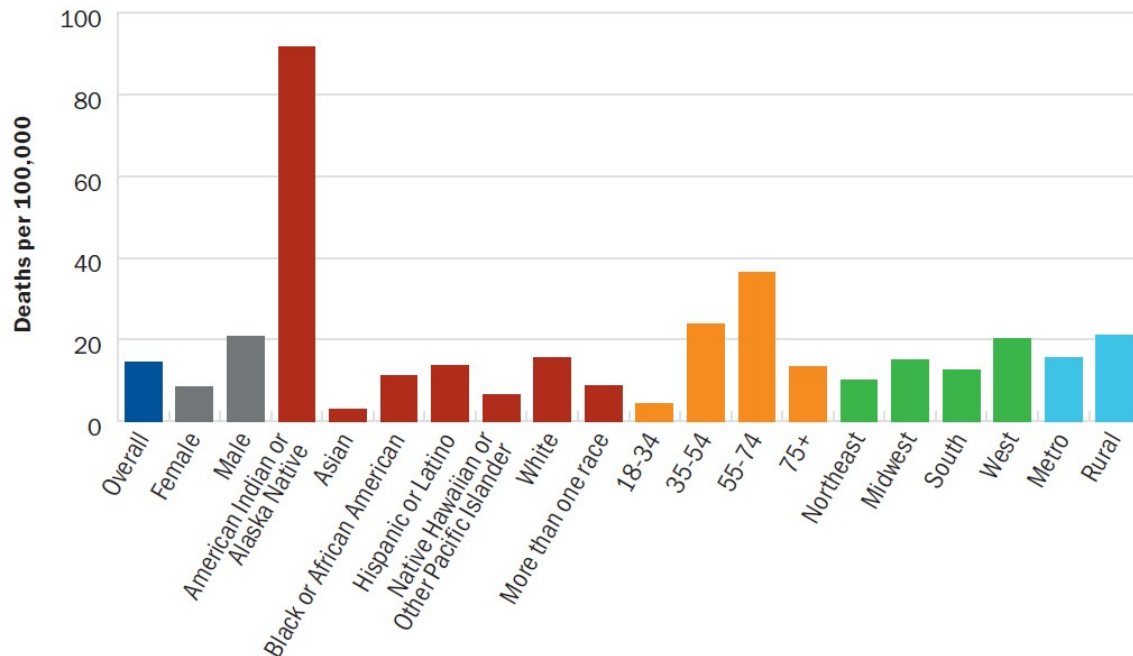
checks in Buffalo County. Overall, 5 (14%) out of 37 businesses checked were cited for selling alcohol to minors. A theme during these enforcements was the importance of checking minor IDs and verifying their age. All businesses that were cited for selling alcohol to the minor failed to ask for the minor's ID. The full media release is available by [clicking here](#).

We want to thank our partners with the Kearney Police Department, Buffalo County Sheriff's Office, and Nebraska State Patrol – Troop C for their commitment to preventing underage drinking. To learn more about how alcohol compliance checks can reduce underage drinking and prevent tragedies in your area, please contact us at liene@projectextramile.org.

Research Brief: New Pain in The Nation Report

The Trust for America's Health recently released the [2023 Pain in the Nation Report](#). The report indicates that over the past two decades, deaths from alcohol, drugs, and suicide in the United States have risen at an alarming rate – more than doubling between 2011 and 2021. Total annual deaths in 2021 were 209,225 with 54,258 (26%) being from alcohol-induced causes. Alcohol-induced deaths mean that alcohol is listed as the cause of death on the death certificate. Those deaths include alcohol poisonings, alcoholic liver disease, alcoholic cardiomyopathy, alcohol-induced acute pancreatitis, etc. – they do not include alcohol-attributable deaths from traffic crashes, violence, cancers, heart disease, etc. The age-adjusted alcohol-induced mortality rate increased by 10% in 2021 alone, with particularly high increases among Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander, Latino, and American Indian/Native Alaskan people. This was the twelfth year of increases with a total alcohol death rate increase of 86% since 2011. The report emphasizes that state and local governments must use evidence-based policies to reduce excessive alcohol use and the associated harms. Policies include increasing pricing, reducing sales hours, and limiting the density of alcohol outlets; enforcing underage drinking laws; and holding sellers and hosts liable for serving minors or overserving adults.

FIGURE 8: Age-Adjusted Alcohol-Induced Mortality Rate (Deaths per 100,000) Overall and by Select Demographics and Region, 2021



Source: TFAH analysis of National Center for Health Statistics data

Youth Corner: Getting Serious About Impaired Driving

Written by Janine Fell, Senior at Duchesne Academy

As a person who's mourned the loss of a friend to a drunk driver, our community has a

duty to address the issue of drunk driving. According to the Nebraska Department of Transportation, there were at least 29,418 total crashes, 1,537 (5.2%) of which were alcohol involved in 2020 alone. This statistic is especially concerning because the punishment for your first DUI could be pretty harsh - a \$500 fine, 7-60 days in jail, and a six-month license revocation. This punishment should make drivers afraid of drinking alcohol before driving, yet we still suffer the consequences of impaired driving in our communities and feel the losses of loved ones.

One solution that could reduce the number of alcohol-related crashes is lowering the blood alcohol content (BAC) limit from .08 to .05. This solution has been proven to work in the state of Utah. After lowering the state's legal limit to .05 BAC in December 2018, Utah's fatal crash rate reduction was 19.8% during the years 2016-2019. In comparison, the rest of the United States showed a [5.6% crash rate reduction and 5.9 fatality rate reduction](#) during the same time period with only a .08 BAC (Thomas et al, 2022).

We all must come together to prevent tragedies, and we need to do more to stop impaired driving in our state. There's no reason as to why Nebraska couldn't reverse this statistic to become one of the lowest DUI states in our country. I believe we can do it and I hope that you will join me by urging your elected officials to pass common sense legislation that has proven effective in other states and countries.

Coalition Member Spotlight - Jordan Cedillo

This month, we are spotlighting Jordan Cedillo, a Community Health Worker with the Douglas County Health Department. As a Community Health Worker he engages with Douglas County residents to find and provide support for those in need. Recently, he successfully launched a mental health program giving the youth of North Omaha a chance to engage in different ways to improve their mental health such as eco-therapy, equine therapy, and art therapy. When asked about his engagement with Project Extra Mile, he shared, "I've seen the harm that alcohol presents to individuals and a community as a whole." He indicated that his engagement with the coalition keeps him apprised of important information about alcohol-related harms and solutions that he then shares with the communities he works with. "Project Extra Mile is an encouraging organization that aligns with my personal and professional goals of providing a safe and healthy community for all." Thanks so much for being a part of our coalition, Jordan, and doing your part to keep communities healthy and safe from alcohol-related harms!



CELEBRATING
25 YEARS
1995-2020

projectextramile
PREVENTING ALCOHOL-RELATED HARM

Omaha Metro Coalition Meeting

**Wednesday, October 11th
9:00 a.m.**

Please join us in person
for a conversation with

**Inv. Cody McGee, of the
Nebraska State Patrol who will discuss
Liquor Law Enforcement and
Community Safety.**

Thank you for your involvement!

Meeting Location: **UNO's Community Engagement Center**

*6400 University Drive South
Room 231, Omaha, NE
Parking Lot E*

For more information:
(402) 963-9047



www.projectextramile.org • info@projectextramile.org

**PROJECT EXTRA MILE
2023 COALITION
MEETINGS**

LOOKING FORWARD TO CONNECTING WITH YOU IN 2023

**JANUARY 18TH
FEBRUARY 8TH
MARCH 8TH
APRIL 12TH
MAY 10TH
JUNE 14TH
NO MEETING IN JULY
AUGUST 9TH
SEPTEMBER 13TH
OCTOBER 11TH
NOVEMBER 8TH
DECEMBER 13TH**



**MEETINGS HELD AT
UNO'S COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CENTER
6400 UNIVERSITY DRIVE SOUTH, ROOM 230**



Project Extra Mile | 6001 Dodge Street, CEC 228, Omaha, NE 68182-0600

[Unsubscribe info@projectextramile.org](mailto:info@projectextramile.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by info@projectextramile.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!