



## The Extra Mile

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

### Going the Distance: Nebraska Hosts NLLEA's First Law Enforcement Training

31 officers from 16 agencies received two days of training on liquor law enforcement organized by the National Liquor Law Enforcement Agency (NLLEA) and Project Extra Mile and supported by the Nebraska Department of Transportation-Highway Safety Office and the National Alcohol Beverage Control Association (NABCA). The goal of the training was to provide important information to local and state law enforcement about the harms of alcohol in our state and help them identify ways that they can improve compliance at liquor licenses and reduced alcohol-related crimes in our communities.



Safety Training Center hosted the training, which focused on a range of topics related to liquor licensed establishments, including compliance checks, nuisances, human trafficking, premise inspections, sales to intoxicated customers, and more.

Two officers specializing in alcohol enforcement led the training. Todd Merlina, Division Chief of the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board Nuisance Bar Program discussed the history of alcohol, proactive vs. reactive enforcement, sales to intoxicated individuals, license inspections, and nuisance establishments.

*Did you know that the federal income tax was passed to make up for lost revenue due to prohibition?*

Israel Morrow, Assistant Director for Operations at the North Carolina Department of Public Safety Alcohol Law Enforcement division focused on sales to minors and source investigations following alcohol-involved incidents. A special thanks goes out to Fanatics in Kearney, which gave officers

access to the bar prior to opening to allow instructors to simulate a premise inspection which was led by the Nebraska State Patrol with local agencies observing.

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## Nebraska Liquor Control Commission Cancels Problem Liquor License

During the August 5th Nebraska Liquor Control Commission (LCC) hearings, the commissioners canceled the liquor license for Cassidy's Wine & Spirits (6610 S 168th Street, Omaha, NE 68135). The business pled guilty to the following:

- 1 count of illegal activities (allowing underage tobacco sales)
- 1 count of delivery off licensed premises
- 1 count of refilling
- 12 counts of sale to a minor
- 12 counts of purchasing from a non-wholesaler



The Nebraska State Patrol (NSP) received several complaints from local law enforcement agencies regarding sales to minors and began an investigation. During the investigation, they conducted several interviews with minors who told them they obtained alcohol at the business. After serving a search warrant for video surveillance, investigators discovered that the business sold to minors at least 10 times in one day alone. At the hearing, the NSP investigator expressed concern that the business would continue selling to minors if the license was not cancelled.

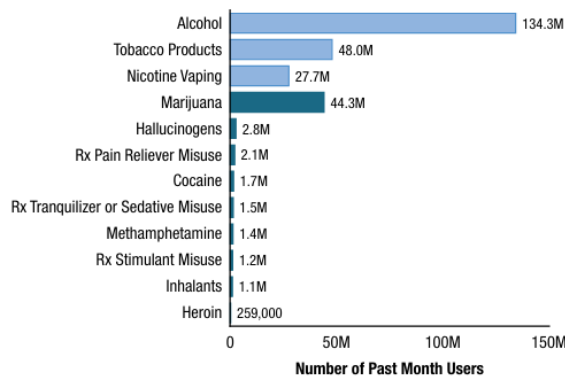
Based on the LCC's penalty guidelines, the business could have been suspended for 320-530 days, however the Commission has the ability to deviate from the penalty guidelines based on the severity of a case. Due to the egregious nature of these violations, the commissioners chose to cancel the liquor license. Thanks to the diligence of the NSP in building a solid case and for the recognition by the LCC that suspending the license wasn't going to change this licensee's behavior.

The business has since filed for a reconsideration of penalty that will be discussed during the September LCC meeting.

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## Research Brief: New National Survey on Drug Use and Health Data Released

**Figure 1. Past Month Substance Use: Among People Aged 12 or Older; 2024**



Rx = prescription.

Note: The estimated numbers of current users of different substances are not mutually exclusive because people could have used more than one type of substance in the past month.

recently released the [2024 results of the National Survey on Drug Use and Health \(NSDUH\)](#). The purpose of this survey is to examine nearly 70,000 people's experience with mental health conditions, substance use, and pursuit of treatment.

The results showed that 134.3 million people, or 46.6%, aged 12 or older drank alcohol in the past month, which is over two times more than the next substance, tobacco products. Among underage youth, aged 12-20, 5.1 million (13.3%) reported alcohol use in the past 30 days and 2.9 million (7.6%) reported binge drinking.



While alcohol use among youth and adults is decreasing, it continues to dwarf other use of other substances due to adults being willing to sell or procure alcohol for minors and the fact that alcohol is cheap. While prices have increased over the past decades, taxes are losing their value due to inflation, which makes the product more affordable, especially for youth.

## Coalition Spotlight: Inv. Cody McGee

We would like to spotlight Inv. Cody McGee with the Nebraska State Patrol. Cody has been with the Nebraska State Patrol for 15 years. Prior to becoming the Alcohol and Tobacco Investigator in Troop A (Cass, Dodge, Douglas, Sarpy, and Washington Counties), he worked in the traffic and carrier enforcement divisions. Troop A has the highest concentration of liquor licenses in the state which keeps Cody busy with new liquor license application investigations, premise inspections, compliance checks, and criminal investigations. Since 2022, he's been a part of the coalition and attends meetings and events as his schedule allows. Cody shared that "the best thing about working with Project Extra Mile is hearing the public's concerns and gaining knowledge of potential problem locations." Thank you for all you and the Nebraska State Patrol do for the community!



**Please Join Us!**



1995-2025

# OMAHA METRO COALITION MEETING

**September 10, 2025 @ 9:00AM**



**UNO's Community Engagement Center  
6400 University Drive South  
Room 128**

**Please join us as we welcome  
the La Vista and  
Blair Police Chiefs  
to discuss alcohol enforcement  
in their communities.**



**More Information :**  
[www.projectextramile.org](http://www.projectextramile.org)

**402-963-9047**  
[info@projectextramile.org](mailto:info@projectextramile.org)



Meetings are held at  
UNO's Community Engagement Center  
6400 University Drive South



### 2025 Meeting Dates

January 22nd

February 12th

Join us at our  
30th Anniversary  
Recognition Dinner  
on March 12th

April 9th

May 14th

No Meeting in June

No Meeting in July

August 13th

September 10th

October 8th

November 12th

December 10th



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