

The Canadian Alcohol Policy Evaluation (CAPE) provides rigorous assessments of how well each level of government in Canada is implementing policies proven to reduce harm from alcohol use. This is the third edition of the CAPE project; a project which has a track record of strengthening Canada's response to alcohol harm. Policy data for CAPE 3.0 were collected between June 1 and December 1, 2022.

Alcohol consumption, 2020/2021

NS: 481 standard drinks per person aged 15+

Canada: 487 standard drinks per person aged 15+

Source: Statistics Canada. Table 10-10-0010-01 Sales of alcoholic beverages types by liquor authorities and other retail outlets, by value, volume, and absolute volume.

44,172 ER & hospital visits total alcohol deficit

Which is equal to -\$0.54 per standard drink sold.

Sources:

- Statistics Canada. Table 10-10-0010-01 Sales of alcoholic beverages types by liquor authorities and other retail outlets, by value, volume, and absolute volume.
- Canadian Substance Use Costs and Harms.
- Statistics Canada. Table 10-10-0012-01 Net income of liquor authorities and government revenue from sale of alcoholic beverages (x 1,000).

Evidence-based alcohol policies are the most effective way to reduce harm from alcohol. The scores presented in this summary represent the degree to which best practice policies have been implemented.

- BC: 36%
- AB: 34%
- SK: 36%
- MB: 44%
- ON: 40%
- QC: 42%
- NB: 35%
- NS: 38%
- PE: 37%
- NL: 41%
- YT: 33%
- NT: 32%
- NU: 34%

If Nova Scotia implemented all the best existing policies across Canada's provinces and territories, their score could change from 38% (F) to 80% (A-). If we graded NS against best existing policies across provinces and territories, their score would still only be 47% (F).

The 11 policy domains in this assessment form part of a comprehensive and synergistic approach to preventing and reducing different types of alcohol harms. Policies examined fall under provincial or territorial control, and each domain reflects the current evidence and is weighted based on its effectiveness and scope of reach. This results in a ranked order from one (i.e., highest overall impact) through 11 (see next page). However, all the domains are necessary to create a health-

Level of on-premise minimum pricing in NS is lower than recommended and not indexed to inflation. Minimum pricing is only tied precisely (e.g. \$/L ethanol) to ethanol content for off-premise beer and is only loosely tied to ethanol content for on-premise wine. Alcohol in NS is not taxed at a higher rate relative to other consumer goods.

NS Minimum Pricing in 2021/22

Note: Price per standard drink for a common container size and beverage strength, expressed in 2021 dollars.

Recommended minimum price: \$1.83

Actual prices:

- Beer: \$1.82
- Wine: \$2.00
- Spirits: \$1.48
- Coolers: \$1.96

Recommended minimum price: \$3.66

Actual prices:

- Beer: \$2.40
- Wine: \$2.40
- Spirits: \$3.67
- Coolers: \$1.72

There are no limits on outlet density for any premises in NS and no off-premise placement limits. Hours of sale extend longer than recommended across all premises. NS permits off-premise alcohol home delivery, including by a third party (e.g. Uber Eats).

Less than 30% of off-premise retail outlets in NS are government owned and run. There are no policies prohibiting online alcohol sales or on-premise alcohol sales alongside other services such as at spas and sports events. The alcohol regulator/retailer, NSLC, reports to the Ministry of Finance and does not include health and safety in its mandate.

The policy domains below are listed in order of impact based on their effectiveness and scope.

Note: Grade ranges: A+ = 90-100%; A = 85-89%; A- = 80-84%; B+ = 77-79%; B = 73-76%; B- = 70-72%; C+ = 67-69%; C = 63-66%; C- = 60-62%; D+ = 57-59%; D = 53-56%; D- = 50-52%; F = 0-49%.

: 43% (F)

Recommendations

All recommended policies should be developed and implemented without alcohol industry involvement, without incorporating exceptions, and enacted in legislation or regulation where possible.

- Increase legislated minimum prices to a rate per standard drink (e.g. 17.05mL ethanol) of at least \$2.04* for alcohol sold at off-premise retail outlets and \$4.07* for alcohol sold at on-premise establishments, after taxes, and implement on-premise automatic indexation (*2023 price); Tie minimum prices for all alcohol precisely to ethanol content (e.g. \$/L ethanol).
- Update general alcohol prices annually to ensure that all keep pace with NS-specific inflation, increase alcohol sales taxes, and tax alcohol at a higher rate than other consumer goods.
- Set off-premise minimum retail markups to be at least 100% of the landed cost across all beverage types and maintain on-premise markups at or above the off-premise retail price.

: 32% (F)

Recommendations

All recommended polici

- Increase minimum legal age to 21 for possession and purchase of alcohol; consider granting graduated access (i.e. restrictions based on alcohol strength or hours of sale).
- Require proof of age identification for anyone purchasing alcohol and 2-staged verification (i.e. when ordering and receiving order) for alcohol sales made remotely (e.g. online, via phone, etc.).

: 2% (F)

Recommendations

All recommended policies should be developed and implemented without alcohol industry involvement, without incorporating exceptions, and enacted in legislation or regulation where possible.

- Implement enhanced alcohol labelling as a manufacturer requirement and mandatory onsite health and safety messaging (e.g. signage, posters) in all premises. Labels, signage, and messaging should include a variety of evidence-based warning messages (e.g. cancer risk, standard drinks, national alcohol guidance, calories), be prominently displayed and accompanied by pictorials, rotate across all products, and support consumers in making informed decisions about product use.
- Deliver a variety of ministry-

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