

BUILDING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES



Alcohol Availability

Alcohol outlets include both on premise and off premise outlets. On premise outlets sell alcohol for consumption at the establishment (e.g., restaurants, bars, nightclubs), whereas off premise outlets are liquor stores such as the LCBO, The Beer Store, grocery stores, U-Brews, etc. The number and location of alcohol outlets in the community can influence health and well-being. In fact, the availability of alcohol is linked to how much people drink.

Neighbourhoods with a higher number of alcohol outlets tend to experience higher rates of drinking, alcohol-related vehicle crashes, violence and other negative consequences. Limiting alcohol outlet density is a good approach to reducing alcohol-related problems.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Controlling alcohol availability is best achieved by a government monopoly of alcohol sales, limits on alcohol outlet density, licensing, restrictions on days and hours of sale, and municipal policies regulating the places and conditions of alcohol use.
- Communities in the province of British Columbia that permitted longer hours of alcohol sale and service experienced an increase in alcohol-related problems.
- Some municipalities in Ontario and other provinces have utilized by-law and zoning regulations to regulate alcohol availability.
- Alcohol is the drug of choice among youth.

PUBLIC HEALTH

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york.ca/healthybuiltenvironment

19-5254


York Region

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You make a difference when you . . .

- Contact your local and/or provincial government representative to express support for controlling the number of alcohol outlets in your community, including keeping alcohol out of convenience stores
- Report incidents of alcohol sale and service to minors (under 19 years of age)

Municipalities show leadership when they . . .

- Consistently implement and regularly review their municipal alcohol policy
- Evaluate alcohol license applications based on community health and safety
- Set restrictions on alcohol promotion in and at community events
- Keep current on best-practices and monitor what other municipalities are doing to manage alcohol in their communities

BE AN ACTIVE PARTNER WHERE YOU LIVE, LEARN, WORK AND PLAY.
Participate in building healthy communities!