**Administrative Penalties**

**Description of strategy**

A license holder penalty is a legal mechanism that allows a local governing body to penalize alcohol license holders for failing to comply with state laws or local ordinances relating to sales of alcoholic beverages. It usually involves a monetary fine or the suspension or revocation of an alcohol license. It is administered by a local governing body (city council, county board), rather than the court system. It is imposed upon the license holder (in contrast to state laws that target the behavior of individual sellers and servers of alcohol). Administrative penalties are intended to provide an alternative enforcement mechanism that is more cost-effective, timely and practical than prosecuting servers and sellers through the court system. It provides an alternative to criminal prosecution, but does not necessarily replace criminal prosecution (some communities pursue both prosecution and administrative penalties). Administrative penalties can be written and passed as a local ordinance or state law (University of Minnesota Alcohol Epidemiology Program, 2011).

Local governing bodies by ordinance or resolution may regulate or restrict the operation of licensees (N.D.C.C. §5—02-09—Local regulations, 2013).

**Discussion of effectiveness**

**Alcohol**

There is limited evidence to evaluate the effectiveness of administrative penalties as an independent prevention strategy to prevent sale of alcohol to underage youth. Evidence suggests graduated administrative penalties work as an enforcement mechanism for compliance checks and responsible beverage service training (Mosher, Toomey, Good, Harwood, & Wagenaar, 2002). However, this evidence was based on qualitative analysis and did not provide quantitative results.

**Intervening Variables**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Retail Pricing</th>
<th>Retail availability</th>
<th>Social availability</th>
<th>Law Enforcement</th>
<th>Community norms</th>
<th>Promotion &amp; media</th>
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**References for description of strategy**


**Evidence base**


**Further reading**

