

Problem Statement

The data shows that underage drinking (youth in grades 9-12) is a problem in the Mandan area. Data shows that high retail availability and high social availability are the intervening variables.

According to the North Dakota Youth Risk Behavioral Study (2021), 29.5% of high school students in the Bismarck-Mandan-Minot area report current alcohol use (within the past 30 days). This is a decrease from 31.6% in 2019. The state rate was 23.7% in 2021 and 27.6% in 2019 (ND YRBS, 2019).

The percentage of students who were currently binge drinking (had four or more drinks of alcohol in a row if they were female or five or more drinks of alcohol in a row if they were male, within a couple of hours on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey) was 17.7% in the Bismarck-Mandan-Minot area (ND YRBS, 2019) and 18.3% in 2021, which is higher than the state rate of 14.0% (ND YRBS, 2021).

66% of people agree or strongly agree that there should be a law that servers and bartenders at restaurants and bars be specially trained on how to serve alcohol responsibly (Community Readiness Survey, 2019).

The North Dakota YRBS (2017) results showed that 37.7% of youth reported that they obtained the alcohol they drank by someone giving it to them (during the 30 days before the survey, among students who currently drank).

57% of ND adults believe it is not at all difficult for youth to sneak alcohol from their home or a friend's home. (North Dakota Community Readiness Survey, 2022).

Intervening Variables

High retail availability

There is one bar for every 1621 people in North Dakota (<http://www.eater.com/2013/5/29/6428463/here-are-the-states-with-the-most-bars-per-capita>). Mandan, North Dakota has 51 liquor establishments that sell beer, wine and liquor (on and off sale) which equals one liquor establishment per 487.9 people (City of Mandan, Liquor Licenses by Class, 2023-2024). According to national studies, approximately 32% of youth possess a fake ID.

Goal 1: By September 2026, there will be a decrease in the past 30-day alcohol use by youth of 3% (29.5% in 2021 to 26.5% by 2026).

Objective 1: Retailers will adopt an internal policy to make checking IDs mandatory for all alcohol sales.

Objective 2: Retailers will adopt an internal policy to make it mandatory for staff to attend Responsible Beverage Service Training.

Goal 2: By September 2026, binge drinking by youth will be 2% (18.3% in 2021 to 16.3% by 2026).

Objective 1: Youth will have less retail and social access to alcohol.

Goal 3: By September 2026, there will be at least six retailers in our area that have adopted mandatory policies for checking IDs for alcohol sales and also require all employees to go through Responsible Beverage Service Training.

Objective 1: In order to receive a Forensic ID scanner from Western Plains Public Health, retailers must adopt an internal policy that staff are checking all IDs.

Objective 2: In order to receive a Forensic ID scanner from Western Plains Public Health, retailers must adopt an internal policy that staff will attend Responsible Beverage Service Training.

High Social Availability

According to Region 7 data from the North Dakota YRBS, 8.5% of high school students gave someone money to buy alcohol for them, 14.5% of youth got their alcohol from someone giving it to them and 3.3% took the alcohol from a store or from family (ND YRBS, 2017).

Goal 1: Reduce the social availability of alcohol to youth in our area.

Objective 1: Implement a media campaign which targets adults and educates them about the consequences of underage alcohol use and the laws/penalties that apply when providing alcohol to youth.