

Excellence in Prevention – descriptions of the prevention programs and strategies with the greatest evidence of success

Name of Program/Strategy: Keg Registration— Changing Conditions of Availability

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1. Overview and description

Beer kegs are often a main source of alcohol at teenage parties and may encourage drinking greater quantities of beer, increasing the risk of driving under the influence of alcohol and other alcohol-related problems. When police arrive at underage keg parties, people often scatter. Without keg tagging, there is no way to trace who purchased the keg. As a result beer key registration is one strategy directed at social events where beer can be provided without restrictions. Keg registration laws require the purchaser of a keg of beer to complete a form that links their name to a number on the keg. In this way, if a beer keg is present in a drinking setting where young people are consuming alcohol, then the person who purchased the keg can be identified and held responsible.

2. Implementation considerations (if available)

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3. Descriptive information

Areas of Interest	Substance abuse prevention
Outcomes	
Outcome Categories	Alcohol
Ages	
Gender	Male Female
Races/Ethnicities	American Indian or Alaska Native Asian Black or African American Hispanic or Latino White Race/ethnicity unspecified
Settings	
Geographic Locations	Urban Suburban Rural and/or frontier Tribal
Implementation History	
NIH Funding/CER Studies	
Adaptations	
Adverse Effects	
IOM Prevention Categories	Universal

4. Outcomes

Scientific Evidence

Beer consumption as the primary beverage of choice of underage drinkers was found to be a potential factor in underage drinking alcohol-related harm, especially traffic fatalities (Cohen, Mason, & Scribner, 2001).

In Billings, Montana, a keg registration ordinance was passed by the City Council in June, 2002. A year-long process to get the ordinance passed was led by a group called Montanans United Saving Lives. The

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ordinance requires permanent marking on each keg that identifies where and when it was purchased (Webb, 2002).

A different form of keg registration was passed in Madison, Wisconsin, in December, 2001. The City Council passed an ordinance that requires keg delivery rentals to be made in person at the store. The purchaser must show two forms of ID at the store and be present at the delivery address to sign a receipt upon delivery. Records of all keg purchases are required to be kept by the stores for two years. None of the liquor store owners expressed opposition to the new regulations, stating that the new law does not interfere with regular business operations (Spaetti, 2001).

Specifically, public opinion surveys find that over 60 percent of the population support laws that require beer keg registration, and as of January 1, 2007, 29 states had enacted keg registration laws.

In a different approach to regulating kegs, Utah bans kegs altogether.

Some jurisdictions collect information that may aid law enforcement efforts such as the location where the keg is to be consumed and the tag number of the vehicle in which the keg is transported. Some jurisdictions also require retailers to provide warning information at the time of purchase about laws prohibiting service to minors and/or other laws related to the purchase or possession of the keg.

Keg registration is seen primarily as a tool for prosecuting adults who supply alcohol to young people at parties and even establishments which rent filler beer kegs to underage persons (Hammond, 1991).

Keg registration laws have become increasingly popular in local communities in the U.S. Wagenaar, O'Malley, and LaFond (2001) examined existing beer keg registration policies in all states to determine core conceptual dimensions of the laws, test procedures to increase reliability of keg policy coding, and describe variations in existing policies. They found no controlled studies of the effects of keg registration laws which might include measurement of rates of keg sales, bottled beer sales, beer consumption, intoxication among teens and teen parties, or frequency of disturbance calls to police, as well as more direct measures of teen consumption of keg beer.

Wagenaar et al (2005a) found that most state alcohol control agency respondents noted very low levels of enforcement of extant keg registration laws and high levels of leniency in imposing penalties.

Keg registration laws are associated with a significant decrease in traffic fatalities. Cohen et al.

(2001) found that the presence of a local keg registration law was associated with lower alcohol fatality rates as a part of a composite score for level of alcohol regulation.

There are no controlled longitudinal studies of the passage of a beer keg registration and its specific effects on alcohol-involved traffic crashes by underage persons or other alcohol problems.

A cross-sectional analysis of the effects of state keg registration laws found the simple existence of a keg registration law was not associated with per capita beer consumption, the prevalence of adolescent binge drinking, and the prevalence of adolescents who drove after drinking or rode in cars whose drivers had done so (Ringwalt & Paschall, 2010). However, if stringency and comprehensiveness of a state level keg registration law was controlled for, a moderate negative association occurred with problem outcomes; that

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is, the more comprehensive the keg law, the more likely it was to have an effect on alcohol-related harms for youth.

5. **Cost effectiveness report (Washington State Institute of Public Policy – if available)**
6. **Washington State results (from Performance Based Prevention System (PBPS) – if available)**
7. **Who is using this program/strategy**

Washington Counties	Oregon Counties
All counties	

8. **Study populations**
9. **Quality of studies**

The documents below were reviewed for Quality of Research. The research point of contact can provide information regarding the studies reviewed and the availability of additional materials, including those from more recent studies that may have been conducted.

References

Cohen, D., Mason, K., & Scribner, R. (2001). The population consumption model, alcohol control practices, and alcohol-related traffic fatalities. *Preventive Medicine, 34*, 187-197.

Hammond, R. L. (1991). Capping keggers: New tracking system aims at curbing illegal sales. *The Bottom Line on Alcohol in Society, 11*(4), 36-38.

Ringwalt, C.L., & Paschall, M.J. (2010). The utility of keg registration laws: a cross-sectional study, *Journal of Adolescent Health 1-3*.

Spaetti, A. (2001, December 4). City Council passes keg ordinance. *The Badger Herald, Madison, WI*.

Wagenaar, A. C., Harwood, E. M., Silianoff, C., & Toomey, T. L. (2005a). Measuring public policy: The case of beer keg registration laws. *Evaluation and Program Planning, 28*(4), 359-367.

Wagenaar, A. C., O'Malley, P. M., & LaFond, C. (2001). Lowered legal blood alcohol limits for young drivers: Effects on drinking, driving, and driving-after-drinking behaviors in 30 states. *American Journal of Public Health, 91*(5), 801-804.

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Webb, J. (2002, July 8). Local leaders win community support cracking down on kegs. The Billings Gazette, Billings, MT.

10. Readiness for Dissemination

Revised Code of Washington

The Revised Code of Washington (RCW) is the compilation of all permanent laws now in force. It is a collection of Session Laws (enacted by the Legislature, and signed by the Governor, or enacted via the initiative process), arranged by topic, with amendments added and repealed laws removed. It does not include temporary laws such as appropriations acts.

RCW 66.28.210—Keg registration — Requirements of purchaser.

(1) Any person who purchases the contents of kegs or other containers containing four gallons or more of malt liquor, or purchases or leases the container shall:

- (a) Sign a declaration and receipt for the keg or other container or beverage in substantially the form provided in RCW 66.28.220;
- (b) Provide one piece of identification pursuant to *RCW 66.16.040;
- (c) Be of legal age to purchase, possess, or use malt liquor;
- (d) Not allow any person under the age of twenty-one to consume the beverage except as provided by RCW 66.44.270;
- (e) Not remove, obliterate, or allow to be removed or obliterated, the identification required under rules adopted by the board;
- (f) Not move, keep, or store the keg or its contents, except for transporting to and from the distributor, at any place other than that particular address declared on the receipt and declaration; and
- (g) Maintain a copy of the declaration and receipt next to or adjacent to the keg or other container, in no event a distance greater than five feet, and visible without a physical barrier from the keg, during the time that the keg or other container is in the purchaser's possession or control.

(2) A violation of this section is a gross misdemeanor.

11. Costs (if available)

12. Contacts