



Georgia

State Profile and Underage Drinking Facts

State Population: 9,687,653
Population Ages 12–20: 1,217,000

	Percentage	Number
Ages 12–20		
Past-Month Alcohol Use	23.6	287,000
Past-Month Binge Alcohol Use	14.7	178,000
Ages 12–14		
Past-Month Alcohol Use	7.1	25,000
Past-Month Binge Alcohol Use	1.8	6,000
Ages 15–17		
Past-Month Alcohol Use	19.3	90,000
Past-Month Binge Alcohol Use	11.2	52,000
Ages 18–20		
Past-Month Alcohol Use	43.6	172,000
Past-Month Binge Alcohol Use	30.5	120,000
Alcohol-Attributable Deaths (under 21)		Number 157
Years of Potential Life Lost (under 21)		9,436

	Percentage of All Traffic Fatalities	Number
Traffic Fatalities, 15- to 20-Year-Old Drivers with BAC > 0.01	15.0	23

Laws Addressing Minors in Possession of Alcohol

Underage Possession of Alcohol

Possession is prohibited with the following exception(s):

- Parent/guardian’s home AND
- Parent/guardian

Underage Consumption of Alcohol

Consumption is not explicitly prohibited.

Internal Possession by Minors

Internal possession is not explicitly prohibited.

Underage Purchase of Alcohol

Purchase is prohibited and there is NO ALLOWANCE for youth purchase for law enforcement purposes.

False Identification for Obtaining Alcohol

Provision(s) Targeting Minors

- Use of a false ID to obtain alcohol is a criminal offense.
- Penalty may include driver’s license suspension through a judicial procedure.

Provisions Targeting Retailers

- Licenses for drivers under age 21 are easily distinguishable from those for drivers age 21 and older.
- Retailers are permitted to seize apparently false IDs.
- Specific affirmative defense—the retailer inspected the false ID and came to a reasonable conclusion based on its appearance that it was valid.

Laws Targeting Underage Drinking and Driving

BAC Limits: Youth (Underage Operators of Noncommercial Motor Vehicles)

- BAC limit: 0.02
- BAC level at or above the limit is per se (conclusive) evidence of a violation
- Applies to drivers under age 21

Loss of Driving Privileges for Alcohol Violations by Minors (“Use/Lose Laws”)

Use/lose penalties apply to minors under age 21.

Type(s) of Violation Leading to Driver’s License Suspension, Revocation, or Denial

- Underage purchase

Authority To Impose Driver’s License Sanction

- Mandatory

Length of Suspension/Revocation

- 180 days

Graduated Driver’s License

Learner Stage

- Minimum entry age: 15
- Minimum learner-stage period: 12 months
- Minimum supervised driving requirement: 40 hours—6 of which must be at night

Intermediate Stage

- Minimum age: 16
- Unsupervised night driving
 - Prohibited after: 12 a.m.
 - No primary enforcement of the night-driving rule
- Passenger restrictions exist: First 6 months, immediate family only. Second 6 months, no more than one passenger under 21 who is not immediate family. After 1 year, no more than three passengers under 21 who are not immediate family.
 - No primary enforcement of the passenger-restriction rule

License Stage

- Minimum age to lift restrictions: 18

Laws Targeting Alcohol Suppliers

Furnishing Alcohol to Minors

Furnishing is prohibited with the following exception(s):

- Parent/guardian’s home AND
- Parent/guardian

Compliance Check Protocols

Age of Decoy

- Minimum: 17
- Maximum: 19

Appearance Requirements

- No facial hair

ID Possession

- Prohibited

Verbal Exaggeration of Age

- Prohibited

Decoy Training

- Not specified

Penalty Guidelines for Sales to Minors

- Time period/conditions: Not specified
- First offense: \$500–\$2,500 fine, 12-month probation, and/or up to 30-day suspension

Note: Mitigating and/or aggravating circumstances may be considered.

Responsible Beverage Service

No beverage service training requirement

Minimum Ages for Off-Premises Sellers

- Beer: Not specified
- Wine: Not specified
- Spirits: Not specified

Minimum Ages for On-Premises Sellers

- Beer: 18 for both servers and bartenders
- Wine: 18 for both servers and bartenders
- Spirits: 18 for both servers and bartenders

Dram Shop Liability

Statutory liability exists subject to the following conditions:

- Limitations on elements/standards of proof: Furnishing with knowledge that customer was a minor and would soon be operating a motor vehicle.

Social Host Liability Laws

Statutory liability exists subject to the following conditions:

- Limitations on elements/standards of proof: Furnishing with knowledge that customer was a minor and would soon be operating a motor vehicle.

Host Party Laws

No State-imposed liability for hosting underage drinking parties

Direct Sales/Shipments of Alcohol by Producers

Direct sales/shipments from producers to consumers are permitted for wine with the following restrictions:

Age Verification Requirements

- Producer must verify age of purchaser.

State Approval/Permit Requirements

- Producer/shipper must obtain State permit.

Reporting Requirements

- Producer must record/report purchaser's name.

Shipping Label Statement Requirements

- Contains alcohol
- Recipient must be 21

Note: Wineries that hold a Federal basic wine manufacturing permit, regardless of whether they are licensed by the State of Georgia, may also ship wines directly to consumers. The consumer must purchase the wine while physically present on the premises of the winery, and the winery must verify that the consumer is of the age to do so.

Keg Registration

- Keg definition: more than 2 gallons
- Prohibited:
 - Possessing an unregistered, unlabeled keg—maximum fine/jail: \$1,000/12 months
 - Destroying the label on a keg—maximum fine/jail: \$1,000/12 months
- Purchaser information collected:
 - Purchaser’s name and address
 - Verified by a government-issued ID
 - Address where keg will be consumed
- Warning information to purchaser: Active—purchaser action required (e.g., signature)
- Deposit: Not required
- Provisions do not specifically address disposable kegs.

Note: Although Georgia does not require a retailer to record the number of a keg purchaser’s ID, it does require the retailer to record the form of identification presented by the purchaser, as well as the purchaser’s name, address, and date of birth.

Alcohol Pricing Policies

Home Delivery

- Beer: Prohibited
- Wine: Prohibited
- Spirits: Prohibited

Alcohol Tax

Beer (5 percent alcohol)

- Specific excise tax: \$1.01 per gallon

Reported tax rate is calculated for the rate imposed on 12-ounce containers. Tax is \$0.32 per gallon for malt beverages sold in barrels or bulk containers containing not more than 31 gallons, along with a \$0.39 per gallon tax per on containers 15.5 gallons or less.

Wine (12 percent alcohol)

- Specific excise tax: \$0.42 per gallon

\$1.10 per gallon imposed on the “importation for use, consumption, or final delivery” into the State of all wines with an alcohol content of 14 percent or less.

Spirits (40 percent alcohol)

- Specific excise tax: \$5.37 per gallon

\$1.89 per gallon on the “importation for use, consumption, or final delivery” into the State of all distilled spirits.

Drink Specials

No law

Wholesale Pricing

Pricing restrictions exist.

Beer (5 percent alcohol)

- Price posting requirements: Post and hold—180 days minimum
- Retailer credit: Not permitted—if retailer owns more than one business and payment is made from a central office, then credit not to exceed 5 days after delivery and invoice.

Wine (12 percent alcohol)

- Retailer credit: Not permitted

Spirits (40 percent alcohol)

- Price posting requirements: Post and hold—14 days minimum
- Retailer credit: Not permitted

Georgia State Survey Responses

State Agency Information	
<i>Agency with primary responsibility for enforcing underage drinking laws:</i> Georgia Department of Revenue Alcohol & Tobacco Division	
<i>Methods by which local and State enforcement agencies coordinate their efforts to enforce laws prohibiting underage drinking:</i> The Alcohol & Tobacco Division of the Georgia Department of Revenue works in partnership, through an intergovernmental agreement, with the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities Division of Addictive Disease (DAD). DAD's Office of Prevention Services & Programs (OPSP) funds compliance checks to enforce the law (O.C.G.A. 3-3-23) that prohibits furnishing any alcoholic beverage to any person under age 21. OPSP is funding the University of Georgia's Carl Vinson Institute of Government to initiate and implement an annual alcohol report for underage drinking compliance check data. Regular meetings are held with team members from these two governmental agencies to remain informed of activities and discuss opportunities and issues that may arise.	
Enforcement Strategies	
<i>State law enforcement agencies use:</i>	
Cops in Shops	No
Shoulder Tap Operations	Yes
Party Patrol Operations or Programs	Yes
Underage Alcohol-Related Fatality Investigations	No
<i>Local law enforcement agencies use:</i>	
Cops in Shops	No
Shoulder Tap Operations	Yes
Party Patrol Operations or Programs	Yes
Underage Alcohol-Related Fatality Investigations	Yes
<i>State has a program to investigate and enforce direct sales/shipment laws</i> Yes	
Primary State agency responsible for enforcing laws	Georgia Department of Revenue—
addressing direct sales/shipments of alcohol to minors	Alcohol & Tobacco Division
Such laws are also enforced by local law enforcement agencies	Unknown
Enforcement Statistics	
<i>State collects data on the number of minors found in possession</i> Yes	
Number of minors found in possession ¹ by State law enforcement agencies	6
Number pertains to the 12 months ending	06/30/2010
Data include arrests/citations issued by local law enforcement agencies	No
<i>State conducts underage compliance checks/decoy operations² to determine if alcohol retailers are complying with laws prohibiting sales to minors</i> Yes	
Data are collected on these activities	Yes
Number of licensees checked for compliance by State agencies	4,349
Number of licensees that failed State compliance checks	711
Numbers pertain to the 12 months ending	06/30/2010
<i>Local agencies conduct underage compliance checks/decoy operations to determine if alcohol retailers are complying with laws prohibiting sales to minors</i> Yes	
Data are collected on these activities	No
Number of licensees checked for compliance by local agencies	Data not collected
Number of licensees that failed local compliance checks	Data not collected
Numbers pertain to the 12 months ending	Data not collected
Sanctions	
<i>State collects data on fines imposed on retail establishments that furnish minors</i> Yes	
Number of fines imposed by the State ³	708
Total amount in fines across all licensees	\$724,300
Numbers pertain to the 12 months ending	06/30/2010
<i>State collects data on license suspensions imposed on retail establishments specifically for furnishing minors</i> Yes	

Number of suspensions imposed by the State ⁴	115
Total days of suspensions across all licensees	371
Numbers pertain to the 12 months ending	06/30/2010
<i>State collects data on license revocations imposed on retail establishments specifically for furnishing minors</i>	Yes
Number of license revocations imposed ⁵	0
Numbers pertain to the 12 months ending	06/30/2010
Additional Clarification	
No data	

¹ Or having consumed or purchased per State statutes

² Underage compliance checks/decoy operations to determine whether alcohol retailers are complying with laws prohibiting sales to minors

³ Does not include fines imposed by local agencies

⁴ Does not include suspensions imposed by local agencies

⁵ Does not include revocations imposed by local agencies

Underage Drinking Prevention Programs Operated or Funded by the State: Programs SPECIFIC TO Underage Drinking	
<i>Georgia Underage Drinking Prevention Initiative</i>	
Number of youth served	250
Number of parents served	100
Number of caregivers served	50
Numbers pertain to the 12 months ending	09/30/2010
Program has been evaluated	Yes
Evaluation report is available	Yes
URL for evaluation report	No data
URL for more program information	http://www.livedrugfree.org
Program description: The Georgia Underage Drinking Prevention Initiative helps educate young people and caring adults about the risks associated with underage drinking through a Prevention Education Campaign. The Prevention Education Campaign also helps local community coalitions convene town hall meetings about underage drinking prevention and conduct community information sessions. The Initiative also creates Responsible Sales & Service (RASS) Workshops to provide owners and staff of alcohol-licensed establishments with valuable resources and information to prevent sales to underage youth in college communities.	
<i>Gwinnett Mobilizing for Change in ATOD</i>	
Number of youth served	58,129
Number of parents served	75
Number of caregivers served	175
Numbers pertain to the 12 months ending	09/30/2010
Program has been evaluated	Yes
Evaluation report is available	No
URL for evaluation report	Not applicable
URL for more program information	http://www.guideinc.org
Program description: Gwinnett Mobilizing for Change in ATOD is an environmental strategies initiative with multiple strategies and services. This initiative follows the evidence-based model Communities Mobilizing for Change in Alcohol (CMCA). The prevention services that are provided include a coalition addressing underage alcohol, tobacco, and drug use prevention; public awareness campaigns focusing on underage drinking (with particular emphasis on social hosting) and underage tobacco use; alcohol vendor training; Enforcement of Underage Drinking Laws (EUDL) compliance checks; youth action teams that provide peer-focused environmental strategies targeting middle and high school age youth; a youth advisory board; and participation in local, regional, and statewide coalitions addressing underage drinking and tobacco use.	

Cobb and Douglas Alcohol Policy Partnership	
Number of youth served	1,951
Number of parents served	676
Number of caregivers served	150
Numbers pertain to the 12 months ending	09/30/2010
Program has been evaluated	Yes
Evaluation report is available	No
URL for evaluation report	Not applicable
URL for more program information	No data
<p>Program description: The Cobb and Douglas Alcohol Policy Partnership (CDAPP) uses an environmental prevention strategy to provide training and technical assistance to coalitions/task forces in Cobb and Douglas counties to prevent and reduce underage drinking. CDAPP's efforts consist of offering regular training to all supporters and participants of each group. The collaboratives and groups develop their own policy agendas, strategize the number and frequency of compliance investigations of alcohol establishments, design and produce public education and awareness materials, devise dissemination strategies, establish media literacy and advocacy tools, conduct environmental scans, and construct organizational development systems that allow for youth leadership and involvement in the groups' decisionmaking and advocacy efforts.</p>	

Underage Drinking Prevention Programs Operated or Funded by the State: Programs RELATED TO Underage Drinking	
Bulloch Council—Prime for Life Under 21	
URL for more program information	http://www.bullochadc.org
<p>Program description: PRIME for Life Under 21 intervenes during the experimental stage of substance abuse when adolescents have yet to develop a serious alcohol or drug problem and can be positively influenced by an age-appropriate introduction to and review of the possible negative consequences of their actions. Prime for Life Under 21 is designed for youth with high-risk behavior between the ages of 13 and 20. The program is designed to reduce alcohol-related violations in 200 young adult substance-abusing populations.</p>	
Twin Cedars Youth Services/Troup County Prevention Coalition	
URL for more program information	http://www.twincedars.org
<p>Program description: This program serves as a catalyst for systems change and sustained collaborative work in the community to ensure the reduction and prevention of alcohol, drug, and tobacco use among Troup County youth. It aims to reduce substance abuse among youth and, over time, among adults by addressing factors that increase risk of substance abuse and promoting factors that minimize that risk. Twin Cedars helps establish and strengthen collaboration among communities, private nonprofit agencies, and Federal, State, and local governments to support the efforts of community coalitions to prevent and reduce substance abuse among youth.</p>	

Additional Information Related to Underage Drinking Prevention Programs	
<i>State collaborates with federally recognized Tribal governments in the prevention of underage drinking</i>	No
Program description: Not applicable.	
<i>State has programs to measure and/or reduce youth exposure to alcohol advertising and marketing</i>	Yes
<p>Program description: The Georgia Underage Drinking Prevention Initiative performed environmental scans in five targeted communities (Candler, Rockdale, Spalding, Upson, and Ware counties). Environmental scans are an organized method of “scanning” existing conditions in a community environment that, according to research, either promotes or discourages underage alcohol use. The purpose of the scans was to assess what local store owners were doing or not doing with regard to youth access to alcohol in high-risk communities and to investigate the environments of these communities. Scans examined number of alcohol billboards near schools, parks, etc.; marketing practices of alcohol outlets; and youth exposure to alcohol advertising.</p>	

<i>State has adopted or developed best practice standards for underage drinking prevention programs</i>	No
Best practice standards description: Not applicable.	
Additional Clarification	
No data	

State Interagency Collaboration	
<i>A State-level interagency governmental body/committee exists to coordinate or address underage drinking prevention activities</i>	No
<i>Committee contact information</i>	Not applicable
<i>Agencies/organizations represented on the committee</i>	Not applicable
<i>A Web site or other public source exists to describe committee activities</i>	No
<i>URL or other means of access</i>	Not applicable

Underage Drinking Reports	
<i>State has prepared a plan for preventing underage drinking in the last 3 years</i>	Yes
Prepared by: The Georgia Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant Plan can be accessed via: http://www.ga-spf.org	
<i>State has prepared a report on preventing underage drinking in the last 3 years</i>	No
Prepared by	Not applicable
Plan can be accessed via	Not applicable
Additional Clarification	
No data	

State Expenditures for the Prevention of Underage Drinking	
<i>Compliance checks/decoy operations in retail outlets:</i>	
Estimate of State funds expended	\$272,000
Estimate based on the 12 months ending	06/30/2010
<i>Checkpoints and saturation patrols:</i>	
Estimate of State funds expended	Data unavailable
Estimate based on the 12 months ending	Data unavailable
<i>Community-based programs to prevent underage drinking:</i>	
Estimate of State funds expended	\$0
Estimate based on the 12 months ending	09/30/2010
<i>K-12 school-based programs to prevent underage drinking:</i>	
Estimate of State funds expended	Data unavailable
Estimate based on the 12 months ending	Data unavailable
<i>Programs targeted to institutes of higher learning:</i>	
Estimate of State funds expended	Data unavailable
Estimate based on the 12 months ending	Data unavailable
<i>Programs that target youth in the juvenile justice system:</i>	
Estimate of State funds expended	\$0
Estimate based on the 12 months ending	06/30/2010
<i>Programs that target youth in the child welfare system:</i>	
Estimate of State funds expended	Data unavailable
Estimate based on the 12 months ending	Data unavailable
<i>Other programs:</i>	
Programs or strategies included	No data
Estimate of State funds expended	No data
Estimate based on the 12 months ending	No data

Funds Dedicated to Underage Drinking	
<i>State derives funds dedicated to underage drinking from the following revenue streams:</i>	
Taxes	No
Fines	No
Fees	No
Other	No data
<i>Description of funding streams and how they are used:</i> No data	
Additional Clarification	
No data	