



Rhode Island

State Profile and Underage Drinking Facts

State Population: 1,052,567
Population Ages 12–20: 132,000

	Percentage	Number
Ages 12–20		
Past-Month Alcohol Use	36.1	48,000
Past-Month Binge Alcohol Use	23.8	31,000
Ages 12–14		
Past-Month Alcohol Use	6.8	3,000
Past-Month Binge Alcohol Use	2.8	1,000
Ages 15–17		
Past-Month Alcohol Use	28.9	12,000
Past-Month Binge Alcohol Use	16.2	7,000
Ages 18–20		
Past-Month Alcohol Use	64.7	32,000
Past-Month Binge Alcohol Use	46.5	23,000
		Number
Alcohol-Attributable Deaths (under 21)		11
Years of Potential Life Lost (under 21)		666

	Percentage of All Traffic Fatalities	Number
Traffic Fatalities, 15- to 20-Year-Old Drivers with BAC > 0.01	64.0	9

Laws Addressing Minors in Possession of Alcohol

Underage Possession of Alcohol

Possession is prohibited—no explicit exceptions noted in the law.

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, but youth may 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.

Provision(s) Targeting Suppliers

- It is a criminal offense to lend, transfer, or sell a false ID.
- It is a criminal offense to manufacture or distribute a false ID.

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
- Underage possession

Authority To Impose Driver’s License Sanction

- Mandatory

Length of Suspension/Revocation

- 30 days

Note: A mandatory minimum 60-day driver’s license suspension penalty applies to underage possession.

Graduated Driver’s License

Learner Stage

- Minimum entry age: 16
- Minimum learner-stage period: 6 months
- Minimum supervised driving requirement: 50 hours—10 of which must be at night

Intermediate Stage

- Minimum age: 16 years, 6 months
- Unsupervised night driving
 - Prohibited after: 1 a.m.
 - Primary enforcement of the night-driving rule
- Passenger restrictions exist: No more than one unrelated passenger under 21
 - Primary enforcement of the passenger-restriction rule

License Stage

- Minimum age to lift restrictions: 17 years, 6 months

Laws Targeting Alcohol Suppliers

Furnishing Alcohol to Minors

Furnishing is prohibited with the following exception(s):

- Parent/guardian

Compliance Check Protocols

No data

Penalty Guidelines for Sales to Minors

No data

Responsible Beverage Service

Mandatory Provisions

Mandatory Beverage Service Training for Managers, Servers

- Applies only to on-sale establishments
- Applies only to existing outlets

Voluntary Provisions

Voluntary Beverage Service Training

- The law does not specify on- or off-sale establishments.
- The law does not specify new or existing outlets.

Incentive for Training

- Defense in dram shop liability lawsuits

Minimum Ages for Off-Premises Sellers

- Beer: 18
- Wine: 18
- Spirits: 18

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.

Note: R.I. Gen. Laws § 3-14-12 includes a responsible beverage service defense.

Social Host Liability Laws

There is no statutory liability.

Host Party Laws

Social host law is not specifically limited to underage drinking parties.

- Action by underage guest that triggers violation: Consumption
- Property type(s) covered by liability law: Residence, outdoor
- Standard for hosts' knowledge or action regarding the party: Knowledge—host must have actual knowledge of the occurrence.
- Exception(s): Family

Direct Sales/Shipments of Alcohol by Producers

Direct sales/shipments from producers to consumers are not permitted.

Keg Registration

- Keg definition: Undefined
- Prohibited:
 - Destroying the label on a keg—maximum fine/jail: \$500
- Purchaser information collected:
 - Purchaser's name and address
 - Verified by a government-issued ID
- Warning information to purchaser: Passive—no purchaser action required
- Deposit: Not required
- Provisions do not specifically address disposable kegs.

Note: No particular volume or range of volumes is specified for kegs in Rhode Island.

Alcohol Pricing Policies

Home Delivery

- Beer: Permitted
- Wine: Permitted
- Spirits: Permitted

Alcohol Tax

- Beer (5 percent alcohol): Specific excise tax is \$0.10 per gallon.
- Wine (12 percent alcohol): Specific excise tax is \$0.60 per gallon.
- Spirits (40 percent alcohol): Specific excise tax is \$3.75 per gallon.

Drink Specials

- Free beverages: Not prohibited
- Multiple servings at one time: Not prohibited
- Multiple servings for same price as single serving: Prohibited
- Reduced price at specified day or time: Prohibited
- Unlimited beverages: Prohibited
- Increased volume: Prohibited

Wholesale Pricing

No pricing restrictions

Rhode Island State Survey Responses

State Agency Information	
<i>Agency with primary responsibility for enforcing underage drinking laws:</i> Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities & Hospitals (BHDDH)	
<i>Methods by which local and State enforcement agencies coordinate their efforts to enforce laws prohibiting underage drinking:</i> Local police departments are responsible for direct enforcement. The single State agency (SSA), BHDDH, funds local police departments to conduct enforcement activities and to conduct an annual Alcohol Purchase Survey.	
Enforcement Strategies	
<i>State law enforcement agencies use:</i>	
Cops in Shops	No
Shoulder Tap Operations	No
Party Patrol Operations or Programs	No
Underage Alcohol-Related Fatality Investigations	Yes
<i>Local law enforcement agencies use:</i>	
Cops in Shops	Yes
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>	Unknown
Primary State agency responsible for enforcing laws addressing direct sales/shipments of alcohol to minors	No data
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>	
Number of minors found in possession by State law enforcement agencies	No
Number pertains to the 12 months ending	Data not collected
Data include arrests/citations issued by local law enforcement agencies	Data not collected
<i>State conducts underage compliance checks/decoy operations² to determine if alcohol retailers are complying with laws prohibiting sales to minors</i>	
Data are collected on these activities	No
Number of licensees checked for compliance by State agencies	Data not collected
Number of licensees that failed State compliance checks	Data not collected
Numbers pertain to the 12 months ending	Data not collected
<i>Local agencies conduct underage compliance checks/decoy operations to determine if alcohol retailers are complying with laws prohibiting sales to minors</i>	
Data are collected on these activities	Yes
Number of licensees checked for compliance by local agencies	300
Number of licensees that failed local compliance checks	30
Numbers pertain to the 12 months ending	07/31/2010
Sanctions	
<i>State collects data on fines imposed on retail establishments that furnish minors</i>	
Number of fines imposed by the State ³	No
Total amount in fines across all licensees	Data not collected
Numbers pertain to the 12 months ending	Data not collected
<i>State collects data on license suspensions imposed on retail establishments specifically for furnishing minors</i>	
Number of suspensions imposed by the State ⁴	No
Total days of suspensions across all licensees	Data not collected
Numbers pertain to the 12 months ending	Data not collected
<i>State collects data on license revocations imposed on retail establishments specifically for furnishing minors</i>	
	No

Number of license revocations imposed ⁵	Data not collected
Numbers pertain to the 12 months ending	Data not collected
Additional Clarification	
BHDDH, the SSA for substance abuse prevention and treatment, funds local police departments to conduct activities to enforce underage drinking laws and to conduct an annual survey to determine the rate of retail sales of alcohol to underage individuals. Rhode Island does NOT have an alcohol beverage control agency; enforcement of alcohol sales laws is handled locally.	

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	
Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws in Rhode Island	
Number of youth served	245
Number of parents served	No data
Number of caregivers served	No data
Numbers pertain to the 12 months ending	12/31/2010
Program has been evaluated	No
Evaluation report is available	Not applicable
URL for evaluation report: Not applicable	
URL for more program information: No data	
Program description: Implementation of the Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws (EUDL) formula grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). The program consists of an advisory council and subcommittees, a youth committee/advisory council, law enforcement training and funding, technical assistance, and promising programs.	
RI Substance Abuse Prevention Act	
Number of youth served	No data
Number of parents served	No data
Number of caregivers served	No data
Numbers pertain to the 12 months ending	No data
Program has been evaluated	No
Evaluation report is available	Not applicable
URL for evaluation report: Not applicable	
URL for more program information: No data	
Program description: The State funds 35 municipal task forces that have collaborated on the development of a common-logic model addressing underage drinking as a priority across communities.	

Underage Drinking Prevention Programs Operated or Funded by the State: Programs RELATED TO Underage Drinking	
Student Assistance Program	
URL for more program information: http://risas.org	
Program description: Student assistance programs operate in 20 high schools and 22 middle schools in various communities in the State. Student assistance counselors provide consultation to school staff on a variety of issues including underage drinking and provide assessment and early intervention services for students.	

Additional Information Related to Underage Drinking Prevention Programs	
<i>State collaborates with federally recognized Tribal governments in the prevention of underage drinking</i>	No
Description of collaboration: Not applicable	
<i>State has programs to measure and/or reduce youth exposure to alcohol advertising and marketing</i>	No
Program description: Not applicable	
<i>State has adopted or developed best practice standards for underage drinking prevention programs</i>	Yes
Best practice standards description: All prevention programs funded by the SSA, regardless of funding source, are required to implement evidence-based programs, practices, and policies.	
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> Not applicable	

Underage Drinking Reports	
<i>State has prepared a plan for preventing underage drinking in the last 3 years</i>	No
Prepared by: Not applicable	
Plan can be accessed via: Not applicable	
<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		Data not available for this State
Estimate based on the 12 months ending		Data not available for this State
<i>Checkpoints and saturation patrols:</i>		
Estimate of State funds expended		Data not available for this State
Estimate based on the 12 months ending		Data not available for this State
<i>Community-based programs to prevent underage drinking:</i>		
Estimate of State funds expended		\$1,100,000
Estimate based on the 12 months ending		06/30/2010
<i>K-12 school-based programs to prevent underage drinking:</i>		
Estimate of State funds expended		Data not available for this State
Estimate based on the 12 months ending		Data not available for this State
<i>Programs targeted to institutes of higher learning:</i>		
Estimate of State funds expended		Data not available for this State
Estimate based on the 12 months ending		Data not available for this State

<i>Programs that target youth in the juvenile justice system:</i>		
Estimate of State funds expended	Data not available for this State	
Estimate based on the 12 months ending	Data not available for this State	
<i>Programs that target youth in the child welfare system:</i>		
Estimate of State funds expended	Data not available for this State	
Estimate based on the 12 months ending	Data not available for this State	
<i>Other programs:</i>		
Programs/strategies included:	No data	
Estimate of State funds expended	Not applicable	
Estimate based on the 12 months ending	Not applicable	

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	
<i>Description of funding streams and how they are used:</i>		
No data		
Additional Clarification		
No data		