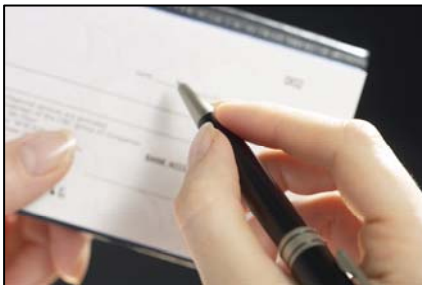


Alcohol abuse carries a big price tag.



\$ We **all** pay for alcohol-related costs—whether we drink alcohol or not. The bill for state and local taxpayers is at least \$923 million per year—that’s \$385 per Minnesota taxpayer each year.

\$ We all pay—especially with **property taxes**—to cover alcohol costs:



- *Police, county sheriff, highway patrol*
- *Fire and emergency response*
- *Courts, county jails, prisons, probation*
- *Chemical dependency treatment and detox*
- *Health care and emergency rooms*
- *Social costs of violence and abuse*

\$ **Minnesota taxpayers** pick up the tab for alcohol abuse. The costs far exceed the revenue from taxes on alcohol. In 2005, just \$260 million was collected from alcohol sales, leaving Minnesota taxpayers with a huge hangover!

This just isn't fair—let's reduce the tab on the Minnesota property taxpayer!

- *Increase the Minnesota alcohol excise tax by at least 5¢ a drink.*
- *Dedicate the funds to prevent alcohol-related problems and deal with the costs of alcohol abuse.*

Here's why it's time to face the facts about WHO PAYS for the cost of alcohol abuse in Minnesota:

- During 2001-05, there were 1,079 alcohol-related traffic deaths in Minnesota. Over 427,000 MN motorists have a DWI on their record—that's 1 out of every 9 drivers. (MN Supreme Court)
- Alcohol kills over 100,000 people in the United States each year, ranking as the third leading preventable cause of death. (U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- The cost to Minnesotans for special education and juvenile justice for children affected by fetal alcohol spectrum disorder is more than \$25 million per year. (MOFAS)
- The alcohol excise tax is a true "user fee." Most people who drink pay very little tax, while the heaviest drinkers will pay more. (MN Department of Revenue)
- Minnesota excise tax on alcohol is only pennies per drink: 1.4¢ on a glass of beer, 1.2¢ on a glass of wine, and 5.9¢ on a shot of liquor. (MN Department of Revenue)
- Minnesota alcohol taxes are low compared to other states. For beer, we rank 33 out of 50; for wine, we rank 44 out of 50. (Federation of Tax Administrators)
- The alcohol excise tax was last increased in Minnesota in 1987. Since 2002, 10 states have increased their alcohol excise tax. (MN Department of Revenue)
- Research finds that an increase in the alcohol excise tax will reduce teen drinking. (National Academy of Sciences)
- Surveys show that three out of four Minnesotans support increasing the alcohol tax to pay for public safety, prevention, and treatment of alcohol problems. (AARP, RWJ Foundation)

"Facing Alcohol's Costs to Society"

JOIN the FACTS Coalition!

- Action on Alcohol and Teens
- AMC - Association of Minnesota Counties
- Brain Injury Association of Minnesota
- Dakota County Attorney's Office
- LPHA - Local Public Health Association
- MADD-Minnesota
- MARRCH - MN Assoc. of Resources for Recovery & Chemical Health
- MICA - Metropolitan Inter-County Association
- MACCAC - MN Association of Community Corrections Act Counties
- MACPO - Minnesota Association of County Probation Officers
- MACSSA - MN Assoc. of County Social Service Administrators
- MCAA - Minnesota County Attorneys Association
- MPRC - MN Prevention Resource Center
- MPHA - Minnesota Public Health Association
- Minnesota Sheriff's Association
- Minnesota Criminal Justice System DWI Task Force
- MMA - Minnesota Medical Association
- Minnesotans for Safe Driving

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***Working together to reduce
underage drinking through policy change***