Our research supports the assertion that alcohol consumption and related problems can be reduced by a number of public policies aimed at restricting alcohol availability. Effective availability restrictions can be economic (e.g., alcohol taxes or minimum allowable prices), demographic (e.g., minimum legal drinking ages, MLDA), or physical (e.g., limits on alcohol outlet densities).

We would like to note three of our recent studies that are particularly relevant to your proposal. Our May 2007 paper in *Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research* (vol. 31, pp. 804-813) used U.S. panel data to show significant reductions in youth traffic fatalities in response to raising beer taxes and the MLDA. Our January 2006 study in that same journal (vol. 30, pp. 96-105) used Swedish data to show that price increases are most effective in reducing total alcohol consumption when they are concentrated on the lowest cost beverages, as would be the case with minimum-price policies. And finally, our recent 2009 study published in *Addiction* (vol. 104, pp. 1827-1836) used data from British Columbia, Canada, to show that greater numbers of outlets are related to greater alcohol sales.

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