



Southern African
Alcohol Policy Alliance

SAAPA

Obstacles to policy development in SA

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Alcohol Consumption in South Africa

- **1 in 3 people over 15 years drink (31%) but 2 in 3 of them drink heavily**
- **Heavy and binge drinking amongst 15-19-year-olds**
- **Experimentation amongst under 13-year-olds**

Some of the Alcohol harm

- In SA 171 deaths a day
- In SA 59% of car crash drivers test positive for alcohol
- A pooled analysis of 4 studies in Africa found that men's harmful alcohol use increased their risk of perpetrating IPV by more than three times; and women who reported that their partners were often drunk were at almost six times greater risk of experiencing IPV.

Cost of Alcohol harm

- Total tangible and non-tangible cost per annum = 10-12% of GDP (2013)

Availability

- Trading hours – national vs provincial vs local not uniform
- Density
- Legal drinking age – not enforced/ pass the ‘buck’
- Unlicensed sector – ‘blind eye’
- Container sizes – not regulated



★ **147** Alcohol outlets

☆ **36** Schools

Unregulated advertising

Government support self-regulation





Pricing

- SA been rated 1 of top 5 cities for cheapest beer
- Bigger containers decrease price



Liquor licensing process

- Liquor licenses a provincial competency (9) – outdated legislation; obliged to consider all applications
- Notification of liquor license application – government gazette, local newspaper, A4 size notice on the proposed premise
- Limited/Lack of community consultation and input in awarding, monitoring and enforcement of licenses

Obstacles

- Lack of political will – COVID experience reduced availability decreased trauma admissions with 60%
- Political administrative 5-year cycle
- National vs provincial mandate
- Uncoordinated & operate in silos e.g. BELA
- Access of industry to political elite (economic aspirations)
- Corruption
- Unemployment – perceived view that alcohol is one of the few opportunities for entry into economy



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THANK YOU

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