

Alcohol Outlet Density Fact Sheet

Half-Mile Rule: Brief

1. What is the half-mile rule?

- a. The half-mile rule was established in 1979 and limits the number of Specially Designated Distributor (SDD) licenses to no more than one within a half-mile of another. SDD licenses are those that specifically allow the sale of liquor and spirits.

2. Why is the half-mile rule important?

- a. There is evidence to support limiting the number of alcohol outlets in a specific area for public health benefits. Research has shown an association between alcohol outlet density and excessive alcohol consumption, leading to an increase in related harms¹.

3. What does the research say regarding alcohol outlet density?

- a. High alcohol outlet density is an environmental risk factor for excessive alcohol consumption, which is a risk factor for interpersonal violence².
- b. A [research study](#) that evaluated the impact of changes in alcohol outlet density on violent crime in Atlanta found that a modest reduction in alcohol outlet density can substantially reduce exposure to violent crime².
- c. The regulation of alcohol outlet density is also a recommended strategy in [The Community Guide](#). The Community Guide outlines numerous evidence based strategies to reduce excessive drinking.

4. Does Michigan have the capability to perform similar research?

- a. Yes. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently released the [Guide for Measuring Alcohol Outlet Density](#), which explains in detail how to complete a study of alcohol outlet density for a specific area.

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¹ Task Force on Community Preventive Services. Recommendations for reducing excessive alcohol consumption and alcohol-related harms by limiting alcohol outlet density. *Am J Prev Med* 2009;37(6):570-1.

² Zhang X, Hatcher B, Clarkson L, Holt J, Bagchi S, Kanny D, et al. Changes in Density of On-Premises Alcohol Outlets and Impact on Violent Crime, Atlanta, Georgia, 1997–2007. *Prev Chronic Dis* 2015;12:140317. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.5888/pcd12.140317>.