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 harms\(^1\).

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 violence\(^2\).
   b. A [research study](http://dx.doi.org/10.5888/pcd12.140317) 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 crime\(^2\).
   c. The regulation of alcohol outlet density is also a recommended strategy in [The Community Guide](http://www.cdc.gov/communityguide). 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](http://www.cdc.gov/communityguide), which explains in detail how to complete a study of alcohol outlet density for a specific area.

For more information, please contact Patrick Hindman (Alcohol Epidemiologist) by phone or e-mail, at:

Phone: 517-335-5027 | E-mail: hindmanp@michigan.gov

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