

Hours of Sale: Policy Brief

Summary:

In Michigan, a business that sells alcohol for onsite consumption (on-premise) is allowed to sell alcohol until 2 a.m. New rules may allow businesses in any city, village, or township to extend the hours of sale. With local legislative approval by a majority vote, an on-premise licensee would be allowed to sell alcohol between:

- 2 a.m. and 4 a.m. any day of the week

An extended hour's permit will not be granted unless the applicant has already been approved by the local legislative body in which the applicant's place of business is located.

Public Health Impact:

According to research compiled by The Community Guide¹, extending the hours of sale by 2 to 4 hours was associated with:

- An increase in alcohol consumption.
- A relative increase in motor vehicle crash injuries ranging from 4 percent to 11 percent.
- A shift in timing of motor vehicle crashes corresponding to the change in closing time of the alcohol outlet.

Additional studies found an increase in emergency room admissions, injuries, violence, and suspected driving while intoxicated, as well as an increase in alcohol-related assault and injury.¹

Current Michigan Environment:

In 2017, there were 10,265 crashes that involved alcohol in Michigan, a 5 percent increase from 2016.² On average, that's 28 alcohol-related crashes per day. Of the 937 fatal crashes that occurred in Michigan, 320 (34.2 percent) were alcohol related.² Additionally:

- There were 359 alcohol-related fatalities in 2017, a 31 percent increase from 2016.²
- Of the 320 had-been-drinking (HBD) fatal crashes that occurred in Michigan in 2017, 21 percent occurred on a Saturday. An additional 18 percent occurred on a Sunday.³
- Nearly a quarter (24 percent) of HBD fatal motor vehicle crashes occurred between 12 a.m. and 3 a.m., and an additional 21 percent occurred between 3 a.m. and 6 a.m.²
- Compared to 2016, nearly half (48 percent) of Michigan counties had an increase in HBD fatalities in 2017.³

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¹ The Community Guide. Excessive alcohol consumption. Retrieved from: <https://www.thecommunityguide.org/findings/alcohol-excessive-consumption-maintaining-limits-hours-sale>

² Michigan Traffic Crash Facts. 2019. Retrieved from: <http://publications.michigantrafficcrashfacts.org/2017/MTCFVol1.pdf>

³ Michigan Traffic Crash Facts. 2019. Retrieved from: <http://publications.michigantrafficcrashfacts.org/2017/Alcohol.pdf>