



KANSAS HEALTH INSTITUTE

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House Commerce, Labor, and Economic Development Committee
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**A Health Impact Assessment of Changes
to the Kansas Liquor Control Act (in progress)**

House Bill 2556

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To improve the health of all Kansans by supporting effective policy making, engaging at the state and community levels, and providing non-partisan, actionable and evidence-based information.

Informing Policy. Improving Health.

Chairman Kleeb and Members of the Committee:

My name is Tatiana Lin and I am a senior analyst with the Kansas Health Institute, where I lead work on community health improvement. KHI is a nonprofit, nonpartisan health policy and research organization based here in Topeka, founded in 1995 with a multiyear grant from the Kansas Health Foundation.

Thank you for the opportunity to make a brief presentation and provide information on the ongoing health impact assessment surrounding House Bill 2556. The Kansas Health Institute does not take positions on legislation, and therefore we are not here to speak either for or against HB 2556. Rather, we want to make you aware that KHI is in the process of conducting a health impact assessment to determine potential positive or negative impacts on community health as a result of changes to the Kansas Liquor Control Act.

A health impact assessment – or HIA – is a new tool that brings health considerations into policy discussions, where health isn't always considered. When the research is complete, the HIA will recommend evidence-based strategies to maximize the potential positive health impacts of that policy decision, while mitigating the negative health impacts. KHI has completed two HIAs in recent years (one related to casino development and one related to a transit system in Wichita).

HB 2556 makes changes in the licensing process for liquor retailers under the Kansas Liquor Control Act and defines who is eligible to hold retail liquor licenses. Specifically, the bill would permit convenience and grocery stores to hold retail liquor licenses. The bill also sets specific dates for the granting of retailer class A, B, and C licenses.

In 2013, the Kansas Health Institute, in partnership with the KU School of Medicine in Wichita, was awarded a grant from the National Network of Public Health Institutes (NNPHI) and the Health Impact Project, a collaboration of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and The Pew Charitable Trusts, to identify the potential positive and negative health effects associated with allowing convenience and grocery stores to hold retail liquor licenses. The results of the HIA will then be shared with state policymakers.

In order to assess the potential health effects of expansion of Kansas liquor licenses, the HIA team has followed several steps: reviewed existing literature, analyzed state and national data, and gathered stakeholder input from groups such as grocery and convenience stores, liquor stores, public health officials, family organizations and prevention centers that promote healthy youth behaviors.

The HIA primarily focuses on potential impacts that could result from permitting convenience and grocery stores to hold retail liquor licenses. This might result in changes to the number of off-premise retail alcohol outlets in Kansas.

Although the impact of alcohol consumption on health is well-documented, it is unclear whether an increase in density of off-premise retail alcohol outlets (that may result from this legislation) would have an impact on the consumption behaviors of Kansans. It is also unclear how this could impact other socioeconomic factors and related health outcomes.

To answer these and other questions, KHI has been assessing a variety of effects that could be associated with density of off-premise retail alcohol outlets that could potentially result in health impacts (Attachment 1) including: economic (e.g., employment, local and state tax revenue), behavioral (e.g., alcohol consumption, DUIs, crime), and health outcomes (e.g., injuries, morbidity, mortality). The HIA will provide recommendations for options to minimize the identified potential health risks, and optimize potential health benefits.

We are in the process of finalizing the health impact assessment findings and recommendations. Today, we would like to share with you two preliminary findings which could result in health impacts. Table 1 includes findings regarding consumption, as related to the regulation of alcohol sales and the density of off-premise retail alcohol outlets. This table does not describe the related health impacts. We plan to share the projected health impacts of these findings and other results in March.

Table 1. Preliminary Findings

Preliminary HIA findings	
Question 1: What is the impact of regulation of alcohol sales on consumption?	
Literature and Data	Alcohol sales regulations have various components, including hours of sales, age of seller, retail sale and distribution license requirements. These regulations may impact consumption. For example, in Kansas and 16 peer states, higher alcohol consumption was correlated with more weekly hours of alcohol sales. Although hours of sale is an important measure of strictness of alcohol sale regulation, it is just one component of regulation and the impact on consumption may depend on the strictness of other components. Each component is difficult to quantify in isolation.
Findings	More lenient alcohol sales laws have been associated with increased consumption. Currently, Kansas is among the states with the most restrictive alcohol sale laws.
Question #2: What would be the impact of increased density of off-premise retail alcohol outlets on consumption?	
Literature and Data	Overall, the majority of published studies suggest that the density of off-premise retail alcohol outlets affects consumption. These studies included research done within the U.S. (which are related specifically to the relationship of liquor store density and consumption, and mostly do not consider all off-premise retail alcohol outlets such as grocery and convenience stores) and research published outside the U.S, which examined the relationship of all off-premise retail alcohol outlets . [It is important to note that studies conducted outside of the U.S. took place within different social, physical and regulatory

Preliminary HIA findings	
	<p>environments, and therefore should be carefully applied in understanding the impact on density of off-premise retail alcohol outlets and consumption in Kansas.]</p> <p>However, the impact on consumption is clearer for on-premise alcohol sale outlets (such as restaurants and bars). Research has revealed that increased density of on-premise alcohol sale outlets increased consumption.</p> <p>KHI analyses of nationwide data also find that liquor store density is correlated with self-reported measures of alcohol consumption. However, the same results are not observed when all access points (e.g., liquor stores, grocery stores, convenience stores) are considered; all access point density was not found to be correlated with alcohol consumption.</p> <p>In Kansas, off-premise retail alcohol outlets were not correlated with overall consumption. This was true for both liquor stores and for outlets that sell cereal malt beverages.</p> <p>Further data analyses show that self-reported measures of youth consumption were strongly correlated with density of off-premise retail alcohol outlets.</p>
Findings	<p>Published studies suggest that off-premise outlet density is associated with overall consumption, although KHI analyses of available data is mixed and leans toward no impact on consumption. However, both published studies and KHI analyses of available data show that increase in density of off-premise retail alcohol outlets may impact youth consumption.</p> <p>Based on the mix of data and research it is unclear whether the sale of alcohol in grocery stores and convenience stores will have a similar impact on consumption as has been found for liquor stores.</p>

If you have any questions regarding this health impact assessment, please contact me at (785) 233-5443 or tlin@khi.org.