

NABCA Control State Results

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January 12, 2018

Please visit NABCA's new website at www.nabca.org

SAVE THE DATE

Registration Is Now Open for the Legal Symposium! Visit www.nabca.org to register.

MARCH 18-20, 2018

25th Annual Symposium on Alcohol Beverage Law & Regulation at the Crystal Gateway Marriott in Arlington, VA.

Join government, legal and industry professionals for a symposium that offers the chance to hear the latest on legal issues related to alcohol beverages. Session topics currently planned include *Here Comes the Judge*, *The Lens of Time: 1st versus 25th NABCA Legal Symposium*, *Trade Practices: A Civil Matter?* plus many others. Watch for registration materials in the coming months! Continuing Legal Education (CLE) credit is available for many states. For more information, go to www.nabca.org.

APRIL 11-13, 2018

Alcohol Policy 18: *Evidence To Action - Building an Evidence-Based Social Movement* Renaissance Arlington Capital View Hotel, Arlington, Virginia. For additional information on hotel, important dates and more, please visit the AP18 Conference website. **AP18 Registration Now Open!**

APRIL 30–MAY 1, 2018

2018 RRForum National Conference - hosted by the Michigan Liquor Control Commission and will be held in Detroit.

MAY 21-24, 2018

81st Annual Conference will be held at the Arizona Biltmore, Phoenix, AZ. **Theme: Bridging Divides;** For more information, visit www.nabca.com website.

JUNE 3-5, 2018

2ND Annual Beverage Alcohol Retailers Conference - Denver, Colorado
Registration is open and sponsorship information is available at www.BevRetailersConference.com.

Secure your early bird rate before prices increase on February 9. Seating is limited.

JULY 18-20, 2018**8th Biennial Northwest Alcohol & Substance Abuse Conference**

Riverside Hotel, Boise Idaho

The Pre-Conference Sessions are on Wednesday. The official conference kicks off Thursday morning. Visit NorthwestAlcoholConference.org for more information.

NABCA HIGHLIGHTS**Native American Nations & State Alcohol Policies: An Analysis**

Sunday Alcohol Sales (July 2017)

Alcohol Technology in the World of Tomorrow - (White Paper)

The Control State Agency Info Sheets. Please view website for more information.

NABCA Survey Database – now available for members on the website.

www.NABCA.org



NABCA CONTROL STATE RESULTS

Control State Results for November 2017

Control State Results
January 10, 2017

During November, nine-liter control states spirits case sales, influenced by reporting anomalies in Michigan and Utah and in spite of a rather strong comp, grew 6.6% over same period sales last year. Alabama (4.3%), Michigan (25.9%), Mississippi (1.6%), Montana (5.3%), North Carolina (3.8%), New Hampshire (4.5%), Utah (28.2%), Virginia (4.8%), Vermont (3.4%), West Virginia (3.8%), and Wyoming (4.5%) reported monthly growth rates for November that exceeded their twelve month trends. The growth rates for Iowa (-0.9%), Idaho (3.4%), Montgomery County Maryland (-4.1%), Maine (3.3%), Ohio (2.7%), Oregon (2.7%), and Pennsylvania (0.2%) fell short of matching their twelve month trends. Control state rolling-twelve month volume growth, 3.1%, was a slight improvement over October's reported 3.0%. Spirits volumes have grown 3.1% year-to-date compared to 2.8% a year ago.

Control state spirits shelf dollars were up 9.2% during November while trending at 5.3% during the past twelve months. Alabama (9.1%), Montgomery County Maryland (3.6%), Maine (6.8%), Michigan (28.6%), Mississippi (4.1%), Montana (8.2%), New Hampshire (5.1%), Ohio (6.5%), Utah (31.1%), Virginia (6.5%), West Virginia (9.1%), and Wyoming (5.5%) reported growth rates exceeding their twelve month trends. Iowa (1.5%), Idaho (5.3%), North Carolina (5.7%), Oregon (4.5%), Pennsylvania (0.7%), and Vermont (4.6%) grew shelf dollars at rates below their twelve month trends. Shelf dollars in the control states are up 5.4% year-to-date compared to 5.0% last year.

Price/Mix for November is 2.6%, up from October's 2.1%.

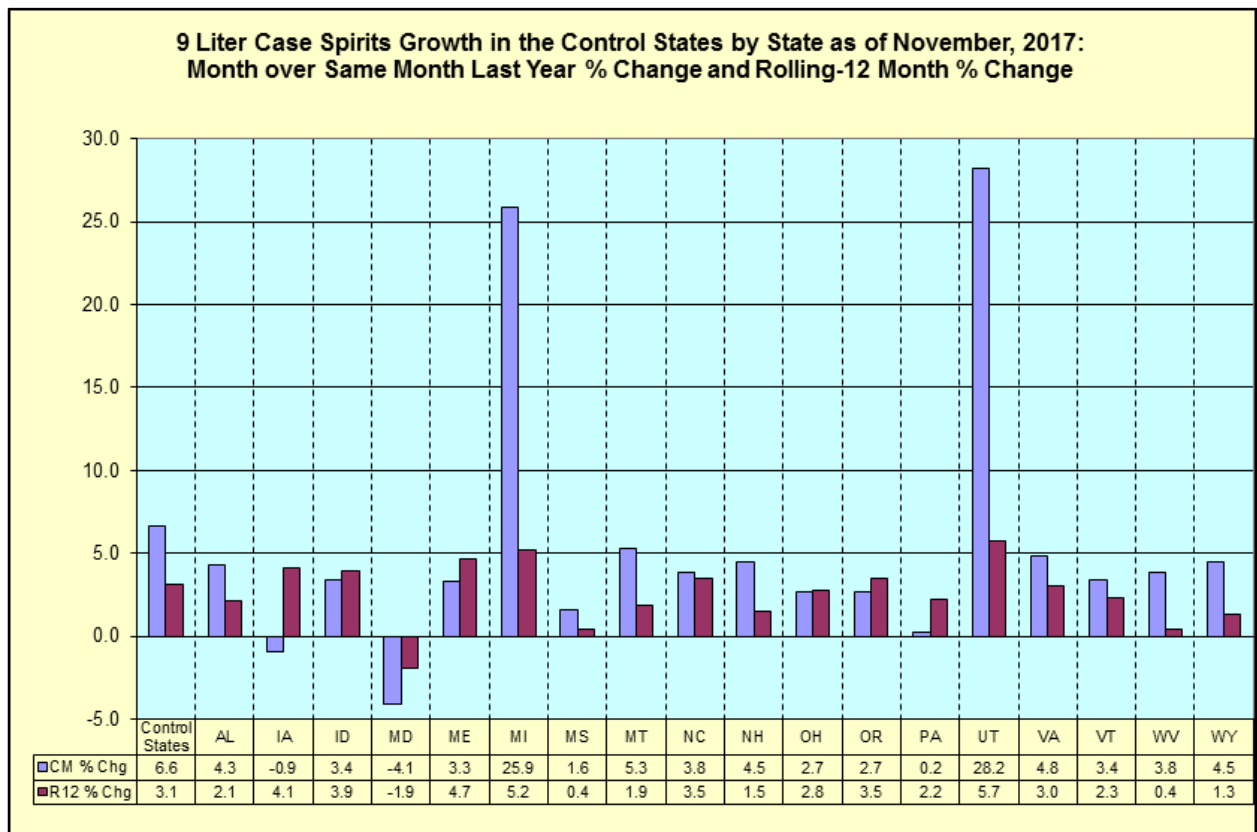
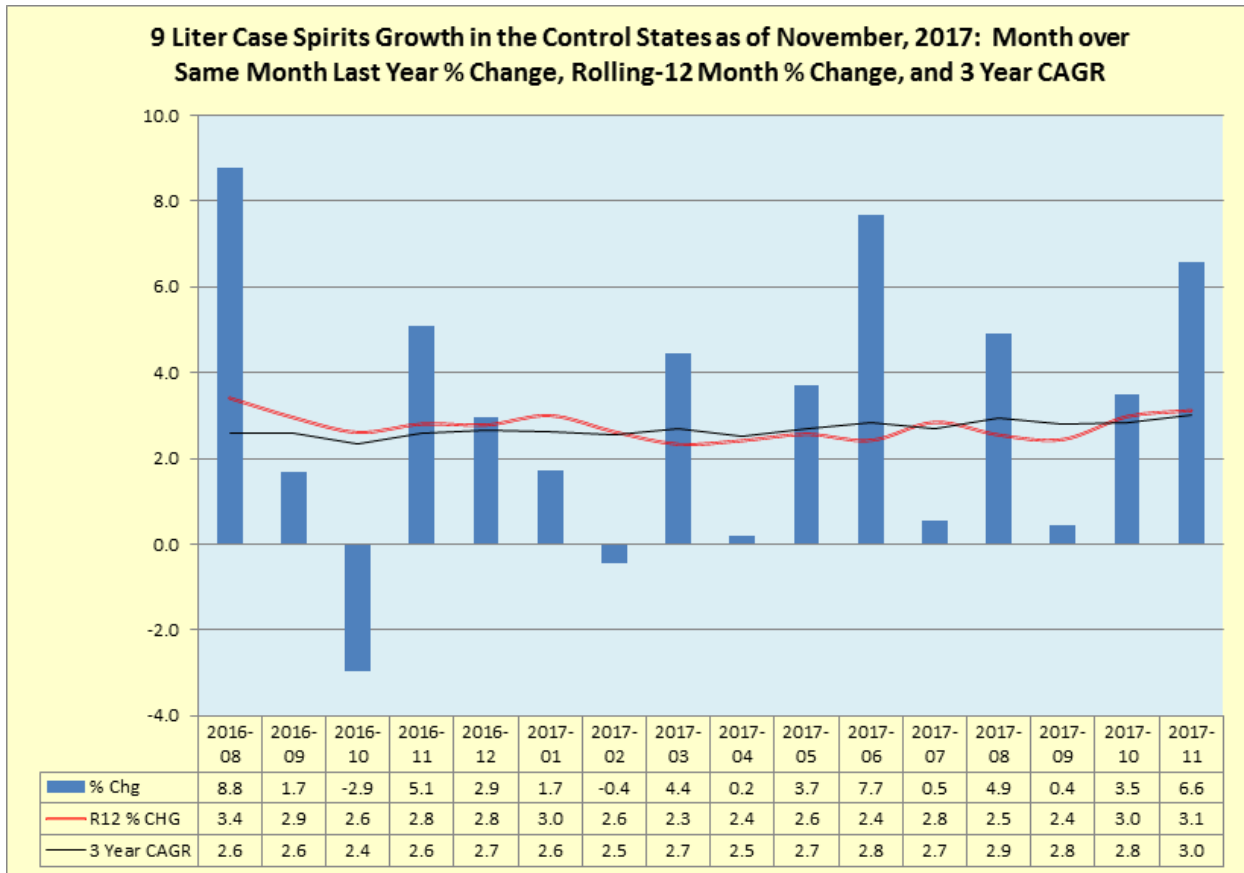
November's Control State spirits nine-liter case and shelf dollar growth rates were effected by the Control States' reporting calendars:

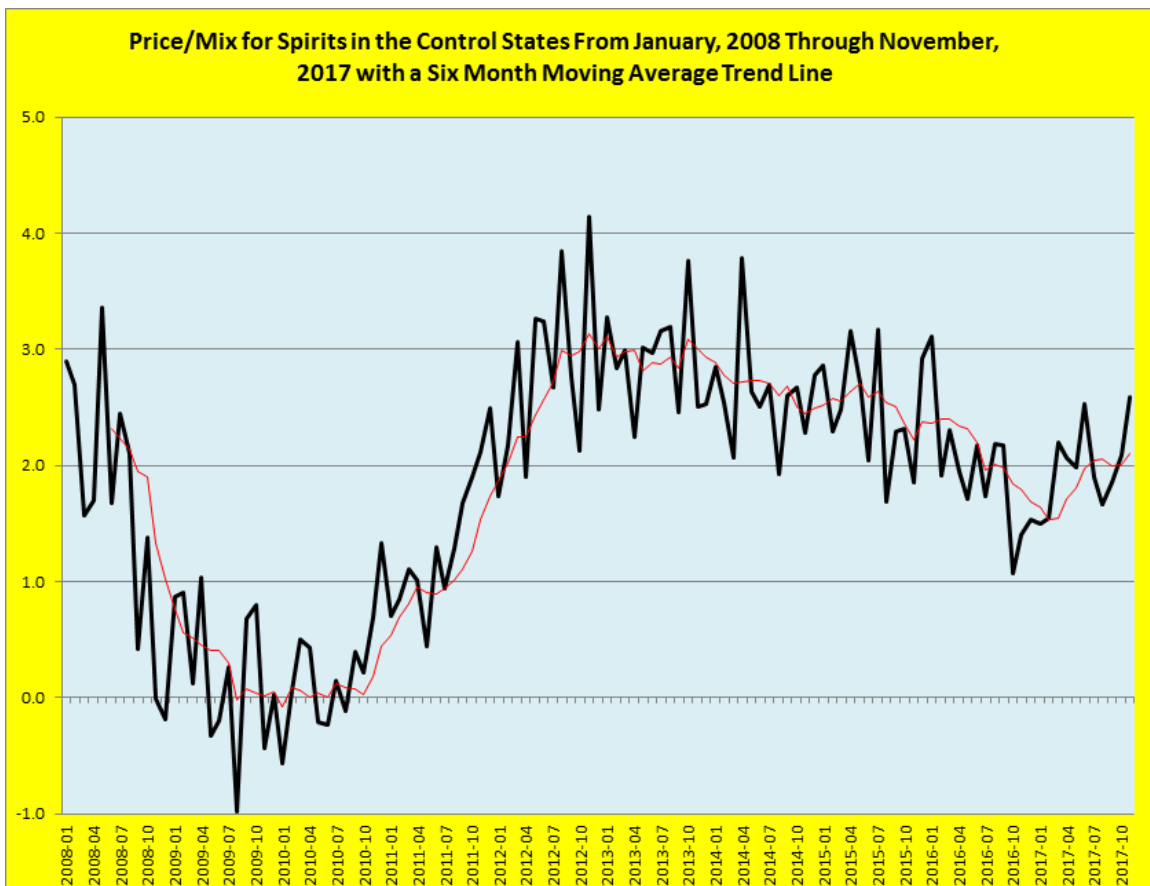
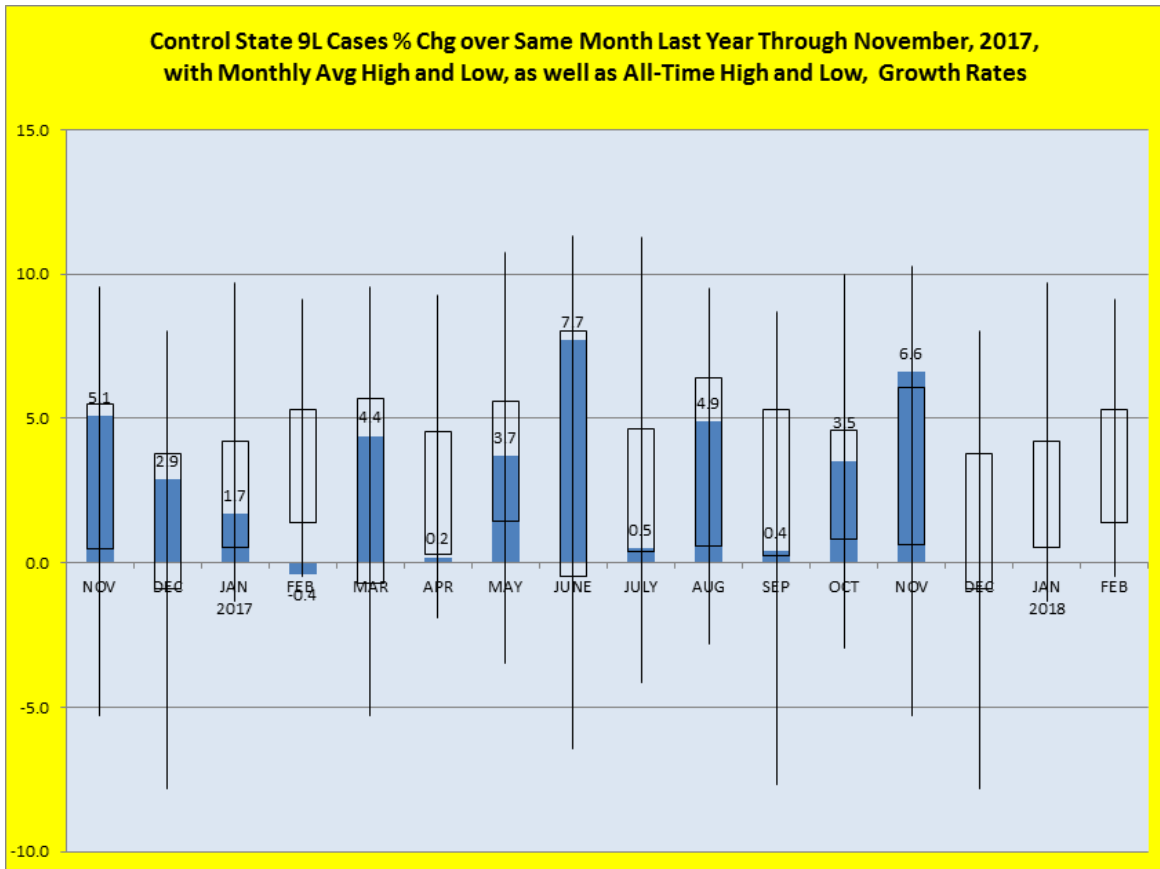
- Utah, with 2.6% of Control States' spirits nine-liter case volumes and dollars, reported five weeks of sales this year versus four weeks of sales during November 2016, artificially inflating sales and skewing Control States results. Utah had six more selling days during this year's November than during last year's,
- Michigan, with 17.4% of Control States' spirits nine-liter case volumes and 15.6% of Control States' dollars, reported five weeks of sales this year versus four weeks of sales during November 2016, artificially inflating sales and skewing Control States results. Michigan had seven more selling days during this year's November than during last year's.
- Overall, November 2017 had thirteen more selling days, 2.5% more, than last year's November.
- After equalizing nine-liter spirits case sales with respect to selling-day variations, November's volumetric growth is 2.3%, and rolling-twelve-month volume is up 2.5%. Likewise, after equalizing shelf dollars, November's control states shelf dollar growth rate is 4.6% with a twelve-month trend of 4.4%.
- September's equalized Price/Mix is 2.3%.

Irish Whiskey, with 1% share of the nine-liter case control states spirits market, was November's fastest growing category with 20.4% reported and a twelve month trend of 15.4%. Vodka, with 35% share, grew during the same periods at 5.7% and 2.3%, respectively. Tequila (11.1%), Domestic Whiskey (9.2%), Scotch (8.7%), Cocktails (8.2%), Vodka (5.7%), Cordials (5.6%), Canadian Whiskey (5.5%), Rum (5.4%), and Gin (3.1%) grew at rates at or above their twelve month trends, whereas Brandy/Cognac (4.8%) grew at a rate below its.

November's nine-liter wine case sales growth rate was 0.8%. Pennsylvania (reporting -1.3% nine-liter case growth for wines), New Hampshire (-0.9%), Utah (24.6%), Mississippi (1.2%), Montgomery County Maryland (-0.5%), and Wyoming (1.2%) are the control states that are the sole wholesalers of wines and spirits within their geographical boundaries. Rolling-twelve month wine volume growth in these six control states was 2.4%, down slightly from October's reported 2.7%.

	9L Cases CM % Chg	Shelf \$ CM % Chg	Price/Mix	Control States
Total Control States	6.6	9.2	2.6%	
Central Region	8.3	11.3	3.0%	IA, MD, MI, OH, PA, WV
NE Region	4.0	5.5	1.5%	ME, NH, VT
NW Region	7.7	9.6	1.9%	ID, MT, OR, UT, WY
Southern Region	3.9	6.4	2.5%	AL, MS, NC, VA





CONTROL STATE NEWS

MS: Breweries and distilleries in Mississippi toast tax cut

MS News Now

Posted by Marsha Thompson, News Anchor

January 11, 2018

Small homegrown operations that make beer, liquor and even wine say the tax reform act passed by Congress will help them grow their businesses.

Lucky Town Brewing Company in Jackson, that turns out craft beer, is raising a pint to the excise tax cut.

"It's going to help us have a little extra revenue off our products, maybe even cut a few costs add a little bit of help," said Lucas Simmons, the brewmaster for Lucky Town Brewery, "every bit of money helps. it's not going to be the biggest thing in the world but every little bit of money helps."

The Craft Beverage Modernization and Tax Reform Act cuts the federal excise tax on spirits, wine, and beer. Industry leaders say this will allow producers to invest back in their businesses and communities across the United States.

VA: Virginia tourism: \$2.2 billion growth during McAuliffe administration

Augusta Free Press

January 12, 2018

Governor Terry McAuliffe announced that there have been \$1.4 billion in private investments towards Virginia's tourism industry since he took office in 2014. The Commonwealth's tourism industry also saw \$2.2 billion in total growth during the McAuliffe administration, representing a compound annual growth rate of 3.3 percent.

"Virginia's tourism industry is a critical component of the new Virginia economy, providing jobs for our citizens and funneling millions of dollars back into our communities," said Governor McAuliffe. "My team and I have traveled across the globe to promote Virginia as a premier destination, showcasing our beautiful scenery, rich history, and incredible culinary offerings, in addition to our outstanding oysters, wine, craft beer, cider, and distilled spirits. I am proud of the continued growth we've seen in this important industry, which helps us spread the message that Virginia is for Lovers."

Since taking office in January 2014, Governor McAuliffe has been a leading advocate for the Virginia tourism industry. The Governor, accompanied by members of his Cabinet and representatives from the Virginia Tourism Corporation, Virginia Economic Development Partnership, and Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, has completed 35 trade and marketing missions in the United States and around the globe to promote Virginia as a premier travel destination for domestic and international visitors, as well as a prime site to relocate or start-up businesses in the United States.

Governor McAuliffe has made a total of 115 announcements relating to new tourism products, events, and developments, as well as announcements relating to the filming of episodic television shows and motion picture projects in the Commonwealth. This robust support of the tourism and film industries led to record-breaking visitor spending each year of the McAuliffe administration. The craft beverage industry has also surged under his leadership – Virginia now boasts more than 250 craft breweries, more than 280 wineries, 57 distilleries, and more than 20 cideries.

"As the fifth-largest private employer in Virginia, the travel industry is an important sector of the Virginia economy, contributing to the quality of life for our residents and making Virginia the best place to live, work, and raise a family," said Todd Haymore, Secretary of Commerce and Trade. "That's why the McAuliffe administration, working in close partnership with the private sector, the General Assembly, and many others, has been dedicated to growing the tourism industry by encouraging more economic development and new product, which help Virginia compete to be the best place in the country and the world to visit."

Additionally, Governor McAuliffe has awarded more than \$3.3 million in matching tourism grants across the Commonwealth, helping localities leverage limited marketing dollars and maximize their ability to compete in an overly saturated, overly competitive market. Due to Governor McAuliffe and his administration's support of tourism development and marketing, every region in Virginia has reported economic growth annually during his tenure.

In 2016, domestic travelers spent nearly \$65 million per day across the Commonwealth. Employees in Virginia's travel industry earned \$5.6 billion in payroll income, representing a 5.4 percent increase over 2015. The largest increase in travel expenditures was in the food and lodging sectors, with a \$630 million increase compared to 2015. In recently released data, all regions across the Commonwealth saw tourism growth in 2016.

"Governor McAuliffe's leadership has encouraged unparalleled growth for Virginia, helping to advance every sector of the tourism economy," said Rita McClenny, President and CEO of Virginia Tourism Corporation. "The Governor's passion and enthusiasm for our great Commonwealth is infectious, and he has been an outstanding ambassador by promoting the Virginia is for Lovers message across the globe. We are grateful for the Governor's dedication, support, and leadership, as he has piloted us year after year towards record-breaking visitor spending, job creation, and economic growth."

Governor McAuliffe has also demonstrated a commitment to Virginia's growing agritourism industry. In April, he announced the economic impact of the agritourism sector in Virginia, a growing division of the tourism industry. The study, conducted by the Virginia Tech Pamplin College of Business, showed that Virginia's agritourism industry accounts for \$2.2 billion in economic activity. The report also showed that the economic activity attributed to the Commonwealth's 1,400 agritourism businesses support 22,000 jobs, contribute \$840 million in income, and inject \$135 million in state and local taxes into Virginia's economy. The study was the first statewide benchmark report to measure the economic and fiscal impacts of Virginia's agritourism industry.

Tourism is an instant revenue generator for the Commonwealth, representing almost \$23.7 billion in revenue in 2016, a 10.2 percent increase from 2013 when the tourism industry generated approximately \$21.5 billion in revenue. Today, visitor spending in Virginia supports 230,000 jobs with 16,000 of those added during Governor McAuliffe's tenure, representing a 7.6 percent increase. Virginia's tourism industry also provides \$1.7 billion in state and local taxes, with a compound annual growth rate of 5.6 percent. Virginia welcomed more than 45 million visitors from across the United States last year, a record high for domestic travel to the Commonwealth.

The Virginia Tourism Corporation (VTC) is the state agency responsible for marketing Virginia as a premier travel destination and promoting the 49-year-old "Virginia is for Lovers" brand, the longest-running state tourism slogan in the country. VTC operates as a fully integrated marketing unit charged with increasing brand awareness through owned, earned, and paid media opportunities, as well as social media strategies.

VTC receives its annual economic impact data from the U.S. Travel Association. The information is based on domestic visitor spending (travelers from within the United States) from per-person trips taken 50 miles or more away from home. To view detailed economic impact data by locality, please visit www.vatc.org/research/economicimpact.

LICENSE STATE NEWS

TN: Tennessee bill would ban sale of alcohol, alter driver's license of DUI offenders

FOX 17 News

By Adrian Mojica

January 11, 2018

NASHVILLE, Tenn.--A Tennessee state representative hopes to prevent drunk driving by banning offenders from being able to purchase alcohol.

A bill being drafted by Kingsport Republican Rep. Bud Hulseby would impose the ban for offenders based on offense.

FOX 17 News spoke with Rep. Hulseby on Thursday for insight on how the law would work if passed.

Hulseby says a first-time DUI offender who is found guilty would lose their license for a year, a punishment which is already law. But under Hulseby's bill, once that offender goes to apply for a new license, the license would have a red stripe indicating the holder is not allowed to purchase alcohol for one year from the date the license is issued.

The bill would not stop there. A second-time DUI offender would lose their license for two years and once they receive a new license, it would have a red stripe indicating they can't buy alcohol for two years after it's issued.

If an offender commits a third DUI offense, the driver would then have the red stripe banning them from purchasing alcohol for the rest of their driving career.

Under the bill, any vendor who sells alcohol to a person with a red stripe on their license would be faced with a Class C misdemeanor, making the seller subject to up to 5 months 29 days in jail and a fine.

Hulsey, a former Kingsport Police officer for 36 years, told FOX 17 News something has to be done.

"We've gotta do something that has some affect," Hulsey says. "People who lose people in DUI crashes never get over it. People who are maimed never get over it."

Hulsey also addressed some concerns about those calling it a prohibition bill.

"Some people are claiming this is a prohibition bill. It's not about the sale of alcohol, this is about selling to an offender."

The notion of it being a prohibition bill is also negated considering an offender could find ways to get alcohol.

"The offender isn't banned from drinking," says Hulsey, "that's why it's not a prohibition bill. If a family member or someone wants to give them alcohol they can still drink it. It's a loophole in the bill that can't be plugged up. It's not illegal for the offender to drink."

Hulsey does add that existing DUI by consent laws would still impact those who provide alcohol to a person who commits an offense.

Hulsey says legal counsel currently has the bill and he already has other representatives interested in co-sponsoring.

He is also waiting on a hard number from the Safety Department on what the cost would be to the state for placing the red line and language on an offender's license. "It's likely going to be somewhere around fifteen dollars but that fee will be passed on to the offender. They'll have to pay it."

If the bill is successful and passes, Hulsey says he is already thinking of what could be done to prevent people from driving while under the influence of prescription drugs.

"I gotta find a way to deal with that," Hulsey told FOX 17 News. "There are more people driving impaired now than those driving drunk. I'm asking my constituents and others for their feedback on how we can stop that problem as well."

FL: Controversial beer bill pits Florida theme parks against brewers and distributors

Tampa Bay Business Journal
By Janelle Irwin – Reporter
January 11, 2018

A controversial bill allowing beer ads in Florida theme parks passed its first Senate committee Wednesday despite pushback from some in the beer industry.

The Senate narrowly rejected a similar measure last year after weeks of back and forth negotiations between the players, but it is back on the table this year.

Opponents of the bill, including the Beer Industry of Florida that represents craft beer distributors and MillerCoors, argue it gives theme parks extortion power over beer brands by demanding advertising dollars. That could give outsized buying power to larger brands.

Universal Orlando rejects that claim, saying the bill's reach is narrow, only affects Tampa and Orlando where large theme parks are located, and doesn't undermine the craft beer industry.

"They can't buy Super Bowl commercials," said Universal Orlando lobbyist Mac Stipanovich. "But that's just the way of things."

Tampa-based Pepin Distributing opposes the bill, but said it could be neutral with some changes.

Sen. Greg Steube (R-Sarasota) filed an amendment to the bill that would have appeased distributors like Pepin, but it was withdrawn for lack of support. Steube's amendment would have blocked beer brands and manufacturers from providing merchandise or other perks other than advertising to theme parks.

The bill's sponsor, Sen. Travis Hutson (R-Elkton), acknowledged the beer industry is still not on board with the bill as it's currently written, but that the players need to be on the same page before he can reconcile the bill to appease concerns. Hutson said he's willing to find middle ground, but wants to wait until there is consensus so there can be one amendment rather than a series of changes.

Meanwhile, another beer-related bill moved through the same committee Wednesday. Sen. Dana Young's (R-Tampa) alcohol delivery bill would allow alcohol retailers to use third party drivers to deliver alcoholic products. The popular ridesharing company Uber supports the measure.

Both bills head next to the Senate's Commerce and Tourism Committee and both have companion bills in the House.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

China Ends Service That Lets You Pay People to Get Drunk For You

NextShark

By Carl Samson

January 11, 2018

Just two weeks after launching a service that lets users find people to drink alcohol for them, a Chinese company decided to cease operations over regulation concerns.

Founded in 2011, eDaijia, based in Beijing, introduced eDaihe, which means “to drink on behalf of,” on Dec. 28, 2017. The service allows users to find surrogate drinkers based on location and drinking capacity as well as their personal introduction.

According to the company, more than 100,000 people signed up to become surrogate drinkers in the first 24 hours.

The service was reportedly set in time for China’s long holiday season.

“Most people who drink are social animals, so we thought why don’t we launch a surrogate drinking service to help them make friends,” company spokesman He Dongpeng told the South China Morning Post.

The fact that drinking has long been considered a vital social skill in China affirmed eDaihe’s value. Refusing a drink, for instance, can be considered disrespectful and cost one his/her career.

This is why surrogate drinkers must be shocked when the service disappeared on Wednesday, Jan. 10.

“The service is not in line with the core socialist values. It doesn’t have enough positive energy. We will be punished [by the authorities] if we get more media attention,” He Dongpeng told the outlet in another article.

Australia: Sharp drop in Australian teenagers’ use of drugs, alcohol and tobacco

Study’s authors attribute the fall to stricter parental attitudes and law reforms that have reduced availability of substances

The Guardian

By Naaman Zhou

January 11, 2018

The consumption of alcohol and tobacco has dropped among Australian teenagers and they are also using fewer drugs than 20 years ago, according to a new study tracking adolescent health since 1999.

The study, from Deakin University and the Murdoch Children’s Research Institute, found the number of teenagers who had consumed alcohol fell from 69% to 45% between 1999 and 2015.

Tobacco use dropped from 45% to 10% over the same period – the steepest decline of all substances – and marijuana use fell from 15% to 4%.

The study’s authors attributed the drop to stricter parental attitudes regarding alcohol, and law reforms that reduced the availability of substances.

Parental supply of alcohol dropped from 22% to 12% between 2007 and 2013, and underage purchases of alcohol fell from 12% to just 1% between 1998 and 2013.

Lead researcher Prof John Toumbourou said it was a success for Australia’s public health campaigns over the years.

“We can see that parents are taking on the advice from our national health guidelines,” Toumborou said. “It shows parents are making radical changes in their attitude to underage drinking and also how they model their own drinking behaviour.”

The study surveyed 41,328 adolescents – with an average age of 13 and a half – between 1999 and 2015 in Victoria, Western Australia and Queensland. Data was collected from anonymous surveys where students self-reported drug and alcohol use.

Of those surveyed, 82.8% were from Victoria, 10.1% from Western Australia and 7.1% from Queensland.

The study’s authors said a “normative change” in attitudes towards teen drinking might have been influenced by a 2009 change to Australia’s national health guidelines.

Between 1998 and 2007, the parental supply of alcohol rose from 15% to 22%. From then, it dropped to 12% by 2013.

“In 2009, the national health guidelines were changed to clearly say young people shouldn’t drink until 18,” Toumborou said. “They were widely promoted from that time onwards.”

“By 2011, a number of states had brought in legislation making it illegal for adults to provide alcohol to young people without the parents’ permission. That was a game-changer. Parents realised they needed signed permission if they were going to host a party serving alcohol.”

Australia’s success could also send a message to other countries, Toumborou said, as it had outperformed Britain and Europe in reducing alcohol use by teenagers over the same period.

“The United States led this movement, and then Australia has been the next one,” he said. “Internationally we probably need to encourage other nations to look at this as an achievable public health target.”

PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS

Alcohol related ER visits on the rise especially among women, finds study

News, Medical and Life Sciences

By Dr. Ananya Mandal, MD

January 11, 2018

According to a recent study, there is a steady rise in the number of individuals visiting the emergency rooms due to complications and problems associated with alcohol consumption over the last few years. The results of the new study appeared in the latest issue of the journal *Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research*.

The study shows that while most Americans drink moderately and safely, there has been a steady rise in the emergency room visits which were 61 percent more in 2014 compared to 2006. The reason for this rise over the past decade is unclear say researchers. Aaron M. White, neuroscientist working at the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism and co-author on the study said that this trend was alarming. He added that there has been an increase of a mere 2 percent in the per capita alcohol consumption over this period of time. In all there has been an 8 percent rise in the number of emergency room visits for this as well as other reasons. The steep rise in the alcohol related ER visits that was 3 million in 2006 and 5 million in 2014 thus remains unexplained.

White explains that the reason that best suits this picture is the possibility that there is a rise in risky consumption of alcohol among a significant population. This could be the reason why there is little rise in per capita consumption of alcohol but such high numbers of emergencies. There is in addition no increase in incidences of binge drinking nationwide he said. For this study the team of researchers looked at information from 30 million visits to the emergency departments annually in the hospitals. It covered 945 hospitals from 33 states and Washington, D.C.

The study found that long term or chronic alcohol consumption had risen by 75.7 percent in the study period. Thus there is also a rise in the number of chronic ailments related to alcohol consumption. Episodes of accidents and other health problems associated with binge drinking and drinking in a short span of time has also risen by 51.5 percent.

The study also revealed that more and more women are visiting the ERs for alcohol related problems such as drunk driving, binge drinking, withdrawal symptoms and also results of chronic and long term alcohol use such as cirrhosis of liver, pancreatitis etc. The number of men attending ERs for these reasons were higher but the gender gap is slowly closing says White.

Studies have shown that excessive drinking raises healthcare costs in more ways than one. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC, there are 88,129 deaths yearly in the United States that has been a result of excessive drinking between 2006 and 2010. According to White, these numbers are 10 percent of all the deaths seen among adults in the working age range. However some statistics have shown an increasing awareness regarding alcohol consumption and its association with cancers and other health problems among the youth. This could be used to the advantage of the healthcare system by mass campaigns and messages to the public feel experts.

Source: <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/acer.13559/full>

Women and men military veterans, childhood adversity and alcohol and drug use

Medical Xpress

University of Massachusetts Amherst

January 11, 2018

Public health scientist Elizabeth Evans at UMass Amherst suggests, after study, that when people join the military or access health care as veterans would be good times to assess and treat childhood adversity, which affects risk of alcohol and drug use disorder and other health problems. Credit: UMass Amherst

Results of a national study led by public health scientist Elizabeth Evans at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, with others at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the University of California, Los Angeles, suggest that risk for alcohol and drug use disorders among United States military veterans is increased by childhood adversity, and in ways that are different between women and men and different compared to the civilian population.

Evans, an assistant professor of health promotion and policy at UMass Amherst School of Public Health and Health Sciences, says that in the general population, fewer women than men have an alcohol or drug use disorder. "Veterans are different in that there is no gender difference in the prevalence of these problems," she explains. "Among veterans a similar proportion of women and men - about 37 percent - have ever had an alcohol or drug use disorder."

She adds, "This finding that women veterans are similar to men veterans and are so different from civilian women, is unexpected. Also surprising are the high rates of childhood adversity among veterans, especially among women; 68 percent of women veterans report some childhood adversity, and they have the highest rates of childhood sexual abuse." Study results appear in a recent early online edition of *Social Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epidemiology* and will be in print this year.

Evans points out, "One of the implications of this study is the need to assess for childhood adversity, to help people recognize its relationship with substance use and cope with its health impacts. When people join the military or when veterans access healthcare at the VA or in the community would be good times to assess and treat childhood adversity, and we're often missing those opportunities now."

The test for adverse childhood experiences, known as an ACE score, measures a person's experiences before age 18 of physical, sexual or emotional abuse and neglect, and household dysfunction, for example a parent's problematic substance use, incarceration, mental illness or suicide, she and co-authors point out. There is a well-established dose-response relationship between childhood adversity and many health conditions, including substance use disorders.

To examine differences by U.S. military veteran status and gender in associations between childhood adversity and lifetime alcohol and drug use disorders, Evans and colleagues analyzed nationally representative data from 379 female and 2,740 male veterans and 20,066 female and 13,116 male civilians from the 2012-13 National Epidemiologic Survey on Alcohol and Related Conditions. They used logistic regression, tested interaction terms and calculated predicted probabilities by veteran status and gender, controlling for covariates.

The researchers found that with increasing exposure to adversity in childhood, risks of alcohol use disorder among civilian men and women grew more similar but for drug use disorder, the gender differences in risk widened. By contrast, among veterans more childhood adversity elevated men's alcohol risk and increased women's drug risk. The authors speculate that among veterans with greater exposure to childhood adversity, men may be more likely than women to use alcohol, while women may be more likely than men to use drugs.

Evans notes, "In general right now, we don't assess for childhood adversity until there's a problem, in particular with alcohol or drugs, or attempts to harm oneself or others. However, we know that childhood adversity is an early life experience that is associated with anxiety, depression, and other risk factors for later health and social problems. We in public health, along with others in the community, can do more to prevent childhood adversity altogether. Also, more can be done to assess and address childhood adversity when it does occur so that we mitigate or undo its harmful effects. The need for such efforts is especially critical now given the devastating impacts of the current opioid epidemic on families and communities."

Another contribution of this work not reported before, says Evans, is what she and colleagues learned about men's health and childhood adversity. She notes, "A lot of studies of childhood adversity focus on sexual abuse among women, and they only examine data on patients treated clinical settings. In this study, we examine differences by gender in exposure to different types of childhood adversity and we provide findings that are representative of the U.S. population."

"We see that more than half of men, both civilians and veterans, have been exposed to childhood adversity including physical abuse but also neglect and household dysfunction, and this is associated with men's alcohol and drug use in adulthood," she adds. "This highlights the need to address childhood adversity in ways that encompass and specifically target men."

Evans points out, "As the role of women in our nation's military expands, we need to better understand the gender-specific patterns of alcohol and drug use and whether patterns by gender are different for veterans and if so, why. Provision of health and social services can be improved to better meet the needs of all veterans, and in particular for women."

More information: Elizabeth A. Evans et al, Differences by Veteran/civilian status and gender in associations between childhood adversity and alcohol and drug use disorders, *Social Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epidemiology* (2017). DOI: 10.1007/s00127-017-1463-0

Provided by: University of Massachusetts Amherst

INDUSTRY NEWS

The Muff Liquor Company set to make its mark in drinks industry with new craft gin made from potatoes

Derry Now
January 2018

Donegal may not be the place you usually associate with the production of premium craft potato gin but a new company based out of the famous Inishowen Peninsula is looking to change that with the launch of their exciting new craft gin next month.

Gin has enjoyed an unexpected resurgence in the last number of years and The Muff Liquor Company are confident they can entice novice and seasoned gin drinkers alike with their inventive take on a classic distilled gin.

The Muff Liquor Company is the brainchild of Inishowen born entrepreneur Laura Bonner and her business partner Tom Russell from Manchester.

This steadfast working relationship began in the world of property and was quickly cemented by their mutual appreciation for premium distilled spirits.

Laura and Tom's entrepreneurial natures and shared international business experience has prepared them somewhat for the adventure that lies ahead.

After spending a number of years studying and working in law, property and PR in both Dublin and London, Laura still felt she was missing an opportunity and had the idea of setting up her own distilled spirits company and specifically producing a potato based spirit.

"My grandfather Philip McClenaghan was a well-known potato farmer in Greencastle, Inishowen. One of his many hobbies was to make a poitín with potatoes, so the idea of making a potato based spirit, inspired by my grandfather that could originate from Ireland just stuck with me.

"Tom loved the idea and identified with the opportunity in the craft liquor market and so, we took the plunge and I moved back home. It's not been easy but it's been so fulfilling to create something from scratch, with family heritage at its heart and we're really excited to launch!"

The gin is currently being produced in Arderin Distillery in Tullamore, Co. Offaly by Eoin Bara who owns Mór Irish Gin. However, Laura and Tom are very keen to expand the business and to eventually set up their own distillery in the village of Muff on the Donegal border.

The Muff Liquor Company name is something that they believe makes them stand out from the rest and perfectly represents the fun and cheeky identity they want to establish with the company. But behind this fun and cheeky exterior, there are the core ideas of hard work, respect for tradition and making something born of the land and crafted by hand.

Laura explains: "These were the ideas Granda McClenaghan passed down through my family and it's something I was to make sure is at the centre of everything we do. That is the reason an illustration of him adorns the back of the bottle and I couldn't be prouder to have him as a representation of the ideas and values of this company."

"The brand is visually very much inspired by the past. My grandfather kept journals of recipes for his poitín, food, and plans for things he would build around the farm.

"This old journal style is the basis of our brand and a lot of our visuals and will be the main theme running through our physical and digital marketing,"

Tom says that what makes the gin so unique is its potato base. "The base alcohol is made from potatoes along with Mandarin, Lemon, Rosemary and Elderflower and one secret ingredient!

"We wanted to use some ingredients that are native to Donegal such as wildy grown elderflower. The result of this is a fresh and vibrant gin that carries sweet notes and is quite smooth to drink.

Last year in the UK almost 50m bottles of gin were sold, and last year alone gin sales dramatically increased with, according to the Wine and Spirit Trade Association, sales of over £1.2bn.

In Ireland gin is the fastest growing spirit in the spirits category among Irish consumers as the public continue to embrace the trend. This is great news for Laura and Tom who are very keen to target those who seek out and enjoy premium gin.

Tom added, "The accelerated growth of the craft drinks sector has been a reflection of the fresh consumers' attitudes who are entering the market, these are very much aligned with my own generation's preferences, imbued with originality; a unique identity, more experiential, personalised and fun.

Laura added that the company is keen to establish itself in international markets such as the USA, Asia, Australia, and Europe as well as having a strong presence in the Irish market, and to be available in a range of places from craft beer-centric pubs to high-end cocktail bars to specialist gin bars and higher-end restaurants.

She explains: "The eventual plan for the company overall is to be based totally out of Inishowen and have our head office and distillery located there.

"We want to have a visitor centre that will not only showcase our brand but showcase local history also. We want to give back to the community as well by hiring local people to work with us in our base of operations. Local farmers will be the source for some of our ingredients for any drink we produce and I feel this is a real connection back to my grandfather and of course the local community of Muff and Inishowen which will be at the heart of what we do."

Pernod Ricard and Diageo ban plastic straws and stirrers

The Spirits Business
By Nicola Carruthers
January 12, 2018

Two of the world's leading drinks groups have joined the movement to remove non-biodegradable straws and stirrers across their businesses.

French drinks group Pernod Ricard has asked all its affiliates globally to stop using non-biodegradable straws and stirrers at any company events in the future.

UK drinks giant Diageo also confirmed a new policy in relation to the use and promotion of plastic straws and plastic drink stirrers across its business and brands last month.

A straw which is only used on average for 20 minutes can take more than 200 years to breakdown into smaller pieces and often does not fully disintegrate.

"Diageo is committed to minimising our environmental impact and we are, like many of our consumers, increasingly concerned about the negative environmental impact associated with the irresponsible disposal of plastic straws," said David Croft, Diageo's global sustainable development director.

"We are therefore committed to phasing out the use of all plastic straws and stirrers from all our offices, events, promotions, advertising and marketing globally – and will advocate the same to our partners and customers. When the use of straws is important to the enjoyment of our brands we will only use reusable, compostable or biodegradable alternatives."

Vanessa Wright, recently appointed group vice president, sustainability & responsibility at Pernod Ricard, said: "The history of Pernod Ricard and our values are intrinsically linked to social responsibility and care – it is a part of us, and the creation of the Paul Ricard Oceanography Institute more than 50 years ago is a concrete example.

Pernod Ricard's 2020 Roadmap initiative also focuses on reducing waste to landfills with a goal of reducing 913 tonnes to 0 by 2020.

The group's initiative follows a number of drinks firms who have already moved to tackle plastic straw use.

In September last year, British pub chain JD Wetherspoon announced its decision to stop using plastic straws across its 900 pubs. Also in 2017, a new campaign, called Straw Wars, was launched to eradicate plastic drinking straws across London.

Meanwhile, in 2016, Bacardi removed straws and stirrers from cocktails served at its company events.

“We know that this type of non-biodegradable plastic is having a detrimental impact on the environment and oceans, and for us it’s crucial that we play our role in helping to prevent any further damage.”

DAILY NEWS

Confronting racial and ethnic disparities in health

The St. Louis American

By Sandra Jordan

January 11, 2018

The man who wrote the book about poorer health outcomes for persons of color will be in St. Louis on Monday, January 15 as the MLK celebration keynote speaker at Washington University School of Medicine.

Brian D. Smedley, Ph.D., is cofounder and executive director of the National Collaborative for Health Equity in Washington, D.C. The project connects research, policy analysis, and communications with on-the-ground activism to advance health equity and, he said, “undo the health consequences of racism.” He is the author of “Unequal Treatment: Confronting Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Healthcare” (2002).

“In a clear and convincing manner, this book laid out evidence that racial and ethnic minorities receive a lower quality of healthcare than non-minorities, even when controlling for factors such as insurance status and incomes,” said Will Ross, M.D., associate dean for Diversity and professor of Renal Medicine at Washington University School of Medicine, whose office sponsors the annual MLK lecture.

“The publication was a clarion call for action to identify and reduce systemic barriers to healthcare for racial and ethnic minorities.”

So far, Smedley said, not so good.

“We are not making significant progress, because we still see evidence of systematic inequities, in health care systems as well as outside of health care systems,” Smedley said. “The very kinds of structures and systems that helped to create poorer health for many communities of color, unfortunately, persist.”

That is where the National Collaborative for Health Equity is focusing its current work.

“We know that health care accounts for about 10 percent of population health,” he said. “When we look overall at the health status of populations – statistics like longevity, like disease burden – we know that health care in itself doesn’t create those inequities.”

He said we must recognize the systematic challenges that are barriers to opportunities for good health for communities of color.

“Communities of color are too often overrun with environmental health threats,” Smedley said. “Too often we see communities of color are in so-called ‘food deserts’ – lacking access to nutritious, inexpensive or affordable foods. And, in contrast, they are overrun with vendors selling unhealthy products, like fast food and carryout, and disproportionate alcohol and tobacco advertising and sales.”

He said communities of color also face an inequitable criminal justice system that is disproportionately warehousing men of color, which has broad negative consequences for entire communities, not just young men and their families.

Community disinvestment and lack of economic vitality are other systemic issues that negatively affect health, as well as education.

“Kids of color find themselves segregated in high-poverty schools that lack the resources to help prepare them for higher education and beyond,” Smedley said. “Some people might think that does not have much to do about health, but researchers have long known there is an important relationship between educational attainment and health.”

Conditions in neglected, marginalized neighborhoods play a role in fomenting the violence that plagues so many communities.

“Violence has been created, in no small part, by government policies that have concentrated poverty into certain neighborhoods – and in particular in communities of color,” Smedley said. “Violence is not something that is natural or innate or should be expected. It comes about as a result of a lack of opportunity and as a result of youth being disconnected from school or jobs. When youth don’t see meaningful opportunities in their communities, we can expect violence as a way of acting out and trying to create opportunity where there is none.”

Using facts and data about the St. Louis area, Smedley said he wants to draw a line between the kind of inequity that we see in health care systems to broader social, economic problems and policies.

“The fact that government has been complicit with the private sector, historically, in creating highly segregated neighborhoods, is at the root of many of the problems that we see,” Smedley said. “We can see these are some of the problems at the root of why many communities of color have a higher burden of disease and disability and shortened life spans.”

He said communities did not get there by accident, and it will take community advocates working with government officials to make changes.

“We need activists and advocates on the ground to understand these issues,” Smedley said, “and to pressure local governments to find regional solutions around housing, around transportation, around education, criminal justice.”

Craft breweries aren't a new trend — but co-op pubs are

In Montana, the town of Ronan hops on the brewery bandwagon.

High Country News

By Summer Goddard/Valley Journal

January 12, 2018

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MONTANA - About 12 miles south of Flathead Lake, the town of Ronan is a community based largely on agriculture. With several schools, banks, a golf course and an active business community, Ronan is home to an estimated 1,871 people, according to 2010 U.S. Census information.

But while it boasts a variety of businesses, including a telephone company, a movie theatre, a café, a thrift store, a bowling alley, and hospital, many Main Street storefronts remain empty or rundown. Roughly a third of Main Street buildings are vacant or in disrepair.

Through several public listening sessions held with economic developers in 2016, community members identified the revitalization of Main Street and increased business development as priorities for their town. With a cooperative development center on Main Street, eventually the idea of a cooperative brewery emerged.

A year and half later, 100 or so people gathered at a Ronan bar on a Saturday night as would-be owners of the Ronan Cooperative Brewery. The Ronan Valley Club buzzed with energy on Dec. 2 as friends, neighbors and strangers connected over a cold drink and an idea. The gathering was the first public event of an ownership drive currently underway for the proposed brewery. “I was kind of wondering what would happen,” steering committee member Gail Nelson said as he surveyed the room with a smile. “I’m excited by this.”

Gail’s wife Barb Nelson, who also serves on the steering committee as chairperson, agreed. “You can feel the excitement in the room,” she said. “I think we can do it. I really do.”

Groundwork

Brianna Ewert, cooperative development program manager for Lake County Community Development Corporation’s Cooperative Development Center provides technical assistance to Ronan Cooperative Brewery’s steering committee.

Ewert, who’s been involved in the project from day one, said the idea for a brewery came about early in Ronan residents’ discussions with economic developers.

A year after identifying Main Street revitalization and business growth as priorities for Ronan, a public meeting was held and survey conducted to gauge community interest in a co-op owned craft brewery. Both revealed a broad base of community support for the project.

A nine-member steering group formed soon after to determine feasibility, write a business plan and structure the cooperative.

Following a feasibility assessment in which costs, potential profits, customer base (including town residents and tourism data) was analyzed, the Ronan Cooperative Brewery filed an intent to incorporate with Montana’s Secretary of State. Incorporation will be finalized once a phase one goal of \$75,000 in shares sold is met. Steering committee members anticipate meeting that goal in January.

“The idea behind the Ronan Cooperative Brewery is to bring together a strong craft beer movement to help in the revitalization of our community,” an ownership information brochure states.

Two classes of shares, common stock and preferred stock, are being sold. Common stock is \$250 per share. All members purchase one share which gets them one vote. Additional shares do not garner additional votes. Preferred stock, offered to common stock members, is sold at \$100 per share. Preferred stock yields a member more of a share in the return down the road as the brewery becomes profitable.

Upon incorporating, a meeting would be called for members to organize, elect officers and approve bylaws. The newly elected board of directors would then transition to managing operations.

The economics of craft brewing

Montana has 68 craft breweries – independent entities that produce relatively small amounts of traditional or innovative beers, according to 2016 data compiled by the Brewers Association. It ranks second in the nation for breweries per capita. The state's craft beer production has increased at a rate of roughly 13 percent per year since 2010, the association says.

That growth has produced economic impact. Kyle Morrill, a senior economist at the University of Montana Bureau of Business and Economic Research, says that 1,044 additional permanent year-round jobs, more than \$33 million in additional income for Montana households, \$103 million in additional sales from businesses and organizations and an increase to the state's population by 280 people are attributable to brewer operations. "Craft brewing represents a sizable, grass-roots industry to the Montana economy," he wrote. "Furthermore, brewpubs often appear in historically industrial neighborhoods, reinvigorating and reimagining properties left vacant by passing industry."

Montana's brewers are poised for further growth as during last spring's legislative session, the production cap was raised from 10,000 to 60,000 barrels a year.

A new phenomenon

Cooperatives are organizations owned collectively by members who share in profits or benefits. While craft breweries aren't a new phenomenon, co-op owned breweries are. With only a handful in existence in the United States, the model of co-op ownership is unique.

In addition to serving as the local cooperative development program manager, Ewert has been a member of several cooperatives and is currently working to finish her certification as a cooperative development specialist.

Cooperatives, she said, have a large economic impact both on a national and state scale, generating \$650 billion and \$1 billion in revenue respectively.

As a whole, cooperatives tend to return more money to the local economy and generally generate more jobs for the same amount of sales, she added, and, according to research done in Canada, co-ops have twice the survival rate of corporate businesses.

As opposed to a corporation's mandate to maximize profits, the end goal of a cooperative is to serve its members. Ewert credits this critical difference in structure, of membership deciding how their needs are best served, as the reason cooperatives tend to be more resilient.

Leading by example

Los Alamos, New Mexico, is one place the co-op model of brewery ownership seems to be working. April 2018 will mark the three-year anniversary of Bathtub Row Brewing in Los Alamos, and according to general manager Douglas Osborn, "things are going very well."

So well, Osborn said, that the brewery continues to grow at a rate of 10-20 percent annually and is on track this year to hit \$700,000 in sales.

After two and a half years in operation, the brewery will begin to pay back its loans this December and is on track, Osborn said, to become debt free within the next three to five years.

Production-wise, the brewery operates at almost full capacity and at times can't make enough beer for their guests. "It's a good problem to have," Osborn noted. "We're far past the original projections."

During times when they can't produce enough beer for customers, Bathtub Row Brewery purchases beer from other New Mexico craft beer distributors. In fact, Osborn said the brewery has great relationships with its competitors.

Though they don't serve food, Bathtub Row patrons are welcome to bring food in with them or purchase meals from nearby restaurants or from vendors who set up their hot carts at the brewery.

The brewery, which employs 15-17 people, has also seemed to spark growth for other nearby businesses. “The Mexican restaurant next door is doing very well since we moved in,” Osborn said. “And they’re putting up a pizza place right across from our parking lot.”

Osborn readily admits that there are both advantages and drawbacks to cooperatives.

There are times when it’s cumbersome, he said, to work through problems via committee. On the other side of that, he said, having a lot of people to rely on for help or to bounce ideas off of, is a benefit. He also credits low employee turnover to the co-op model of ownership as employee-owners have more of a vested interest in the brewery’s success. “Overall, it’s a huge plus,” he said.

Bathtub Row Brewing has two different kinds of memberships – annual and lifetime. Annual members pay \$50 a year and don’t get to vote but do get discounts on beverages and merchandise. Lifetime members pay a one-time fee of \$250 and can vote on brewery business.

Osborn estimates that of Bathtub Row’s 1300 or so members, half are annual and half are lifetime.

In order to accommodate their membership, the brewery rents out the local theatre to review annual financials. A smaller board of directors, seven, hold monthly meetings with the general manager and head brewer to oversee operations.

According to Osborn, Bathtub Row has about \$40,000 worth of shares left to sell before they run up against what their charter allows.

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