

Alcohol Outlet Density in New York State



Excessive alcohol use is an important public health issue in New York with 1 in 5 adults reporting excessive alcohol use in the form of either binge or heavy drinking.¹ Excessive alcohol use contributes to increased injury, violence, and chronic disease in the population.² The harmful effects of alcohol are disproportionately experienced in under-resourced communities and communities of color.³ The health, safety, and socioeconomic harms attributable to alcohol can be effectively reduced through evidence-based policies such as those that reduce alcohol availability by limiting the number of outlets licensed to sell alcohol and restricting the hours during which alcohol can be sold. The density of alcohol retail outlets in a particular area or neighborhood can influence drinking patterns and consequently, the harms associated with excessive alcohol use.⁴

Retail alcohol outlets are establishments licensed to sell alcoholic beverages. On-premises outlets (e.g., restaurants/bars) sell alcohol to be consumed on site. Off-premises outlets (e.g., grocery/liquor stores) sell alcohol to be consumed off-site. Measuring alcohol outlet density can be a useful indicator for monitoring the availability of alcohol in communities and can be used to inform efforts in reducing excessive alcohol use and its associated harms.

Alcohol outlet density can be expressed as the number of outlets in the county relative to the number of people living in the county or the geographic size of county (i.e., number of square miles). In New York counties, alcohol outlet density is positively correlated with binge and heavy drinking when measured relative to the population level, however, outlet density is not correlated with binge and heavy drinking when measured relative to square mile.⁵

- As of March 2023, approximately 45,000 alcohol outlets were licensed and accessible for public use across New York, per New York State Liquor Authority data.⁶
- Approximately 25,000 alcohol outlets in New York are on-premises, with a range of 21 to 5,500 outlets per county, and a range of 4.4 to 47.0 outlets per 10,000 population (Figure 2, Table 1).
- Approximately 20,000 alcohol outlets in New York are off-premises, with a range of 15 to 2,700 outlets per county, and a range of 7.0 to 33.7 outlets per 10,000 population (Figure 3, Table 2).

Public Health Opportunity

High alcohol outlet density in a community can be associated with many social harms including neighborhood disruption, property damage, injury, violence and public nuisance. Harms from high alcohol retailer density can extend county-wide and include alcohol-impaired driving, pedestrian injuries, domestic violence and child abuse and neglect.⁷ Policies that reduce the availability of alcohol can reduce excessive drinking and promote safer and healthier communities.

The Community Preventive Services Task force recommends limiting alcohol outlet density as an evidence-based strategy to reduce excessive alcohol consumption and its associated harms. Measuring alcohol outlet density at the state and county level provides an opportunity to educate communities and decision makers about how this proven strategy can help in reducing alcohol related harms. Reducing the number of alcohol outlets in communities with high outlet density can potentially contribute to a reduction in the disparities associated with excessive alcohol use and its health outcomes.

Resources

- For more information on this evidence-based prevention strategies, visit the [Community Preventive Services Task Force](#).
- The [CDC Alcohol Program](#) provides fact sheets, publications, and other online resources to support states and communities in the prevention of excessive drinking and alcohol-related harms.
- More information on prevention and treatment services is available from the [New York State Office of Addiction Support and Services](#).
- Additional alcohol-related data resources are available on the [New York State Department of Health's Alcohol Surveillance and Epidemiology Program](#) website.

FIGURE 2. On-Premises Alcohol Outlets per 10,000 Population in New York

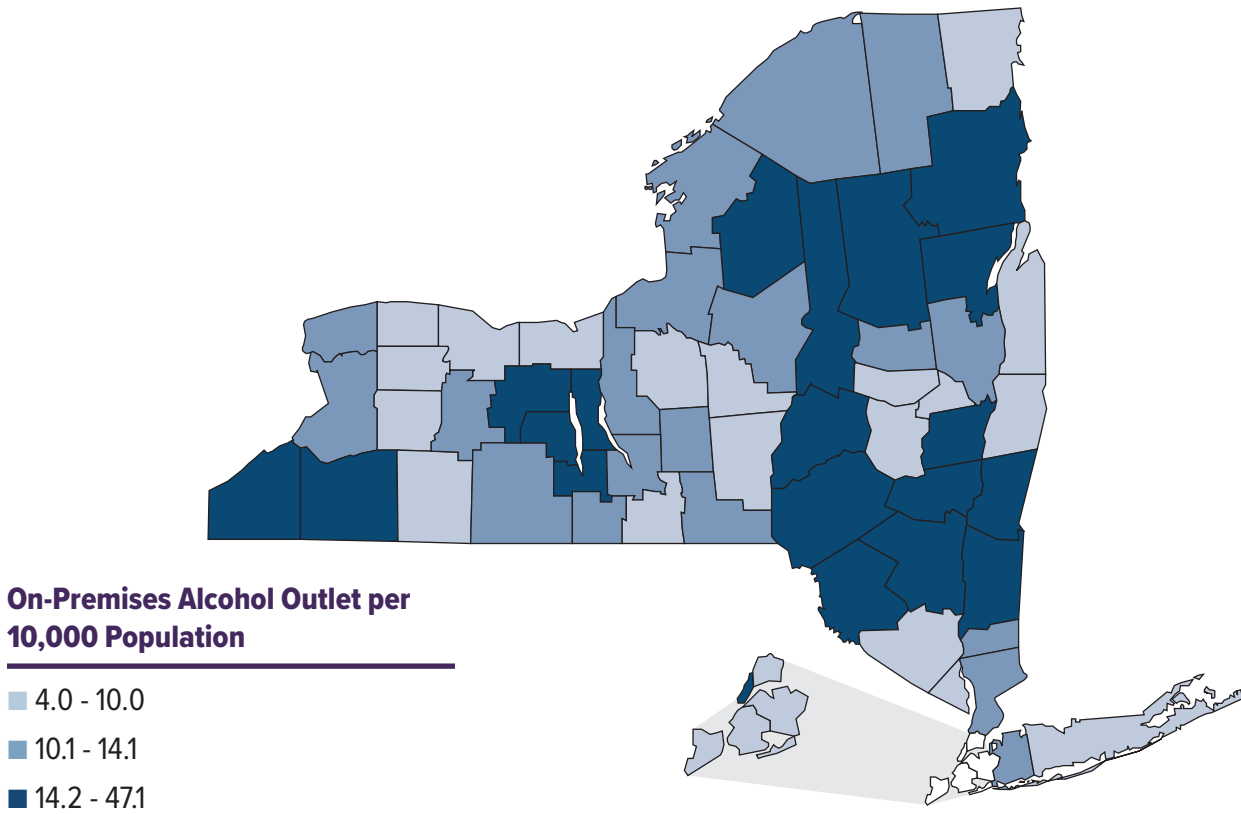


FIGURE 3. Off-Premises Alcohol Outlets per 10,000 Population in New York

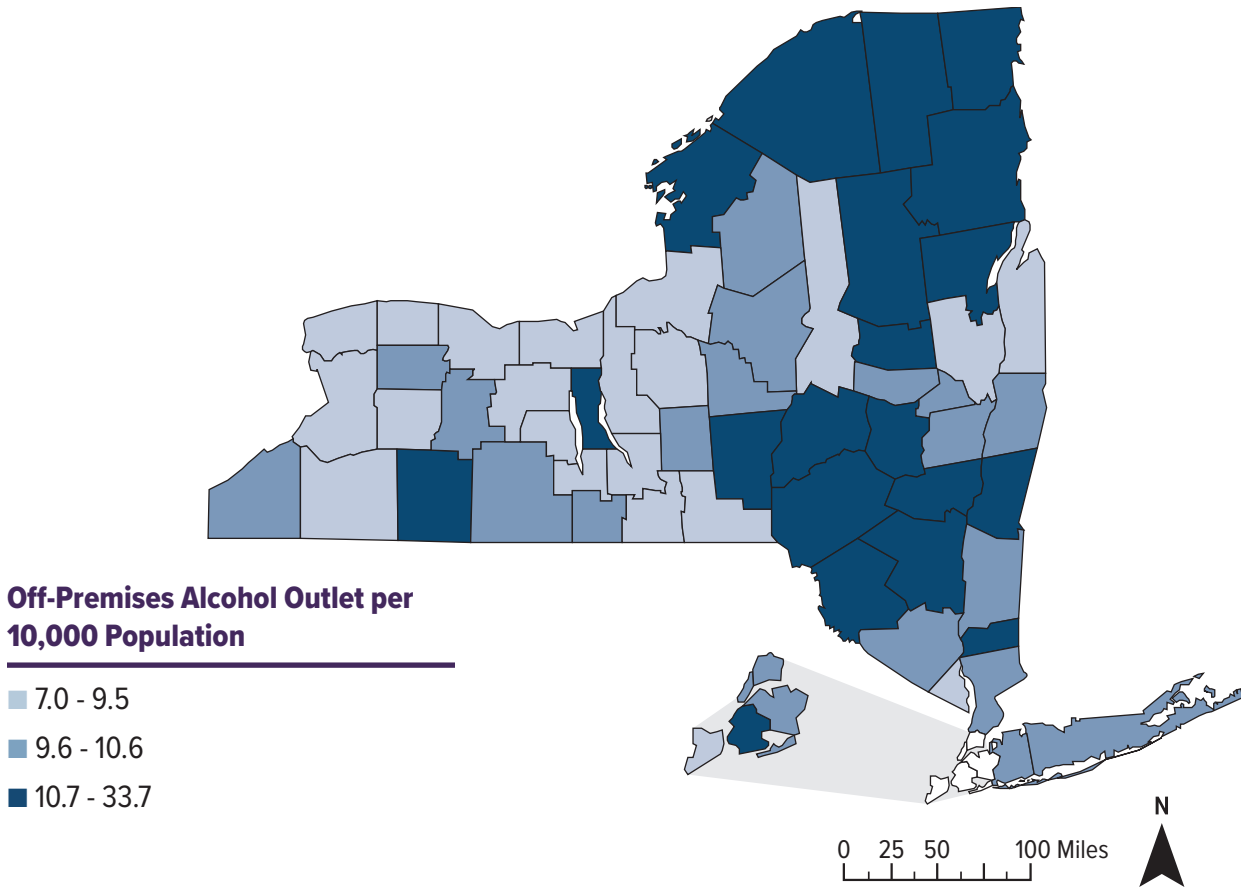


Table 1. On-Premises Alcohol Outlets*

County	Total Outlets	Outlets per 10,000 population	Outlets per Square Miles	County	Total Outlets	Outlets per 10,000 population	Outlets per Square Miles
Albany	456	14.9	0.9	Niagara	297	14.1	0.6
Allegany	54	11.7	0.1	Oneida	305	13.3	0.2
Bronx	626	4.4	16.2	Onondaga	532	11.5	0.7
Broome	246	12.8	0.3	Ontario	177	16.1	0.3
Cattaraugus	135	17.6	0.1	Orange	424	11.1	0.5
Cayuga	97	12.6	0.1	Orleans	46	11.3	0.1
Chautauqua	208	16.3	0.2	Oswego	165	14.0	0.2
Chemung	106	12.6	0.3	Otsego	109	18.3	0.1
Chenango	49	10.3	0.1	Putnam	135	13.7	0.6
Clinton	86	10.7	0.1	Queens	2167	9.5	20.9
Columbia	103	17.2	0.2	Rensselaer	177	11.1	0.3
Cortland	64	13.4	0.1	Richmond	367	7.7	6.4
Delaware	77	17.2	0.1	Rockland	343	10.5	1.9
Dutchess	438	14.9	0.5	St. Lawrence	136	12.6	0.4
Erie	1222	13.3	1.2	Saratoga	305	13.3	0.8
Essex	118	31.7	0.1	Schenectady	159	10.3	0.1
Franklin	70	13.9	0.0	Schoharie	35	11.2	0.1
Fulton	68	12.7	0.1	Schuyler	42	23.5	0.2
Genesee	70	12.2	0.1	Seneca	65	19.0	0.0
Greene	112	23.7	0.2	Steuben	133	13.9	0.1
Hamilton	21	47.1	0.0	Suffolk	1795	12.1	2.0
Herkimer	102	16.5	0.1	Sullivan	116	15.4	0.1
Jefferson	155	13.9	0.1	Tioga	46	9.5	0.1
Kings	2659	10.3	39.3	Tompkins	144	14.1	0.3
Lewis	47	17.8	0.0	Ulster	346	19.4	0.3
Livingston	89	14.1	0.1	Warren	175	27.3	0.2
Madison	81	11.4	0.1	Washington	58	9.5	0.1
Monroe	791	10.6	1.2	Wayne	85	9.4	0.1
Montgomery	53	10.8	0.1	Westchester	1309	13.5	3.0
Nassau	1694	12.5	6.0	Wyoming	39	9.7	0.1
New York	5537	34.0	250.5	Yates	39	15.6	0.1

*On-Premises Outlets: Outlets include bars, clubs, producers (wineries, breweries) and restaurants, licensed as of March 2023. Does not include seasonal and other wholesale outlets.

Table 2. Off-Premises Alcohol Outlets*

County	Total Outlets	Outlets per 10,000 population	Outlets per Square Miles	County	Total Outlets	Outlets per 10,000 population	Outlets per Square Miles
Albany	297	9.7	0.6	Niagara	183	8.7	0.3
Allegany	51	11.0	0.0	Oneida	228	10.0	0.2
Bronx	1495	10.5	35.4	Onondaga	420	9.1	0.5
Broome	183	9.5	0.3	Ontario	91	8.3	0.1
Cattaraugus	65	8.5	0.0	Orange	372	9.7	0.4
Cayuga	67	8.7	0.1	Orleans	31	7.6	0.1
Chautauqua	128	10.0	0.1	Oswego	102	8.7	0.1
Chemung	86	10.2	0.2	Otsego	79	13.3	0.1
Chenango	57	12.0	0.1	Putnam	111	11.2	0.5
Clinton	109	13.6	0.1	Queens	2233	9.8	20.5
Columbia	86	14.3	0.1	Rensselaer	163	10.3	0.2
Cortland	49	10.3	0.1	Richmond	365	7.7	6.3
Delaware	73	16.3	0.0	Rockland	228	7.0	1.3
Dutchess	287	9.8	0.3	St. Lawrence	130	12.0	0.0
Erie	784	8.5	0.7	Saratoga	203	8.9	0.2
Essex	77	20.7	0.0	Schenectady	154	9.9	0.7
Franklin	63	12.5	0.0	Schoharie	38	12.2	0.1
Fulton	62	11.6	0.1	Schuyler	15	8.4	0.0
Genesee	60	10.4	0.1	Seneca	42	12.2	0.1
Greene	63	13.3	0.1	Steuben	102	10.6	0.1
Hamilton	15	33.7	0.0	Suffolk	1530	10.3	1.7
Herkimer	56	9.1	0.0	Sullivan	121	16.1	0.1
Jefferson	129	11.6	0.1	Tioga	41	8.5	0.1
Kings	2789	10.8	40.3	Tompkins	75	7.3	0.2
Lewis	27	10.2	0.0	Ulster	214	12.0	0.2
Livingston	66	10.4	0.1	Warren	112	17.4	0.1
Madison	69	9.7	0.1	Washington	57	9.3	0.1
Monroe	586	7.9	0.9	Wayne	82	9.1	0.1
Montgomery	52	10.5	0.1	Westchester	981	10.1	2.2
Nassau	1299	9.6	4.5	Wyoming	37	9.2	0.1
New York	1693	10.4	74.1	Yates	23	9.2	0.1

*Off-Premises Outlets: Outlets include liquor stores, big-box retailers, grocery stores, small convenience stores, gas stations and pharmacies licensed as of March 2023. Does not include seasonal and other wholesale outlets. We did not exclude the on-premise outlets that also have license for alcohol delivery from this analysis.

For more information, please send an e-mail to BCDER@health.ny.gov with IFA #2025-15 in the subject line. To access other Information for Action reports, visit the New York State Department of Health website: health.ny.gov/statistics/prevention/injury_prevention/information_for_action.

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