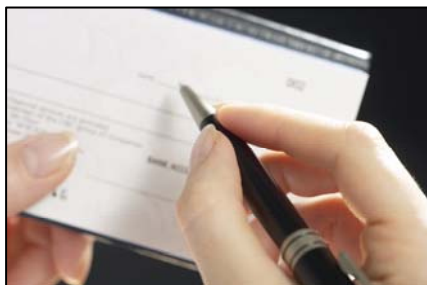


# Alcohol abuse carries a big price tag.



**\$** We **all** pay for alcohol-related costs—whether we drink alcohol or not. The bill for state and local taxpayers is at least \$923 million per year—that’s \$385 per Minnesota taxpayer each year.

**\$** We all pay—especially with **property taxes**—to cover alcohol costs:



- *Police, county sheriff, highway patrol*
- *Fire and emergency response*
- *Courts, county jails, prisons, probation*
- *Chemical dependency treatment and detox*
- *Health care and emergency rooms*
- *Social costs of violence and abuse*

**\$** **Minnesota taxpayers** pick up the tab for alcohol abuse. The costs far exceed the revenue from taxes on alcohol. In 2005, just \$260 million was collected from alcohol sales, leaving Minnesota taxpayers with a huge hangover!

**It’s time to face the FACTS about alcohol taxes —and who gets stuck with the bill!**

- *Increase the Minnesota alcohol excise tax by at least 5¢ a drink.*
- *Dedicate the funds to treat alcohol dependency and help pay for the real societal costs of alcohol problems.*

## Here's why it's time to face the facts about WHO PAYS for the cost of alcohol abuse in Minnesota:

- During 2001-05, there were 1,079 alcohol-related traffic deaths in Minnesota. Over 427,000 MN motorists have a DWI on their record—that's 1 out of every 9 drivers. (Minnesota Supreme Court)
- Alcohol kills over 100,000 people in the United States each year, ranking as the third leading preventable cause of death. (U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- The cost to Minnesotans for special education and juvenile justice for children affected by fetal alcohol spectrum disorder is more than \$25 million per year. (Minnesota Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome)
- The alcohol excise tax is a true "user fee." Most people who drink will not pay much additional tax, but the heaviest drinkers—who cost society more—will pay more. (Minnesota Department of Revenue)
- Minnesota excise tax on alcohol is only pennies per drink: 1.4¢ on a glass of beer, 1.2¢ on a glass of wine, and 5.9¢ on a shot of liquor. (Minnesota Department of Revenue)
- Minnesota alcohol taxes are low compared to other states. 42 states have a higher tax on wine, and 31 states have a higher tax on beer, including 3 of 4 neighboring states. (Federation of Tax Administrators)
- The alcohol excise tax was last increased in Minnesota in 1987. Since 2002, 10 states have increased their alcohol excise tax. (Minnesota Department of Revenue)
- Research finds that increasing the alcohol excise tax will reduce teen drinking. (Nat'l Academy of Sciences)
- Surveys show that three out of four Minnesotans support increasing the alcohol tax to pay for public safety, prevention, and treatment of alcohol problems. (AARP, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation)

## *"Facing Alcohol's Costs to Society"* JOIN the FACTS Coalition!

- Action on Alcohol and Teens
- AMC - Association of Minnesota Counties
- Brain Injury Association of Minnesota
- Dakota County Attorney's Office
- LPHA - Local Public Health Association
- MADD-Minnesota
- MARRCH - MN Assoc. of Resources for Recovery & Chemical Health
- MICA - Metropolitan Inter-County Association
- MACCAC - MN Association of Community Corrections Act Counties
- MACPO - Minnesota Association of County Probation Officers
- MACSSA - MN Assoc. of County Social Service Administrators
- MCAA - Minnesota County Attorneys Association
- MOFAS - Minnesota Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome
- MPRC - MN Prevention Resource Center
- MPHA - Minnesota Public Health Association
- Minnesota Sheriff's Association
- Minnesota Criminal Justice System DWI Task Force
- MMA - Minnesota Medical Association
- Minnesotans for Safe Driving

### *The FACTS Coalition - "Facing Alcohol's Costs to Society"*

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[www.FACTScoalition.org](http://www.FACTScoalition.org)