Reducing Alcohol-Impaired Driving: Maintaining Current Minimum Legal Drinking Age (MLDA) Laws

Task Force Finding

**Intervention Definition**
Minimum legal drinking age (MLDA) laws specify an age below which the purchase and consumption of alcoholic beverages are not permitted. This review examined the effect of raising or lowering the MLDA. All states currently have an MLDA of 21 years.

Maintaining or implementing the MLDA at 21 years rather than at a younger age is strongly recommended based on evidence from the United States, Canada, and Australia that the higher age requirement for legal drinking is effective in decreasing alcohol-related crashes and associated injuries among 18- to 20-year-old drivers. Other potential benefits include decreased alcohol consumption. No harms were reported and no qualifying economic information was identified from the literature.

*From the following publication:

**Publications**


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