

Prepared by: Reference Services, CAMH Library, Toronto, ON, Canada

This bibliography presents a selection of the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health Library materials on the topic of legal drinking age, with a focus on Canada. Its purpose is to serve as an introduction and overview of the topic, not an in depth literature review.

Legal Drinking Ages: Canada and Other Countries

For Legal Drinking Age by Province, visit:

Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse: <http://www.ccsa.ca> .
Go to: Topics – Drug Strategies/Legislation – Legal Drinking Age by Province.
Includes Current & Former Legal Drinking Age & Date of Change.

For Other Jurisdictions:

Check out Wikipedia, <http://www.wikipedia.com>, the free online encyclopedia.
Search under Legal Drinking Age. **Note:** Subject to public input so there may be errors.

Alcoholic Beverage Taxation and Control Policies: International Survey. Ottawa, ON: Brewers Association of Canada. HD 9350.8 .A1 B76 1997.

The library has all editions. The latest is the 9th edition, 1997.

Drinking Age Limits. Washington, DC: International Center for Alcohol Policies, 1998.
HV 5135 .D738 1998

Includes table of legal drinking age for selected countries.

The Canadian Experience

Single, Eric. New Directions in Alcohol Policy. In Substance Abuse in Canada: Current Challenges and Choices, 5-9. Ottawa, ON: Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse, 2005. HV 5840 .C2 S833 2005.

Concludes the most efficient approach to controlling alcohol problems is to maintain reasonable controls on availability (such as drinking age limit) while increasing harm reduction measures to reduce harmful consequences in specific situations. Online at <http://www.ccsa.ca>.

Slavik, Wesley, and Darlene James. The Legal Drinking Age: A Review of the Research Literature and Public Opinion. Edmonton, AB: Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission, 1996.
HV 5824 .Y68 S5635 1996.

Smart, Reginald G. And Alan C. Ogborne. Northern Spirits: A Social History of Alcohol in Canada. 2nd ed. Toronto: Addiction Research Foundation, 1996. HV 5306 .S63 1996.

For a brief history, see pages 161-3.

Vingilis, Evelyn. Lowering and raising the drinking age in Canada. In Alcohol, Drugs & Canadian Youth, ed. Brian Rush and Neville Layne, 104-28. Ottawa, ON: Health Promotion Directorate, Health and Welfare Canada, 1985. HV 5824 .Y68 A428 1985

Vingilis, Evelyn and Reginald G. Smart. Effects of raising the legal drinking age in Ontario. British Journal CAMH Library, July 2005

of Addiction 76(4):415-24 (Dec. 1981).

Other Resources

Babor, Thomas et al. Alcohol: No Ordinary Commodity: Research and Public Policy. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 2003. HV 5082 .A425 2003.

See Section 7.3, pg. 126-129, Restrictions on Eligibility to Purchase & Sell Alcohol

Eigen, Lewis D. and John Noble. Drinking Under Age 21: Problems and Solutions. Rockville, MD: Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration, [1994]. HV 5135 .E443

Giesbrecht, Norman and Thomas K. Greenfield. Preventing alcohol-related problems in the US through policy: media campaigns, regulatory approaches and environmental interventions. Journal of Primary Prevention 24 (1): 63-104 (2003)

Grube, Joel. Drinking in the USA and Europe: comparison of drinking rates and problems. Globe: International Alcohol and Drug Problems 1: 11-12 (2001). Old Series. Special Issue on Youth and Alcohol in Europe.

Goeman, Richard J. Why We Need a Minimum-purchase Age of 21. In Controversies in the Addiction's Field, ed. Ruth C. Engs, vol. 1, 96-103. Dubuque, IA: Kendall/Hunt Publishing Co., 1990. HV 5801.C587 1990 v.1.

Hanson, David J. The Drinking Age Should be Lowered. In Controversies in the Addiction's Field, ed. Ruth C. Engs, vol. 1, 85-95. Dubuque, IA: Kendall/Hunt Publishing Co., 1990. HV 5801 .C5871990 v.1.

Komro, Kelli A. and Traci L. Toomey. Strategies to prevent underage drinking. Alcohol Research & Health 26 (1): 5-14 (2002)

Toomey, Traci L., Carolyn Rosenfeld, and Alexander C. Wagenaar. The minimum legal drinking age: history, effectiveness, and ongoing debate. Alcohol Health & Research World 20(4):205-18 (1996).

Vingilis, Evelyn and Katherine De Genova. Youth and the forbidden fruit: experiences with changes in legal drinking age in North America. Journal of Criminal Justice 12 (2):161-72 (1984). HV 5135 .V56 1984

Voas, Robert B., A. Scott Tippetts, and James C. Fell. Assessing the effectiveness of minimum legal drinking age and zero tolerance laws in the United States. Accident Analysis & Prevention 35(4): 579-87 (2003)

Wagenaar, Alexander C. Research affects public policy: the case of the legal drinking age in the United States. Addiction 88(Supplement): 75S-81S (1993).

Wagenaar, Alexander C. and Toomey, Traci L. Effects of minimum drinking age laws: review and analyses of the literature from 1960 to 2000. Journal of Studies on Alcohol Suppl. 14: 206-25 (2002).