



Responsible Beverage Service Training & Alcohol Compliance Checks in Iowa



AC4C is an alliance of substance use prevention community coalitions and partners across Iowa focused on preventing substance use problems and other related issues in our state. AC4C members have been successful in mobilizing resources at the state and local level to reduce the use of illegal drugs and underage alcohol use in Iowa.

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Iowa ranks second in the nation in Excessive Drinking.

Excessive alcohol use includes underage drinking, overconsumption, heavy drinking, and binge drinking. Excessive drinking can lead to alcohol-involved deaths and injuries resulting from cirrhosis, car accidents, falls, suicides, homicides, etc. Alcohol-involved deaths have been rising sharply in Iowa over the past decade.

Two good evidence-based strategies to address excessive drinking in Iowa communities:

- **Responsible Beverage Server Training (RBST)** – Optional trainings are available and few counties require participation. Many local Prevention agencies and coalitions offer TIPs in-person and online trainings. I-PACT (Iowa Program for Alcohol Compliance Training) is available through the Iowa Alcoholic Beverage Division.
- **Alcohol compliance checks** – performed by law enforcement in retail settings, the goal of a compliance check program is to identify alcohol establishments that sell alcohol to underage youth.

Impact of RBST and Compliance Checks:

Compliance checks, in addition to programs like RBST, are used to educate retailers and the public about liquor laws and help to keep alcohol out of the hands of our youth.

Several studies have found that alcohol compliance checks can reduce the likelihood of alcohol sales to minors (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2004; Wagenaar et al, 2005). Other states that have alcohol compliance checks laws to help protect their youth see a reduction in underage drinking and youth driving while intoxicated.

What can you do?

Update Iowa Code - AC4C would like to see Iowa Code modified to clearly allow local jurisdictions to require RBST to meet their community needs.

Establish system for alcohol compliance checks – We have an existing system for tobacco compliance checks. Funding is needed to conduct alcohol compliance checks.