

# ONLINE ALCOHOL SALES AND HOME DELIVERY

## AND THE IMPACTS TO USE AND ACCESSIBILITY

Early studies show access to alcohol for minors is high with delivery services.<sup>1</sup>

Services that deliver alcohol on-demand can subvert current alcohol access restrictions, particularly through poor age verification processes.<sup>2</sup>



## YOUTH ALCOHOL USE

In Florida (2022), 14.1% of youth have reported trying alcohol before the age of 14 years old and 15.5% of high school students reported drinking alcohol in the past 30 days. Some counties, however, have higher alcohol use reports including Alachua at 21%, Dixie at 29%, Leon at 20%, Pasco at 22%, and Wakulla at 29%.<sup>3</sup>

Alcohol is the #1 drug used by children. One out of five Florida high school students reported drinking alcohol in the past 30 days. Underage drinking increased 14% among middle school students from 2019 to 2020.<sup>4</sup>



## ONLINE ALCOHOL SALES AND HOME DELIVERY

An international policy review and systematic literature review of online alcohol and home delivery revealed that 72 of 77 jurisdictions researched permitted online alcohol sales and home delivery. Few jurisdictions require age verification at the time of purchase, but most require it at delivery. Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, most jurisdictions (69%) have either temporarily or permanently relaxed liquor regulations for alcohol home delivery. Three articles examined retailer compliance with age restrictions and found relatively low compliance (0%-46%).<sup>5</sup>

In 2020, the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control began running about twelve fake delivery tests. These tests involved young people supervised by officials who tried to buy alcohol online or by phone even though they were underage. In the initial test, 79% of the delivery drivers handed over alcohol to these underage buyers. In a second test in May 2020, there was a violation rate of 53%.<sup>6</sup>



## POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS/CONSIDERATIONS

Home delivery is a previously unidentified source of alcohol for underage drinkers that could be curtailed with effective alcohol policies.

- Require delivery drivers to go through a state-approved education about delivering alcoholic beverages
- Permit home delivery, but with restrictions, including:
  - Limits on the quantity that may be delivered
  - Limits on the time of day or days of the week when deliveries may occur
- A requirement that the retail merchant and third-party delivery services obtain a special license or permit.
- Require the state to collect data about on home delivery alcohol services.



### SOURCES:

<sup>1</sup>Fletcher LA, Toomey TL, Wagenaar AC, Short B, Willenbring ML. Alcohol home delivery services: a source of alcohol for underage drinkers. *J Stud Alcohol*. 2000 Jan;61(1):81-4. doi: 10.15288/jsa.2000.61.81. PMID: 10627100. <sup>2</sup>Duthie C, Pocock T, Curl A, Clark E, Norriss D, Bidwell S, McKechar C, Crossin R. Online on-demand delivery services of food and alcohol: A scoping review of public health impacts. *SSM Popul Health*. 2023 Jan 24;21:101349. doi: 10.1016/j.ssmph.2023.101349. PMID: 36845670; PMCID: PMC9950721. <sup>3</sup>Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey <sup>4</sup>Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey <sup>5</sup>Colbert S, Wilkinson C, Thornton L, Feng X, Richmond R. Online alcohol sales and home delivery: An international policy review and systematic literature review. *Health Policy*. 2021 Sep;125(9):1222-1237. doi: 10.1016/j.healthpol.2021.07.005. Epub 2021 Jul 18. PMID: 34311980. <sup>6</sup>Your To-Go Cocktails Make It Harder to Enforce Underage Drinking Laws <https://stateline.org/2022/05/05/your-to-go-cocktails-make-it-harder-to-enforce-underage-drinking-laws/>

