

The Role of Alcohol Policy in Oregon's Addiction Crisis

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Who We Are...



The Addiction Crisis

Untreated Addiction
Rate



Alcohol kills 5 Oregonians a day,
5x times the rate of all drug
overdoses combined

Access to Addiction
Treatment

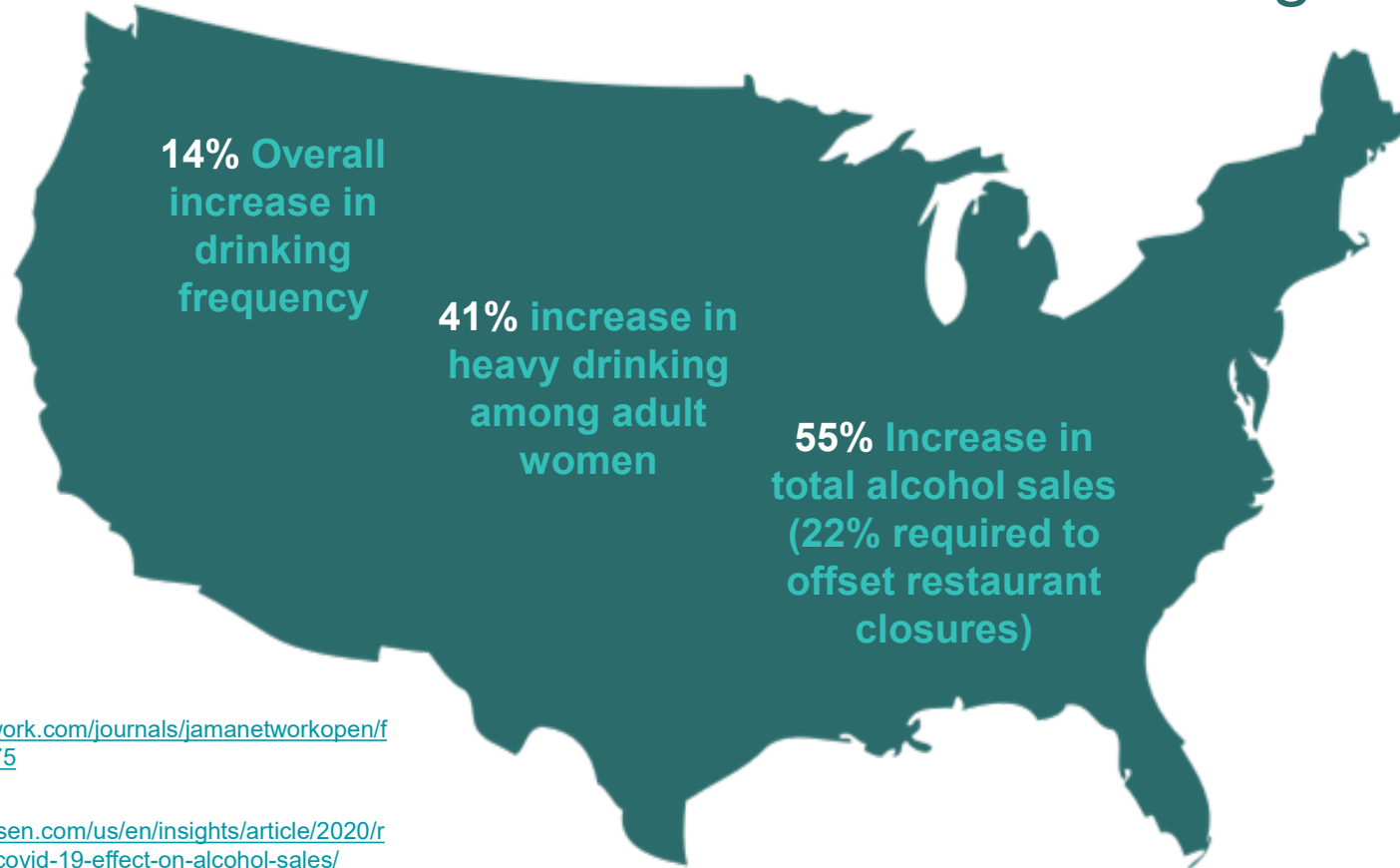


Alcohol Drives Oregon's Addiction Crisis



Alcohol kills nearly 2,000 Oregonians a year, a **34% increase in the past 20 years.**

The Pandemic's Effect on Drinking



<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2770975>

<https://www.nielsen.com/us/en/insights/article/2020/rebalancing-the-covid-19-effect-on-alcohol-sales/>

Oregon's Response



**↑ Access to alcohol
despite public health
recommendations and
legislative opposition**

"Existing rules and regulations to protect health and reduce harm caused by alcohol, such as restricting access, should be upheld and even reinforced during the COVID-19 pandemic and emergency situations; while any relaxation of regulations or their enforcement should be avoided."

- **WHO Alcohol and
COVID-19 Fact Sheet**

Compliance: Problem with Home Delivery

Vendors completed
45% of online orders to
underage buyers



Only 28% of orders
were rejected due to
age verification



10% of 12th grade
students report
obtaining alcohol
through home delivery



Williams RS, Ribisl KM. Internet Alcohol Sales to Minors. *Arch Pediatr Adolesc Med.* 2012;166(9):808–813. doi:10.1001/archpediatrics.2012.265

Fletcher, L. A., Toomey, T. L., Wagenaar, A. C., Short, B., & Willenbring, M. L. (2000). Alcohol home delivery services: A source of alcohol for underage drinkers. *Journal of Studies on Alcohol*, 61, 81–84.

The Impact



**Acuity and Stress
on the BH System**

↑ **Severity** of BH
Symptoms

10-20% Increase in
operational costs



**Treatment
Capacity**

10-12% Reduction in BH
Provider Capacity

7-10% Reduction in BH
Workforce

What Oregonians Need

**Require OHA to track
changes in alcohol
consumption/
hospitalizations
during pandemic**

**Require ALL OLCC
rule changes relating
to alcohol be vetted
by public health
officials**

**Support raising the
price of alcohol to
reduce harmful
consumption**

**Reverse home
delivery rules after
the pandemic**



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Questions & Conversation

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