

EXPLORING THE IMPACT OF ALASKA'S LOCAL OPTION LAWS

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TERMINOLOGY

Dry Community

Defined as □having no alcohol allowed in the community at all (No sale, no importation, no possession)

Damp Community

Damp communities were defined as a community that allows alcohol possession, but which has laws which limit the amount of alcohol, who can sell alcohol, how much can be imported, etc.

Wet Community

Wet communities were defined as a community that has not elected any alcohol restriction beyond that of the State's alcohol laws.

BRIEF HISTORY OF ALASKA'S LOCAL OPTION LAWS

Prior to Statehood, alcohol jurisdiction fell to the federal government which banned alcohol sales to Natives, and rural Alaska was largely alcohol free until this law was repealed in 1953.



The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)
Indian Reorganization Act.
(Shiveley et al., 2009;
Berman et al., 2001).

BRIEF HISTORY OF ALASKA'S LOCAL OPTION LAWS

Statehood



As the rates of alcohol related health issues, accidents, and deaths grew in Alaska, concern for the future of Alaska Native communities sparked a grassroots movement comprised of village councils, elders, clergy, social service professionals and law enforcement (Berman et al., 2001).

BRIEF HISTORY OF ALASKA'S LOCAL OPTION LAWS

Local option laws to prohibit or restrict sale of alcohol began in 1976.

By 1984 both incorporated and unincorporated communities were able to hold elections to vote to prohibit or restrict sale, importation, and possession of alcohol (Berman et al., 2001).



ALCOHOL'S IMPACT ON ALASKA

Alaska tops the list of states with the highest amount of societal, public health, and crime issues related to alcohol abuse in the US (Wood, Gruenewald, 2006).

Alaska has been suffering the detrimental effects of widespread alcohol abuse since it achieved statehood in 1959.

Financial and geographical factors have limited efforts to manage these issues through policing.

ALCOHOL'S IMPACT ON ALASKA

Financial and geographical factors have limited efforts to manage these issues through policing.

Historical trauma experienced by Alaska Natives has exacerbated substance abuse within that population.

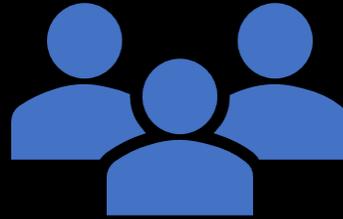
ALCOHOL'S IMPACT ON ALASKA

Alaska Natives living in rural communities with a population of less than 1,000 are more likely to die from alcohol related accidents, homicide or suicide than those living in more urban areas of Alaska (Shiveley et al., 2009).

Alaska Native people suffer significantly higher morbidity and mortality rates than most Caucasians living in the US usually in direct correlation with alcohol consumption, and are more likely to suffer from unintentional injury and accidental death, suicide, alcohol abuse, cirrhosis of the liver, alcohol-related dementia, and chronic liver disease (Skewes & Lewis, 2016).

RESEARCH QUESTION

“Does a community’s current alcohol laws impact their perception on the health and safety of their community?”



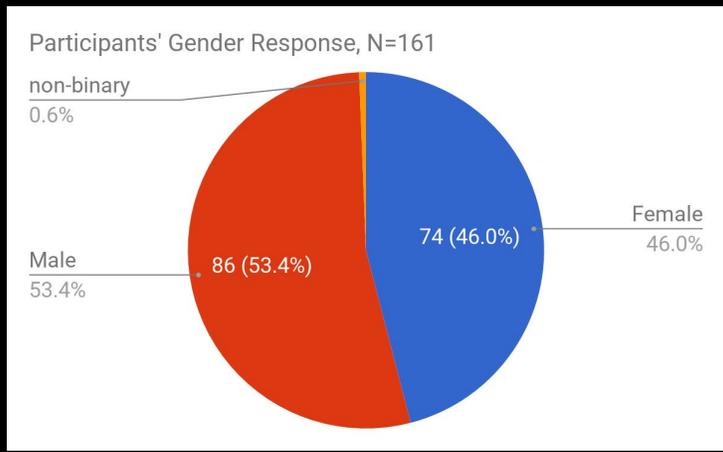
RESEARCH METHODS

- Quantitative surveys
- Questions included
 - Demographic data
 - Likert Scale and frequency question sections
 - Likert Scale questions pertaining to physical assault, homicide, domestic violence, and sexual assault.
- The final two questions allowed for people to voluntarily provide consent and contact information if they were willing to participate in a follow up qualitative interview. This may become my dissertation for my graduate program.

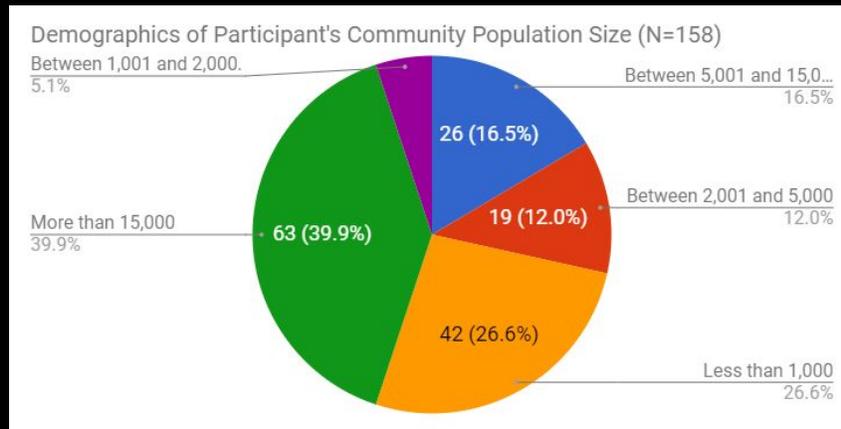
RESEARCH METHODS

- Snowball Sampling
 - Chain of command
- A one-way between subjects ANOVA was conducted to compare the perception of responses based on the local alcohol law status of a community.

RESULTS



RESULTS

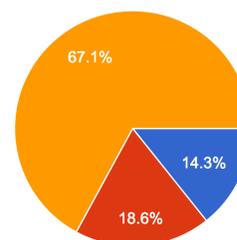


RESULTS

- 67.1% of participants (108) indicated they live or work in a wet community.
- 18.6% of participants (30) indicated they live or work in a damp community.
- 14.3% of participants (23) indicated they live or work in a dry community (n=161).

Is your community Dry, Damp or Wet?

161 responses



RESULTS

There was a significant effect of IV response to the Likert scale question asking whether participants believe local alcohol laws have increased unauthorized importation/smuggling of alcohol within their community at the $p < .05$ level for the three conditions [$F(2, 146) = 30.603, p = .000$] where $n=149$. Post hoc comparisons using Games-Howell test indicated that the mean score for dry communities ($M=4.7, SD=1.185$) and damp communities ($M=3.93, SD=1.893$) were significantly different than wet communities ($M=2.27, SD=1.476$), however there was no significant difference between dry and damp communities.



This indicates an increase in the belief that local alcohol laws increase unauthorized importation and smuggling in dry and damp communities compared to wet communities.

RESULTS

There was a significant effect of IV response to the frequency scale question asking participants how often people brew their own alcohol within their community at the $p < .05$ level for the three conditions [$F(2, 148) = 10.053, p = .000$] where $n=151$. Post hoc comparisons using Tukey HSD test indicated that the mean score for dry communities ($M=3.14, SD=.774$) was significantly different than wet communities ($M=2.33, SD=.726$) as well as different from damp communities ($M=2.34, SD=.936$), however there was no significant difference between responses from damp communities and responses from wet communities.



This indicates that participants in dry communities report a higher frequency of people brewing their own alcohol than those in wet and damp communities.

RESULTS

There was a significant effect of IV □response to the frequency scale question

asking how often participants believe people within their community consume home-brewed alcohol□ at the $p < .05$ level for the three conditions [$F(2, 151) = 4.865, p = .009$] where $n=151$. Post hoc comparisons using Tukey HSD test indicated that the mean score for dry communities ($M=3.00, SD=.926$) was significantly different than wet communities ($M=2.41, SD=.767$) as well as different from damp communities ($M=2.38, SD=.979$), however there was no significant difference between responses from damp communities and responses from wet communities.



This indicates that participants in dry communities report a higher frequency of consumption of home-brew within their communities than those in wet and damp communities.

RESULTS

There was a significant effect of IV □response to the frequency scale question asking how often participants believe drinking home-brew leads to hospitalization within their community□ at the $p < .05$ level for the three conditions [$F(2, 146) = 4.825, p = .009$] where $n=149$.□ Post hoc comparisons using Games-Howell test indicated that the mean score for dry communities ($M=2.29, SD=.644$) was significantly different than wet communities ($M=1.88, SD=.671$), however there was no significant difference between responses from damp communities and responses from dry or wet communities.



This indicates that participants in dry communities believe hospitalization resulting from consuming home-brew happens more frequently in their communities than those from wet communities.

RESULTS/DISCUSSION

In summary, findings indicated that those in dry communities believed the making and consumption of homebrew, the practice of bootlegging and smuggling, and hospitalization resulting from the consumption of homebrew were much more frequent in their community than participants in damp or wet communities.

RESULTS/DISCUSSION

Findings indicated that those in dry communities felt that alcohol related fires, drownings, suicides, and homicides, as well as underage drinking happened less frequently in their communities than participants in wet or damp communities.

RESULTS/DISCUSSION

No statistically significant difference was found between dry, damp and wet communities regarding things like physical assault, domestic violence, and sexual assault.

This could potentially indicate that Local Option Laws are ineffective at reducing interpersonal crimes, domestic violence, and sexual assault.

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