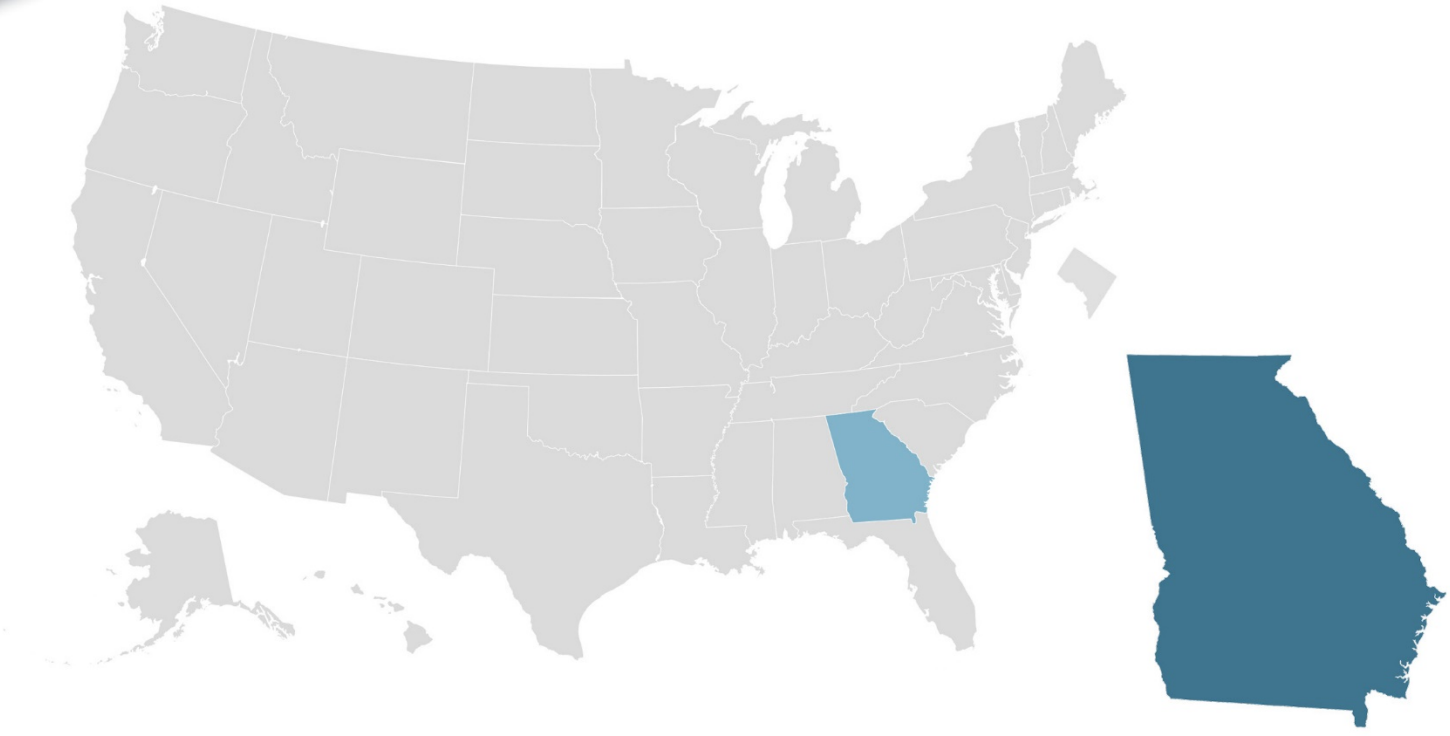
SAMHSA
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

Georgia

2021 State Reports – Underage Drinking Prevention and Enforcement



ICCPUD

The Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Prevention of Underage Drinking (ICCPUD)

This *State Report* is required by the Sober Truth on Preventing (STOP) Underage Drinking Act (Pub. L. 109-422), which was enacted by Congress in 2006 and reauthorized in December 2016 as part of the 21st Century Cures Act (Pub. L. 114-255). The STOP Act requires an annual report "on each State's performance in enacting, enforcing, and creating laws, regulations, and programs to prevent or reduce underage drinking." As directed by the STOP Act, the *State Reports* were prepared by the Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Prevention of Underage Drinking (ICCPUD), which is chaired by the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

Time Period Covered by this *State Report*: This *State Report* primarily includes data from calendar year 2020. Regional and state profile data were drawn from the most recently available federal survey data as of 2019. State legal data reflect the status of the law as of January 1, 2020. State survey data, collected in 2020, were drawn from the most recent 12-month period in which the states maintained the data.

Source of Data: For each state, overall population information was taken from 2010 Census data. Data about the portion of each state's population comprising 12-to 20-year-olds, as well as facts about past-month alcohol use and binge use, were averaged from the 2016 through 2019 National Surveys on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality (CBHSQ), and the NSDUH special data analysis (2020). Confidence intervals for these estimates are available from CBHSQ's Division of Surveillance and Data Collection on request. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Alcohol-Related Disease Impact (ARDI) application served as the resource for data about alcohol-attributable deaths from 2011–2015 among youth under age 21. ARDI was also the source for state-level data on years of potential life lost as a result of underage alcohol-related fatalities. The National Center for Statistics and Analysis's Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) provided the 2019 data used to present statistics about fatalities among 15- to 20-year-old drivers.

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Georgia

State Population: 10,617,423

Population Ages 12–20: 1,288,000

Past-Month Alcohol Use	
Ages 12–20	
Past-Month Alcohol Use – Number (Percentage)	186,000 (14.4%)
Past-Month Binge Alcohol Use – Number (Percentage)	101,000 (7.9%)
Ages 12–14	
Past-Month Alcohol Use – Number (Percentage)	9,000 (2.1%)
Past-Month Binge Alcohol Use – Number (Percentage)	3,000 (0.7%)
Ages 15–17	
Past-Month Alcohol Use – Number (Percentage)	48,000 (10.9%)
Past-Month Binge Alcohol Use – Number (Percentage)	23,000 (5.2%)
Ages 18–20	
Past-Month Alcohol Use – Number (Percentage)	129,000 (30.6%)
Past-Month Binge Alcohol Use – Number (Percentage)	76,000 (17.9%)
Adults Ages 18 +	
Past-Month Alcohol Use – (Percentage)	(51.7%)
Past-Month Binge Alcohol Use – (Percentage)	(23.1%)
Age of Initiation of Alcohol Use	
Average Age of Initiation	16.5
Alcohol-Related Deaths	
Alcohol-Attributable Deaths (under 21)	111
Years of Potential Life Lost (under 21)	6,687
Fatal Crashes Involving a 15- to 20-Year-Old Driver with Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) > 0.01%[1]	
Number of Fatalities Involving 15- to 20-Year-Old Driver with BAC > 0.01%	27
Percentage of All Fatal Crashes Involving a 15- to 20-Year-Old Driver	(15%)

[1] Alcohol-related fatalities are estimates derived from a sophisticated statistical procedure. The estimates are rounded to the nearest whole number, however, percentages as displayed are calculated from the unrounded estimates and may not equal those calculated from the rounded estimates. Totals may not equal the sum of components due to independent rounding.

The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities[12]

Created by the Governor and General Assembly in 2009, the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) and its network of community providers offer treatment and support services to help people with behavioral health challenges achieve recovery by focusing on their strengths. Through uniquely tailored supports and services, the department also helps people with intellectual and developmental disabilities attain independence and lead meaningful and fulfilling lives. DBHDD's vision is "easy access to high-quality care that leads to a life of recovery and independence for the people we serve". The mission is "to lead an accountable and effective continuum of care to support people with behavioral health challenges, and intellectual and developmental disabilities in a dynamic health care environment."

As a Cabinet-level department, DBHDD is the state agency responsible for administration, coordination, planning, regulation, and monitoring of all components of the state public behavioral health and intellectual and developmental disability systems. DBHDD operates state hospitals and provides for community-based services across the state through contracted providers. As Georgia's public safety net, the department's primary responsibility is to serve people who are uninsured. Individuals on Medicaid and others with few resources or options are also served.

The DBHDD system of services is administered through six field offices that serve Georgia. These offices administer the hospital and community resources assigned to the region. The regional field offices are responsible for: 1) locating and coordinating services and supports; 2) monitoring the services being received by consumers to ensure quality and access; 3) developing new services and expanding existing services as needed; 4) investigating and resolving complaints; 5) conducting special investigations and reviews when warranted; and 6) overseeing statewide initiatives.

The regional field offices ensure that services brokered by DBHDD are implemented and provided according to design—"Easy access to high-quality care that leads to a life of recovery and independence for the people we serve." These offices support the network of providers in their regions to assure a full array of services and supports to individuals needing publicly funded services. Each field office is managed by a Regional Services Administrator (RSA). These RSA's develop and maintain effective working relationships with all stakeholders in the region through regular meetings with providers, consumers, family members, advocates, elected officials, Regional Advisory Council (RAC) members, and other social services agencies. RSAs work closely with Regional Hospital Administrators and the Central Office, Director of Field Operations, to assure continuity and quality of services across regions.

The role the RAC plays with each field office is to promote public awareness of mental health, developmental disabilities, and addictive diseases disorders and to help the public better understand consumers and their needs and services. Council members stay informed about local needs and issues and serve as advocates with public officials. The main objective of the council is to assist the department in fulfilling its vision of "easy access to high-quality care that leads to

[12] Extracted from fiscal year (FY) 2020/2021 – (Georgia) State Behavioral Health Assessment and Plan, Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant (SABG), Center for Substance Abuse and Prevention (CSAP), Division of State Programs, Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT), Division of State and Community Assistance: Planning Step One. Assess the strengths and needs of the service system to address the specific populations.

a life of recovery and independence for the people we serve." These advisory councils are required to have at least 50 percent of their membership comprised of consumers and family members to assure the inclusion of the consumer/family voice in determining needed services for the local region.

Office of Addictive Diseases

DBH's Office of Addictive Diseases (OAD) provides leadership for adult and adolescent substance use disorder treatment services. The responsibilities include program oversight; grants management; ensuring compliance with federal and state funding requirements; maintaining collaborative relationships with advocacy groups and other stakeholders; providing data and information at the regional and local levels to impact policy decisions; statewide technical assistance to providers and the six DBHDD field offices; developing and maintaining collaboration among private and public sector providers and stakeholders; providing training and information on best practices for substance use disorder treatment; coordinating collaborative efforts in increasing best practices models; assisting community and faith-based groups in developing capacity and training; overseeing HIV Early Intervention Services among substance users and their families and significant others; overseeing men's residential treatment services throughout Georgia and the Women's Treatment and Recovery Services program; and carrying out gambling prevention activities.

OAD and the Office of Adult Mental Health coordinate treatment and training issues regarding service delivery to those with co-occurring substance use and mental health disorders. By contract, all state providers of services must be co-occurring-capable. Georgia has spent several years providing statewide training to ensure competency in assessing and treating both mental illness and substance use disorders. In addition, both offices share the same service definitions in the state provider manual and work in harmony to ensure that adults, children, and adolescents have an integrated system of care.

Office of Behavioral Health Prevention

DBH's Office of Behavioral Health Prevention (OBHP) is the state agency charged with providing prevention leadership, strategic planning, and services to improve the mental/emotional well-being of communities, families, and individuals in Georgia. The OBHP develops and contracts for prevention services across the state specifically designed to reduce the risks and increase protective factors linked to substance use–related problem behaviors, suicide, and mental health promotion. The office uses a public health approach (population-based) and the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) Model (Assessment, Capacity, Planning, Implementation and Evaluation).

Alcohol & Substance Abuse Prevention Project

The Alcohol & Substance Abuse Prevention Project (ASAPP) Project is a statewide initiative aimed at preventing alcohol and identified substances of abuse and promoting healthy lifestyles and choices among Georgians. Based on epidemiological data, early onset of alcohol use and abuse and binge drinking have been identified as major public health and safety issues in Georgia. Using the SPF model and a public health approach, the objective of ASAPP is to implement evidence-based prevention strategies (programs/practices/policies) targeting the state's identified priority need, alcohol, and to allow communities to address a second local

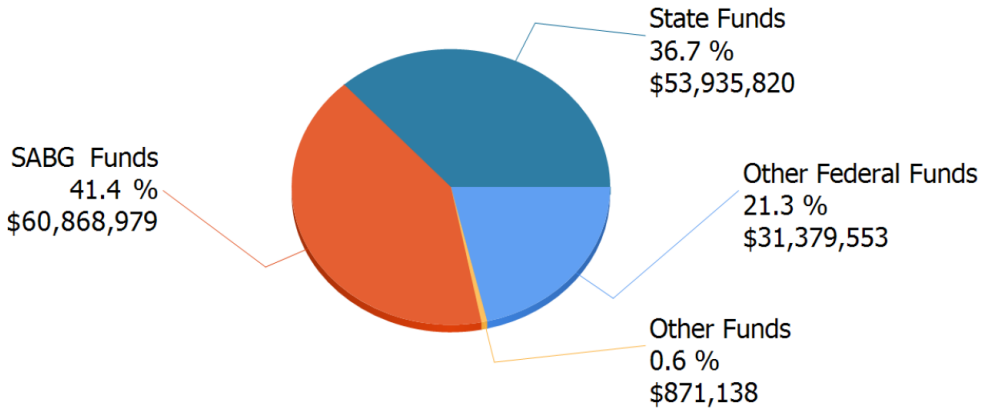
priority need identified using local data. The project requires all providers to participate in a state-level evaluation as well as conduct and share results of their local community evaluation. Providers are also required to join with community coalitions and develop Community Prevention Alliance Workgroups to effectively implement the strategies and garner community buy-in for accomplishing the goals. ASAPP currently funds 42 contractors across the six DBHDD regions.

Expenditures for Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment

All states receive federal funds for substance abuse prevention through Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant (SABG) funds administered by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Exhibit 1 shows the sources that Georgia used for expenditures on substance abuse prevention and treatment in 2020. As indicated, SABG funds and state funds account for the largest sources (41.4 percent and 36.7 percent, respectively).[13]

States submit Behavioral Assessment and Plan reports that include their priorities for use of SABG funds, as well as planned expenditures. For FY 2020–2021, Georgia designated reducing alcohol access and use to alcohol among 9- to 25-year-olds as priority number seven for use of SABG funds.[14]

Exhibit 1: Sources of Georgia's 2020 Expenditures for Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment



[13] WebBGAS State Profile, 2020 SABG and Community Mental Health Block Grant (MHBG) Reports – Georgia 2020
[14] FY 2020/2021 – (Georgia) State Behavioral Assessment and Plan, SABG, CSAP, Division of State Programs, Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, Division of State and Community Assistance: Table 1: Priority Areas and Annual Performance Indicators.

State Performance: Laws, Enforcement, and Programs

As mandated by the STOP Act, this report details Georgia's performance in enacting, enforcing, and creating laws, regulations, and programs to prevent or reduce underage drinking.

The following sections address these measures:

State Laws and Policies: These underage drinking prevention policies have been identified as best practices (or as promising practices suitable for ongoing evaluation) and fall into six categories:

1. Underage possession or purchase of alcohol.
2. Underage drinking and driving.
3. Alcohol availability.
4. Sales and delivery to consumers at home.
5. Alcohol pricing.
6. Enforcement policies.

STOP Act State Survey Data: The STOP Act requires annual reporting of data from the 50 states and the District of Columbia on their performance in enacting, enforcing, and creating laws, regulations, and programs to prevent or reduce underage drinking. Administered since 2011, the STOP Act State Survey collects data on the following topics:

1. Enforcement programs to promote compliance with underage drinking laws and regulations.
2. Programs targeted to youth, parents, and caregivers to deter underage drinking.
3. State interagency collaborations to implement prevention programs, best-practice standards, collaborations with tribal governments, and participation in underage drinking media campaigns.
4. State expenditures on the prevention of underage drinking.

Underage Possession or Purchase of Alcohol

Underage Possession	
Is underage possession of alcoholic beverages prohibited?	Yes
Are there exceptions based on family relationships? • Is possession allowed if parent or guardian is present or consents? • Is possession allowed if spouse is present or consents?	Yes, in specified locations – see below No
Is there an exception based on location?	Yes, in parent's/guardian's home if parent/guardian is present or consents

Underage Consumption	
Is underage consumption of alcoholic beverages prohibited?	No law
Are there exceptions based on family relationships? • Is consumption allowed if parent or guardian is present or consents? • Is consumption allowed if spouse is present or consents?	N/A N/A
Is there an exception based on location?	N/A

Underage Internal Possession	
Is underage internal possession of alcoholic beverages prohibited?	No law
Are there exceptions based on family relationships? • Is internal possession allowed if parent or guardian is present or consents? • Is internal possession allowed if spouse is present or consents?	N/A N/A
Is there an exception based on location?	N/A

Underage Purchase and Attempted Purchase	
Is the purchase of alcoholic beverages prohibited?	Yes
May youth purchase for law enforcement purposes?	No

Underage False Identification for Obtaining Alcohol	
Provisions Targeting Minors	
Is the use of false identification (ID) prohibited?	Yes
Does the use of a false ID result in minor's driver's license suspension?	No
Provisions Targeting Suppliers	
Is the lending or transferring or selling of a false ID prohibited?	No

Is the production of a false ID in the context of underage alcohol sales specifically prohibited?	No
Retailer Support Provisions	
Is there an incentive for the retailer to use electronic scanners for information digitally encoded on valid IDs?	No
Are state driver's licenses for persons under 21 easily distinguishable from licenses for persons 21 and over?	Yes
May the retailer seize apparently false IDs without fear of prosecution even if the ID is ultimately deemed valid?	Yes
Does an affirmative defense exist for the retailer?	Yes
• Is it a specific affirmative defense (retailer reasonably believed ID was valid after examining it)?	Yes
• Is it a general affirmative defense (retailer reasonably believed purchaser was over 21)?	No
Does the retailer have the right to sue the minor for use of a false ID?	No
May the retailer detain a minor who used a false ID?	No
Notes: In Georgia, the prohibition against furnishing to a minor does not apply when a retailer has been provided with "proper identification," defined as "any document issued by a governmental agency containing a description of the person, such person's photograph, or both, and giving such person's date of birth." When a reasonable or prudent person could reasonably be in doubt as to whether a customer is of legal drinking age, the retailer has a duty to request to see and to be furnished with proper identification in order to verify the customer's age, and the failure to make such request and verification in the case of an underage person may be considered by the trier of fact in determining whether the retailer furnishing the alcoholic beverage did so knowingly. See Ga. Code Ann. § 3-3-23(d), (h). For purposes of this report, the "reasonable or prudent person" requirement is interpreted as providing the retailer a defense for reasonable reliance on an apparently valid ID.	

Underage Drinking and Driving

Youth Blood Alcohol Concentration Limits (Underage Operators of Noncommercial Motor Vehicles)	
What is the maximum blood alcohol concentration (BAC) limit for an underage driver of a motor vehicle?	0.02
Does a BAC level in excess of limit automatically establish a violation (per se violation)?	Yes
What is the minimum age to which the limit applies?	0
What is the maximum age to which the limit applies?	21

Loss of Driving Privileges for Alcohol Violations by Minors ("Use/Lose" Laws)	
Is there a "use/lose" law that suspends or revokes a minor's driving privileges for alcohol violations?	No
What types of violation lead to license suspension or revocation?	
• Purchase of alcohol	N/A
• Possession of alcohol	N/A
• Consumption of alcohol	N/A
The law applies to people under what age?	N/A
Is suspension or revocation mandatory or discretionary?	N/A
What is the length of suspension/revocation?	
Minimum number of days	N/A
Maximum number of days	N/A

Graduated Driver's Licenses	
Learner Stage	
What is the minimum age for permit to drive with parents, guardians, or other adults (other than instructors)?	15
What is the minimum number of months driver must hold learner permit before advancing to intermediate stage?	12
What is the minimum number of hours of driving with parents, guardians, or adults before advancing to intermediate stage?	40 (6 of which must be at night)
Intermediate Stage	
What is the minimum age for driving without adult supervision?	16
For night driving, when does adult supervision requirement begin?	12:000 AM
Can law enforcement stop a driver for night driving violation as a primary offense?	No
Are there restrictions on passengers?	Yes; first 6 months, immediate family only. Second 6 months, no more than one passenger under 21 who is not immediate family. After one year, no more than 3 passengers under 21 who are not immediate family
Can law enforcement stop driver for violation of passenger restrictions as a primary offense?	No
License Stage	
What is the minimum age for full license privileges and lifting of restrictions?	18

Alcohol Availability

Furnishing Alcohol to Minors	
Is furnishing of alcoholic beverages to minors prohibited?	Yes
Are there exceptions based on family relationships? • Is furnishing allowed if the parent or guardian supplies the alcohol? • Is furnishing allowed if the spouse supplies the alcohol?	 Yes, in specified locations No
Is there an exception based on location?	Yes, in a parent's/guardian's home, if parent/guardian/spouse supplies alcohol
Affirmative Defense for Sellers and Licensees	
Does law require seller/licensee to be exonerated of furnishing to a minor if the minor has not been charged?	No

Responsible Beverage Service (RBS)	
Is there a state law pertaining to Beverage Service Training?	No
If training is mandatory, who must participate?	N/A
If training is voluntary, which of the following incentives are offered?	
• Defense in dram shop liability lawsuits	N/A
• Discounts in dram shop liability insurance, license fees, or other	N/A
• Mitigation of fines or other administrative penalties for sales to minors or intoxicated persons	N/A
• Protection against license revocation for sales to minors or sales to intoxicated persons	N/A
Does the RBS law apply to on-premises establishments (such as bars and restaurants) or off-premises establishments (such as liquor stores)?	N/A
Does the RBS law apply to new or existing licensees?	N/A

Minimum Age for Sellers of Alcohol – Off-Premises (i.e., Liquor Stores)	
What is the minimum age requirement for off-premises retail establishments?	
Beer	None
Wine	None
Spirits	None
Does a manager or supervisor have to be present when an underage person is selling beverages?	No

Minimum Age for Alcohol Servers and Bartenders – On-Premises (i.e., Restaurants and Bars)	
What is the minimum age requirement for servers in on-premises establishments?	
Beer	18
Wine	18
Spirits	18
What is the minimum age requirement for bartenders in on-premises establishments?	
Beer	18
Wine	18
Spirits	18
Does a manager or supervisor have to be present when an underage person is selling beverages?	No

Distance Limitations Applied to New Alcohol Outlets Near Universities, Colleges, and Primary and Secondary Schools	
Colleges and Universities	
Is there a distance requirement for off-premises outlets (i.e., liquor stores)?	Yes, within 100 yards for wine and beer; within 200 yards for spirits. Local government has the authority to override state restrictions for wine and beer for grocery stores.
Is there a distance requirement for on-premises outlets (i.e., restaurants and bars)?	Yes, within 100 yards for wine and beer; within 200 yards for spirits. Local government has authority to override state restrictions.
To which alcohol products does requirement apply?	Beer, wine, spirits
Primary and Secondary Schools	
Is there a distance requirement for off-premises outlets (i.e., liquor stores)?	Yes, within 100 yards for wine and beer; within 200 yards for spirits. Local government has the authority to override state restrictions for wine and beer for grocery stores.
Is there a distance requirement for on-premises outlets (i.e., restaurants and bars)?	Yes, within 100 yards for wine and beer; within 200 yards for spirits. Local government has authority to override state restrictions.
To which alcohol products does requirement apply?	Beer, wine, spirits
Notes: Exceptions are 1) hotels of more than 50 rooms; 2) bona fide private clubs.	

Dram Shop Liability	
Does a statute create dram shop liability?	Yes
Does the statute limit damages that may be recovered?	No
Does the statute limit who may be sued?	No
Does the statute limit elements or standards of proof?	Yes (Furnishing with knowledge that customer was a minor and would soon be operating a motor vehicle.)

Does common law dram shop liability exist?	No

Social Host Liability	
Does a statute create social host liability?	Yes
Does the statute limit damages that may be recovered?	No
Does the statute limit who may be sued?	No
Does the statute limit elements or standards of proof?	Yes (Furnishing with knowledge that customer was a minor and would soon be operating a motor vehicle.)
Does common law social host liability exist?	No

Prohibitions Against Hosting Underage Drinking Parties	
Does a statute prohibit hosting underage drinking parties?	No
Is the statute specific to underage parties, or a general prohibition against permitting underage drinking on the property?	N/A
What action by underage guest triggers a violation?	N/A
Property type covered by the law?	N/A
What level of knowledge by the host is required?	N/A
Does host's preventive action protect him/her from being held liable?	N/A
Are there any exceptions for underage guests?	N/A

Keg Registration	
How is a keg defined (in gallons)?	More than 2.00
Prohibitions	
Is it illegal to possess an unregistered or unlabeled keg and if so, what is the penalty?	Yes (maximum fine/jail, $1,000/12 months)
Is it illegal to destroy the label on a keg, and if so, what is the penalty?	Yes (maximum fine/jail, $1,000/12 months)
What purchaser information is collected?	
Must the retailer collect the name and address?	Yes
Must the retailer collect the ID number, name and address on license or other government information?	Yes
Must the retailer collect the address at which keg will be consumed?	Yes
Must warning information be given to purchaser?	Active (requires action by purchaser)
Is a deposit required?	No
Does law cover disposable kegs?	No
Notes: Although Georgia does not require a retailer to record the number of a keg purchaser's ID, it does require the retailer to record the form of identification presented by the purchaser, as well as the purchaser's name, address, and date of birth.	

High-Proof Grain Alcohol Beverages	
Are there restrictions on the sale of high-proof grain alcohol beverages?	No
Are restrictions based on Alcohol by Volume (ABV)?	N/A
Are there exceptions to restrictions?	N/A

Sales and Delivery to Consumers at Home

Retailer Interstate Shipments of Alcohol	
Are out-of-state retailers prohibited from sending interstate shipments to in-state consumers?	
Beer	Prohibited
Wine	Prohibited
Spirits	Prohibited

Direct Shipments/Sales	
May alcohol producers ship directly to consumers?	Yes
What alcohol types may be shipped?	Wine
Must purchaser make mandatory trip to producer before delivery is authorized?	No
Age verification requirements	
Must the producer/shipper verify purchaser's age before sale?	Yes
Must the common carrier (deliverer) verify age of recipients?	No
State approval/permit requirements	
Must the producer/manufacturer obtain state license or permit?	Yes
Must the common carrier (deliverer) be approved by a state agency?	No
Recording/reporting requirements	
Must the producer/manufacturer record/report purchaser's name?	Yes
Must the common carrier (deliverer) record/report recipient's name?	No
Shipping label requirements	
Must the label state "Package contains alcohol"?	Yes
Must the label state "Recipient must be 21 years old"?	Yes
Notes: Wineries that hold a federal basic wine manufacturing permit, regardless of whether they are licensed by the state of Georgia, may also ship wines directly to consumers. The consumer must purchase the wine while physically present on the premises of the winery, and the winery must verify that the consumer is of the age to do so. Ga. Code Ann. § 3-6-32.	

Home Delivery	
Is home delivery of alcohol permitted?	
Beer	Prohibited
Wine	Prohibited
Spirits	Prohibited

Alcohol Pricing

Alcohol Taxes	
Beer	
Control system for beer?	No
Specific excise tax per gallon for 5% alcohol beer	$1.01
Ad valorem excise tax (for on-premises sales) on total receipts for 5% alcohol beer	
Wholesale tax rate (if applicable)	
Retail tax rate (if applicable)	
If retail tax rate applies, is there an exemption from general sales tax?	No
• General sales tax rate	Not relevant
• Sales tax adjusted retail tax rate (the retail tax minus the general sales tax, where there is an exemption from the general sales tax)	Not relevant
Ad valorem excise tax (for off-premises sales) on total receipts for 5% alcohol beer	
Wholesale tax rate (if applicable)	
Retail tax rate (if applicable)	
If retail tax rate applies, is there an exemption from general sales tax?	No
• General sales tax rate	Not relevant
• Sales tax adjusted retail tax rate (the retail tax minus the general sales tax, where there is an exemption from the general sales tax)	Not relevant
Additional taxes for 3.2 – 6% alcohol beer if applicable	
Notes: $0.32 per gallon for malt beverages sold in barrels or bulk containers containing not more than 31 gallons, and $0.39 per gallon on barrels or bulk containers of 15.5 gallons or less.	
Wine	
Control system for wine?	No
Specific excise tax per gallon for 12% alcohol wine	$0.42
Ad valorem excise tax (for on-premises sales) on total receipts for 12% alcohol wine	
Wholesale tax rate (if applicable)	
Retail tax rate (if applicable)	

If retail tax rate applies, is there an exemption from general sales tax?	No
• General sales tax rate	Not relevant
• Sales tax adjusted retail tax rate (the retail tax minus the general sales tax, where there is an exemption from the general sales tax)	Not relevant
Ad valorem excise tax (for off-premises sales) on total receipts for 12% alcohol wine	
Wholesale tax rate (if applicable)	
Retail tax rate (if applicable)	
If retail tax rate applies, is there an exemption from general sales tax?	No
• General sales tax rate	Not relevant
• Sales tax adjusted retail tax rate (the retail tax minus the general sales tax, where there is an exemption from the general sales tax)	Not relevant
Additional taxes for 6 – 14% alcohol wine if applicable	Georgia imposes an additional tax of $1.10 per gallon on the "importation for use, consumption, or final delivery" into the state of all wines with an alcohol content of 14% or less.
Spirits	
Control system for spirits?	No
Specific excise tax per gallon for 40% alcohol spirits	$1.89
Ad valorem excise tax (for on-premises sales) on total receipts for 40% alcohol spirits	
Wholesale tax rate (if applicable)	
Retail tax rate (if applicable)	
If retail tax rate applies, is there an exemption from general sales tax?	No
• General sales tax rate	Not relevant
• Sales tax adjusted retail tax rate (the retail tax minus the general sales tax, where there is an exemption from the general sales tax)	Not relevant
Ad valorem excise tax (for off-premises sales) on total receipts for 40% alcohol spirits	
Wholesale tax rate (if applicable)	
Retail tax rate (if applicable)	
If retail tax rate applies, is there an exemption from general sales tax?	No
• General sales tax rate	Not relevant
• Sales tax adjusted retail tax rate (the retail tax minus the general sales tax, where there is an exemption from the general sales tax)	Not relevant
Additional taxes for 15 – 50% alcohol spirits if applicable	

Notes: Georgia imposes an additional tax of $1.89 per gallon on the "importation for use, consumption, or final delivery" into the state of all distilled spirits.

Low-Price, High-Volume Drink Specials	
Are on-premises retailers prohibited from offering the following types of drink specials?	
Free beverages	No
Multiple servings at one time	No
Multiple servings for same price as single serving	No
Reduced price for a specified day or time (i.e., happy hours)	No
Unlimited beverages for fixed price	No
Increased volume without increase in price	No

Wholesaler Pricing Restrictions	
Beer	
Are volume discounts to retailers allowed?	No law
Must wholesalers establish a minimum markup or maximum discount for each product sold to retailers?	No law
Must wholesalers publicly post and hold (i.e., not reduce) prices for a set period of time?	Post and hold (180 days)
Is wholesaler permitted to extend credit to retailer and if so, what is the maximum time period?	No
Wine	
Are volume discounts to retailers allowed?	No law
Must wholesalers establish a minimum markup or maximum discount for each product sold to retailers?	No law
Must wholesalers publicly post and hold (i.e., not reduce) prices for a set period of time?	No law
Is wholesaler permitted to extend credit to retailer and if so, what is the maximum time period?	No
Spirits	
Are volume discounts to retailers allowed?	No law
Must wholesalers establish a minimum markup or maximum discount for each product sold to retailers?	No law
Must wholesalers publicly post and hold (i.e., not reduce) prices for a set period of time?	Post and hold (14 days)
Is wholesaler permitted to extend credit to retailer and if so, what is the maximum time period?	No

Enforcement Policies

Compliance Check Protocols	
Does the state have a written protocol for when an underage decoy is used in compliance checks?	Yes
What is the minimum age a decoy may be to participate in a compliance check?	17
What is the maximum age a decoy may be to participate in a compliance check?	20
Are there appearance requirements for the decoy?	Not specified
Does decoy carry ID during compliance check?	Prohibited (Except to obtain admission to facility or unless authorized in writing by Special Agent in Charge, Assistant Director, or Director.)
May decoy verbally exaggerate his or her actual age?	Prohibited
Is decoy training mandated, recommended, prohibited, or not specified?	Not specified

Penalty Guidelines for Sales to Minors	
Are there written guidelines for penalties that are imposed on retailers for furnishing to a minor?	Yes
What is the time period for defining second, third and subsequent offenses?	N/A
What is the penalty for the first offense?	$500-$2,500 fine, 12-month probation, up to 30-day suspension
What is the penalty for the second offense?	N/A
What is the penalty for the third offense?	N/A
What is the penalty for the fourth offense?	N/A
Notes: Mitigating and aggravating circumstances are considered and penalty guidelines are available if those circumstances are present.	

Georgia State Survey Responses

State Agency Information	
Agency with primary responsibility for enforcing underage drinking laws:	
Georgia Department of Revenue - Alcohol & Tobacco Division	
Enforcement Strategies	
State law enforcement agencies use:	
Cops in Shops	No
Shoulder Tap Operations	No
Party Patrol Operations or Programs	No
Underage Alcohol-Related Fatality Investigations	No
Local law enforcement agencies use:	
Cops in Shops	No
Shoulder Tap Operations	Yes
Party Patrol Operations or Programs	Yes
Underage Alcohol-Related Fatality Investigations	No
State has a program to investigate and enforce direct sales/shipment laws	Don't know
Primary state agency responsible for enforcing laws addressing direct sales/shipments of alcohol to minors	Not applicable
Such laws are also enforced by local law enforcement agencies	Not applicable
Enforcement Statistics	
State collects data on the number of minors found in possession	Yes
Number of minors found in possession[1] by state law enforcement agencies	5
Number pertains to the 12 months ending	06/30/2020
Data include arrests/citations issued by local law enforcement agencies	No
State conducts underage compliance checks/decoy operations[2] to determine whether alcohol retailers are complying with laws prohibiting sales to minors	Yes
Data are collected on these activities	Yes
Number of retail licensees in state[3]	20,654
Number of licensees checked for compliance by state agencies **(including random checks)**	3,150
Number of licensees that failed state compliance checks	174
Numbers pertain to the 12 months ending	06/20/2020
Compliance checks/decoy operations conducted at on-sale, off-sale, or both retail establishments	Both on- and off-sale establishments
*State conducts **random** underage compliance checks/decoy operations*	Yes
Number of licensees subject to **random** state compliance checks/decoy operations	3,150
Number of licensees that failed **random** state compliance checks	174
Local agencies conduct underage compliance checks/decoy operations to determine whether alcohol retailers are complying with laws prohibiting sales to minors	Yes
Data are collected on these activities	No
Number of licensees checked for compliance by local agencies	Not applicable
Number of licensees that failed local compliance checks	Not applicable
Numbers pertain to the 12 months ending	Not applicable
Sanctions	
State collects data on fines imposed on retail establishments that furnish to minors	Yes
Number of fines imposed by the state[4]	174
Total amount in fines across all licensees	$161,570
Smallest fine imposed	$0
Largest fine imposed	$1,900
Numbers pertain to the 12 months ending	06/30/2020

State collects data on license suspensions imposed on retail establishments specifically for furnishing to minors	Yes
Number of suspensions imposed by the state[5]	1
Total days of suspensions across all licensees	7
Shortest period of suspension imposed (in days)	0
Longest period of suspension imposed (in days)	7
Numbers pertain to the 12 months ending	06/30/2020
State collects data on license revocations imposed on retail establishments specifically for furnishing to minors	Yes
Number of license revocations imposed[6]	1
Numbers pertain to the 12 months ending	06/30/2020

Additional Clarification

The Georgia Department of Revenue - Alcohol & Tobacco Division does not collect data nor track fines on local law enforcement actions.

[1] Or having consumed or purchased per state statutes.
[2] Underage compliance checks/decoy operations to determine whether alcohol retailers are complying with laws prohibiting sales to minors.
[3] Excluding special licenses such as temporary, seasonal, and common carrier licenses.
[4] Does not include fines imposed by local agencies.
[5] Does not include suspensions imposed by local agencies.
[6] Does not include revocations imposed by local agencies.

Underage Drinking Prevention Programs Operated or Funded by the State

Alcohol & Substance Abuse Prevention Project

Number of youth served	No data
Number of parents served	No data
Number of caregivers served	No data
Program has been evaluated	Yes
Evaluation report is available	Yes
URL for evaluation report	No data
URL for more program information	http://ga-sps.org

Program Description: To address the negative impact of alcohol use, Georgia's Office of Behavioral Health Prevention (OBHPFG) has developed the Alcohol & Substance Abuse Prevention Project (ASAPP). Currently, 38 providers across the state are funded under ASAPP. The project aims to affect population-level change of behaviors and trends of alcohol and other substance use and abuse among youth and young adults ages 9-25. ASAPP uses the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) model to develop and implement strategies aimed at population-level change using the public health model approach. The objective of ASAPP is to implement statewide primary prevention strategies (programs/practices/policies) consistent with need as identified by epidemiological data, with the following goals:

1. Reduce access to alcohol among ages 9 to 20
2. Reduce binge drinking among ages 9 to 20
3. Reduce the early onset of alcohol use among ages 9 to 20
4. Reduce underage drinking rates
5. Reduce binge drinking and heavy drinking among ages 18 to 25
6. Reduce the misuse and abuse of specific additional substances (e.g., marijuana, tobacco, prescription drugs) targeted by individual providers
7. Identify the most effective strategies and key components for communities
8. Build and increase the capacity of the prevention workforce

Georgia Red Ribbon Campaign	
Number of youth served	No data
Number of parents served	No data
Number of caregivers served	No data
Program has been evaluated	No
Evaluation report is available	Not applicable
URL for evaluation report	Not applicable
URL for more program information	https://dbhdd.georgia.gov/red-ribbon-campaign

Program Description: Each year, the Governor's Office and the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD), Office of Behavioral Health Prevention and Federal Grants (OBHPFG), along with the Georgia Red Ribbon Committee recognizes groups and communities that have done an exemplary job in promoting and educating others about drug awareness, drug-free living, and healthy lifestyle choices during the Georgia Red Ribbon Campaign. The Red Ribbon Campaign is a media and activity-driven strategy aimed at building universal awareness of the importance of a drug-free lifestyle. Each year, schools and communities are encouraged to develop messages and activities to demonstrate their commitment to living drug-free lifestyles. Red Ribbon events target schools and colleges, community-based organizations, corporations, media, coalitions, parents/parent groups, health professionals, legislators/policy makers, government employees, and the public.

Additional Underage Drinking Prevention Programs Operated or Funded by the State

No data

Additional Clarification

No data

Additional Information Related to Underage Drinking Prevention Programs

State collaborates with federally recognized tribal governments in the prevention of underage drinking	No recognized tribal governments
Description of collaboration: Not applicable	
State has programs to measure and/or reduce youth exposure to alcohol advertising and marketing	Yes
Description of program: As a part of the ASAP Project, there are two providers working on strategies to reduce youth exposure to alcohol advertising and marketing. These providers are implementing evidence-based environmental strategies (Outlet Density, Product Placement, and Restrictions on Advertising Promotion: Communities Mobilizing for Change on Alcohol [CMCA]).	
State collaborates with/participates in media campaigns to prevent underage drinking	Yes
Federal campaigns:	No
Regional and local media campaigns: Most ASAP Project providers (funded by DBHDD) are implementing a media campaign to address underage drinking in their local community.	Yes
Local school district efforts:	No
Other:	No
State collaborates with/participates in SAMHSA's national media campaign, "Talk. They Hear You." (TTHY)	No
State officially endorses TTHY efforts	Not applicable
State commits state resources for TTHY	Not applicable
State forwards TTHY materials to local areas	Not applicable

Other:	Not applicable
State procures funding for TTHY	Not applicable
Pro bono	Not applicable
Donated air time	Not applicable
Earned media	Not applicable
Other:	Not applicable
State has adopted or developed best practice standards for underage drinking prevention programs	Yes
Agencies/organizations that established best practices standards:	
Federal agency(ies): HHS, SAMHSA	Yes
Agency(ies) within your state: DBHDD	Yes
Nongovernmental agency(ies):	No
Other:	No

Best practice standards description: The SPF has been incorporated into almost every aspect of prevention in Georgia. This has allowed the OBHPFG to be strategic about the provision of prevention services and programs in Georgia and to increase utilization of evidence-based programs, practices, and policies. As a result, OBHPFG is able to target our services, show outcomes in our communities, and ensure long-term sustainability of evidence-based substance abuse/use prevention efforts. This model requires target communities to develop and implement strategies aimed at population-level change using the public health model approach, and to use a comprehensive approach to develop and implement sustainable outcome-based prevention strategies. OBHPFG also used the Surgeon General's Call to Action to Prevent and Reduce Underage Drinking to assist in continuing to develop best practice standards.

Additional Clarification

No data

State Interagency Collaboration

A state-level interagency governmental body/committee exists to coordinate or address underage drinking prevention activities	Yes

Committee contact information:

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Phone: (404) 304-1391

Agencies/organizations represented on the committee:

Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities
Georgia Department of Revenue, Alcohol and Tobacco Division
Georgia Department of Public Health
Georgia Poison Center
Georgia Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice
Georgia Department of Education
Georgia Bureau of Investigations
Atlanta-Carolinas High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area

A website or other public source exists to describe committee activities	No
URL or other means of access: Not applicable	

Underage Drinking Reports

State has prepared a plan for preventing underage drinking in the last three years	Yes
Prepared by: Georgia DBHDD, OBHPFG	
Plan can be accessed via: No data	
State has prepared a report on preventing underage drinking in the last three years	Yes
Prepared by: Georgia DBHDD, OBHPFG	

Report can be accessed via: No data

Additional Clarification

State interagency collaborations take place within the State Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup (SEOW), which works to inform prevention planning and implementation across the state.

State Expenditures for the Prevention of Underage Drinking

Compliance checks in retail outlets:	
Estimate of state funds expended	Data not available
Estimate based on the 12 months ending	Data not available
Checkpoints and saturation patrols:	
Estimate of state funds expended	Data not available
Estimate based on the 12 months ending	Data not available
Community-based programs to prevent underage drinking:	
Estimate of state funds expended	$0
Estimate based on the 12 months ending	12/31/2019
K–12 school-based programs to prevent underage drinking:	
Estimate of state funds expended	Data not available
Estimate based on the 12 months ending	Data not available
Programs targeted to institutes of higher learning:	
Estimate of state funds expended	Data not available
Estimate based on the 12 months ending	Data not available
Programs that target youth in the juvenile justice system:	
Estimate of state funds expended	Data not available
Estimate based on the 12 months ending	Data not available
Programs that target youth in the child welfare system:	
Estimate of state funds expended	Data not available
Estimate based on the 12 months ending	Data not available
Other programs:	
Programs or strategies included: Data not available	
Estimate of state funds expended	Data not available
Estimate based on the 12 months ending	Data not available

Funds Dedicated to Underage Drinking

State derives funds dedicated to underage drinking from the following revenue streams:	
Taxes	No
Fines	No
Fees	No
Other: Not applicable	No

Description of funding streams and how they are used:

Not applicable

Additional Clarification

To address the negative impact of alcohol use in Georgia, the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, Office of Behavioral Health Prevention and Federal Grants developed ASAPP using SAMHSA SAPT Block Grant funding.

SAMHSA
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

The Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Prevention of Underage Drinking (ICCPUD)