# Pinkwashing and Corporate Marketing

#### Alcohol products marketed to prevent cancer

#### Bruce Lee Livingston, MPP Executive Director / CEO Alcohol Justice

General Session #2 Wisconsin Alcohol Policy Seminar Kalahari Retreat and Conference Center Wisconsin Dells October 18, 2016

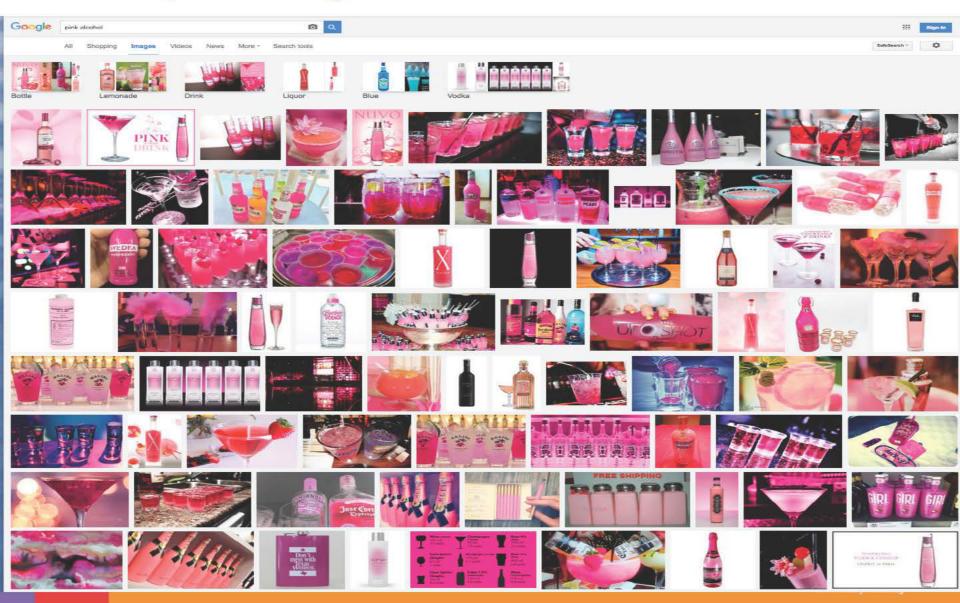


# **Topics Today**

- Alcohol contributes to breast cancer
- Pink ribbon campaigns promote drinking more of a carcinogen
- Big Alcohol markets to youth
- Industry increasingly concentrated
- It controls politics and culture
- You can fight back



### **A Simple Google Search for "Pink Alcohol"**





#### Special October Promotion



For every bottle of our Pink Chardonnay you purchase in October, we will donate \$1.00 to breast cancer research.

Thank you for your support.







THE VODKA THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE. SUPPORT HER. NEW SITE COMING SOON

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# SCREW CANCER. RELAX WINES HELPS SAVE THE TA-TAS.



#RELAX4TaTas

ELA

# **Breast cancer: common & costly**

Globally for women:

- The breast is the most common cancer site diagnosed.
- Breast cancer (BC) the most common cause of cancer death worldwide

United States 2015 projections

- 231,840 new BC cases
- 40,290 estimated BC deaths
- Direct care costs estimated at \$18.5 billion

Ferlay, Soerjomataram, Dikshit, et al. Int J Cancer 2015. Schottenfeld, Beebe-Dimmer, Buffler, et al. Ann Rev Public Health 2013. National Cancer Institute. Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results Program; 2015. National Cancer Institute. Cancer prevalence and cost of care projections; 2015. Canadian Cancer Society. Breast cancer statistics; 2015.



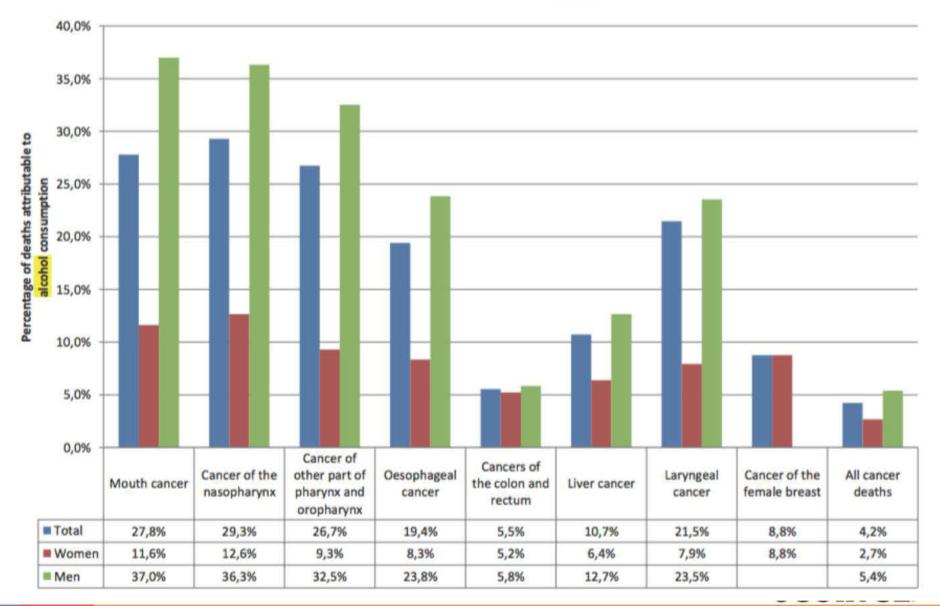
## **Cancer Attributable to Alcohol**

- Mouth
- Pharynx (nasal passages)
- Larynx (voice box)
- Esophagus
- Colon
- Rectum
- Liver
- Female Breast

### 5.4% of all cancer deaths worldwide



#### Fig. 2.3.1. Percentage of deaths from various forms of cancer attributable to alcohol consumption, in 2010.



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### **Alcohol & breast cancer**

- 8.8% of global breast cancer death is alcoholattributable.
- 15% of breast cancer deaths among women were attributable to alcohol in the US
- More than 100 studies show alcohol is a causal contributor to female breast cancer
- Alcohol declared a Group 1 carcinogen for breast cancer in 2007
- Risk starts increasing at as low as one drink per day Moderate consumption causes cancer.
   So why should women drink less? Breast cancer.

Stewart, Wild. World Cancer Report 2014. International Agency for Research on Cancer, 2014. World Health Organization. Global status report on alcohol and heath. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2014. Bagnardi, Rota, Botteri, et al. Br J Cancer 2015. Nelson, Jarman, Rehm, et al. Am J Public Health 2013.











RECIPICS

FAQ

SHOP





Available through December





#### Breast Cancer Awareness Month (BCAM)

October 1985: Pharmaceutical company Zeneca launched BCAM

Late 1985: Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Research Foundation, Self Magazine, Estee Lauder, and Avon all launched and promoted ribbons for breast cancer awareness

Early 1990s...Estee Lauder distributed millions of pink ribbons at cosmetic counters

...to 2015: hundreds of other companies put pink ribbons on products including clothes, food, cosmetics and beauty products, appliances, cars, foods, beverages...

#### Pink Ribbon Cause Marketing History

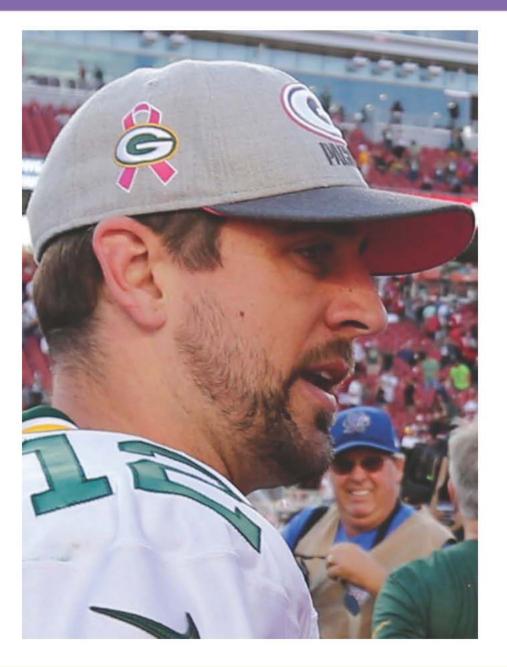




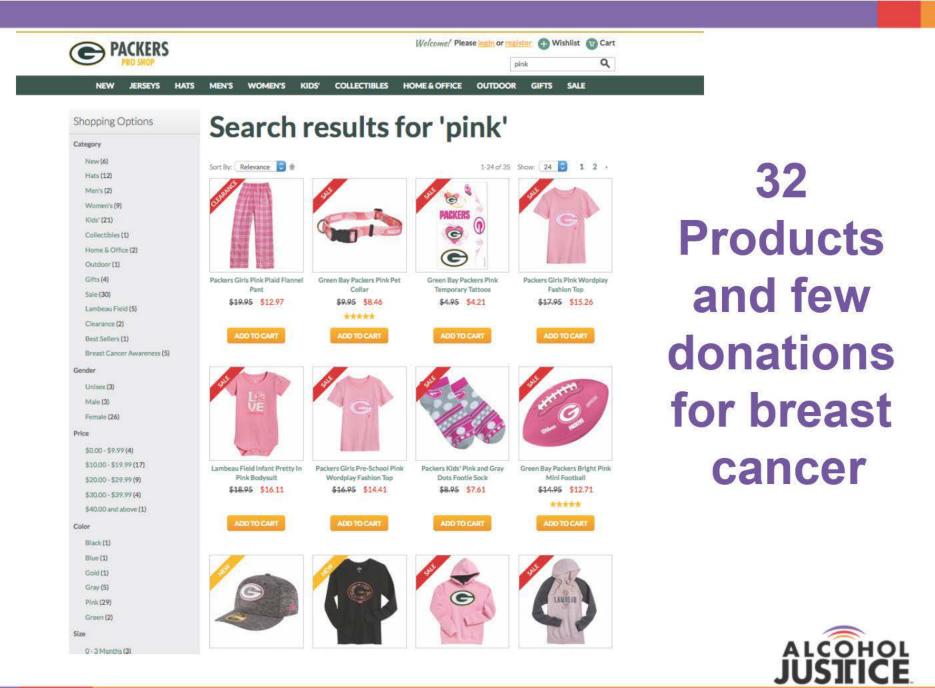
# **Pink Ribbons with the Packers**











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2002



a project of



### **Pinkwashing**

Companies using the breast cancer awareness pink ribbon, or the support of breast cancer charities, as a cause marketing technique.

They promote specific products dressed in pink, while at the same time manufacturing and selling products that contain ingredients that are linked to the disease.



# Research Methodology Alcohol Pinkwashing Study

- Reviewed various types of promotional materials:
  - official product websites, press releases, and posts to social media platforms
  - news stories and blog posts from alcohol industry, breast cancer charities, and social media users
- Analyzed using criteria based on Breast Cancer Action questions
  - Names of the breast cancer charities that would receive funding
  - Total amount donated to the designated organization
  - Breast cancer charity activities funded with the donation
  - Caps or limits set for amount of donation to the charity
  - Whether the product exposes the user to carcinogens linked to breast cancer



# **Results: Pinkwashed drinks**

#### Flavored malt beverages

 Mike's Hard Pink Lemonade (Mark Anthony Group)

#### Beer

- PYNK Ale (Yards Brewing)
- Althea (Weyerbacher Brewing)
- Saison de Rose (Free Will Brewing)

#### Spirits

- Chambord vodka (Brown-Forman)
- Support Her vodka (Cottage Grove/ Side Pocket Distillery)

#### Wine

- RELAX Pink (Schmitt Sohne)
- Happy Bitch
- ONEHOPE
- Global Journey (Mount Vernon)
- Cleavage Creek
- Chateau St. Jean (Treasury Wine Estates)
- Beringer (Treasury)
- Barefoot (Gallo)
- Sutter Home &
- Ménage a Trois (Trinchero)
- Korbel (Brown-Forman)



# **Results: Common pinkwashing features**

### Very Few:

- specific breast cancer charities named to receive funding
- total dollar amounts listed to be donated
- specific breast cancer-related activities to be funded
- designated caps or limits for a total donation [this is good]

#### Lots of:

- Fixed donation amounts promised per item purchased or activity
- Stories dedicated to BC survivor family or friends of the company
- Celebrity BC survivors (probably paid) promoted
  engagement with sweepstakes or contests
- Sponsorship of charity fundraisers
- User engagement on social media as primary campaign
- Sexually-oriented images and phrases





'LIKE' OR 'SHARE' THIS POST AND WE'LL DONATE \$1 TO A NATIONAL BREAST CANCER CHARITY.





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### \$5 for every guest you bring







See All

Support National #BreastCancer Awareness Month by picking up your favorite PINK wines Fine Wine & Good Spirits! For every case purchased, a portion of the proceeds goes to the PBCC's work promoting #BreastCancer awareness. http:// www.finewineandgoodspirits.com/static/pdf/



\$5 for every case





### **Celebrity victim sponsorship**



## **Contradictions & Dangers**

- Of the specific donation amounts listed, most were less than \$25,000
  - U.S. National Cancer Institute funded \$559.2 million in breast cancer research 2013
- Increases sales of a carcinogen and enhances marketing opportunities by linking alcohol brand to charity networks, volunteers, and adherents
- Extends marketing reach of pinkwashed alcohol to young women, many of whom may already drink at risky levels
- Devalues prevention messages about drinking and cancer risk by linking the volume purchased (likely consumed) with donation amount
- Undermines charities that do not engage in corporate relationships with the alcohol industry.



### **Recommendations**

Alcohol producers, wholesalers, retailers, and marketers/advertisers

- Refrain from producing and selling pinkwashed products and campaigns
- Local, state, and federal regulators
- Refrain from supporting and partnering with the alcohol industry on breast cancer campaigns.





Breast cancer research, treatment, and/or prevention charity leaders

- Refuse marketing and sponsorship arrangements that promote alcohol products and/or consumption.
- Join with public health advocates to clearly separate alcohol marketing from cancer.



# Youth Exposure & Alcohol Advertising

Greater exposure to alcohol ads contributes to:

- Earlier initiation of drinking for youth who have not started
- Higher drinking levels among underage youth who drink
- Positive expectations and attitudes about alcohol that help create an environment promoting underage drinking

Anderson, P., et al (2009). Impact of alcohol advertising and media exposure on adolescent alcohol use: A systematic review of longitudinal studies. Alcohol and Alcoholism 44: 229-243. Center on Alcohol Marketing and Youth. (2007). Alcohol advertising and youth. Retrieved April 29, 2010 from: <u>http://camy.org/factsheets/index.php?FactsheetID=1</u>.



### Threat: Youth Overexposed to Alcohol Promotion



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### Threat: Youth exposed to celebrity sponsors







Charty Representation v

BROUGHT TOGETHER IN SUPPORT OF UNITED WAY

BUDWEISERMADEINAMERICA.COM

### Threat: Branded Swag Videos, t-shirts, downloads, prizes...





### **Threat: Racial & Ethnic Targeting**







# Industry myths about advertising

- Ads are intended for adults
- Youth are not impacted
- Education is the best solution to underage drinking
- Self-regulation is effective and essential
- The First Amendment bars advertising restrictions



# Big Alcohol: the biggest of the industry















# Anheuser-Busch InBev goes Pink







### **Anheuser-Busch InBev**































BECKS

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#### **Anheuser-Busch InBev**

- Belgian global company financed and run by Brazilians
- Owns Miller brand outside the US
- Rebranded its Budweiser (a stolen Czech name) as "America"

ABI's marketing gimmick is an arrogant appropriation of national pride for purposes of crass financial gain.



# **Miller goes Pink**







## Millers in US now part of Molson Coors







MOLSON.

















# **Alcohol Industry Tactics**

- Target vulnerable populations:
  - youth, women, LGBT, racial and ethnic groups
- Consolidate into global corporations
- Absorb brands and niche markets
  - craft, FMBs (alcopops), small wineries
- Create trade groups & front groups
- · Public relations: drink responsibly, healthy drinking
- Undue influence through lobbying & donations
- Sponsor legislation: roll back regulations, tiers, taxes



# **Craft Brews are Big Alcohol Too!**

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POLL

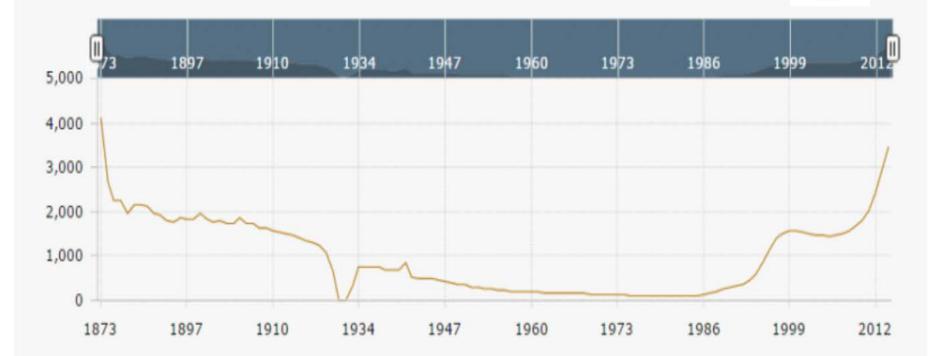
Premium Ale

MOON

#### NUMBER OF BREWERIES



Slide the bar at the top of the graph to see number of breweries from 1873 to present day.









International Center for Alcohol Policies Analysis. Balance. Partnership.

Sponsors of the International Alliance for Responsible Drinking



#### **Trade groups in the U.S.**











#### **Measured Media Spending**

# **Total Spending: \$2.067 billion**

2014 US Advertising (in millions)	Spirits	Wine	Beer
Print/Outdoor	209	54	149
TV/Cable	302	30	976
Radio	11	3	32
Internet	27	2	37
Hispanic	<u>15</u>	.3	<u>224</u>
Overall Spending	563	88	1,417



#### Ad Spending \$2.067 billion

## Massive unmeasured spending:

- Lobbying
- Ballot Initiatives
- Candidate donations (every level)
- Celebrity payments
- Product placement (movies, videos)
- Funded research
- Charity promotions



# Fighting back: Alcohol Justice's Vision & Mission

- Communities free of alcohol industry's negative influence.
- An alcohol industry that operates in a way that does not harm the publics health.

We promote evidence-based public health policies and organize campaigns with diverse communities and youth against alcoholrelated harm.



# **Campaigns and Focus**

- Increase alcohol taxes and fees
- Remove dangerous, youth-oriented products from the market
- Restrict alcohol advertising & promotions
- Support state control of distribution and sales – and good regulation/licensing in every state



#### **Restrict Alcohol Advertising**



- Limit outdoor advertising
- Don't allow public funds or property for ads
- Limit alcohol ads to adult-oriented media
- End industry self-regulation



#### **Ads Encroaching into All Public Spaces**







## Government Should Not Enable Alcohol Advertising on Public Transit





#### **Before and After Community Pressure**







Los Angeles Coalition Against Alcohol Advertising on Public Property NoAlcoholAds.org

#### Los Angeles Times

#### Council votes to ban alcoholic beverage ads on most city property

January 20, 2015



The Los Angeles City Council voted to ban alcohol ads from city property. (PRNewsFoto/Alcohol Justice)



By Soumya Karlamangla

# State Advertising Policies – None of these in Wisconsin

- 1. Prohibit false or misleading alcohol advertising
- 2. Prohibit alcohol advertising that targets minors
- 3. Explicit jurisdiction of in-state electronic media
- Prohibit outdoor alcohol ads where children are likely (churches, playgrounds, schools) [and all transit systems and stadiums]
- 5. Restrict advertising on retail windows
- 6. Prohibit alcohol advertising on college campuses
- 7. Limit sponsoring of civic events
- 8. Limit giveaways

"State Alcohol Advertising Law: Current Status and Model Policies, Center on Alcohol Marketing and Youth, 2012



#### **Recent Alcohol Trends**

- Flavored Malt Beverages (ALCOPOPS): Bubbly, fruity, high ABV, pastel colors
- Flavored Beers: Ciders and fruit infused beers, often high ABV, big cans
- All-natural, whole-fruit spirit products: Images of fruit and "natural," "fusion," and "fresh"
- Fitness-friendly beers: Low-cal, low-carb beers; advertising targets athletic drinkers
- Organic alcohol products: Brands introducing organic varieties while continuing non-organic lines



# Alcopops: The Last 20 Years

- Single-serving sizes have doubled (12 oz. to 24 oz.)
- Alcohol content has nearly tripled (from 4% to 12% ABV)
- Marketing campaigns are even more directed to youth
- Youth now experience significant harm from alcopops





# Lime-A-Rita (etc.) Dominates

- Young girl oriented fruity, pastels, ads
- Very young and digital savvy marketing
- 8% Alcohol by Volume (medium to high ABV)
- Often supersized at 16 or 24 ounce cans
- Therefore, 2-3 standard drinks in a cold, single can
- Light? No.

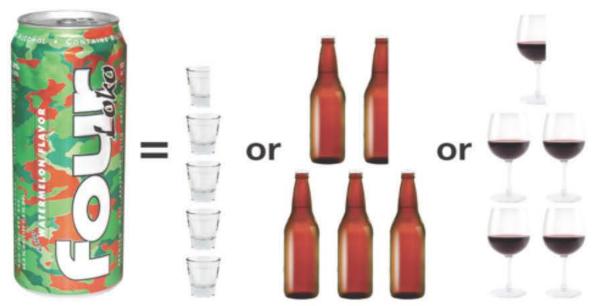






## **Phusion Products** *Makers of Four Loko*

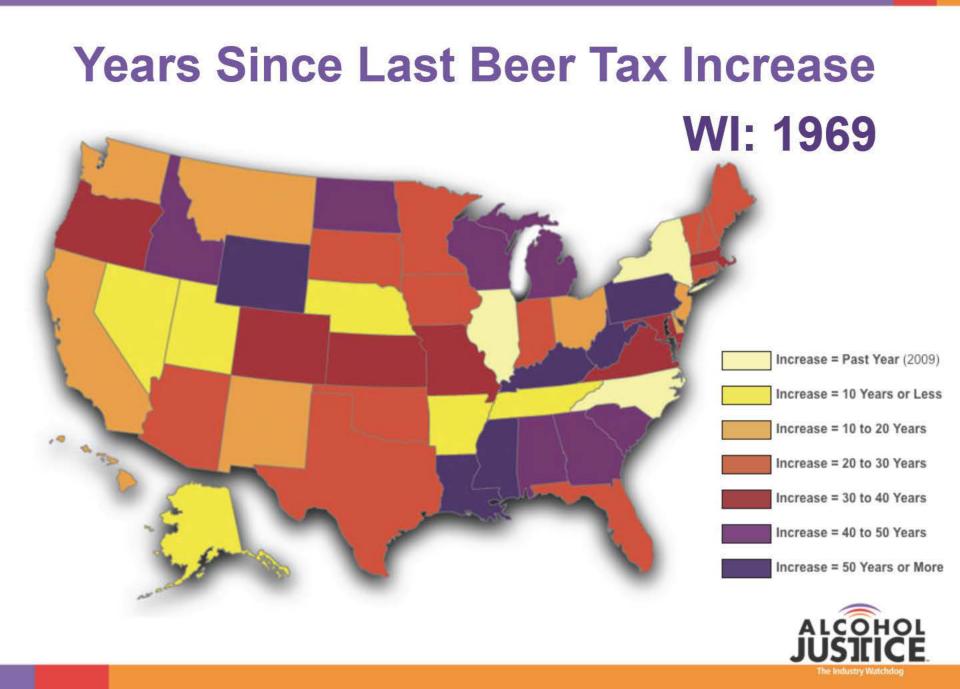
#### Just how much *FUEL* is there in one can of Four Loko?

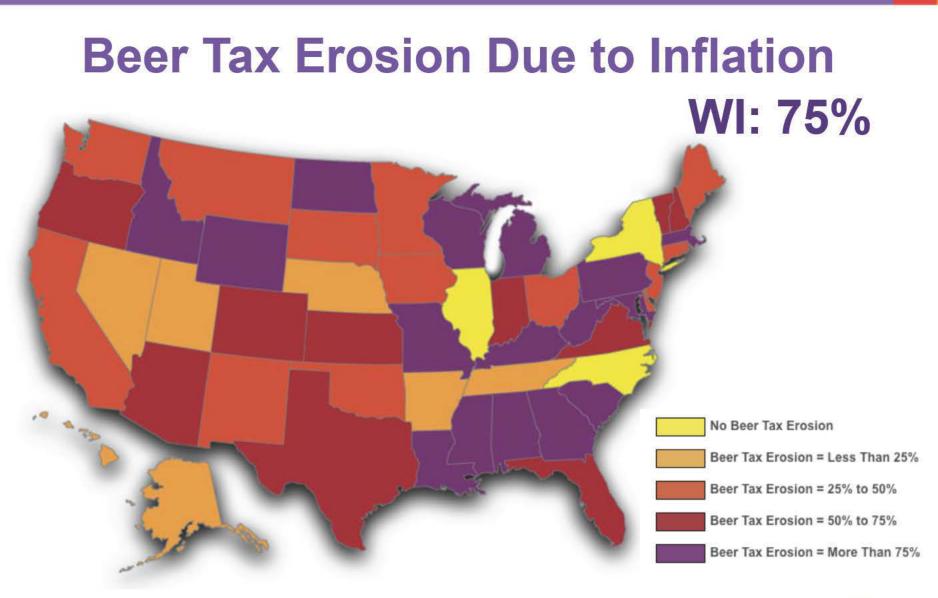


One 23.5oz can of Four Loko at 12 percent alcohol by volume contains the same amount of alcohol as 4.7 shots of 80 proof vodka, 4.7 bottles of beer or 4.7 glasses of red wine.



Graphic thanks to Oregon Partnership







#### **Bottom of the Beer Barrel**

	Tax per gallon	Year last raised
1. Wyoming	\$0.02	1935
2. Missouri	\$0.06	1971
3. Wisconsin	\$0.06	1969
4. Colorado	\$0.08	1976
5. Kentucky	\$0.08	1982
6. Oregon	\$0.08	1977
7. Pennsylvania	\$0.08	1947
8. Maryland	\$0.09	1972
9. Washington, DC	\$0.09	1989
10. Rhode Island	\$0.10	1989



#### Wisconsin

#### Doesn't have to be a culture of drinking

- 1. No beer tax increase since 1969
- 2. Has lost 75% of excise revenue adjusted for inflation
- 3. 10 cent beer tax adds \$37 million in excise annually
- 4. Adds \$2 million in sales tax (Tax Calculator!)
- 5. Number one state in heavy drinking
- 6. Youth binging is dropping below national average
- 7. Early initiation below national average
- 8. Alcohol-related falls are huge, bigger acute cause of death than collisions, murder and suicide an aging problem?
- 9. 35% adult population has NOT had a drink in last 30 days.





# The community takes action by directly meeting with a public official who can say, "Yes" to the demands.



#### **11 Steps of Organizing for Policy Change**

- 1. Listen/Survey
- 2. Research Solutions
- 3. Define Policy Objectives
- 4. Identify Targets Who can say Yes?
- 5. Educate/Involve Community
- 6. Select Spokespeople (Inside and Outside)
- 7. Develop Campaign Strategy
- 8. Direct Action (Outside game)
- 9. Evaluate and Continue Campaign
- 10. Negotiate and Lobby (Inside Game)
- 11. Repeat, Build, Celebrate



# **Majority Issue Organizing**

- You only need to organize 1% to 3% to win
- Expect a few people to do heroic things: Like sitting through endless meetings!
- Expect very large numbers of people to do very little:

Such as signing a petition or boycotting!



#### Charge for Harm Press Conference and Rally



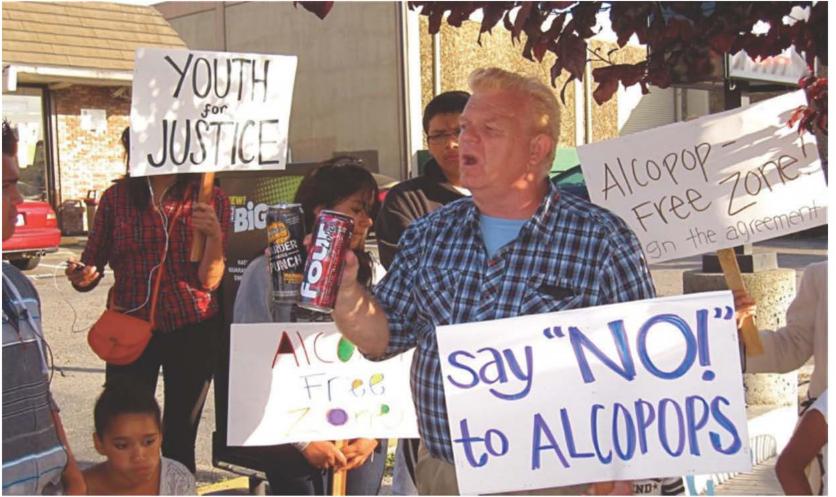


#### Alcopop-Free Zone Campaign Direct Action





# **Making Demands at 7-Eleven**





#### **PEOPLE** make the **DIFFERENCE**



Thanks to Sarah Mart and Norman Giesbrecht. *Red flags on pinkwashed drinks: contradictions and dangers in marketing alcohol to prevent cancer.* Vested Interests Series. *Addiction* October 2015: 110: 1541-1548.

Thanks to Breast Cancer Action for the Think Before You Pink campaign.

Special thanks to Julia Sherman and Wisconsin Alcohol Policy Project

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