



WEST VIRGINIA

ALCOHOL BEVERAGE CONTROL ADMINISTRATION

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Governor Morrisey Issues Proclamation National Alcohol Awareness Month

CHARLESTON, WV – The West Virginia Alcohol Beverage Control Administration (WVABCA) is pleased to report that Governor Patrick Morrisey has officially recognized April as Alcohol Awareness Month in West Virginia. In issuing a [proclamation](#), the Governor emphasized the need to increase public awareness and understanding about the dangers associated with underage alcohol use and adult alcohol misuse.

Since 1987, the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence has recognized April as Alcohol Awareness Month. According to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), in the United States in 2023 approximately 178,000 people died from alcohol related causes with over 4 million emergency room visits. Alcohol Use Disorder (AUD) affects about 29 million adults in the United States. Additionally, in 2023 about 3.3 million adolescents aged 12 to 20 participated in binge drinking.

WVABCA Commissioner Fred Wooton said, "We are grateful for Governor Morrisey's proclamation." Commissioner Wooton added, "the WVABCA is committed to addressing the dangers associated with alcohol misuse by working with WVABCA licensees, educators, prevention specialists, community leaders and law enforcement on a local, county and state level."

To address these issues, the WVABCA has a DUI Simulator program which has reached over 72,000 people, mostly students since 2010. Additionally, the WVABCA NO School Spirits Public Service Announcement (PSA) contest has reached tens of thousands of students. This program encourages and empowers youth to develop and produce meaningful educational and prevention messaging aimed at preventing underage drinking. Further, WVABCA licensing and enforcement efforts are geared to protecting the public. New carding posters are available for businesses to ensure compliance and help avoid underage alcohol sales. Lastly, the WVABCA will be unveiling a new server/seller carding training video in the coming weeks. All WVABCA educational information can be found at abca.wv.gov.

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About WVABCA:

The West Virginia Legislature created the West Virginia Alcohol Beverage Control Administration in 1935. The WVABCA was organized to give effect to the mandate of the people expressed in the repeal of the state prohibition amendment and to assure the greatest degree of freedom that is consistent with the health, safety, and good morals of the people of West Virginia. The Mission of the WVABCA is to regulate, enforce, and control the sales and distribution, transportation, storage, and consumption of alcoholic liquors and nonintoxicating beer as mandated by the West Virginia Liquor Control and Nonintoxicating Beer Act.

Nonintoxicating Beer Act.