

ALCOHOL OUTLETS: ARE THEY MORE THAN JUST ANOTHER BUSINESS?

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MANY OF BALTIMORE'S CHILDREN HAVE HIGH EXPECTATIONS AND EVEN HIGHER HOPES

They expect to graduate from high school.

They expect to go to college.

The want to start a business.

They want a career.



Too few of our city's children are experiencing their dreams and in TOO MANY of Baltimore's neighborhoods here is what our children see





BRICK WALL

When

Thugs

Cry

BRICK WALL



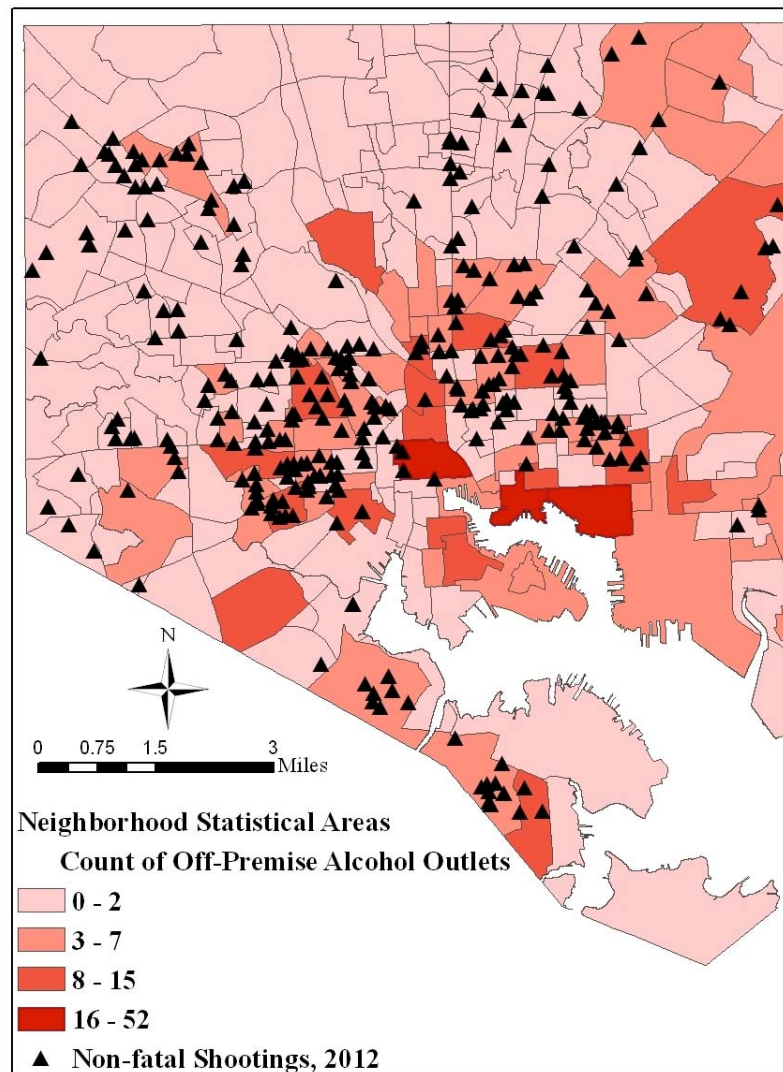


Liquor Stores

Alcohol Outlets and Violent Crimes

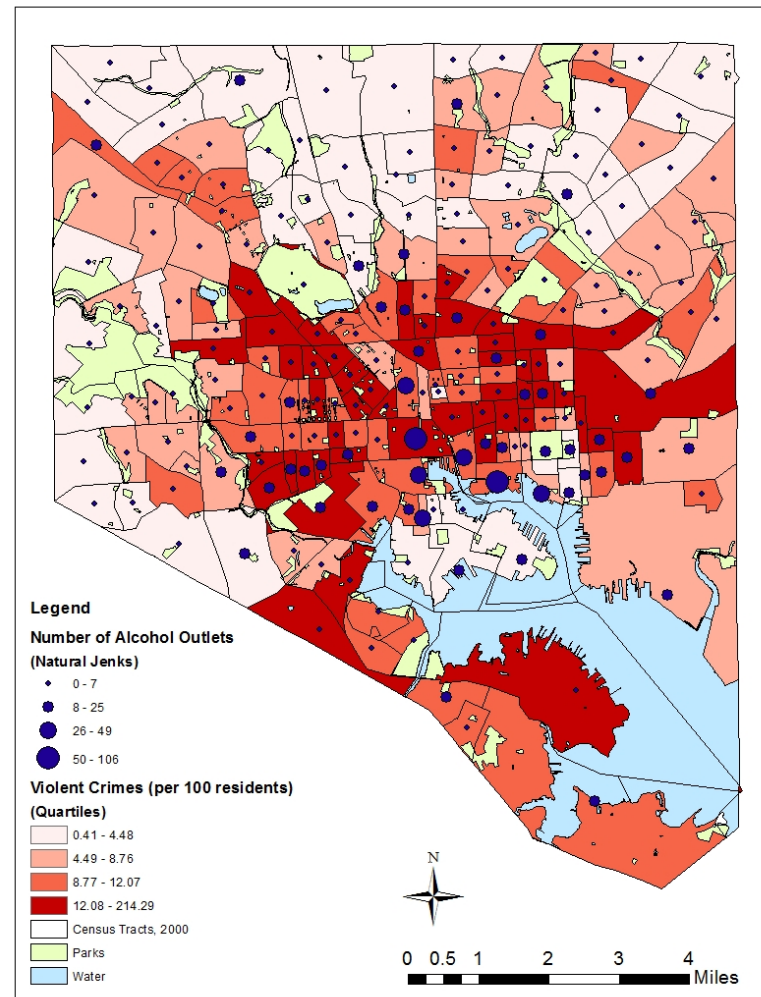
- **Why study alcohol outlets?**
 - **CDC Task Force**
 - **Need for local evidence**
 - **Unique opportunities for preventive interventions**
- **Ecologic analyses of census tracts utilizing multiple sources of *publicly available data***
 - **Violent Crime and Arrest data from the Police Department**
 - **Census data**
 - **Alcohol outlet data from local governing board**

Geographic Clustering of Non-Fatal Shootings & Alcohol Outlets



Liquor Stores & Crime

- Density of alcohol outlets associated with increased violent crime and presence of drug markets → "crime-attractors"
- Children frequently encounter alcohol outlets
- Alcohol outlet density associated with decreased life expectancy



Furr-Holden, et al., under review; Jennings et al., 2013; Milam et al., 2013



Alcohol Outlets and Violent Crimes

- **Rate of drug arrests (per 100 residents) was also positively associated with the count of violent crime**
- **Community disadvantage and percent African American were also significantly associated with violent crime**
- **Alcohol outlets remained associated with violent crime after adjusting for community disadvantage, percent African American, percent occupied housing, and drug arrests**

Now What?

- **Which came first: alcohol outlets or violent crime?**
 - **Social Causation vs. Social Drift**
- **Will a reduction in alcohol outlets reduce violent crime?**
- **Study in LA found a temporary reduction outlets over a 9-year period corresponded with a statistically significant drop in assaultive violence.**

City Planning Commission approves liquor store zoning change

Many store owners who may get forced out continue to fight ban

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The Abell Report

What we think about, and what we'd like you to think about

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Will Limiting the Number of Beer/Wine/Liquor Outlets In Baltimore City Create Healthier Residential Neighborhoods?

Research Strongly Suggests That It Will.

Neighbors flare at hearing on city liquor store plan

Residents and store owners clash over proposed crackdown on "non-conforming" liquor stores.

Plans for Alcohol Outlet Zoning

- **Nonconforming Class A Liquor Outlets**
- **Clarification of “Tavern” Definition (summer work)**
- **300 Foot Limitation on New Liquor Stores → Gums without Teeth**

*Risk for Exposure to Alcohol, Tobacco,
and Other Drugs on the Route to and from
School: The Role of Alcohol Outlets*

**A. J. Milam, C. D. M. Furr-Holden,
M. C. Cooley-Strickland, C. P. Bradshaw
& P. J. Leaf**

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**Prevention
Science**

Sales in Proximity to Liquor Stores

- **Research demonstrated children are exposed to alcohol outlets on the route to and from school—this exposure is associated with being offered alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs and perceived safety (Milam et al., 2014).**
- **Many alcohol outlets are able to open at 6am; they sell other items such as candy and snacks.**
- **Bill restricted minors from purchasing items from liquor stores and restricted individuals from encouraging minors to purchase items.**

Reducing Alcohol Outlet Density to Prevent Violence: Zoning and Local Legislative Efforts in Baltimore

- **Zoning in an important public health tool**
- **The Health Impact Assessment concluded that reducing alcohol outlet density would be the single most impactful step to take for improving health through the Zoning rewrite, decreasing 990 violent crimes over 2 years**
- **Communities wanted change but their efforts had been insufficient to promote the changes they wanted to see**
- **Council Hearing to introduce bill expected in late Fall (2015) or early Winter (2016)**

3 Pieces of the Legislation

- 1. Space out stores, i.e., no new store can locate within 300 feet of an existing store → right spacing**
- 2. Definitions that govern bar/taverns with take away privileges (i.e., BD7s) actually be honored. E.g., that 50% of sales are from on-premise consumption (e.g., food and alcohol) → right licensing**
- 3. Staving out of about 100 licenses that were made non-conforming in 1971. →right sizing, right placement**

What are “nonconforming off premise alcohol outlets”?



- Commonly known as liquor stores
- Off-premise = Sell alcohol for consumption elsewhere
- Nonconforming = deemed inappropriate businesses for residentially zoned districts in 1971 zoning code
- Labeling “nonconforming” was intended to reduce the number over time due to closures
- Prior to “the Uprising” were about 120 nonconforming off-premise alcohol outlets still remaining in Baltimore

Rezoning Related to Alcohol Outlets

- Health Commissioners and several key political leaders advocated for the rezoning of the alcohol outlets
- The Center has provided ongoing data and support for the legislation
 - Provided a report by Councilmatic District to each City Council member
 - Identified liquor stores as a uniquely strong violent crime attractant (e.g. Furr-Holden, et al., 2015)
- Several other complementary efforts around alcohol outlet monitoring surfaced (e.g., delaying opening time until 9:00am in intervention community; bill preventing youth from making any purchases in liquor stores)

Our Approach to Prompting Change

- 1. Create a sense of urgency → made a case for why now**
- 2. Capitalize on existing efforts → *Healthy Baltimore 2015***
- 3. Nurture existing relationships with municipal officials and elected officials → Identified allies and possible points of contention**
- 4. Be ready to jump into action when called upon
→ *'If you stay ready, you ain't got to get ready'***
- 5. Actively engaged in the public debate and testimony**
 - Radio appearances, OpEds, testified at public hearings, conducted workshops to engage and prepare youth and community members to chime in**

Don't we owe it to the children of Baltimore to do something?

**“In order to have a healthy community you have to have neighbors who are willing to do something about it.”
(Baltimore Youth Photovoice Participant)**



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