

# **Why We are Here:**

## **The Case for Alcohol Policy**

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EXCEPTIONAL CARE. WITHOUT EXCEPTION.



**As required by the Alcohol Policy 17 Conference,  
I have signed a disclosure statement and note the  
following conflict(s) of interest:**

**No conflicts to disclose.**



WEDNESDAY – FRIDAY  
APRIL 6-8, 2016

RENAISSANCE ARLINGTON CAPITAL VIEW HOTEL  
WASHINGTON, DC NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA – USA

[alcoholpolicyconference.org](http://alcoholpolicyconference.org)

# Measuring Public Health Importance

- Size of problem
  - health effects
  - social effects
  - economic effects
- Preventable Fraction
  - How much can be done
- “Second-hand” effects
  - What happens to ‘others’

# Public Health Importance, Substance Use

	Public Health Impact	Preventable Fraction	Second-Hand Effects
<u>Substance</u>			
Tobacco	+++++	+++++	+
Marijuana	+	++?	+
Opioids	++	++	++
Alcohol	+++	+++++	+++

# Alcohol Policies: the Cornerstone

- Affect multiple types of problems
- Need not rely on persuasion, will power, health consciousness, civic responsibility
- Can change public opinion/norms
- Can be cost-efficient, cost saving

# Challenges for Alcohol Policy

- Research can be complex, “messy”
- Funding for research is limited
- Public health infrastructure is weak
- Advocacy orgs few, funding constrained
- Political, industry opposition is fierce
- Result: gaps in knowledge, larger gaps in policy implementation

# Changes in Implementation of Policy Groups, US States, 1999-2011

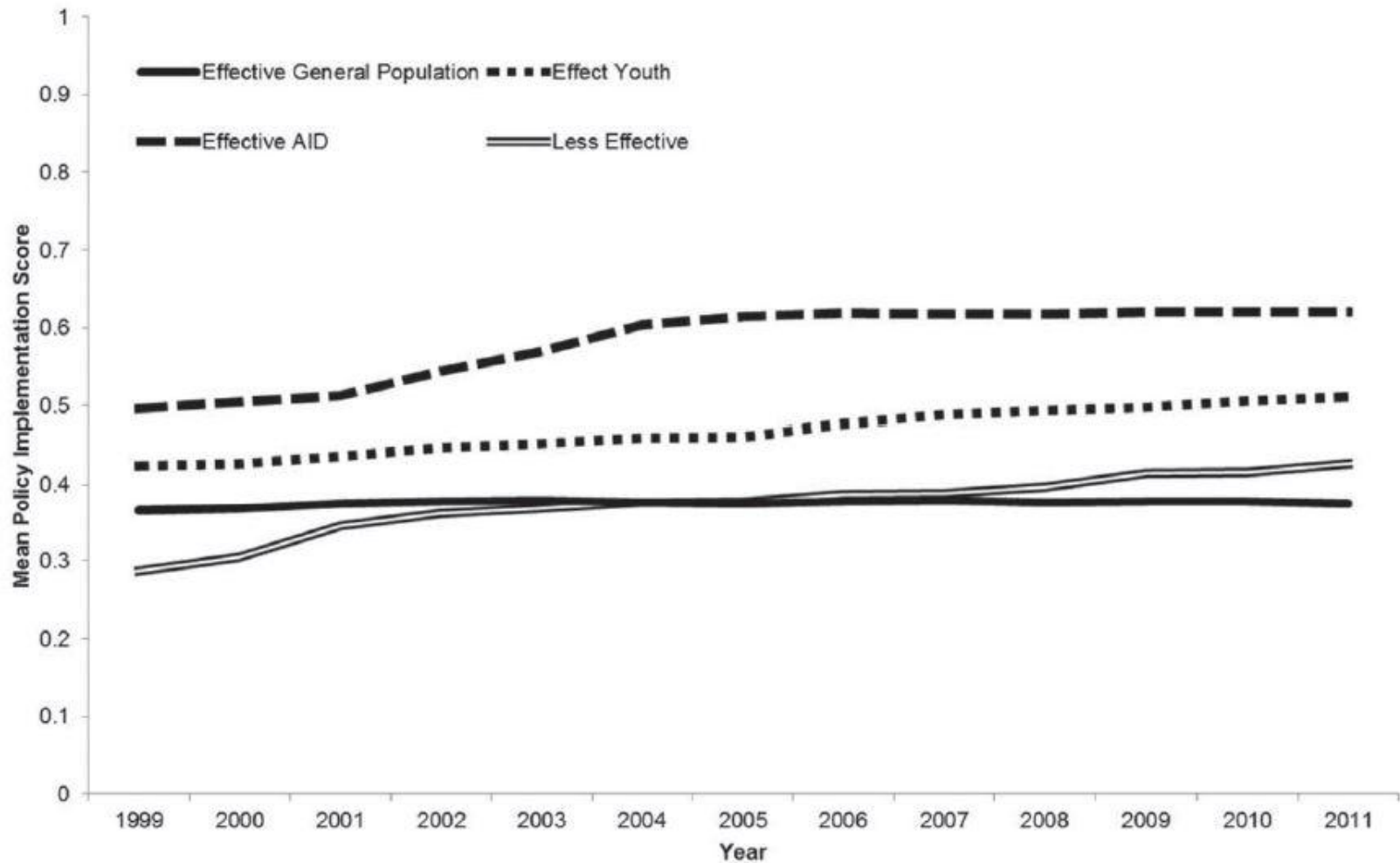


Figure 1 Mean policy implementation score by policy grouping, US states 1999–2011

## Challenges, cont.

- Federal tax cuts (16%), on top of erosion
- State deregulation initiatives masquerading as “modernization” – more outlets, more hours, threats to 3-tier
- Cont’d illegal alcohol sales, poor enforcement resources for existing laws
- More marketing ...



# Opportunity Abounds

- To create a safer environment, better health, greater wellbeing:
  - Research
  - Public health practice
  - Advocacy, community organizing, coalition building

# In Support of Alcohol Policies

- Effective, population-level impact
- Strong evidence base
- Fair: cost/inconvenience mostly borne by excessive drinkers
- Promote personal choice by making sale of a dangerous product acceptable
- Promote liberty by making public places more inviting, roadways safer

# Conclusions

- Alcohol consumption and related harms of great public health importance
- Alcohol policies critical to addressing, preventing problems
- There are many challenges ...
- Resulting in opportunities ...
- That's why we're here

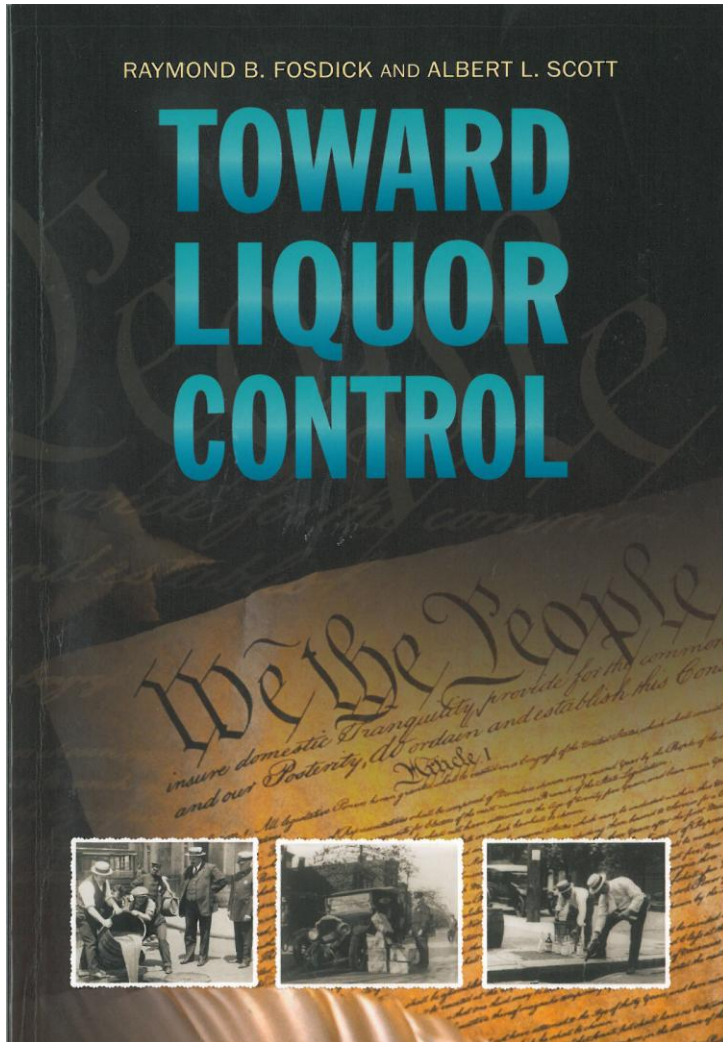
# Looking Ahead...To AP 18

- Cancer – more to come...
- Second hand effects: National Academies report impaired driving, 0.05% BAC, FASD
- Over-service and illegal sales at Whiteclay, NE
- Minimum pricing
- Industry investments in research, policy evaluation
- New tools to assess impacts – InterMAHP

## Looking Ahead, cont.

- Hot button topics: taxes, marketing, outlet density
- Health disparities and alcohol
- Public health law and policy making –
- Opinions and attitudes about drinking
- International perspectives, experiences
- Community organizing, generating social movements
  
- ***POSTER SESSIONS Thursday, Friday 7:30 a.m.***

# Fosdick and Scott, 1933



***“Law and education are the twin pillars of the social order. In respect to most human problems, the hope of the future lies in laws soundly conceived and well-administered.. ”***



**Thanks, Welcome to AP 18!**

