

## More Liquor Stores, More Crime

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**MedicalResearch.com Interview with:**



— Dr. Trangenstein

### **Pamela Trangenstein, PhD**

While a predoctoral fellow at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health's Center on Alcohol Marketing and Youth (CAMY)

*MedicalResearch.com: What is the background for this study? What are the main findings?*

**Response:** Research repeatedly shows that alcohol outlet density (the number of businesses that sell alcohol in an area) is associated with violent crime, but studies disagree about whether alcohol outlets that are on premise (e.g., bars, restaurants) or off premise (e.g., liquor stores, beer and wine stores) have a stronger association with violent crime.

We used advanced methods that consider both the number of alcohol outlets and their locations to better understand how the association between alcohol outlets and violent crime differs by type of outlet.

We found that alcohol outlets that allow off-premise sales like liquor stores had a stronger association with homicide, aggravated assault, and robbery than on-premise outlets like bars and restaurants. We also found that [disadvantaged neighborhoods](#) had higher access to the types of alcohol outlets associated with the most harms: off-premise outlets.

*MedicalResearch.com: What should readers take away from your report?*

**Response:** Alcohol outlets are a feature of our built environment and are associated with public health harms, and alcohol outlet density is a health equity issue. Accurate and scientifically valid monitoring of alcohol outlet density and outlet operations should be a routine feature of public health surveillance. When considering how to regulate alcohol outlet licensing and operations, local jurisdictions may want to consider additional measures for alcohol outlets that sell for off-site consumption. Violence reduction programs should consider alcohol outlets, particularly off-premise outlets.

**MedicalResearch.com: What recommendations do you have for future research as a result of this work?**

**Response:** Future research should more precisely identify the characteristics of alcohol outlets that are associated with the most harms. For example, researchers may consider violation histories, outlet size, outlet features (e.g., plexiglass barriers), advertising, and product mix (e.g., single-serve containers, flavored beverages).

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