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Report: Raising alcohol tax could save lives, create jobs

KVUE 2:39 p.m. CST March 3, 2015



(Photo: Justin Sullivan, Getty Images)

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AUSTIN -- Raising alcohol excise taxes in Texas could increase safety and create jobs across the state, according to a report released Tuesday.

Texans Standing Tall released the report, claiming increasing alcohol taxes by a dime per drink could raise \$708 million annually, create more than 15,100 jobs and prevent more than 113,000 cases of alcohol dependence and abuse. The report also claims increasing the alcohol taxes would decrease underage drinking across the state.

The report states excessive alcohol use kills 6,514 Texans each year, costing Texas \$19.1 billion in 2013, or 74 cents per drink. Texas' current alcohol tax is less than 3 cents per drink.

Researchers estimate raising the tax by 10 cents per drink could save 402 lives, reduce teen pregnancy by 359 cases and prevent more than 27,000 cases of underage binge drinking in Texas.

[Alcohol Excise Tax Report](#)