

Table 1

High School Senior Alcohol Use, Legal Drinking Ages, and Beer Excise Taxes, 1982

Outcome	Actual Distribution	Drinking Age Policy <sup>a</sup>	Inflation Tax Policy <sup>b</sup>
Panel A: Drinking in Past Year			
Abstainers (no drinking occasions)	12.8%	+10.6	+80.1
Infrequent Drinkers (1-9 drinking occasions)	36.3%	+3.2	+15.8
Fairly Frequent Drinkers (10-30 drinking occasions)	30.1%	-2.5	-19.7
Frequent Drinkers (more than 30 drinking occasions)	20.8%	-8.3	-45.2
Panel B: Drinking in Past Month			
Abstainers (no drinking occasions)	30.1%	+7.6	+42.0
Infrequent Drinkers (1-5 drinking occasions)	41.4%	-0.3	-5.4
Fairly Frequent Drinkers (6-9 drinking occasions)	13.0%	-5.2	-27.7
Frequent Drinkers (more than 9 drinking occasions)	15.5%	-9.2	-43.0
Panel C: Heavy Drinking in Past Two Weeks (one or more episodes of consumption of at least five drinks in a row)			
No Heavy Drinking Episodes	59.7%	+2.6	+12.0
At Least One Heavy Drinking Episode	40.3%	-4.1	-18.4

<sup>a</sup> The drinking age policy pertains to a minimum legal purchasing age of 21 in all states. Figures represent the percentage change in the number of youths in each category.

<sup>b</sup> Indexing the Federal beer excise tax to inflation since 1951 implies a tax of approximately 59 cents per six pack in 1982. Figures represent the percentage change in the number of youths in each category.