

# 11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



Addressing alcohol as an obstacle to safe, inclusive and sustainable cities



## HEALTHY PUBLIC SPACE. HEALTHY CITIES. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Healthy public spaces are central for creating sustainable and resilient cities. But beyond making cities and human settlements more inclusive and safer, healthy public spaces help achieve many other Sustainable Development Goals.

Healthy public spaces are safe for all citizens, inclusive, enabling and diverse. They are governed by norms that facilitate positive encounters and a spirit of togetherness and they foster healthy lifestyle choices and environments.

Pervasive alcohol harm, including an intoxicating alcohol norm, alcohol violence, and omnipresent alcohol marketing are grave threats to creating healthy public spaces that help make cities safe, inclusive, resilient and sustainable

**Pervasive alcohol  
harm in public  
spaces poses a  
serious obstacles  
to making cities  
safe, inclusive,  
resilient and  
sustainable**



MAKE CITIES AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS  
INCLUSIVE, SAFE, RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE

**SDG 11.7:** By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities

# Omnipresent alcohol: unsafe public space, neighborhood violence

In and near neighborhoods with a high density of alcohol outlets, there is a higher rate of violence. It means, when bars, liquor stores, and other businesses that sell alcohol are close together, more assaults and other violent crimes occur.

- In England and Wales in 2015, 70% of all violent incidents which took place in public spaces were alcohol-related.
- 45% of Irish people say they decided to walk a different way due to fear of people who had used alcohol, or of places where alcohol use is very common
- In Diadema, Brazil, the ban on alcohol sales after 11PM helped prevent an estimated 273 murders over a two year period.



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## Alcohol harm in public spaces is a Human Rights issue

Healthy public spaces are a Women's Rights issue. Alcohol violence is a massive obstacle to women's safety and freedom in cities and human settlements.

- In India: infamous gang rape perpetrators are frequently under the influence of alcohol
- In Europe: 29% of alcohol users in nightlife used alcohol specifically to facilitate sex.

Inclusive public spaces are a child and youth rights issue. Alcohol violence and alcohol-related exclusion is a massive risk factor for health problems among children, adolescents and youth.

- Sweden: 87% of youth agree that alcohol makes public space unsafe
- 55% of youth in Sweden say that they stay away from public space because of alcohol



## ALCOHOL POLICY SOLUTIONS TO HELP REACH SDG 11

Curbing the intoxicating alcohol norm in cities and public spaces around the world is possible through Best Buy alcohol policy measures that reduce the easy availability of alcohol. Examples from different countries are clear:

In the German state of Baden-Württemberg the 2010 late-night off-premise alcohol sales ban was found to be effective at significantly reducing alcohol-related hospitalizations and violent assaults among adolescents and young adults.

A 2017 study in Australia showed that restricting trading hours of licensed venues reduced rates of alcohol-related harm and extending trading hours of bottle shops increased rates of alcohol-related harm.

**Best Buy  
alcohol policies  
are  
high-impact  
solutions that  
help promote  
safe, inclusive  
and sustainable  
cities**

[www.iogt.org](http://www.iogt.org)



IOGT International is the premier global network for evidence-based policy solutions and community-based interventions to prevent and reduce harm caused by alcohol and other drugs.