



Tino Rangatiratanga Taitamariki

**YouthLaw (Inc)**

position on  
young people  
and alcohol

# introduction



- YouthLaw
- Our angle
- General position
  - Harm reduction
  - Good legislation
  - Demand measures
  - Supply measures
  - Driving limits
  - Age

# Why not raise the age?



- Arbitrary nature of legal ages
- Poor justification
  - Not effective
  - Not relevant
  - Not targeted at causes of harm
  - Not adequately justified

# Not effective



- Only 2 years difference, raising age higher?
- Evidence of more harm to 18s than 20s?
- Contradictory evidence
- Problem drinking can start very early (7)



# Not relevant



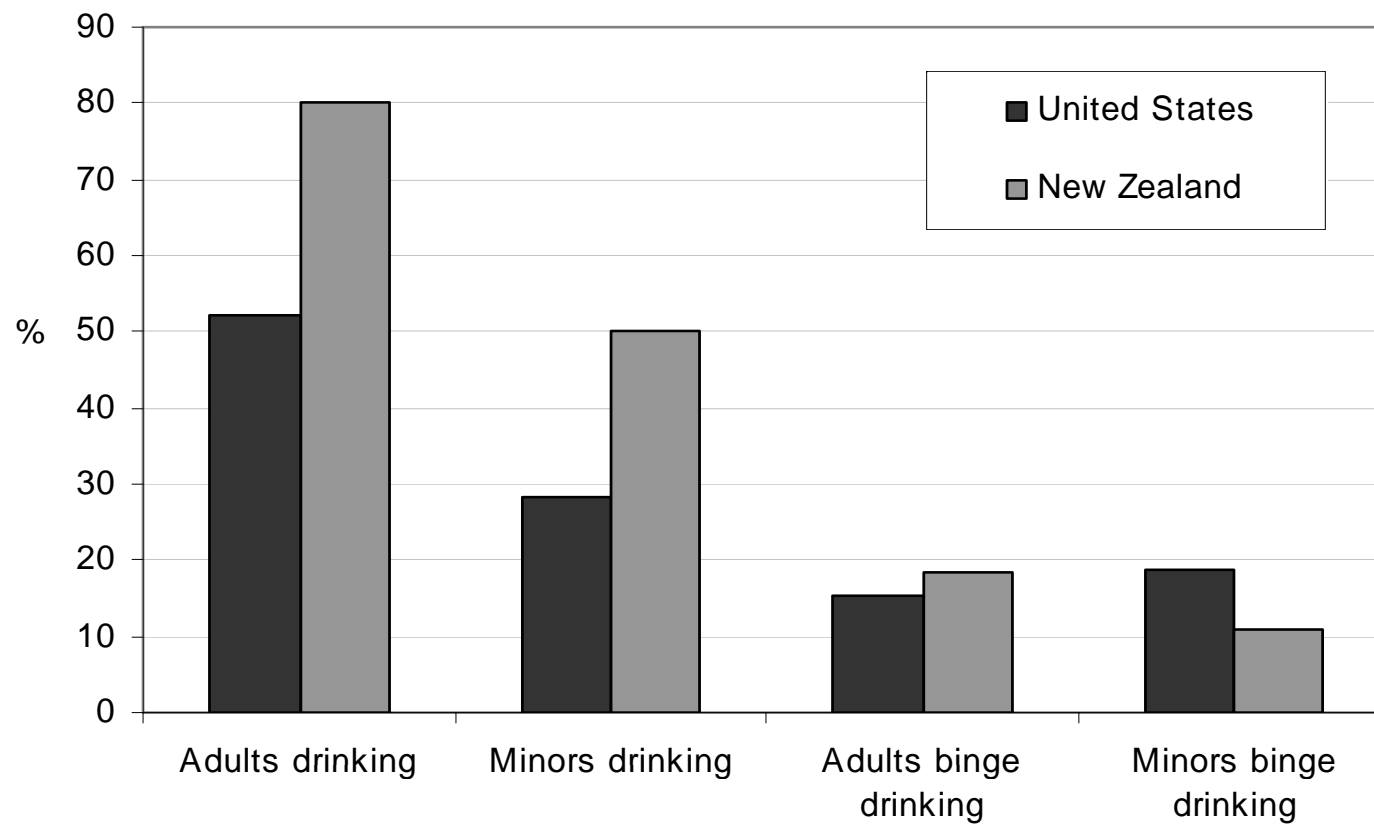
- International evidence
  - Raising age doesn't mean reduced consumption
  - Lowering age doesn't mean increased consumption
- Points to drinking culture rather than drinking age



# Not relevant



**Alcohol consumption in the United States and New Zealand**





# Not targeted at causes



- Causes of alcohol-related harm:
  - Irresponsible consumption:
  - Supply (regulation, legislation and enforcement)
  - Demand (alcohol culture, price, marketing)



## Not adequately justified



- Ban based on statistical trends, unjustified
- Arbitrary rules do exist for age, but generally not after 18, since deemed adulthood.
- Alcohol is harmful, serious issue, age should reflect risks. Age should therefore be maximum (18).

# Summary

- Harm reduction
- Good legislation
- Demand measures
- Supply measures
- Driving limits
- Age





# YouthLaw Tino

## Rangatiratanga Taitamariki



### How we help young people

- Representation
- Information
- Education

**Ben Mills**

Legal Education Coordinator

[ben@youthlaw.co.nz](mailto:ben@youthlaw.co.nz)

### How to contact us

- Phone

**Advice line 09 309 6967**

- Email

**[info@youthlaw.co.nz](mailto:info@youthlaw.co.nz)**

- Website

**[www.youthlaw.co.nz](http://www.youthlaw.co.nz)**

**Facebook, Bebo**