CENTRE FOR ALCOHOL STUDIES | PRINCE OF SONGKLA UNIVERSITY

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Public opinions towards POLITICAL PARTY'S PROPOSED ALCOHOL CONTROL POLICIES IN THAILAND





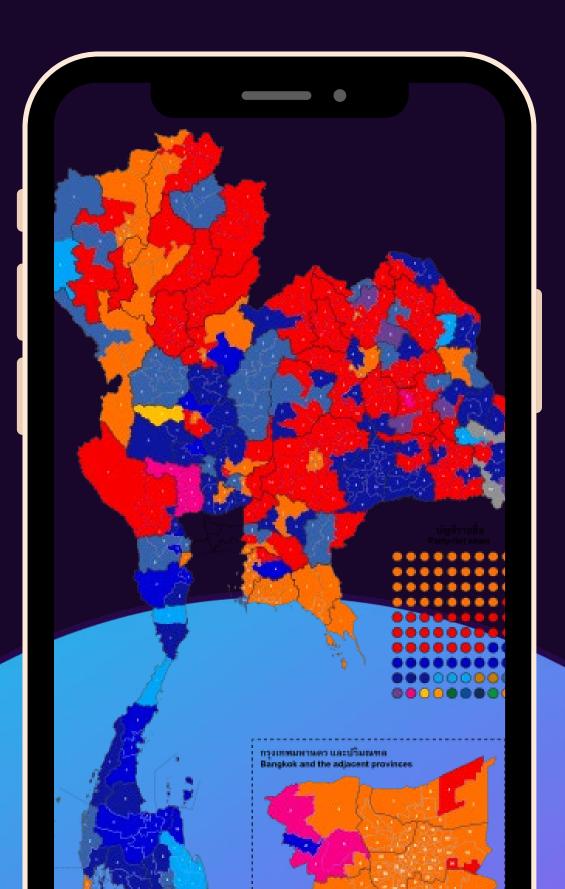


Disclosure

• Sawitri Assanangkornchai is the Director of Centre for Alcohol Studies (CAS) and Professor of Psychiatry in the Faculty of Medicine, Prince of Songkla University.

• The presenter alone is responsible for the views expressed in this presentation and they do not necessarily represent the decisions or policies of Prince of Songkla University.

• The presenter has no other COI with regard to the presentation.



Thailand **GENERAL ELECTION** 14 May 2023

control measures:

1) Allowing people to produce alcohol for own consumption without license;

2) Repealing the minimum capital / production requirements; 3) Repealing the sale restriction hours (1400-1700 and 0100-1100); 4) Repealing the prohibition of sale on Buddhist holidays, and; 5) Expanding the sales hours in tourist destination areas from

0200 to 0400.





Political party proposed policies for liberalization of alcohol





Public opinion surveys



To examine Thai voters' opinions towards political parties' proposed policies 27 Feb - 3 Mar 20-28 Apr Before House dissolution Before Election N = 2679 N = 2692 Multi-stage sampling, 12 provinces, >18Y population Data collection by Research Centre for Social and Business Development (SAB)





Alcohol Production Control

Excise Act (amended 2017)

- Regulate taxation, pricing, production, licensing alcohol trade
- Minimum production capacity, authorised capital for alcohol production for sale
- Homebrew illegal

Finance Ministerial Order 2022

- Cancel minimum production capacity, and authorized capital requirements for brewpubs and large beer factories
- Allow homebrew with production volume <200 litres per year
- Require all producers to comply with relevant factory, public health, and environmental laws, not cause harm or annoyance to others





REMOVE ALL REQUIREMENTS
Anyone can get a brewery license without having to meet a minimum production capacity requirement
Community distilleries can be establis hed without being subjected to machine power or employee number limitations

PURPOSES

To allow small- and medium-scale breweries to enter the alcohol market
To boost the production of traditional Thai liquor

• To distribute income to small-scale producers and reduce social inequity

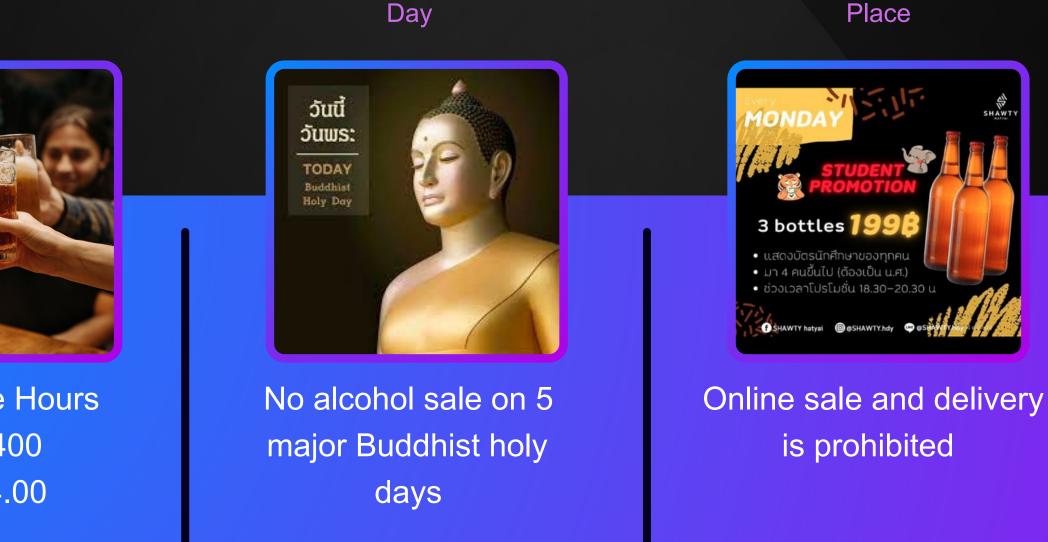
ALCOHOL PRODUCTION POLICY

% Disagree - Strongly disagree

Policy	S
Home production not for sale should be allowed <u>without</u> <u>having to register</u>	
Home production not for sale should be allowed <u>without</u> <u>max. quantity limit</u>	
Production for sale should be allowed <u>without having to</u> meet a minimum production capacity requirement	
Establishing a brewery/distillery for sale should be allowed without needs to comply with safety and environment regulations	

urvey 1	Survey 2
65	61
68	70
70	71
78	75

Alcohol sales & marketing Alcoholic Beverage Control Act, 2008



Time



Alcohol Sale Hours 11.00-1400 17.00-24.00

Repealing all prohibitions

Person



Alcohol marketing both online and onsite is banned

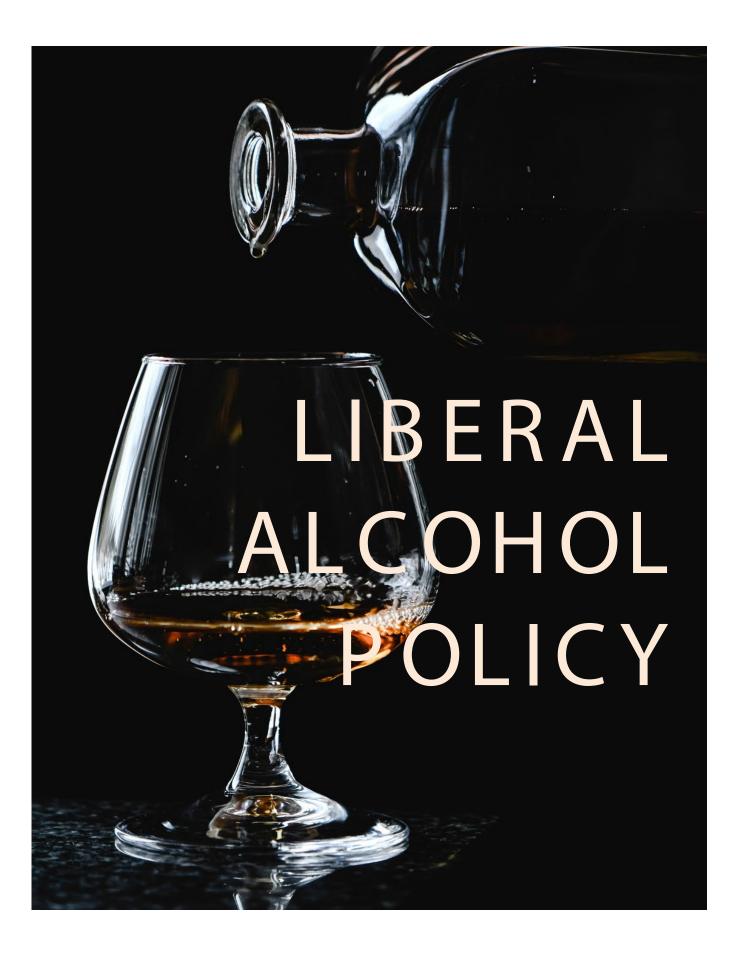


ALCOHOL SALE & MARKETING POLICIES

% Disagree - Strongly disagree

Policy	S
Expanding the opening hours of pub/bar/karaoke in <u>special</u> <u>tourist areas</u> from 02.00 am. to 04.00 am.	
Allowing alcohol sale outlets to be <u>opened 24 hours</u>	
Repealing prohibition of alcohol sale on <u>5 major Buddhist</u> <u>holy days</u>	
Allowing alcohol <u>marketing</u> both online and offline with no any control	
Allowing <u>online sale and delivery</u> of alcoholic beverages	

Survey 1	Survey 2
50	43
55	52
69	70
62	60
61	56





More Good or More Harm

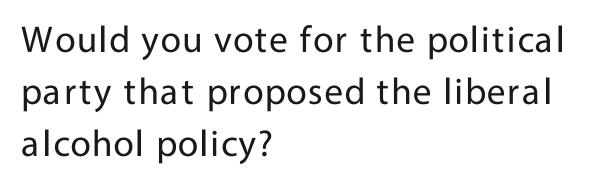
9-10% More **GOOD** than harm

50-52% More HARM than good

38-43%

No effect Not sure

OPINION TOWARDS POLITICAL PARTY





Vote for Vote against

7%

Likely - definitely vote for

41-42%

Likely - definitely <u>NOT</u> vote for

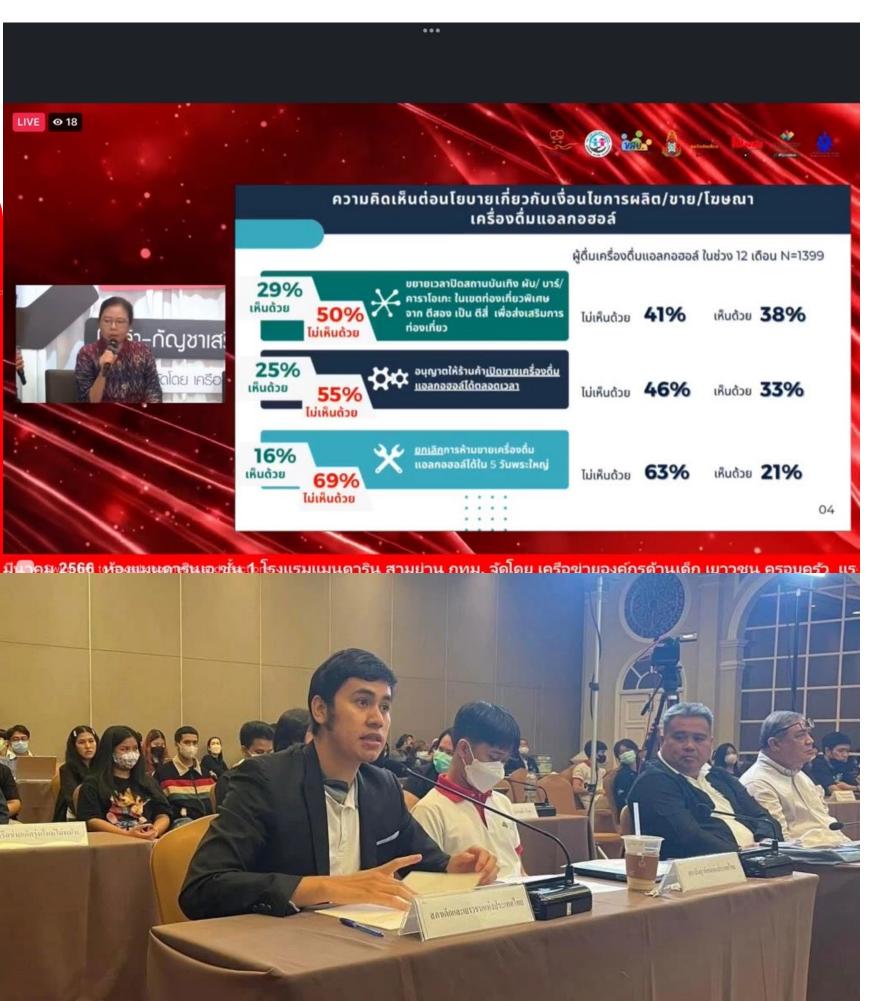
50-51%

No effect on my decision

press conference

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ALCOHOL LIBERALIZATION POLICY

What's NOW?

Minister

• Continuing active movements by MFP and "Beer Citizens" • Government supports community alcohol production PM proposed extending opening hours of drinking venues in special tourist areas to attract tourists and boost country's economy

WHAT'S NEXT?

Alcohol Control Policy Advocacy

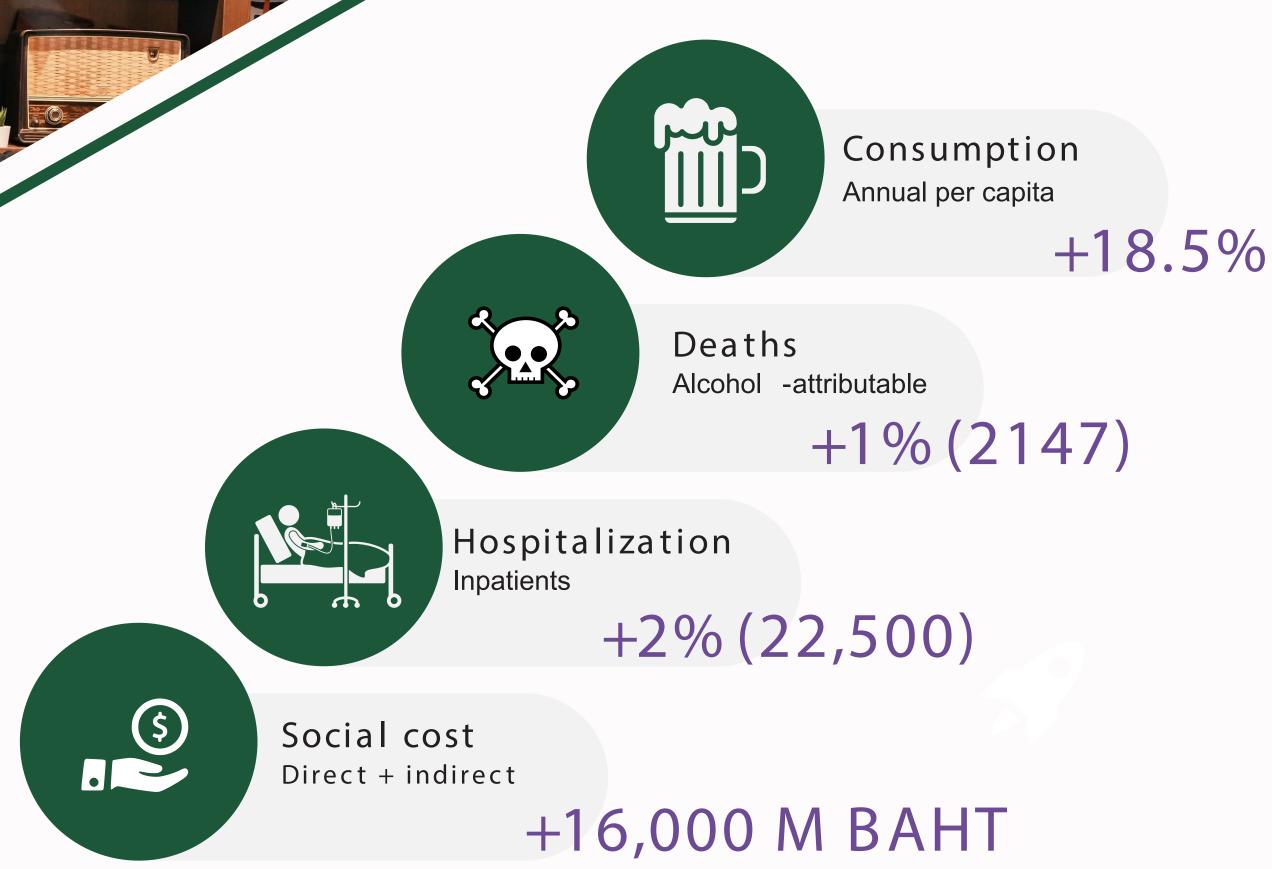


- 2
- Centre for Alcohol Studies
- Stop Drink Network
- **2** Road Safety Policy Foundation
- - Thai Health Promotion Foundation
- 2
- Women & Men Progressive Movements
- BioThai Foundation



Potential Impacts

Economic and health outcomes of a proposed liberalization of alcohol production in Thailand



Centre for Alcohol Studies, 2023.

Policy brief

Social and economic impacts of of a proposed liberalization of alcohol production in Thailand



Health impacts Additional alcoholattributable morbidity and mortality

Social impacts Additional direct treatment cost and indirect cost of premature deaths





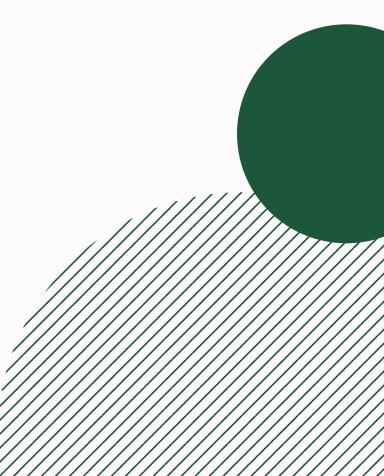
Environmental impacts Wastewater and raw materials, contamination, greenhouse gas emissions

Submit to the National Alcohol Control Board not to relax the control policy









Gain or Loss

Is the additional revenue of the alcohol sold to the local economy worth the high economic costs associated with the increased alcohol-attributable mortality and morbidity?

Are there better ways to stimulate the local economy -ways which do not incur such enormous negative side effects?

Who should take care of the cost to the society? DRINKERS, SOCIETY, PRODUCERS, POLITICIANS



Our Team

A series of public opinion surveys on political parties' proposed policies on liberalization of alcohol production, sales and marketing in Thailand

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THANK YOU

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ข้อเท็จจริงและตัวเลข เครื่องดื่มแอลกอฮอล์ในประเทศไทย พ.ศ. 2562-2564

Facts and Figures Alcohol in Thailand 2019-2021

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