

Alcohol Law in the '90s: Where We've Been and Where We're Going



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Objective

Changes in patterns and trends
of select state-level alcohol policies
from 1988 through 1997



Selected State-Level Policies

- general BAC limits
- youth BAC limits
- excise tax
- server training laws
- keg registration



Data Sources

Primary legal sources

- baselines
 - current & obsolete state codes
- changes
 - session laws



General BAC Limits

When lowered:

- risk of crash involvement declines

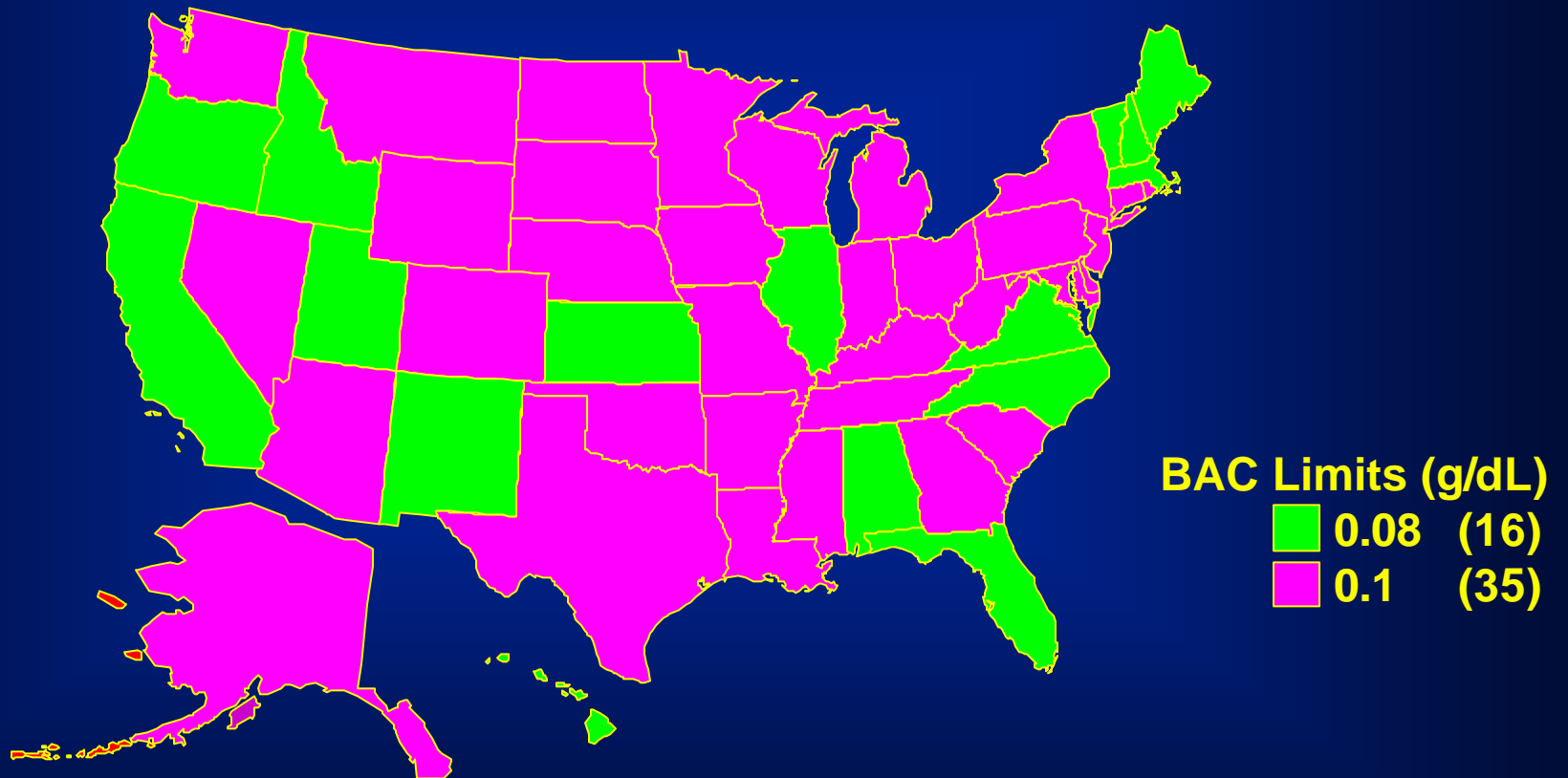
NHTSA, 1990

- risk of fatal crashes declines

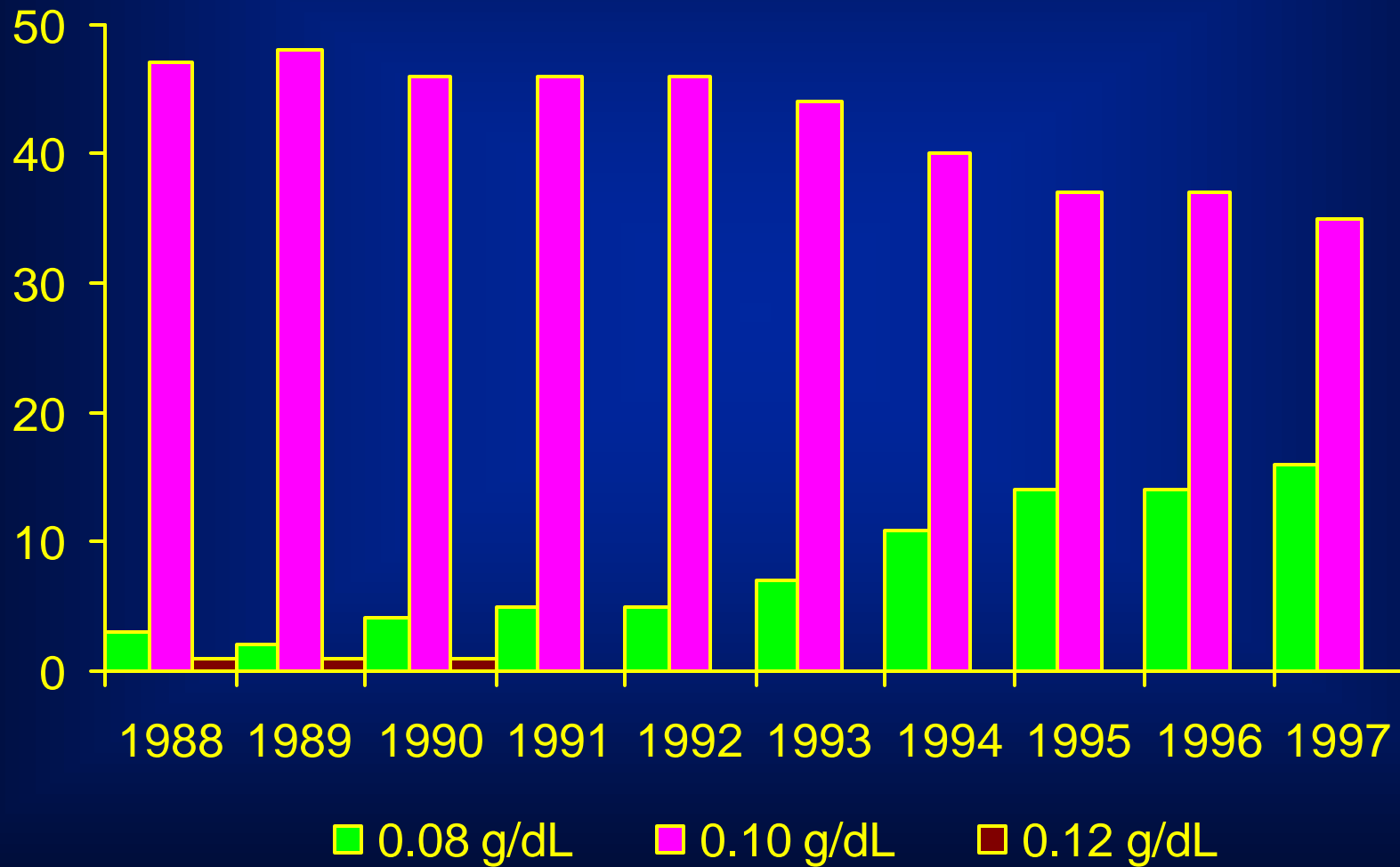
Zador, et al., 1991



General BAC limits: 1997



Changes in general BAC limits: 1988-1997



Youth BAC Limits

When lowered:

- youth are less likely to drive after drinking

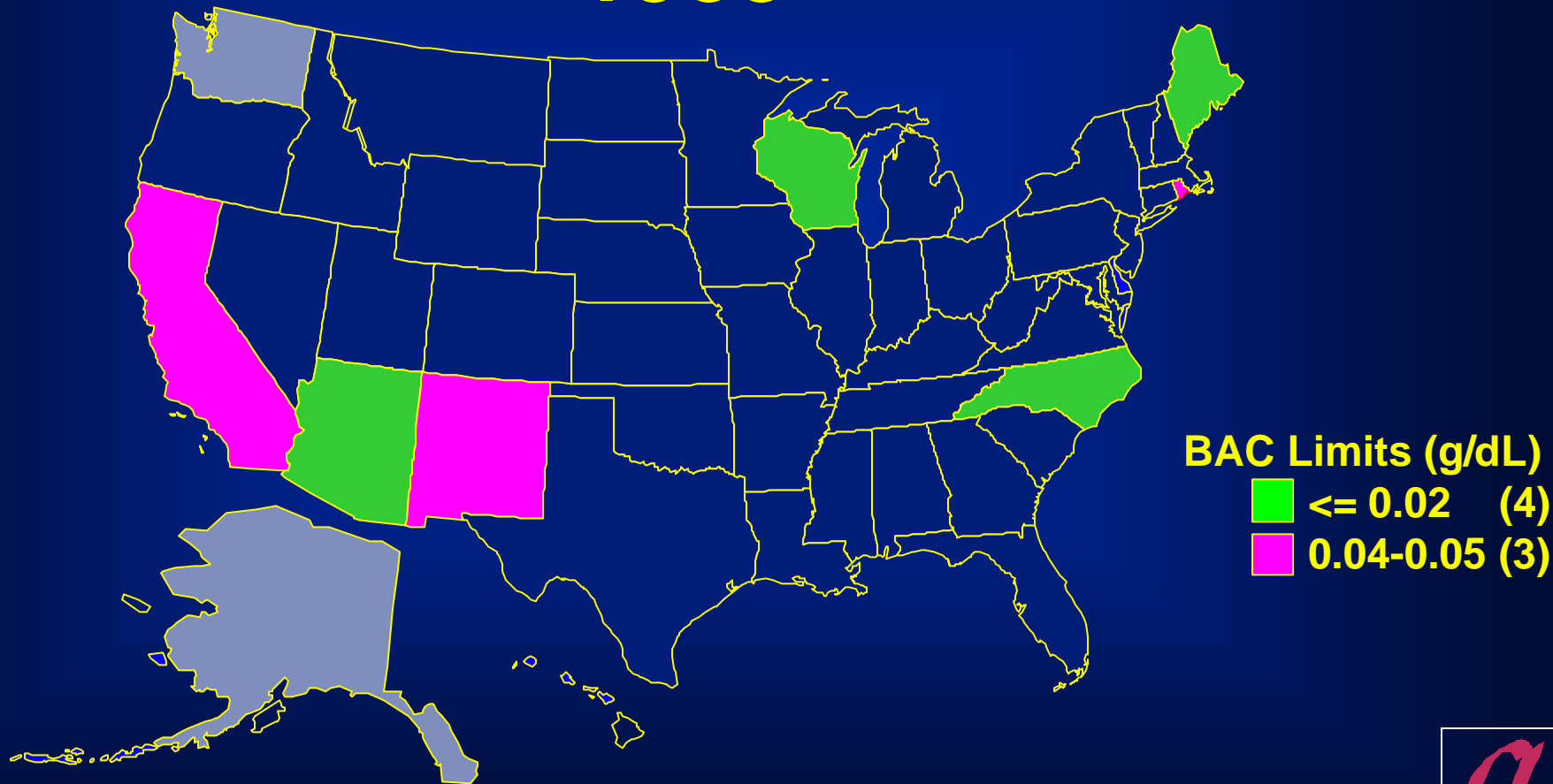
Wagenaar et al. , under review

- risk of young driver fatalities in single nighttime vehicle crashes declines

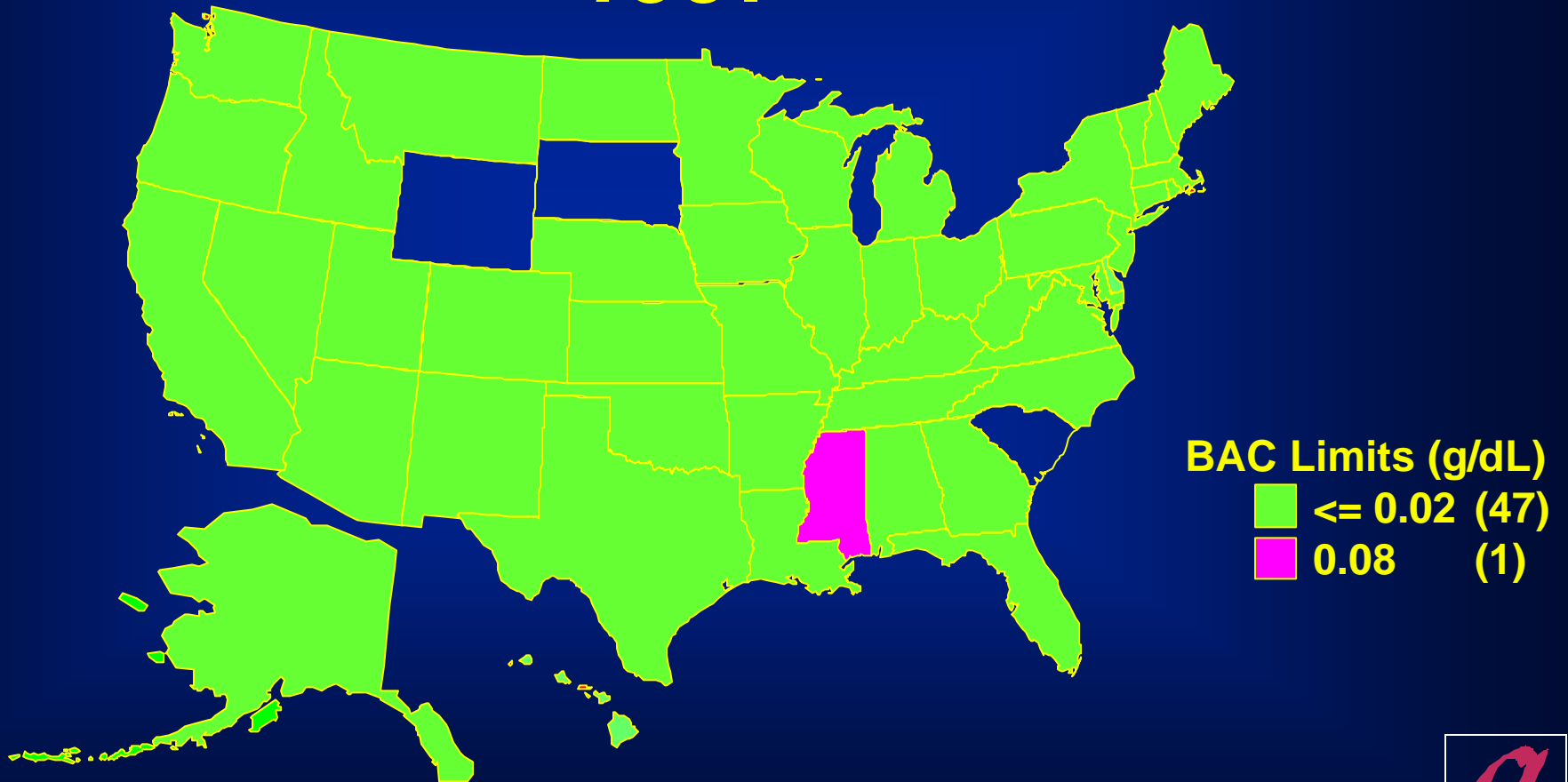
Hingson et al., 1994



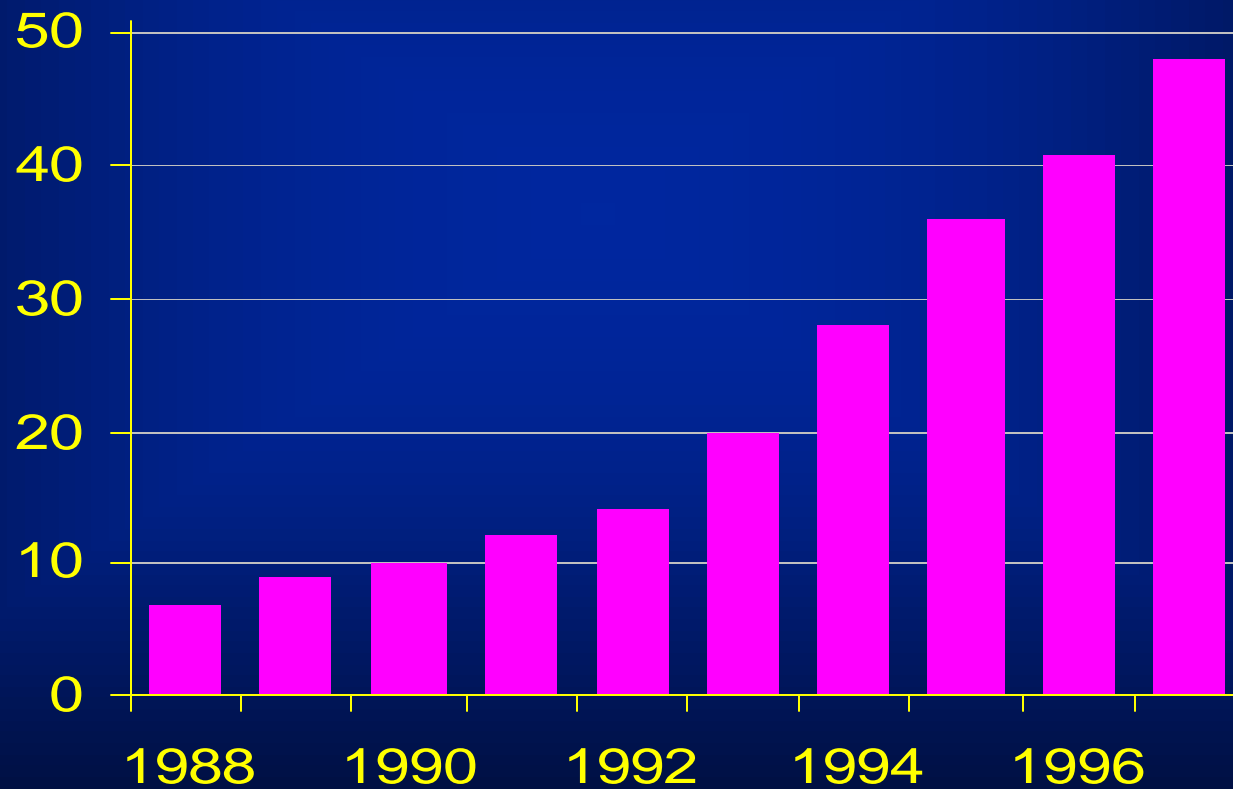
Youth BAC limits: 1988



Youth BAC limits: 1997



Changes in reduced youth BAC: 1988-1997



Excise Taxes

When raise cost of alcohol:

- consumers buy less alcohol

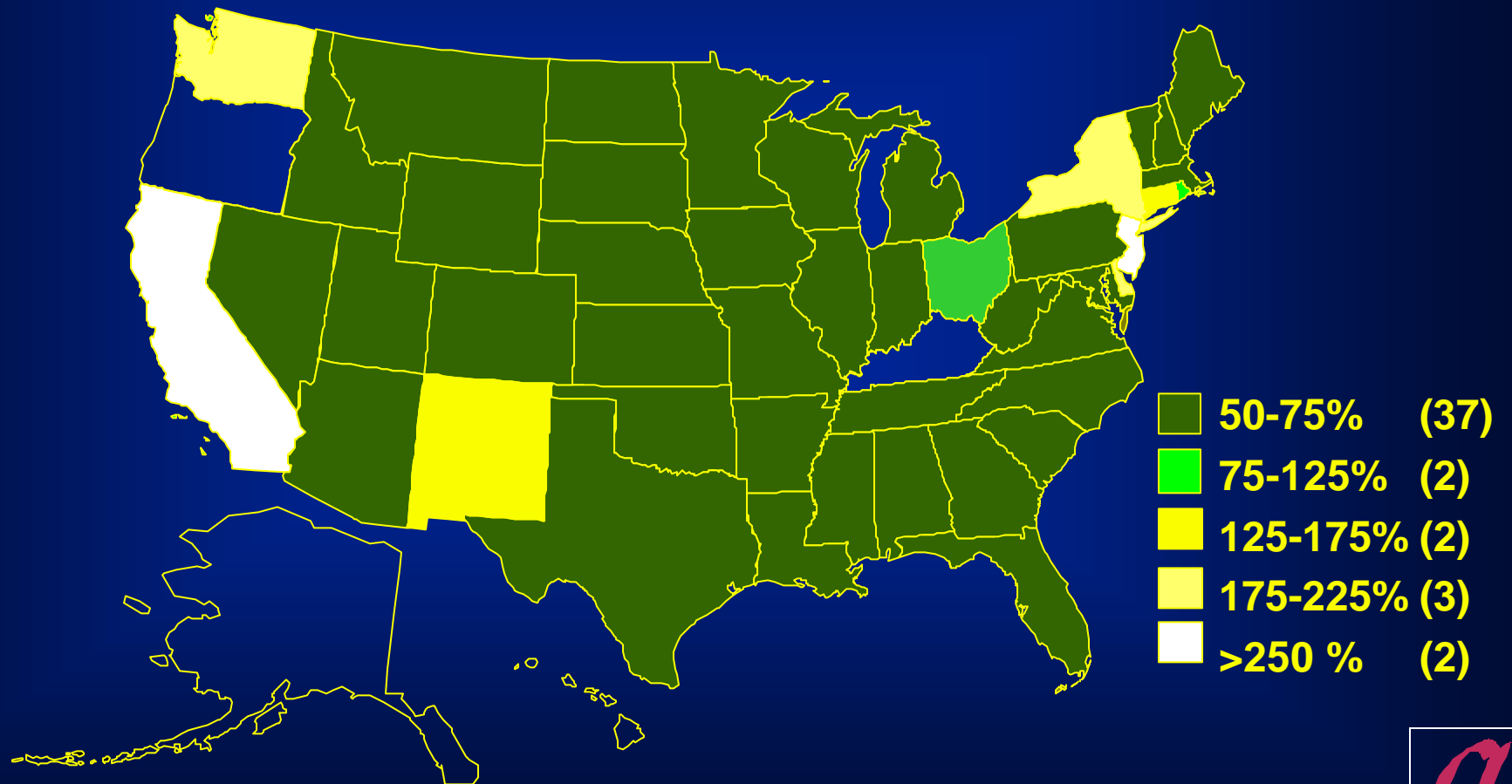
*Manning et al., 1991;
Saffer & Grossman, 1987*

- primary cause deaths due to alcohol decline

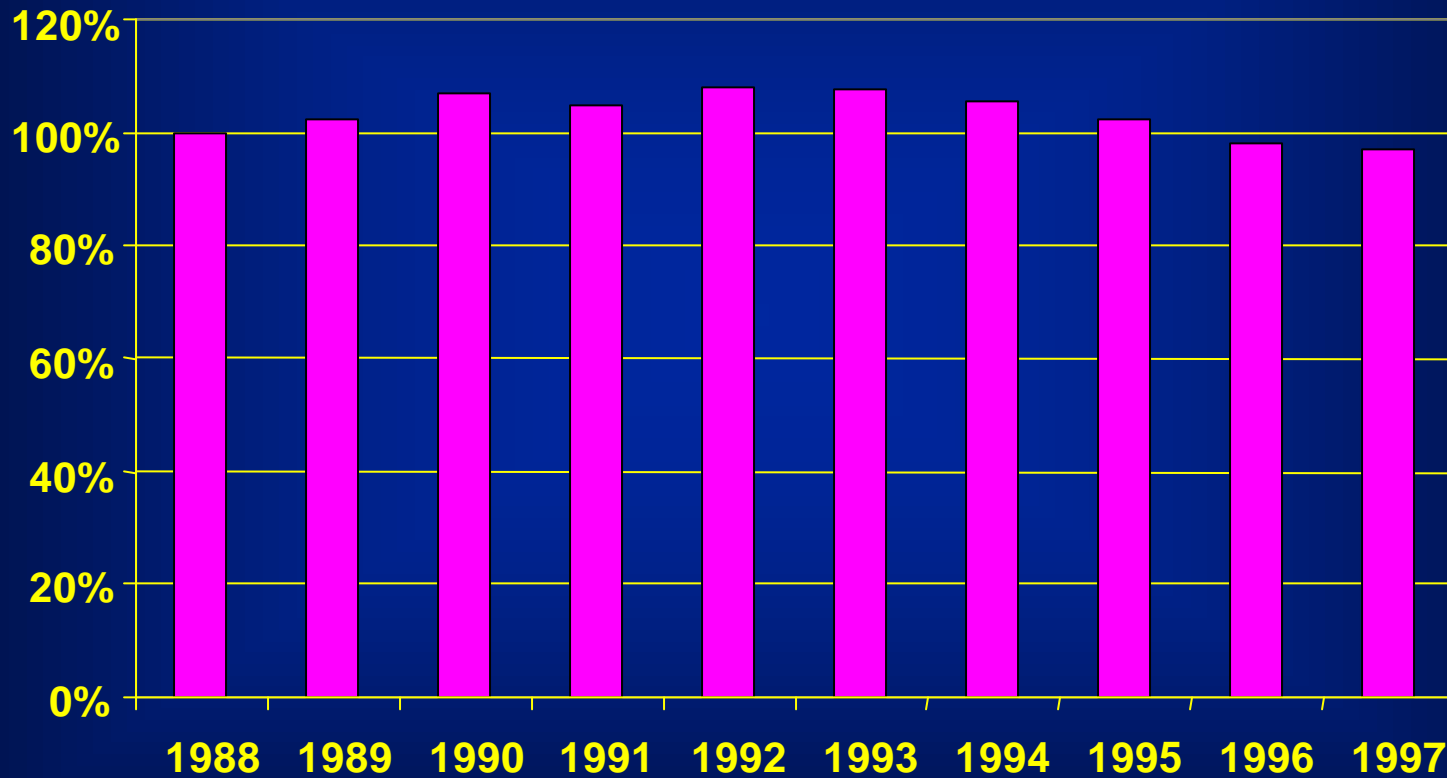
*Saffer & Grossman, 1987;
Rush et al., 1986;
Cook & Tauchen, 1982;*



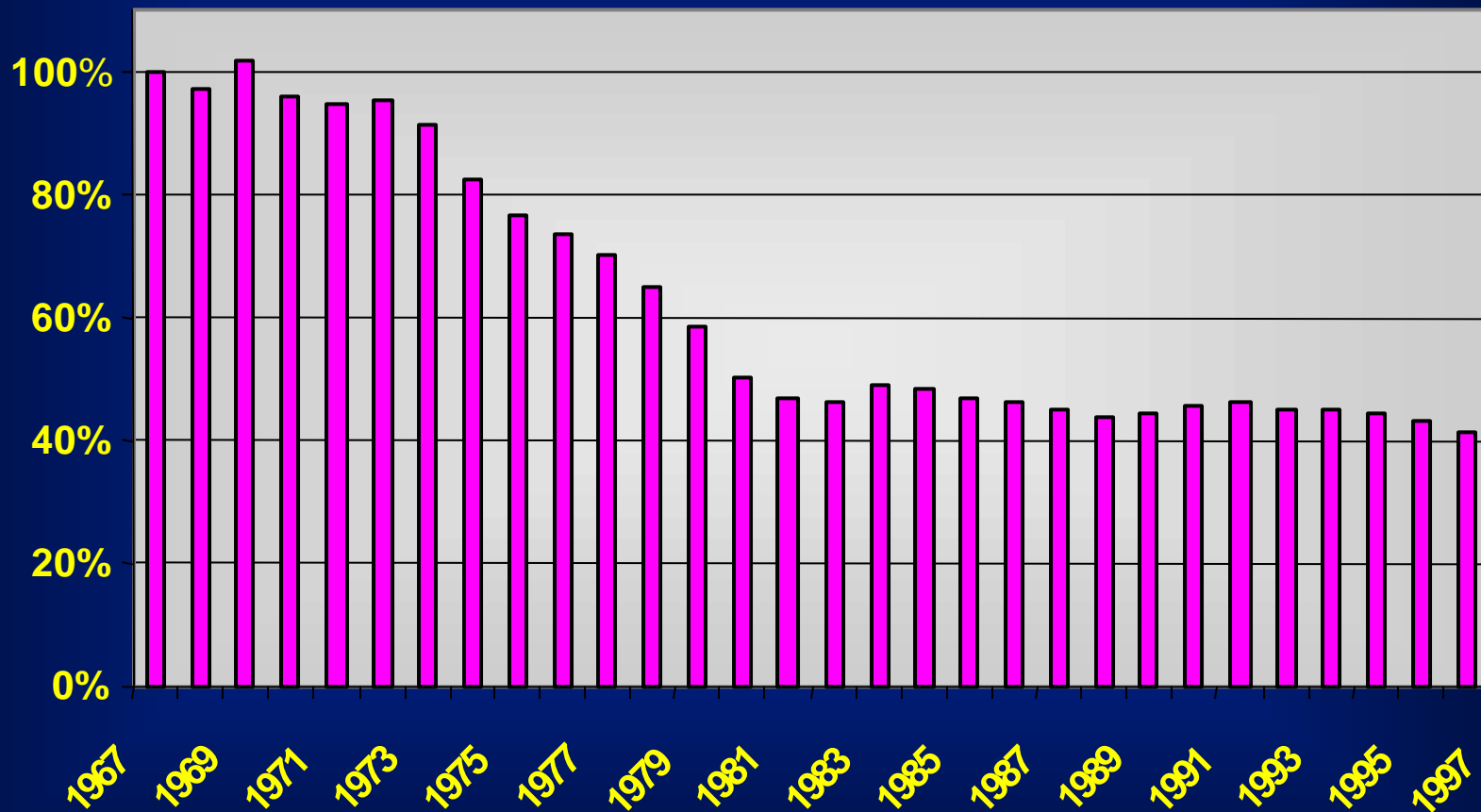
Change in beer excise taxes 1988-1997



Changes in beer excise tax 1988-1997



Changes in Beer Excise Tax 1967-1997



Server Training

When implemented by an establishment:

- servers more likely to intervene

•Geller et al., 1987

- customers more likely to leave with lower BAC levels

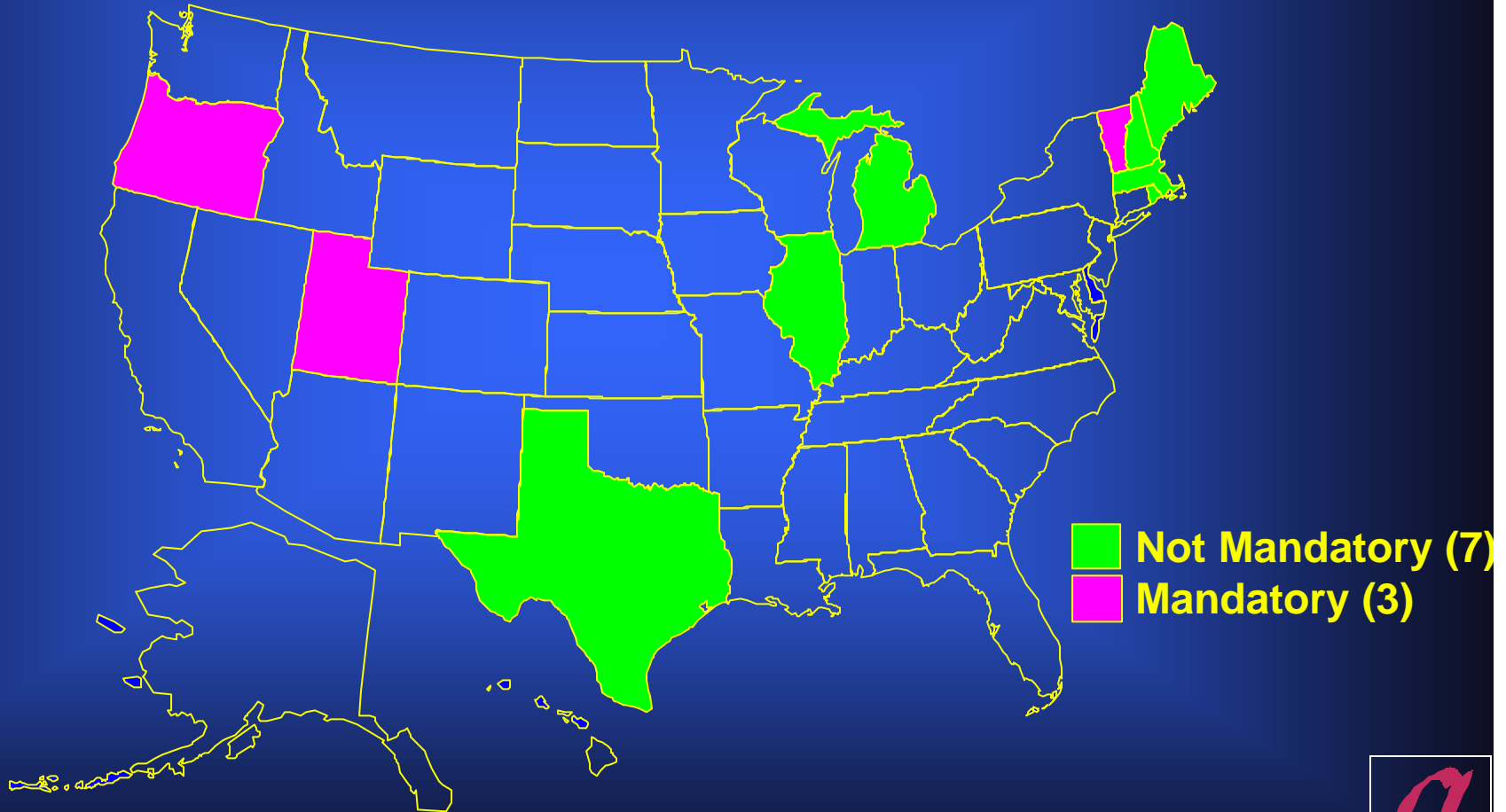
Hennesey & Salz, 1990

- risk of single nighttime vehicle crashes declines

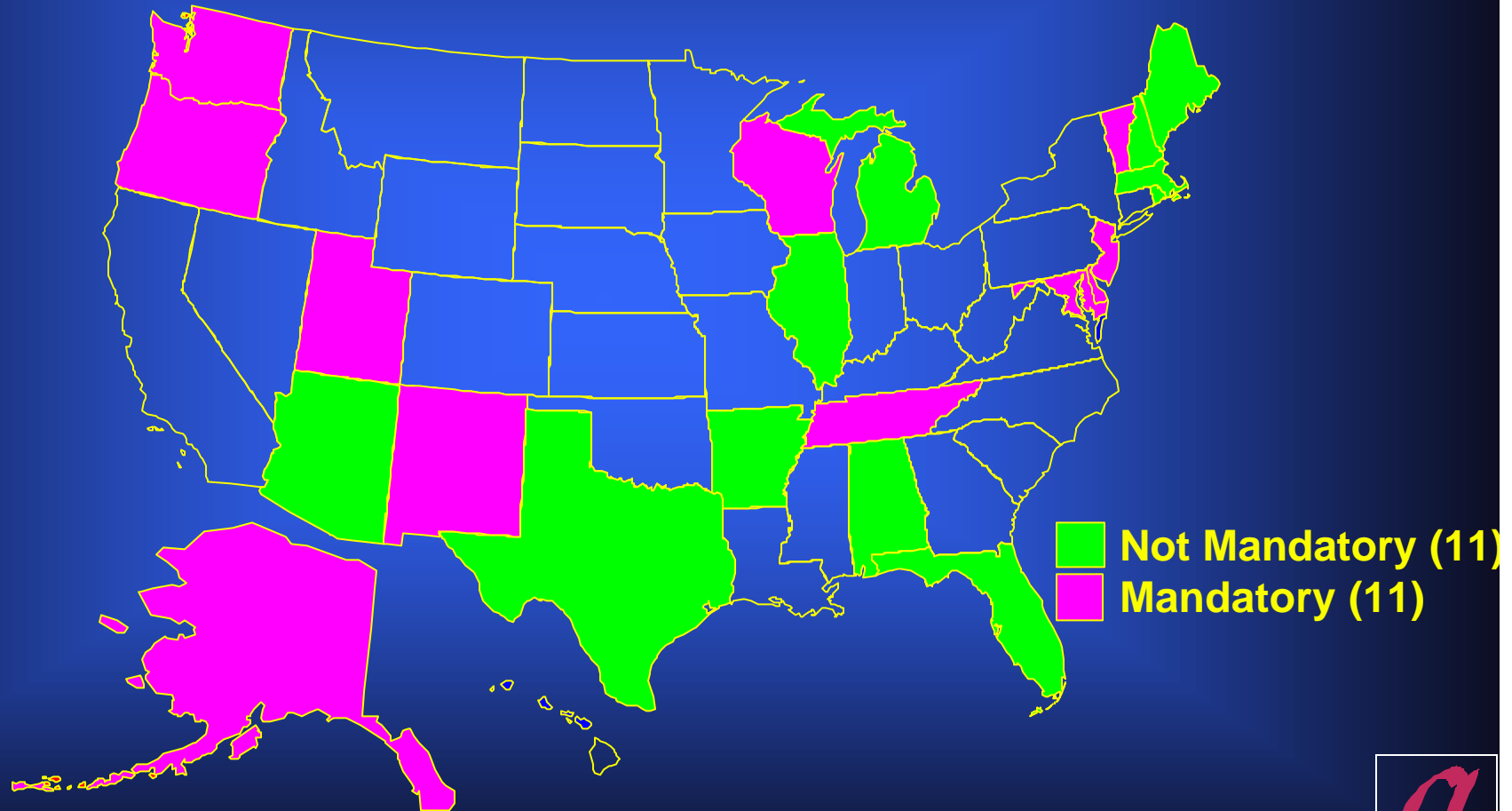
Holder & Wagenaar, 1995



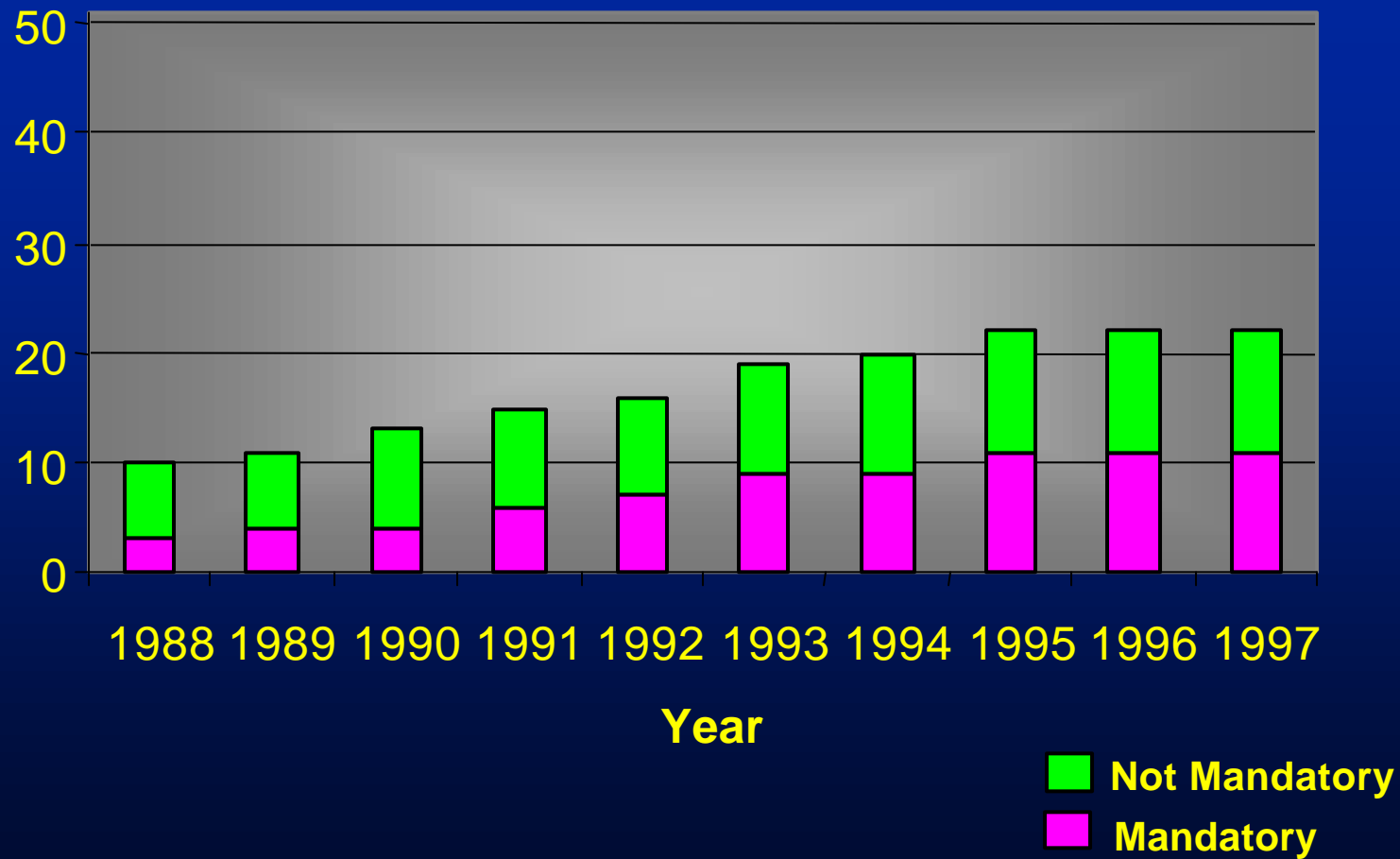
Server Training Laws 1988



Server Training Laws 1997



Changes in Server Training Laws 1988-1997



Keg Registration

When required:

- ? (Need more empirical research)

However, we already know:

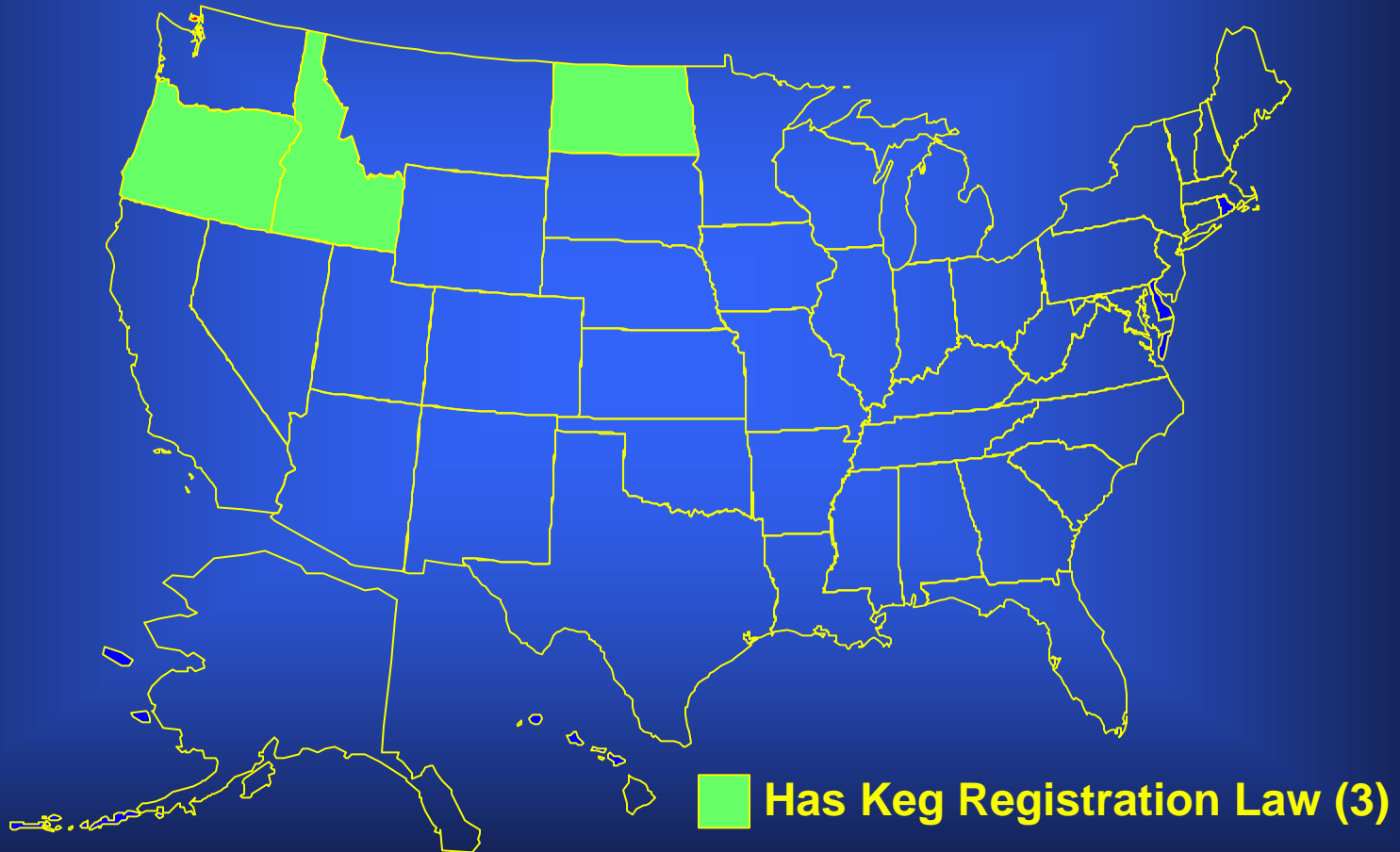
- kegs are a cheaper source of alcohol
- youth are particularly price sensitive
- kegs are often a main source of alcohol at parties with underage drinkers

Grossman, 1987

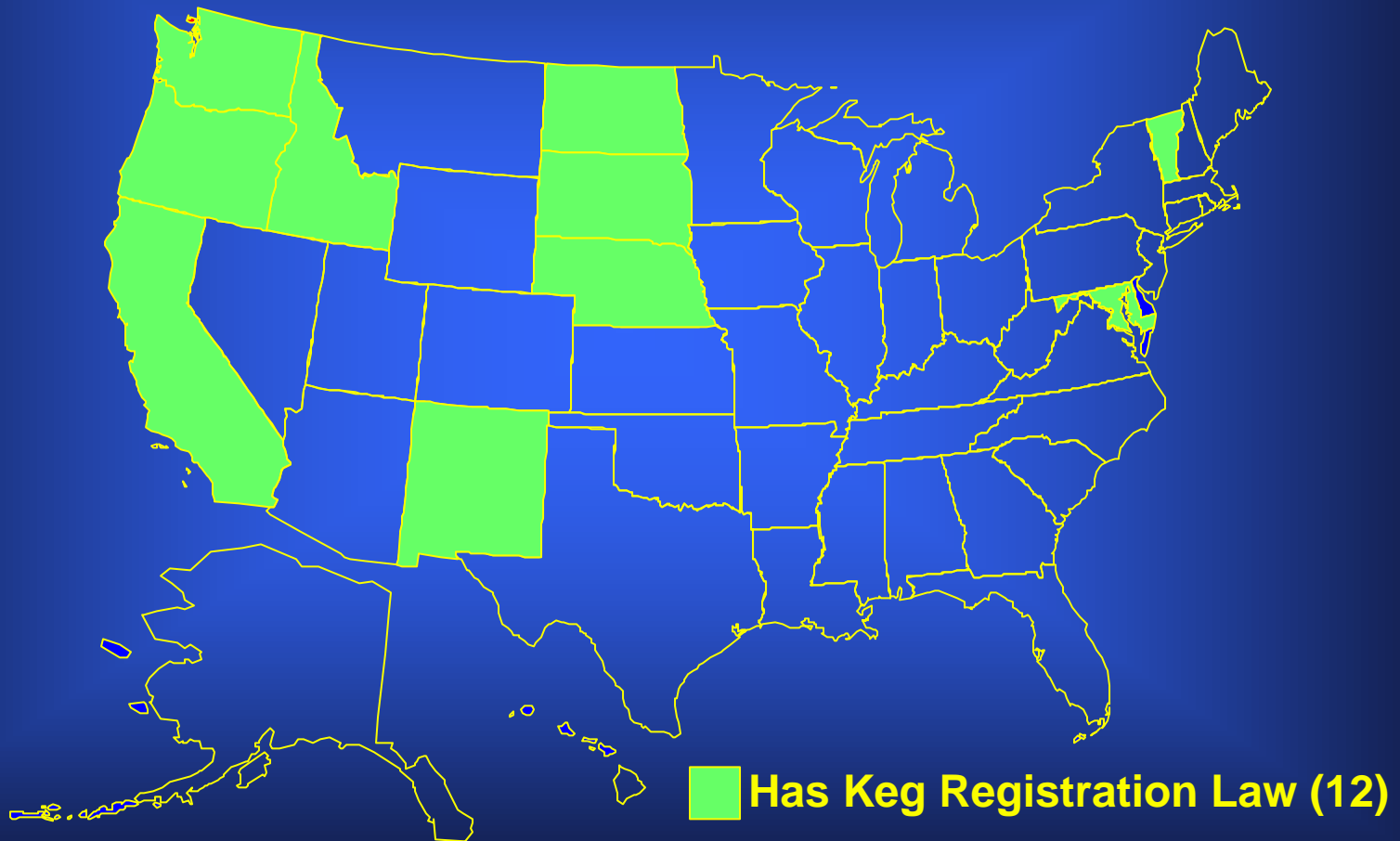
Wagenaar et al., 1993



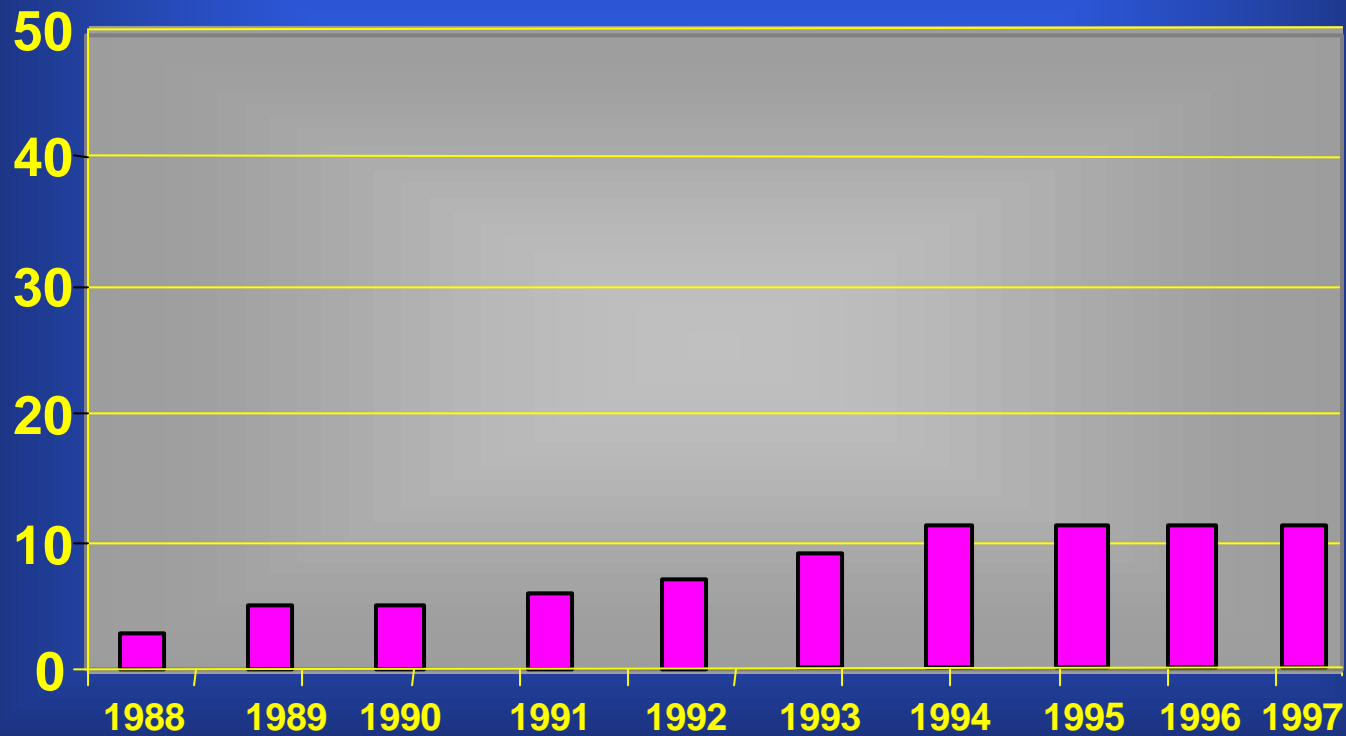
States with Keg Registration 1988



States with Keg Registration 1997



Changes in Keg Registration 1988-1998



Conclusions: BAC

- Trend continues toward 0.08 for general BAC
- Youth 0.02 BAC laws in place; need publicity & enforcement



Conclusions: Taxes

- Overall, states failed to keep up with inflation
- Real cost to consumer is much lower now than in past



Conclusions: Server Training

- More states enacting server training
- Trend toward mandatory form

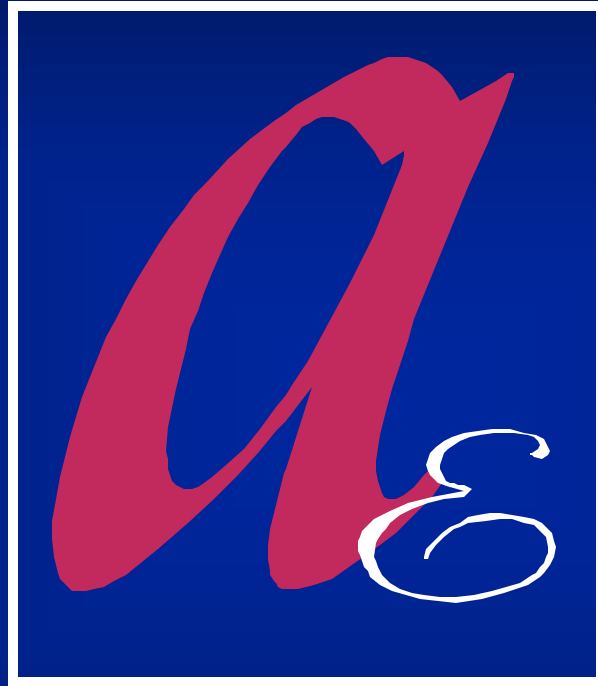


Conclusions: Keg Registration

- More states enacting keg registration
- Further research is needed



A L C O H O L



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