

Model built to estimate

- # of trauma unit admissions in SA annually
- Proportion of admissions that were alcohol-related
- # of admissions that had fallen away because of lockdown restrictions
- Proportion and # of alcohol-related trauma admissions nationally that had fallen away by 3 categories of trauma admissions (violence, traffic, other) due to lockdown
- # of alcohol-related trauma admissions that would return if alcohol sales were allowed to resume

Estimated on a weekly basis:

- ~35,000 trauma unit admissions across 400 public 2^oary or 3^oary hospitals
- After lockdown this dropped to ~12,000 (a 65% ↓)
 - 40% (4846) would be alcohol-related
- Of 22,500 less trauma unit admissions
 - ~9000 would be alcohol-related & would have disappeared because of various conditions of lockdown, including the ban on all alcohol-sales
- We estimated:
 - ~4900 (or 55%) of alcohol-related trauma admissions that would return each week if off-consumption alcohol sales were allowed to resume



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17 April 2020

TO: MABUZA ATTORNEYS
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Dear Sirs

GAUTENG LIQUOR FORUM // COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS LOCKDOWN

- 1 We act for the Presidency in this matter.
- 2 We refer to your letter dated 11 April 2020, in which you seek an undertaking from the President that the Minister of Cooperative

- The government has adopted a stance of seeking to maximise the effects of the lockdown, by seeking to minimise commerce except with regard to truly essential services. **The sale of alcohol is self-evidently not an essential service.** On this basis alone, it was considered that the sale of alcohol should not be permitted.
- **“the sale of alcohol has proven links to an increase in violent crime, motor vehicle accidents, medical emergencies and results in full emergency rooms and hospitals.** In the face of a pandemic such as Covid-19, the experience of the rest of the world has shown us that hospitals need to be prepared to receive and treat vast numbers of Covid-19 patients and to quarantine them from non-infected patients.”

Estimated financial saving from drop in alcohol-related trauma admissions (4 WEEKS)

- ~36,000 alcohol-related admissions less @ ~R20,000 per admission = R720 million
 - Would only be realised if all costs were to go away
 - In reality some costs only go away in the long term if it is realized there is no need for them & then staffing & other resources are removed
- If we assume only 15% of costs are for consumables (meds, blood, sutures, swabs, food, implants, dressings) –it comes to ~R60 million saved ... but we not going to be able to reduce all alcohol-related trauma



Lives saved as a result of lockdown & ban on alcohol sales



- ~ 171 alcohol-related deaths per day in SA (Probst et al., 2019)
- 19% related to injury = 32 alcohol-related **injury** deaths per day
- Estimated 65% drop in injury fatalities during lockdown (using trauma admissions drop) = 21 alcohol injury deaths per day
- With ~70% related to ban on liquor sales = 15 deaths averted per day or 412 over 4 weeks

My proposal for how to create a new normal

Area	Proposal
Reduce availability	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduced hours of selling (e.g. no later than 2am for on-consumption in business districts on Fri & Sat, else 22:00; off-consumption 10:00-18:00 Mon-Fri, Sat 09:00-13:00)• Minimum purchase age of 19 years• Consider density & harm data in deciding on licensing in particular areas• Bring more outlets into regulated market
Controls on marketing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Either a ban on marketing except at point of sale or at least• No sports sponsorship• Only advertise factual information about product, not lifestyle• Independent pre-vetting of advertisements• No marketing when GE 30% of audience is under 19• Limit sale of alcohol in larger containers (no 750 ml or 1 litre bottles of beer)
Drink driving	Lower BAC limit to zero & increase random breath testing
Pricing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase excise taxes• Institute minimum unit pricing for low cost alcohol
Alt business development	What could replace alcohol as business opportunity in townships? Something that facilitates socialization without being just another venue to market & trade alcohol. Coffee shops? Industry is already making hand sanitizers, Fin24 suggestion