

UPDATES FROM THE FIELD**Adolescent alcohol exposure and persistence of adolescent-typical phenotypes into adulthood: a mini-review**

During adolescence, specific parts of the brain are maturing, leading to the question of how alcohol bingeing impacts development. In a recent review of the science, researchers involved in this study found that when binge levels of alcohol are given to rats during adolescence, many adolescent-typical behaviors and sensitivities fail to mature and end up persisting into adulthood. For example, adolescent rats and people show less sedation and social impairment to moderate and high doses of alcohol, but more learning impairment. When rats are exposed to binge levels of alcohol during adolescence and then tested in adulthood, they retain these adolescent-typical responses to alcohol rather than maturing into an adult response. Binge levels of alcohol in adolescence block certain aspects of brain and behavior from maturing and may promote problematic alcohol use. To learn more visit:

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24813805>

INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO REDUCING UNDERAGE DRINKING IN STATES**Report: Raising alcohol tax could save lives, create jobs (TX)**

AUSTIN—Raising alcohol excise taxes in Texas could increase safety and create jobs across the state, according to a report released Tuesday. Texans Standing Tall released the report, claiming increasing alcohol taxes by a dime per drink could raise \$708 million annually, create more than 15,100 jobs, and prevent more than 113,000 cases of alcohol dependence and abuse. The report also claims increasing the alcohol taxes would decrease underage drinking across the state. To learn more visit:

<http://www.kvue.com/story/news/state/2015/03/03/report-raising-alcohol-tax-could-save-lives-create-jobs/24328491/>

SUCCESS STORY—Nebraska**Nebraska's EUDL Strategies Show Sustainability as Grant Ends**

Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws (EUDL) efforts in Nebraska were led by the Nebraska Office of Highway Safety's (NOHS) Highway Safety Administrator, Fred Zwonechek, and the successful collaboration with Project Extra Mile (PEM). PEM, a statewide network of community partnerships that works with NOHS, developed a strategic communications plan with media advocacy being central to supporting NOHS's enforcement efforts. Since the inception of the EUDL Program, the Underage

Drinking Enforcement Training Center (UDET) has conducted 13 trainings in Nebraska. Each training was developed with the intention of educating Nebraska law enforcement, encouraging collaboration among key stakeholders, and building a base of knowledge and commitment that could be sustained after EUDL funding ended. Using skills and knowledge gained from UDET trainings, Nebraska saw alcohol compliance rates in Douglas and Sarpy counties improve from 59% compliance in 1997 to 90% compliance in 2014. To learn more visit:

http://www.udetc.org/documents/success_stories/NE0315.pdf.

SUCCESS STORY—Nevada**Alcohol Regulations in Downtown Las Vegas Impact Underage Drinking**

With funding from the EUDL State Assessment, Strategic Planning, and Implementation Initiative (SASP) discretionary grant in 2010, collaborative partnerships were strengthened and new relationships developed between the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, city officials, prevention advocates, alcohol retailers, and other concerned citizens. Their collective goal was to implement environmental strategies in the downtown area to help curb youth access to alcohol, reduce youth alcohol use, and decrease alcohol-related crimes. A cornerstone to changing the alcohol environment involved policy review, development, and implementation. To learn more visit:

http://www.udetc.org/documents/success_stories/NV0315.pdf.

UDET RESOURCES SPOTLIGHT**Underage Drinking Cost Sheets Updated with 2013 Data!**

The UDET is pleased to announce that new data is available on the costs of underage drinking within the United States, each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia. These updated documents delineate the estimated costs incurred as a direct result of underage alcohol consumption in terms of youth violence, traffic crashes, high-risk sex, property and public order crime, injury, poisonings and psychosis, fetal alcohol syndrome among mothers aged 15–20 years, and alcohol treatment. In 2013, underage drinking cost U.S. citizens \$56.9 billion.

These documents can be downloaded from the UDET website at www.udetc.org and select the tab for Underage Drinking Costs on the left navigation bar.

To print a copy of this month's *Resource Alert*, visit:
www.udetc.org/documents/ResourceAlerts/ResourceAlert0415.pdf

Visit www.udetc.org for the latest information on underage drinking.



April 2015

Nebraska's EUDL Strategies Show Sustainability as Grant Ends

The Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws (EUDL) Program was developed to support and enhance efforts by states and local jurisdictions to prohibit the sale of alcoholic beverages to minors and the purchase and consumption of alcoholic beverages by minors (youth under age 21 years). One of the important goals of the program was to help build knowledge and capacity among the law enforcement community to help sustain efforts once the grant ended. The State of Nebraska is a great model of EUDL success and sustainability in action.

The EUDL efforts in Nebraska were led by the Nebraska Office of Highway Safety's (NOHS) Highway Safety Administrator, Fred Zwonechek, and the successful collaboration with Project Extra Mile (PEM). PEM, a statewide network of community partnerships that works with NOHS, developed a strategic communications plan with media advocacy being central to supporting NOHS's enforcement efforts. Since the inception of the EUDL Program, the Underage Drinking Enforcement Training Center (UDETTC) has conducted 13 trainings in Nebraska. Each training was developed with the intention of educating Nebraska law enforcement, encouraging collaboration among key stakeholders, and building a base of knowledge and commitment that could be sustained after EUDL funding ended. Using skills and knowledge gained from UDETTC trainings, Nebraska saw alcohol compliance rates in Douglas and Sarpy counties improve from 59% compliance in 1997 to 90% compliance in 2014.

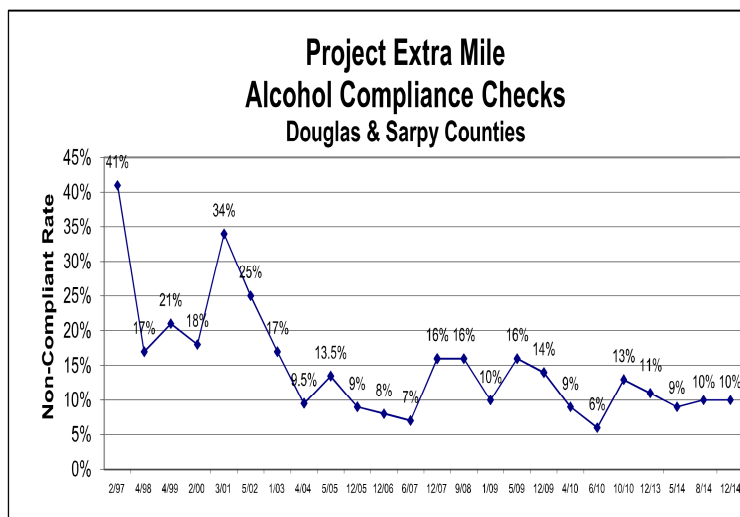
According to Nicole Carritt, Executive Director of PEM, "The successes that Nebraska has seen in preventing underage drinking and youth access to alcohol could not have occurred without the efforts of the EUDL program. Those efforts allowed our state to build a firm foundation for sustainability and continued commitment by our law enforcement partners to this issue even now that the grant has ended." The test of so many grant programs is often measured by what happens when the funding ends. Nebraska has answered that question loud and clear.

After EUDL funding ended in September 2014, in an effort to prevent underage drinking during the holiday season, Nebraska pulled other funds during December 2014, so that law enforcement officers could conduct a wave of compliance checks in Douglas and Sarpy counties. Over thirty officers from five agencies—Douglas County Sheriff's Office, La Vista Police Department, Nebraska State Patrol, Omaha Police Department, and the Sarpy County Sheriff's Office—participated in the multi-jurisdictional effort.

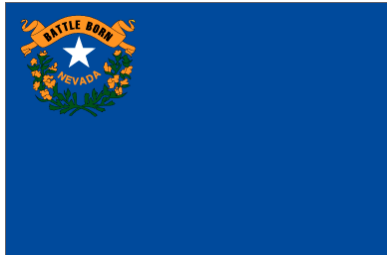
During their enforcement operations, 27 (10%) of the 263 on-and-off sale outlets sold alcohol to a minor. In addition to compliance checks, law enforcement conducted selective party patrols targeting underage drinking parties. In 2015, Nebraska law enforcement officers used their EUDL training in a large enforcement operation. When police showed up at the party in southwest Omaha, officers found about 100 juveniles in the basement of a residence and seventy juveniles were cited for being minors in possession of alcohol. Those cited were released to their parents, and adults who provided alcohol were also summonsed to appear in court on criminal charges.

This success story shares how Nebraska law enforcement agencies, with their strong collaborative partners, continue to recognize that enforcing underage drinking laws is an integral part of their core mission and are prepared to sustain their efforts in the years ahead.

For additional information please contact Nicole Carritt, Executive Director, Project Extra Mile at 402-963-9047 or at nikki@projectextramile.org, or contact Fred Zwonechek, Nebraska Office of Highway Safety at 402-471-2515 or at fred.zwonechek@nebraska.gov.



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Success Stories

Enforcing the Underage Drinking Laws Program

NEWS FROM THE FIELD

April 2015

www.udetc.org

Alcohol Regulations in Downtown Las Vegas Impact Underage Drinking

Ten years ago, the downtown Fremont Entertainment District of Las Vegas lacked the vibrancy of the Las Vegas Strip. However, during the past several years, the city of Las Vegas has attracted new bars, nightlife, and innovative attractions, such as the new “Container Park,” to draw people to the downtown area, resulting in illegal and unruly drinking behaviors, panhandling, and violence that have had city officials scrambling to address the public health and safety issues arising from this growth spurt. An example of this can be seen by the increase in the number of licensed alcohol establishments from 772 in 2011 to 935 in 2013.

With funding from the Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws (EUDL) State Assessment, Strategic Planning, and Implementation Initiative (SASPII) discretionary grant in 2010, collaborative partnerships were strengthened and new relationships developed between the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD), city officials, prevention advocates, alcohol retailers, and other concerned citizens. Their collective goal was to implement environmental strategies in the downtown area to help curb youth access to alcohol, reduce youth alcohol use, and decrease alcohol-related crimes. A cornerstone to changing the alcohol environment involved policy review, development, and implementation. Twelve policy changes enacted since 2010 include:

1. Tavern Limited Licenses to require all alcohol owners/sellers to obtain a work card confirming Underage Alcohol Management and Control (UAMAC) training and background check clearance. One employee with a work card must be on duty at all times.
2. Mandatory alcohol server training.
3. Ban on any new package stores under the Fremont Street Experience canopy.
4. Restrictions on alcohol advertising in windows.
5. Ban on open glass and aluminum liquor containers.
6. Ban on the sale of hard-liquor minis.
7. Ban on beer with alcohol content of 11% or more.
8. Ban on the sale of malt liquor or beer in 32-ounce containers.
9. Prohibiting the opening of any packaged liquor on the Fremont Street Experience mall.
10. Ban on those under age 21 years from entering lounge areas that sell alcohol unless accompanied by an adult 21 years or older.
11. Enactment of a curfew law for youth under age 21 years.

12. Stricter enforcement of liquor sale violations; tighter enforcement of existing rules; and tighter curfew and enforcement of laws pertaining to minors who frequent the area.

Another cornerstone to changing the alcohol environment involved high-visibility enforcement. In 2013, the City of Las Vegas Business License Department entered into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with EUDL to work in conjunction with LVMPD to support EUDL activities by restricting youth access to alcohol in the downtown area. A notable outcome from this MOU was the development of an UAMAC training course, mandated by the Downtown Project, which noted that anyone within the Downtown Project had to take the training in order to sell or serve alcohol. This requirement was later expanded to include other retail establishments outside the project area. It is currently being considered for statewide certification and implementation.

LVMPD and UAMAC have used new alcohol regulations as tools to educate and enforce alcohol laws and improve alcohol retailer compliance within the Downtown Project. LVMPD, Downtown Rangers, and Container Park Management have all been instrumental in ensuring youth safety within the Downtown Project and youth have been protected from alcohol-related harms as a result of these policies and enforcement activities. One example is the ban on alcohol within the playground area of the Container Park. For large scale events (i.e., First Friday), expanded enforcement has been needed to control the chaotic atmosphere created by the large crowds drawn to the downtown area. The use of multiple operations (i.e., secured entry points, ID checkpoints) during these events has created a safer environment and improved community health and safety. This success story shares how collaborative relationships can maximize the effectiveness of multiple strategies.

For more information contact John Schutt (retired LVMPD officer) at 702-561-5268 or schutt72@gmail.com; or Diane Anderson, Nevada EUDL Discretionary State Manager at 702-682-8647 or dianestdf@msn.com.

This project was supported by Grant No. 2009-AH-FX-K001 awarded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.



11720 Beltsville Drive, Suite 900, Calverton, MD 20705.
Phone: 877-335-1287. Fax: 301-755-2808

UNDERAGE DRINKING IN THE UNITED STATES

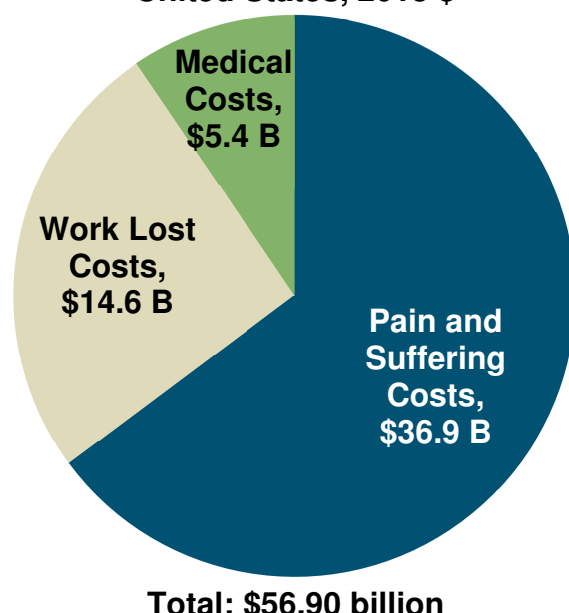
The Facts

Tragic health, social, and economic problems result from the use of alcohol by youth. Underage drinking is a causal factor in a host of serious problems, including homicide, suicide, traumatic injury, drowning, burns, violent and property crime, high-risk sex, fetal alcohol syndrome, alcohol poisoning, and the need for treatment of alcohol abuse and dependence.

Problems and Costs Associated with Underage Drinking in the United States

In 2013, underage drinking cost the citizens of the United States \$56.9 billion. These costs include medical care, work loss, and pain and suffering associated with the multiple problems resulting from the use of alcohol by youth.¹ This translates to \$1,903 per year for each youth in the United States or \$3.75 per drink consumed underage. Excluding pain and suffering from these costs, tangible costs of underage drinking including medical care, criminal justice, property damage, and loss of work in the United States totaled \$20.01 billion each year or \$1.32 per drink. In contrast, a drink in the United States retails for \$0.93.

**Costs of Underage Drinking
United States, 2013 \$**



**Costs of Underage Drinking by Problem,
United States, 2013 \$**

Problem	Total Costs (in millions)
Youth violence	\$32,637.40
Youth traffic crashes	\$8,581.00
High-risk sex, Ages 14–20 years	\$3,836.30
Property and public order crime	\$230.20
Youth injury	\$2,650.40
Poisonings and psychoses	\$687.10
Fetal alcohol syndrome among mothers aged 15–20 years	\$1,503.00
Youth alcohol treatment	\$1,826.40
Total	\$56,943.50 (e.g. 56.90 B)

Youth violence (homicide, suicide, aggravated assault) and traffic crashes attributable to alcohol use by underage youth in the United States represent the largest costs for the country. However, a host of other problems contribute substantially to the overall cost. Among teen mothers, fetal alcohol syndrome alone costs the United States \$3 million.

In 2012, 39,817 youth aged 12 to 20 years were admitted for alcohol treatment in the United States, accounting for 6% of all treatment admissions for alcohol abuse in the country.² Young people who begin drinking before age 15 are four times more likely to develop alcohol

dependence and are two and a half times more likely to become abusers of alcohol than those who begin drinking at age 21.³ We did not cost these adult problems.

Alcohol Consumption by Youth in the United States

Underage drinking is widespread in the United States. Approximately 10,437,000 underage customers drink each year in the United States. In 2013, the United States students in grades 9 to 12 reported the following:⁴

- 66.2% had at least one drink of alcohol on one or more days during their life.
- 18.6% had their first drink of alcohol, other than a few sips, before age 13.
- 34.9% had at least one drink of alcohol on one or more occasions in the past 30 days.
- 20.8% had five or more drinks of alcohol in a row (binge drinking) in the past 30 days.

In 2012, underage customers consumed 9.90% of all alcohol sold in the United States, totaling \$14.08 billion in sales (in 2013 dollars). These sales provided profits of \$6.9 billion to the alcohol industry.¹

Annual sales of alcohol consumed by youth in the United States averaged \$1,349 per underage customer. Underage customers were heavier consumers than adults. They drank an average of 4 drinks per day; in contrast, legal customers consumed only 1.6.

Harm Associated with Underage Drinking in the United States

Underage drinking in the United States leads to substantial harm due to traffic crashes, violent crime, property crime, unintentional injury, and high-risk sex.

- During 2012, an estimated 1,236 traffic fatalities and 30,336 nonfatal traffic injuries were attributable to driving after underage drinking.
- In 2012, an estimated 949 homicides; 555,800 nonfatal violent crimes such as rape, robbery, and assault; 827,800 property crimes including burglary, larceny, and car theft; and 15,503,000 public order crimes including vandalism, disorderly conduct, loitering, and curfew violations were attributable to underage drinking.
- In 2011, an estimated 275 alcohol-involved fatal burns, drownings, and suicides were attributable to underage drinking.
- In 2013, an estimated 27,939 teen pregnancies and 860,523 teens having high-risk sex were attributable to underage drinking.

For comparison with other states, in U.S. rather than state prices, the harm from underage drinking per youth in the United States averages \$1,728. Such comparisons require caution. In part, they may reflect differences in crime and crash rates, problem-reporting to police, and co-occurring drug use.

Produced by the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation (PIRE) with funding from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), March 2015.

¹ Levy, D.T., Miller, T.R., & Cox, K.C. (2003). Underage drinking: societal costs and seller profits. Working Paper. Calverton, MD: PIRE.

² Office of Applied Studies, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Treatment Episode Data Set. (2013). *Substance Abuse Treatment by Primary Substance of Abuse, According to Sex, Age, Race, and Ethnicity, 2011*. Available [Online]: <http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/SAMHDA/studies/30462>

³ Grant, B.F., & Dawson, D.A. (1997). Age at onset of alcohol use and its association with DSM-IV alcohol abuse and dependence: Results from the National Longitudinal Alcohol Epidemiologic Survey. *Journal of Substance Abuse* 9: 103-110.

⁴ Centers for Disease Control (CDC). (2013). Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS). Available [Online]: <http://nccd.cdc.gov/youthonline/App/Default.aspx>. Or an equivalent state data system.