



June 2004 Resource Alert

School is getting out, and summer is almost here. Around the country, State EUDL programs are preparing to increase the level of youth involvement in their initiatives, and law enforcement agencies increase their activities aimed at reducing youth access to alcohol. We at the Underage Drinking Enforcement Training Center wish you well in your efforts to combat underage drinking over the next few months.

Many youth will log in a lot more driving hours during the summer. A new report from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) highlights how law enforcement and strong drinking and driving laws are critical to deterring youth from driving under the influence of alcohol. Utilizing data analysis of 1999, 2000 and 2001 National Household Surveys, the SAMHSA report finds that young drivers in states with more restrictive driver-licensing laws have lower rates of drinking and driving than states with less restrictive laws. The report, *Graduated Driver Licensing and Drinking Among Young Drivers*, is available on-line at www.oas.samhsa.gov/2k4/licenses/licenses.cfm.

The term "binge drinking" provokes discussion in many circles about the suitability of the term's definition to current trends in heavy drinking. A recent statement by the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) clarifies the term by drawing attention to blood alcohol content (BAC). NIAAA's National Advisory Council approved the following definition regarding "binge" drinking: "A 'binge' is a pattern of drinking alcohol that brings blood alcohol concentration (BAC) to 0.08 gram percent or above. For the typical adult, this pattern corresponds to consuming 5 or more drinks (male), or 4 or more drinks (females), in about 2 hours." For more information about NIAAA's definitions of "binge" and "risky" drinking, go to www.niaaa.nih.gov/publications/Newsletter/winter2004/newsletter_Number3.htm#council.

In April, the Center for Alcohol Marketing and Youth (CAMY) posted a *Report to Congress* submitted by Charles G. Curie, Administrator of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. This report describes progress in the development of a plan to combat underage drinking coordinated through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The report also provides an update on the formation of an **Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Prevention of Underage Drinking**, Recommendation 12-1 of *Reducing Underage Drinking: A Collective*

Responsibility. Read the report on-line at <http://camy.org/washington/iccpud>.

The Center continues its audio-teleconference series with *How can law enforcement engage parental involvement in addressing youth access issues?* The Institute of Medicine and National Research Council report, *Reducing Underage Drinking: A Collective Responsibility*, recognizes the role parents play in conveying messages about the underage alcohol use. Getting parents to become engaged with this issue can be quite challenging. Learn how law enforcement can engage parental involvement in preventing and reducing underage drinking in communities.

This month's featured Success Stories come from **Connecticut** and **Puerto Rico**. In the absence of a strong statewide policy to address underage drinking at house parties, communities in Connecticut have passed local ordinances that give law enforcement officials a tool to break up underage drinking parties at private residences. Based on the success of the Code of Order, a package of ordinances and aimed at reducing alcohol-related problems in San Juan, Puerto Rico, 31 other municipalities have passed similar codes, and all municipalities report reductions in problems. To find out more about this month's audio-teleconference and how to register, and to read this month's Success Stories, please visit www.udetc.org/documents/ResourceAlert0604.pdf.

The 5th **Annual National Leadership Conference** will be held August 26-28 at the Sheraton San Diego Hotel and Marina in San Diego, CA. Remember to register early - registration is only \$99 prior to July 23. View the conference preliminary agenda on-line on our website www.udetc.org.

Until next month's Resource Alert. Please be safe, and we thank you for your efforts to prevent and reduce underage drinking.

New Electronic Resource Alerts!!

UDETC is proud to announce that we now offer our monthly Resource Alert via email! If you would like to receive our Resource Alert electronically, just send an e-mail with "Email Subscription" in the subject heading to udetc@pire.org. Please be sure to include your name, organization, address, telephone number, and, of course, email address.



National Electronic Seminars Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws Program

The OJJDP Audio-TELECONFERENCE Series

April 27, 2004 3:00-4:15 p.m. Eastern Time

The Rise and Fall of Togs and Keggers:

Interventions that Work: Animal House and Old School made us laugh at college partying, but those of you who have to deal with off-campus drinking know that these problems can drain a city's resources. Speakers for this call will provide some innovative and creative strategies to reduce off-campus drinking-related problems, including several targeting social availability of alcohol.

May 18, 2004 3:00-4:15 p.m. Eastern Time

Out of Control: The Link between Alcohol and

Riots: Win an important game? Have a riot! Lose an important game? Have a riot! Unfortunately, this has been the experience in many college communities, and the results have been costly for everyone involved. According to law enforcement officials, the common denominator in many of these incidents is alcohol. Find out which interventions can be effective in preventing violent incidences from occurring.

June 22, 2004 3:00-4:15 p.m. Eastern Time

How Can Law Enforcement Engage Parental Involvement in Addressing Youth Access

Issues?: The Institute of Medicine, National Research Council report, *Reducing Underage Drinking: A Collective Responsibility*, recognizes the role parents play in conveying messages about the underage alcohol use. Experience also indicates that parents seem to be in denial about youth alcohol use and its associated harms and risks. Getting parents to become engaged with this issue can be quite challenging. Learn how law enforcement can engage parental involvement in preventing and reducing underage drinking in communities.

July 27, 2004 3:00-4:15 p.m. Eastern Time

Alcohol Excise Tax: The Institute of Medicine, National Research Council report, *Reducing Underage Drinking: A Collective Responsibility* identifies increasing excise taxes a particularly effective strategy for reducing a variety of alcohol-related problems, including underage drinking. Speakers will discuss the research and data that supports alcohol tax increases and spotlight several States that have been successful in raising taxes. Speakers will also discuss new efforts to "roll back the beer tax."

August 10, 2004 3:00-4:15 p.m. Eastern Time

Compliance Check Investigations:

The Institute of Medicine, National Research Council report on reducing underage drinking recommends that states and communities "undertake regular and comprehensive compliance check programs." Research shows that such operations are the cornerstone of youth alcohol enforcement and are highly effective in limiting youth access to alcohol through commercial availability. Learn how these programs or operations work and why they are so effective in reducing youth access to alcohol.



For registration information, please visit www.udetc.org

All programs provide opportunities for presentation, discussion, and sharing information. Telephone dial-in instructions and accompanying materials will be mailed to registrants two weeks before the audio conference.

To register for any of these free electronic seminars by phone, call toll-free 1-877-335-1287 extension 230



Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws Program

AUDIO CONFERENCE

TOPIC

How Can Law Enforcement Engage Parental Involvement in Addressing Youth Access Issues?:

The Institute of Medicine, National Research Council report, *Reducing Underage Drinking: A Collective Responsibility*, recognizes the role parents play in conveying messages about the underage alcohol use. Experience also indicates that parents seem to be in denial about youth alcohol use and its associated harms and risks. Getting parents to become engaged with this issue can be quite challenging. Learn how law enforcement can engage parental involvement in preventing and reducing underage drinking in communities.

DATE

Tuesday, June 22, 2004

TIME

3:00–4:15 p.m. Eastern Time

PRESENTERS

Holly Zweizig

Assistant Director

Ohio Parents for Drug Free Youth

Columbus, OH

hzwiezig@ohioparents.org

Law Enforcement Representative from Ohio

Law Enforcement Representative from Florida

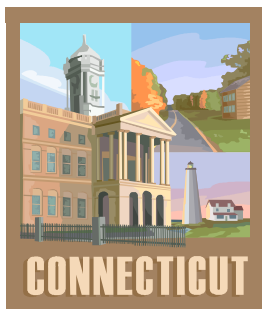
REGISTER

Please register by using one of our automated options:

- **To register on our website**, please visit www.udetc.org and complete the online registration form, or
- **To register by phone**, please call our toll-free number, 1-877-335-1287, extension 230, and follow the prompts.

Telephone dial-in instructions and accompanying materials for the audio conference will be mailed one (1) week before the call.





Success Stories

Enforcing the Underage Drinking Laws Program

NEWS FROM THE FIELD

www.udetc.org

June 2004

CT Communities Overcome Obstacles to Deter Underage Drinking Parties

Connecticut State law prohibits anyone under age 21 from possessing alcohol only on public property. However, possession of alcohol by minors at "house parties," which normally occur on private property, are a loophole in that law. Additionally, parents, attempting to protect youth solely from drinking and driving, contribute to the problem by hosting these parties.

The Connecticut Coalition to Stop Underage Drinking (CCSUD) has worked with State legislators over the past three years to correct this loophole and hold both youth and adults accountable for their actions at house parties. The Judiciary Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly has, for the third year, introduced legislation that would make it a misdemeanor to possess alcohol or "host" an underage drinking house party. That legislation is still pending.

In the absence of a statewide policy to address underage drinking at these house parties, communities in Connecticut have passed local ordinances that give law enforcement officials a tool to break up underage drinking parties.

This local ordinance began in three communities and has spread throughout the State, in part due to the leadership of the CCSUD. As of April 2004, 33 towns in the State have passed a local ordinance to prohibit persons under 21 from drinking on private property unless they are in the presence of their own parent or guardian. The local ordinance provides law enforcement officials with an effective tool for controlled party dispersal and accountability when they enter private property for reasonable cause, such as a noise complaint. Law enforcement can now issue citations and fines, normally \$77 to \$99, to minors in possession and adult hosts at underage drinking house parties.

The biggest obstacle for many of the communities was to convince their local elected officials that the ordinance would not violate Fourth Amendment privacy rights; that is, an individual's right to be free from

"unreasonable search and seizure" by the police. Police must have what is called "probable cause" to suspect that a crime is happening before they can intervene. The local ordinances and proposed State law do not change the underlying requirement that police must have "probable cause" to act and enter private property. What is changed by the ordinance and pending State law is that it becomes a crime to allow youth to possess alcohol on *private property*. This law does not give police increased access to private property. Instead, it is another tool to allow police to address underage drinking at house parties.

After hearing testimony from law enforcement officials, parents, and youth advocates regarding underage drinking parties and youth, elected officials have been passing the local ordinance with increasing regularity.

According to Gary Najarian, Project Director for CCSUD, coalitions in each community used their local media to highlight their cause and build community support. Najarian also stated that success of this ordinance has come directly from the local coalitions who mobilized youth, parents, and some law enforcement to local hearings to voice their support for addressing house parties.

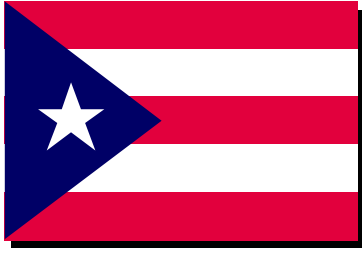
Our Point:
Communities and States are successfully changing laws, ordinance regulations, and enforcement practices to reduce underage drinking.

Underage drinking prevention advocates, parents, and law enforcement officials have welcomed the local ordinances and are still determined to close the loophole in the State law to protect all youth in Connecticut. In the meantime, many communities now have an effective policy to control and disperse underage drinking parties and to hold adults who provide alcohol at those parties responsible.

For more information, please contact: Gary Najarian, Project Director, CT Coalition to Stop Underage Drinking, 860-523-8042 or 800-422-5422, gary.najarian@preventionworksct.org



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Success Stories

Enforcing the Underage Drinking Laws Program

NEWS FROM THE FIELD

February 2004

www.udetc.org

Code of Order Blankets Island of Puerto Rico

Seven years ago, an evening visitor to Old San Juan would have found underage drinking and overservice of alcohol commonly and visibly practiced in this tourist destination spot. Along with these activities would have been fights, vandalism, and boisterous noisemaking into the early hours of the morning. Today, however, things are quite different, not only in Old San Juan but in municipalities all over the island of Puerto Rico.

Tired of the nightly mayhem that would result from underage and excessive drinking, members of the Puerto Rican Coalition to Reduce Underage Drinking (COPRAM) began to investigate how best to prevent these alcohol-related problems from occurring. COPRAM conducted community meetings and data analysis on problem occurrence in relation to alcohol establishments. COPRAM also examined existing city ordinances. It concluded that municipal ordinances did in fact exist that should have prevented underage drinking and overservice from occurring. It also identified additional policy changes that would strengthen existing ordinances. Community leaders and municipal and state police all worked together to get existing ordinances enforced and new policies passed.

At first, the Chamber of Commerce of old San Juan was reluctant to support any change in the status quo, but the involvement of then-Mayor Sila María Calderón was key to garnering the Chamber's support. Playing hardball, she indicated that if the alcohol establishment opposed supporting enforcement of existing ordinances and abiding by a Code of Order, she would work to change the "closing time" for sale of alcoholic beverages to midnight on weekdays and 2 a.m. on weekends, a drastic measure for this area of the city dependent on late-night entertainment tourism.

Established in 1998, the Code of Order was

established to ensure public safety and improve the quality of life for both visitors and residents in Old San Juan. It prohibits alcohol sales to minors, outdoor alcohol sales, consumption of alcoholic beverages in public spaces (e.g., on streets and sidewalks), sale of alcohol in glass containers, sale of alcoholic beverages from motor vehicles or portable refrigerators, alcohol consumption within a motor vehicle, and loud noise. Violations of any aspect of the Code result in severe fines and penalties.

Since establishment of the Code and with the active encouragement of now-Governor Sila María Calderón, other municipalities in Puerto Rico have established similar Codes of Order. The Governor allocates several million dollars each year in competitive grants to municipalities working toward establishing Codes of Order. To date, 31 municipalities have been successful in this effort, and an additional 20 municipalities will follow this lead during the 2004 fiscal year. Of the 78 municipalities in Puerto Rico, only 12 municipalities have not yet begun work to establish a Code of Order.

Through Governor Calderón's effective leadership, municipalities throughout the island have worked together to establish a strong network of grassroots organizations, citizens, business owners, religious leaders, and government officials who are dedicated to preserving quality of life while also promoting safe community night-life options and celebrations. Community members and civic leaders continue to validate the role of neighborhood alliances in improving standards of living.

All the municipalities in which a Code has been established report significant reductions in type 1 crime activity. The Codes also have gained a great deal of positive reaction from restaurant and merchant associations that now recognize that compliance with the law for the sake of public health and public safety is always good for business.

For more information, contact: Mr. Jose Malave, MS, COPRAM, 787-641-1985 ext. 301, COPRAM@Coqui.net