

## January 2006 Resource Alert

### **Binge Drinking Linked to US Death Rates**

A University of Washington study indicates that 63,718 deaths could be attributed to alcohol use (2000), which is 4% of all deaths for males and 1.5% of all deaths for females. Motor vehicle crashes were the most frequent cause of death for binge drinkers, according to the study. "In contrast to many other causes of death, deaths from alcohol are due to preventable, high-risk behaviors", stated Dr. Frederick Rivara, the principle investigator for the study. For more information on this study, go to: <http://uwnews.org/article.asp?articleID=5253&Search=Binge%20Drinking>.

### ***International Studies Related to Underage Drinking*** **Binge Drinking Episodes and Dementia Potential**

A Finnish study found that dementia is connected to repeated use of alcohol to the point of drunkenness. The threat for dementia later in life is tripled when a large amount of alcohol is drunk on one occasion per month, despite periods of non-alcohol use in between. The study also points out that individuals who pass out due to alcohol use at least twice a year are at 10 times greater risk to develop mental illness. The overall message from the study is that it is not necessarily the amount of alcohol consumed, but the pattern of drinking that influences dementia. To read the full text and to see further information on this study, log on to: [http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20051130/hl\\_afp/finlandhealtdrinkalcoholresearch051130150528](http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20051130/hl_afp/finlandhealtdrinkalcoholresearch051130150528)

### **Lowering the Drinking Age and Car Crashes**

According to a study based on data from New Zealand, conducted by Robert Voas, Ph.D., at the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation, lowering the drinking age increases car crashes among youth. The study found that the rate of traffic crashes and injuries increased 12% for 18-19 year old males and 14% among 15-17 year old males in the four years before and after the New Zealand legislature lowered the drinking age to 18. For females, rates rose 51% for 18-19 year olds and 24% for 15-17 year olds. The study estimated that 400 serious injuries and 12 deaths each year among 15-19 year olds would not occur if New Zealand raised their minimum legal drinking age. Currently, there are five U.S. States that have legislation pending to lower their minimum legal

drinking age. This study will be published in the January 2006 edition of the *Journal of American Public Health*.

### **January Audio-Teleconference Call**

Alcohol is a major problem on university campuses and often turns up as a factor in cases of vandalism, physical and sexual assault, and poor academic performance. A "dry campus," by definition prohibits alcohol at any university-owned property, as well as at any school-sponsored event, be it off-campus or on-campus. A conventional counter-argument to a dry campus policy has been that if alcohol is banned on campus, then students will increase off-campus consumption. The audio call will address research on Dry and Wet campuses and environmental strategies used to address their challenges and accomplishments. You can register for this month's call at [www.udetc.org/Registration.asp](http://www.udetc.org/Registration.asp).

To print a hard-copy of this month's Resource Alert and view it's flyers, click on the following link: [www.udetc.org/documents/ResourceAlert1205.pdf](http://www.udetc.org/documents/ResourceAlert1205.pdf).

### ***Electronic Resource Alerts!!***

*If you would like to receive our Resource Alert electronically, just send an e-mail with "E-mail Subscription" in the subject heading to [udetc@pire.org](mailto:udetc@pire.org). Please be sure to include your name, organization, address, telephone number and, of course, e-mail address.*





# National Electronic Seminars Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws Program

The OJJDP Audio-**T E L E C O N F E R E N C E** Series

**December 15, 2005 3:00-4:15 p.m. Eastern Time**

## **Geographic Information Systems (GIS)-The Effective Use of Mapping:**

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) is a mapping tool that can assist communities and enforcement agencies in identifying problems related to alcohol availability. Areas that have a high density of alcohol outlets or exposure have been found to generate alcohol-related problems and often affect the community's quality of life. The audio call will share the strengths, and weaknesses of GIS, when and how to apply GIS to show change over time and discuss how the results of GIS mapping can be used in strategic planning and in the support of existing environmental strategies

**January 19, 2006 3:00 – 4:15 p.m. Eastern Time**

## **Underage Drinking in College: Dry Vs. Wet Campuses:**

Alcohol is a major problem on university campuses and often turns up as a factor in cases of vandalism, physical and sexual assault, and poor academic performance. A "dry campus," by definition prohibits alcohol at any university-owned property, as well as at any school-sponsored event, be it off-campus or on-campus. A conventional counter-argument to a dry campus policy has been that if alcohol is banned on campus, then students will increase off-campus consumption. The audio call will address research on Dry and Wet campuses and environmental strategies used to address their challenges and accomplishments.

**February 23, 2006 3:00 – 4:15 p.m. Eastern Time**

## **How to Effectively Defend the Minimum Legal Drinking Age (MLDA) :**

Recent articles have discussed the question "should the current legal drinking age (21) be changed?" In order to be able to defend the need to maintain the age limit and to revisit the reasons behind the minimum legal drinking age, adult allies working to prevent and reduce underage drinking should be able to effectively defend their position. There is viable research available that can be used to defend the age of 21 as the minimum legal drinking age and to be able to solidify the stance on underage drinking on the State and local levels. This call will share the recent research and identify successful results which effectively defend the MLDA.

**March 23, 2006 3:00 – 4:15 p.m. Eastern Time**

## **A Global Look at Youth Drinking:**

There is a commonly held perception among Americans that youth in the U.S. drink more frequently and experience more alcohol-related problems than do their counterparts in other parts of the world. This perception is often utilized as argument for changes in U.S. alcohol policies and prevention initiatives, including elimination of the minimum drinking age laws and development of programs that teach "responsible" drinking. Presenters will provide data and discuss whether youth in other parts of the world drink less and experience fewer problems than their American counterparts.



**For audio-conference registration information, please visit [www.udetc.org](http://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

## Underage Drinking in College: Dry Vs. Wet Campuses

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Picture taken from Pennlive.com's "Drunk U" Page

### DATE

Thursday, January 19, 2006

### TIME

3:00 – 4:15 p.m. Eastern Time

### PRESENTER

Professionals and experts from various universities around the country

### REGISTER

Please register by using one of our automated options:

- **To register on our website**, please visit [www.udetc.org](http://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.

### WEB ENHANCED



Internet users will be able to log on to our conference web page to view presentation slides and interact with other participants.