

May 2005 Resource Alert

The issue of underage drinking parties was recently covered by two major national media outlets. In April, *60 Minutes* ran a segment on parental attitudes about underage drinking and the issue of social host liability. The reporter interviewed parents who allowed their underage children to hold alcohol parties at their homes under the guise that they would be in a supervised situation. The discussion included interviews with public health experts, alcohol industry representatives, and a parent who championed a social host liability law in Kansas. Click the following link to view a clip from the April 16 broadcast: http://www.cbsnews.com/sections/i_video/main500251.shtml?channel=60Sunday. The transcript is available at <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2005/04/14/60minutes/main688235.shtml>.

TIME Magazine also covered the matter of underage drinking parties in its April 18, 2005 issue. The article highlighted the work of the Connecticut Coalition to Stop Underage Drinking, which has been the driving force in pushing for local ordinances that make consumption of alcohol by youth on private property a crime. According to the article, 43 of the state's 169 municipalities, have passed such ordinances. Go to <http://www.time.com/time/archive/preview/0,10987,1047499,00.html> for the complete article.

This month's audio-teleconference also will focus on underage drinking in party settings. Entitled *Party Prevention and Controlled Party Dispersal: Enforcement and Community Working Together*, the conference will provide step-by-step information about how to prevent underage drinking parties, as well as how to breakup such parties in a manner that is safe and that can lead to changes in community norms about the acceptability of underage drinking parties. Presenters also will share specific information about how community volunteers can be incorporated into this work so that operations proceed efficiently and without liability. For more information about this month's audio-teleconference discussion and to register for the event, visit www.udetc.org/registration.asp.

Things are moving forward with the 6th Annual National Leadership Conference. By way of reminder, it will be held August 18 – 20th at the J.W. Marriot Starr Pass in Tucson, Arizona. Visit our website, www.udetc.org, to read the preliminary agenda after the 15th of this month.

A study published in the April 2005 issue of *Alcoholism: Clinical & Experimental Research* (Vol. 29, Issue 4, pp. 631-638) says that college students' perceptions of standard alcohol serving sizes often differ from the definitions of serving sizes used in

surveys of student alcohol consumption. This discrepancy could compromise the validity of surveys of alcohol use that are based on students' self-reported behaviors. Read a recent news article about the illuminating study at <http://www.reflector.com/health/content/shared-auto/healthnews/alca/525118.html>.

The website, KIDS COUNT, is a national and state-by-state effort to track the status of children in the United States. Although it does not contain specific information about alcohol-related issues, the site is useful for researching benchmarks of child well-being and could be useful as a data source for proposal writing. To find out more about KIDS COUNT, click on <http://www.aecf.org/kidscount/census/>.

During the 1980s and 1990s, important progress was made toward reducing serious crashes and deaths involving drivers under the influence of alcohol. But according to a recent publication by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS), worldwide progress has stalled. Making new inroads will require new ways of thinking about existing countermeasures and new technology. Click on <http://covad.pire.org/download/IIHSStatusReport404alcohol.pdf> to read IIHS's special Status Report on the alcohol-impaired driving problem worldwide and what can be done about it.

This month's Success Story is from Texas. At the University of Incarnate Word (UIW) in San Antonio, university officials enacted a policy to ban alcohol promotions and advertising on campus and developed an enforcement strategy that proved to be an innovative but effective approach to reduce underage drinking on campus. This approach to alcohol promotions has tremendously decreased the number of alcohol ads placed on the UIW campus. Moreover, the innovative enforcement approach has been presented to 40 other colleges in Texas and has been incorporated into each college's strategic plan for combating underage and hazardous drinking.

Copies of this month's Resource Alert and Success Story are available by clicking on the link below: www.udetc.org/documents/ResourceAlert0505.pdf.

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