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UPDATES FROM THE FIELD

Using Public Health and Community Partnerships to Reduce Density of Alcohol Outlets

This study reviews the research on density of alcohol outlets and public health and describes the power localities have to influence alcohol outlet density. Community coalitions and public health departments can use evidence-based strategies such as reducing alcohol outlet density to create healthier and safer communities. The study was published in the April 2013 online issue of *Preventing Chronic Disease* 2013; 10:120090. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.5888/pcd10.120090>. You may read the article in its entirety by visiting the following link: http://www.cdc.gov/pcd/issues/2013/12_0090.htm

America's Drop Out Crisis: The Unrecognized Connection to Adolescent Substance Use

Experts at the Institute for Behavior and Health, Inc. (IBH) and the Center on Young Adult Health and Development (CYAHD) at the University of Maryland School of Public Health investigated the connection between adolescent substance use and the risk for dropout in the U.S. and published a report about their findings (March 2013). The following conclusions were made:

- School dropout is a complex problem, and vast resources are being expended to reduce dropout.
- The social costs of dropout are enormous, ranging from the failure of an individual to reach his or her potential, to the economic consequences of a lower skilled workforce, and dependence on the social welfare system, to a decline in the U.S. position in the global marketplace.
- The associations between substance use, academic failure, and dropout are strong and well-recognized among researchers and educators who study adolescent substance use, but they are rarely acknowledged in educational circles or among state and federal policy makers.
- There is compelling evidence that the association of academic difficulties and substance use is bidirectional. In some individuals, academic difficulties precede the onset of substance use, and in those cases, a vicious cycle can ensue—leading to even more severe academic difficulties and eventual dropout. In other cases, even controlling for individual background characteristics, substance use precedes and contributes to academic failure and dropout, especially when substance use is frequent and severe.
- There is general agreement about the biological, social, and environmental mechanisms that explain the link between substance use, academic failure, and dropout.
- Adolescents who are at risk for academic failure or have dropped out of school are likely to have substance use

problems in combination with an array of other problem behaviors that, if not addressed, place them at extremely high risk for costly long-term adversity, including unemployment, crime, and poor health.

- Little is being done to screen for substance use in pediatric and educational settings, and even less is being done to address escalating substance use problems among adolescents at risk for dropout or those who have already dropped out of high school.
- Of all the problems that contribute to dropping out, substance use is one of the easiest to identify and one of the most easily stopped by interventions including treatment.
- Research evidence shows that when adolescents stop substance use, academic performance improves.

You may read the report in its entirety by visiting the following link: <http://preventteendruguse.org/pdfs/AmerDropoutCrisis.pdf>

NATIONAL ELECTRONIC SEMINARS/WEBINARS

May 2013

Data - Where to get it, what it shows and how to use it to support enforcement efforts.

Date: Thursday, May 16, 2013

Time: 3:00-4:15 p.m. ET

The session will provide an overview of key underage drinking data sources, indicators, latest trends, and an example of a logic model on how to use data for underage drinking prevention and selection of relevant strategies. The session will also focus on implementing data-driven enforcement strategies such as compliance checks and shoulder tap operations.

Register online at: www.udetc.org/audioconfregistration.asp

ICCPUD WEBINAR ANNOUNCEMENT

The Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Prevention of Underage Drinking (ICCPUD) webinar series that launched on January 30, 2013, is an opportunity for federal agencies to address how they have supported states, territories and communities in reducing underage drinking by sharing resources, examples and sustainable efforts to address underage drinking. The next ICCPUD Webinar is:

Title: Enforcing the Underage Drinking Laws (EUDL): Accountability and the Role of the Justice System

Date: Tuesday, May 14, 2013

Time: 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. EDT

Registration for the webinar will be available at: www.stopalcoholabuse.gov

To print a copy of this month's Resource Alert visit:

www.udetc.org/documents/ResourceAlerts/ResourceAlert0513.pdf

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NATIONAL WEBINARS



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To register by phone, please call our toll-free number,
1-877-335-1287, and follow the prompts.



THURSDAY, MAY 16, 2013
3:00 – 4:15 pm Eastern

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SPEAKERS

- Sandeep Kasat, Research Scientist, PIRE
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- R.J. Elrick, Senior Program Manager, UDET/C/PIRE
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Webinar connection instructions will be sent immediately upon electronic registration. Please be sure to save that information as it is unique to you and is not generic.

Do you have an Underage Drinking Topic that would make a great National Webinar?

Send us your suggestions at udetc@udetc.org and put 'NES Topic Suggestion' in the subject line!