

Underage Drinking Enforcement Training Center

Monthly Resource Alert

August 2006



11710 Beltsville Drive ■ Suite 300 ■ Calverton, MD 20705 ■ Toll Free 877-335-1287

Please visit our enhanced website at www.udetc.org for the latest information on underage drinking.

It's here!! The 7th Annual National Leadership Conference

This year's conference is at the Baltimore Waterfront Marriott in Baltimore, Maryland, on August 24-26. We hope you have registered and can hardly wait to see you there!! For more details, visit www.udetc.org and click on the National Leadership Conference button on the right.

Early Drinking Linked (Again) to Later Alcohol Dependence

Data collected from 43,000 adults indicates that early onset of alcohol use may contribute to the risk of develop alcohol problems in adulthood. Among those surveyed in the NIAAA study, 47% met the criteria for alcohol dependence by age 21. For more information, go to: www.niaaa.nih.gov/NewsEvents/NewsReleases/earlydrinking.htm.

News from Across the Pond (United Kingdom)

The UK is implementing a ban on alcohol sponsorship for sporting events or advertising on TV during certain timeframes. The European Union commissioned a study that indicated that sponsorships by alcohol companies on TV, music videos and sporting events encourages youth drinking and increased drinking. For more info visit: http://article.wn.com/view/2006/07/02/Alcohol_firms_face_advertising_curb_in_bingedrinking_crackdo/.

Article Showdown on How Alcohol Affects the Teen Brain

Two recent articles presented differing views on how alcohol affects the developing teen brain. In one, rat studies are described and in the other family history related to drinking is brought forth. You read and you decide. For more information, go to: www.stats.org/stories/the_not_so_neurol_drink_jul07_06.htm and www.nytimes.com/2006/07/04/health/04teen.html?ex=1309665600&en=1d4650005c817940&ei=5088&partner=rssnyt&emc=rss.

National Electronic Seminar:

There will be no National Electronic Seminar in August

Success Stories:

South Dakota: Realizing that a longstanding tradition exercised by youth in Sioux Falls was problematic, the Sioux Falls Police Department partnered with local businesses and community members to enact an ordinance that would allow law enforcement to issue traffic tickets for individuals cruising "The Loop".

Michigan: In the summer of 2006, the Downriver Party Patrol Task Force will further increase their enforcement and educational activities by teaming with the Wayne County Sheriff Department's Marine Division to address underage drinking issues on the river and on several small islands bordering Canada.

Minnesota: In November 2005, community leaders presented compelling information about underage drinking in their community to the White Earth Reservation Tribal Council. During this presentation, advocates requested tribal support for the proactive enforcement of underage drinking laws, in an effort to curb youth and adult behaviors related to the access of alcohol by youth. Led by Chairwoman Urma Vizenor, an underage drinking resolution, after much discussion, was verbally adopted to support active policy development and enforcement of underage drinking laws. This action was followed by a formal letter of support from the Tribal Council.

To print a hard-copy of this month's Resource Alert visit: www.udetc.org/documents/ResourceAlerts/ResourceAlert0806.pdf

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Did you Know...?

... the annual budget for anti-drug use programs for American youth is nearly 25 times more than public funds geared toward the prevention of youth alcohol use? Did you know that underage youth consume at least 16% of all alcohol sold in the US? *Source:* www.pire.org/detail2.asp?core=38213&cms=114

Quick Fact -

It is estimated that teenage girls who binge drink are up to 63% more likely to become teen mothers.

T.S. Dee, "The Effects of Minimum Legal Drinking Ages on Teen Childbearing," *The Journal of Human Resources* 36, no. 4 (2001): 824-838.



National Electronic Seminars Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws Program

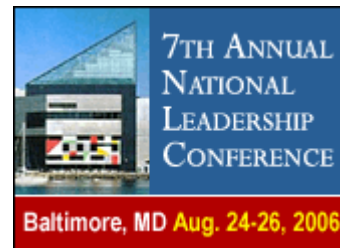
The OJJDP Audio-**T E L E C O N F E R E N C E** Series

July 20, 2006 3:00 – 4:15 p.m. Eastern Time

Engaging Resident Assistants (RAs) in Reducing Underage Drinking:

Colleges and universities play a vital role in affecting the social norms and attitudes about alcohol use within campus environments. Most campuses are challenged with a large portion of their student body being comprised of youth under the legal drinking age of 21 and easy access to alcohol. Join us in learning how residential life systems can engage and empower their residential life staff in fostering a healthier, safer, and legal campus environment.

Due to the
7th Annual National Leadership Conference
There will be no
National Electronic Seminar in August.



September 21, 2006 3:00 – 4:15 p.m. Eastern Time

Action Through the Eyes of Youth:

In the prevention of underage drinking, in order to be effective, we must include the voices of Youth and understand the problem through their eyes. There are a number of youth groups and coalitions working towards changing the environment that invites and sustains underage drinking. There are many examples of successful youth taking the lead and making positive changes in the social, legal and economic environments where young people make decisions about alcohol. In this audio-call you will hear from YOUTH who will share their accomplishments and challenges with these efforts. Through this audio call the audience will understand that in working through a solution to prevent underage drinking we must recognize the Action through the eyes of youth!

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

Alcohol & Athletes: A Scientific Look at the Impact of Alcohol Use on an Athlete:

In the wake of national news involving college athletes and high-risk behaviors, information surrounding the real-life experience within collegiate sports is hazy. College athletes drink at higher rates than their non-athlete counterparts do. College and universities are dealing with underage drinking daily, but drinking amongst athletes presents specific problems—not just problems with the use of alcohol and dependence, but also problems with their performance as an athlete. This National Electronic Seminar will focus on examining the impact of alcohol use on the college athlete. The speaker, John Underwood, will provide specific science-based information on the impact of alcohol use on the college athlete.

November 16, 2006 3:00 – 4:15 p.m. Eastern Time

Governor's Spouses Address Underage Drinking:

The Leadership to Keep Children Alcohol Free, a unique coalition of Governor's spouses, Federal Agencies and public and private organizations, is an initiative to prevent the use of alcohol by children ages 9 to 15. It is the only national effort that focuses on alcohol use in this age group. Presenters for this call will discuss the work of the initiative and how people can get involved.

December 14, 2006 3:00 – 4:15 p.m. Eastern Time

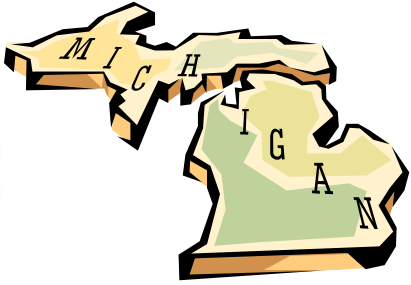
State Spotlight - Native American:

Underage drinking is a pervasive problem within many Native American communities and is attributable to a host of health, social, and economic problems that negatively impact the well being of the culture. Learn how Native American communities within various states are taking a stand to prevent underage drinking within the tribal community, foster wellbriety, and promote a culture free of alcohol use/abuse.

For audio-conference 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



Success Stories

Enforcing the Underage Drinking Laws Program

NEWS FROM THE FIELD

www.udetc.org

August 2006

Downriver Party Patrol Task Force – using collaboration and strong enforcement as a tool in successfully preventing underage drinking

"The Downriver Party Patrol Task Force is one of the largest and best-organized party patrol task force in the State," said Dianne Perukel, youth programs coordinator for the Office of Highway Safety Planning. Grosse Ile Police Department is the lead law enforcement agency partnering with Brownstown, Flat Rock, Huron Township, Riverview, Trenton, Woodhaven, and Wyandotte police departments; the Michigan State Police; and the Southeast Michigan Community Alliance.

In the summer of 2006, they will further increase their enforcement and educational activities by teaming with the Wayne County Sheriff Department's Marine Division to address underage drinking issues on the river and on several small islands bordering Canada. The task force has also set up a successful tip line to call in parties where there might be underage drinkers. Since the program's inception, more than 500 minor-in-possession arrests have been made Downriver. The program also has saved many lives. "Officers have found minors either unconscious or suffering from alcohol poisoning and sought medical treatment for them," Grosse Ile Detective Kenneth Pelland said. "In addition, the program also has significantly reduced the number of large teenage bashes in the area." Underage drinking citations totaled 1,107 in 2005, up 14 percent from 970 in 2004, said Ken Wozniak, an official of the Michigan Liquor Control Commission. Wozniak said it is not known whether the increase means more people are selling alcohol to those younger than 21 or police are enforcing the law more strictly. A number of police agencies say they are increasing efforts to stop underage drinking. Antidrinkng efforts are increased during the prom and graduation season. The main objective is to get everyone through the graduation ceremony without a tragedy.

During this grant year (October 1 to present) increased enforcement efforts have been successful with 50 alcohol compliance checks at off-premise establishments (party stores, etc.): 17 Liquor Control Commission violations were issued, 19 contributing alcohol to a minor/adults furnishing citations were issued, and 23 misdemeanor

arrests (including drug-related and warrant arrests and 1 felony arrest for possession of heroin) were made. The result is an overall increased quality of life in communities. Enforcement, as an ongoing strategy, is also working with retailers as a way to prevent underage drinking. On August 1, 2001, the Michigan Liquor Control Commission implemented a mandatory server training requirement for new licensees and existing licensees who are transferring more than 50% interest in an existing on-premise establishment to have server trained supervisory personnel employed during all hours alcoholic beverages are served.

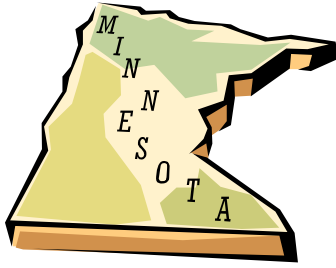
In addition to enforcement, the Party Patrol Task Force program has a strong education and community involvement component. Police officers attend school assemblies (in both middle and high schools) to educate youths and adults on the dangers associated with underage drinking and the health risks and legal consequences (for both youth and parents/adults) of alcohol-related offenses for those younger than 21. Students were also told that there will be active enforcement during homecoming, prom, and other party-related events. Students also were told about a new piece of equipment the task force will be using, a flashlight with a miniature alcohol detector, called a "passive alcohol sensor." Unlike with standard breathalyzers, police officers using the flashlights do not need a recipient's consent to administer a breath test. "The test results are not admissible in court, but they do give officers probable cause to take further steps," Pelland said. "The goal of the program is not to put people in jail," Pelland said. "Our objective is to educate and prevent."

For further information contact: Detective Kenneth Pelland, Grosse Ile Police department at detpelland@hotmail.com or 734-676-5458

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Success Stories

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NEWS FROM THE FIELD

www.udetc.org

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Minnesota's Adoption of an Underage Drinking Tribal Resolution Results in Increased Enforcement of Underage Drinking Laws.

In November 2005, the adoption of an underage drinking tribal resolution led to success with community wellness on the White Earth Reservation in Mahnomon, Minnesota. The resolution resulted in increased enforcement of underage drinking laws, two convenience stores agreeing not to sell alcohol, and increased community awareness and support of enforcing underage drinking laws in and around the White Earth Reservation.

Underage drinking was long neglected by many in the White Earth tribal community. People did not understand how dramatically underage drinking affected their community and considered underage drinking a normal "rite of passage." As a result of the passage of the tribal resolution, underage drinking and its inevitable consequences are now on the forefront of issues being addressed by the White Earth tribal community. Now, the existence of the resolution reminds the Tribal Council and the community of the importance of consistent enforcement of laws related to alcohol access and use by youth.

According to a 2004 youth survey administered through the White Earth Chemical Dependency Program and White Earth Substance Abuse Collaboration, White Earth youth reported that the top three ways they gained access to alcohol were from friends older than 21, other youth younger than 21, and parents or other family members. Consequently, an estimated 90 percent of juvenile delinquency committed in the community was conducted by youth while under the influence of alcohol.

In November 2005, community leaders presented compelling information about underage drinking in their community to the White Earth Reservation Tribal Council. During this presentation, advocates requested tribal support for the proactive enforcement of underage drinking laws, in an effort to curb youth and adult behaviors related to the access of alcohol by youth. Led by Chairwoman Urma Vizenor, an underage drinking resolution, after much discussion, was verbally adopted to support active policy development and enforcement of underage drinking laws.

This action was followed by a formal letter of support from the Tribal Council.

Community reaction was favorable with some opposition to ticketing youth and "mixing" them in the court and family services systems. Opposition, however, was overcome through support of grassroots programs, such as Sons and Daughters of Tradition, which bring communities together to foster wellness, the learning of tribal traditions, and increased awareness within the community about underage drinking prevention.

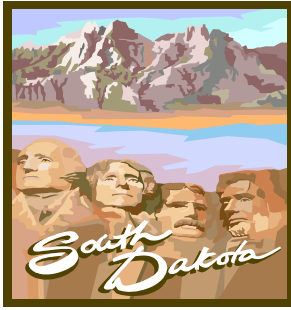
Strategic use of nontraditional media, such as parent oaths to not provide alcohol to youth, has been instrumental in building community awareness and support for underage drinking prevention efforts and enforcement of minimum legal drinking age laws on the White Earth Reservation.

Community and tribal leaders, youth, law enforcement agencies, and judicial systems are collaborating to proactively address youth access to alcohol and are holding adults and youths accountable for their actions.

According to Marlin Farley of Painted Sky Media & Blackstone Consulting, the next step for White Earth is to draft tribal code(s) to address underage drinking within the tribal court system. "Drinking alcohol is not our tradition and underage drinking is not acceptable in our Community. We believe that our culture is prevention."

For further information contact: Marlin Farley, Painted Sky Media & Blackstone Consulting at 218-473-2486 or www.paintedskymedia.com

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South Dakota Ordinance Decreases Problems in “The Loop”

In downtown Sioux Falls, South Dakota, implementation of an ordinance allowing local law enforcement to write violations related to youth driving around “The Loop” has shown an increase in arrests for alcohol and other violations and has increased the quality of life for the local community and businesses. “The Loop,” according to Lt. Jerome Miller of Sioux Falls Police Department, has been in existence since the beginning of the use of the automobile. In earlier years, the biggest problem on “The Loop” was driving violations related to teens showing off their cars.

Over time, the behavior of teens in “The Loop” has changed. This is similar to what has occurred nationally when youth use alcohol. They drink faster and harder than ever before. As a result of modernity, businesses in “The Loop” were being affected by unwelcome patrons causing noise disturbance, littering, urinating in public, and other forms of vandalism. Coupled with this were underage drinking and other drug use, leading to the problems experienced in “The Loop.” It is well known that underage drinking is related to many secondary problems. Clearly, “The Loop” and its surrounding community and businesses were suffering.

In the early 1990s, a revitalization movement occurred in the downtown area of Sioux Falls. Store owners, attempting to make a comeback with their businesses, called on the Sioux Falls Police Department, the Mayor’s Office, and the City Council to take action against the youth who were terrorizing “The Loop.” This resulted in formation of a task force and passage by the City Council of the Non-Destination City Ordinance that allowed law enforcement to ticket anyone driving in a circle and passing a common point more than three times. This ordinance was passed on April 15, 2000.

The Police Department, realizing that enforcing this new ordinance would require manpower, hired more officers and increased overtime. Because of the new ordinance, arrests and issuance of warning tickets increased dramatically. A typical 5-week data sheet indicated the following: 602 traffic violations, 71 curfew violations, 50 alcohol violations, 102 noise violations, 11 custodial drug arrests, 18 custodial DWI arrests, and 144 warning tickets for various situations, such as vehicle equipment violations.

So far, the community has responded positively to this new ordinance, which is still in effect and is consistently enforcement by the Sioux Falls Police Department. Lt. Miller stated that he was impressed with what can be accomplished when you combine the efforts of the City Council, local law enforcement, and the good citizens of a community. “They united and beat this problem. It wasn’t easy, fun, or cheap, but it was effective and made a better community for all.” Today, “The Loop” is no longer a problem in Sioux Falls, and youth are no longer taking advantage of a situation and endangering themselves—all because a community decided to take action, find a solution, and solve the problem.

**For further information contact: Lt. Jerome Miller,
Sioux Falls Police Department at
jmiller@siouxfalls.org or (605) 367-7212**

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