

November 2004 Resource Alert

This past summer, the National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG) established the Youth Access to Alcohol Task Force to address the problem of underage drinking. The task force studies youth exposure to alcohol advertising and access to alcohol, educates state attorneys general on ways to reduce access to alcohol by youth and change social norms about underage drinking, and partners with National and State entities to augment and enhance ongoing efforts to stop underage drinking. The Task Force's full mission and membership is available on the NAAG web page at http://www.naag.org/naag/naag_committees.php.

According to an analysis of the 2003 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, persons reporting they first used alcohol before age 15 are more than five times as likely to report past year alcohol dependence or abuse as adults than persons who first used alcohol at age 21 or older. The report, entitled "Alcohol Dependence or Abuse and Age of First Use" is available on the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) webpage at <http://www.oas.samhsa.gov>.

According to the Center on Alcohol Marketing and Youth (CAMY), alcohol industry advertising on television maintained a steady path of growth between 2001 and 2003, driven in part by an explosion of distilled spirits ads on cable television. The number of alcohol ads "overexposing" youth rose each year between 2001 and 2003, from 51,084 to 66,218 to 69,054. To read the entire report, see <http://www.camy.org>.

A new study says that greater use of brief counseling by primary-care doctors can reduce drinking among young adults aged 18 to 30. The research found that young people who received counseling reduced their use of alcohol by 40 to 50 percent, had 42 percent fewer visits to the emergency department, and had 55 percent fewer motor-vehicle crashes than those who did not receive counseling. The study's findings are published in the September/October 2004 issue of the *Annals of Family Medicine*. For more information, see <http://www.annfam.org/cgi/content/full/2/5/474>.

Research results released by the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation show that if law enforcement agencies used sobriety checkpoints more often and more effectively, deaths and crashes caused by drunk driving could be reduced by 20 percent. The study makes several recommendations for how to improve use of the

checkpoints: increase publicity in local media, conduct checkpoints more often (i.e., weekly), deploy fewer officers at checkpoints, and use passive alcohol sensors, which are installed in flashlights. The report is published in the September issue of *Traffic Injury Prevention*. See <http://releases.usnewswire.com/getrelease.asp?id=36600> for more information.

This month's featured Success Stories are from the District of Columbia and South Carolina. In May 2004, the District of Columbia's City Council approved legislation to enact a 4-year ban on the sale of single containers of beer in Ward 4. The ban took effect on September 30, 2004, after Mayor Anthony Williams signed the measure and the U.S. Congress authorized it. In South Carolina, the creation of multijurisdictional task forces, known as Alcohol Enforcement Teams (AETs), to enforce underage drinking laws has generated positive changes including retail compliance rates as high as 96 percent. The enforcement efforts of the AETs include alcohol compliance checks, party patrols, traffic safety checkpoints, traffic stops, shoulder taps, and community policing.

The Center continues its audio-teleconference series with ***Zero Tolerance Enforcement: Preventing Impaired Driving by Youth***. This teleconference will provide information about what is known about impaired driving by youth and how best to implement zero tolerance enforcement operations. Other strategies for preventing impaired driving by youth also will be discussed. To find out more about this month's audio-teleconference and to register for recently added audio-teleconferences, visit www.udetc.org/registration.asp. To print hard copies of this month's Success Stories, please visit www.udetc.org/documents/ResourceAlert1104.pdf.

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

November 23, 2004 3:00-4:15 p.m. Eastern Time

Zero Tolerance Enforcement: Preventing Impaired Driving by Youth

What exactly *is* zero tolerance? And how can communities enforce impaired driving laws in a way that is adapted to the special contexts and circumstances that are most reflective of youth driving behaviors? This teleconference will provide information about what is known about impaired driving by youth and how best to implement zero tolerance enforcement operations. Other strategies for preventing impaired driving by youth will also be discussed.

December 14, 2004 3:00-4:15 p.m. Eastern Time

Winter Recreation & Alcohol Use: Strategies for Preventing a Deadly Mix

Law enforcement agencies often plan special underage drinking operations during the summer months since youth tend to consume alcohol when they have more unstructured and unsupervised time on their hands. Winter, however, also offers a variety of recreational options for youth, which if combined with alcohol consumption, could result in serious injury or death. This teleconference will feature information on enforcement operations and other strategies designed to prevent underage drinking during winter recreational activities.

January 20, 2005 3:00 – 4:15 p.m. Eastern Time

The Alcohol Policy Information System: Resource for Understanding Underage Drinking Laws

The Alcohol Policy Information System (APIS) is a web-based resource for analyzing State and Federal alcohol laws. This audio-teleconference will highlight the information available on the APIS website that can assist in developing a better understanding the relative effectiveness and enforceability of alcohol laws, particularly those related to underage drinking.

February 17, 2005 3:00 – 4:15 p.m. Eastern Time

Reducing Underage Drinking Among Middle and High School Athletes

Student Athletes are often at higher risk of substance use than non-athletes. In response, States have committed resources to address and reduce alcohol and drug use by student athletes. Presenters will discuss how to implement successful programs, and how these programs affect student behaviors. The role of parents and other athletic program stakeholders will be highlighted.



For audio-teleconference 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

Zero Tolerance Enforcement: Preventing Impaired Driving by Youth

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DATE

Tuesday, November 23, 2004

TIME

3:00–4:15 p.m. Eastern Time

PRESENTERS

Jim Fell

Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation
Senior Program Director, PSRI
Calverton, Maryland
fell@pire.org

Jessica Roe

Texans Standing Tall
Field Coordinator
Austin, Texas
jroe@texansstandingtall.com

WEB ENHANCED

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

REGISTER

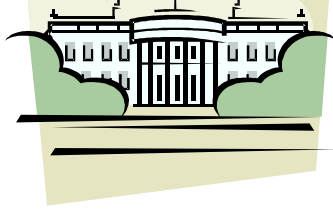
Please register by using one of our automated options:

- **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.



District of Columbia



Success Stories

Enforcing the Underage Drinking Laws Program

NEWS FROM THE FIELD

www.udetc.org

November 2004

Congress Approves DC's Ward 4 Ban on Single-Container Sales

Last May, the District of Columbia's City Council, by a vote of 9 to 3 with 1 abstention, approved legislation to enact a 4-year ban on the sale of single containers of beer in Ward 4. The following month, Mayor Anthony Williams signed the measure. Ultimately, however, the U.S. Congress must approve (or deny) legislative actions taken by the District's City Council. Consequently, the ban they passed last May could not go into effect until September 30, 2004, when Congressional authorization was given.

The District's Omnibus Alcoholic Beverage Amendment Act of 2004 prohibits Class A and Class B licensees from selling single containers of alcoholic beverages (70 ounces or less) in Ward 4 business zones. Ward 4's City Council Member Adrian M. Fenty has made business revitalizing a top priority for his office and was instrumental in getting the measure passed at the City Council level and signed by the Mayor. Chief among Fenty's goals has been attracting a variety of businesses that will serve neighborhood residents' needs and improve overall quality of life in the ward. To many residents, single sales of alcohol appeared to be in direct conflict with such goals. Now that the measure is in effect, the Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration (ABRA) will be sending these licensees a letter informing them that they have a 30-day grace period to clear their inventories of single containers. After that time, the ban will be actively enforced, according to Maria Delaney, ABRA Director.

The National Capital Coalition to Prevent Underage Drinking (NCCPUD) supported Council Member Fenty's work toward passage of this legislation from the very beginning and assisted in educating the community at local community meetings. As the coordinating agency for Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) in the District, NCCPUD Youth Advocates spoke out about the visibility of alcohol in their communities and the effect they believed it had on youth.

NCCPUD youth also work with ABRA and the Metropolitan Police Department to conduct training sessions and compliance operations for merchants. This work is made possible through a grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention's Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws program. The training session encompasses the latest techniques and methods that merchants should use in detecting underage buyers and false identification. Last July, NCCPUD and ABRA were featured in *The Washington Post: District Weekly*. The article "No Longer a Minor Matter" focused on using underage buyers to turn up the heat on illegal liquor sales to teens. Since the program began in July 2003, more than 700 bars and liquor, drug, and grocery stores have been targeted through compliance checks, producing a noncompliance rate of about 24 percent.

The approval of the Omnibus Alcoholic Beverage Amendment Act of 2004 comes at the most appropriate time: prior to the holidays. It is no secret that the sale of alcohol increases during the holidays. Nadine Parker, Director of NCCPUD, said, "With the passing of this legislation, it brings a powerful message to the Ward 4 community and the District of Columbia, that we as a community can make a change. I'm sure that the ban of single sales in Ward 4 will result in fewer sales to minors, a cleaner environment, a decline in criminal activities, and loitering in and around licensed establishments." Congratulations to the District of Columbia on this truly notable victory!

With support from OJJDP's Enforcing the Underage Drinking Laws Program, community organizations, enforcement agencies, youth, and other concerned citizens are working collaboratively to change local ordinances and enforcement practices.

For further information contact: Nadine Parker, National Capital Coalition to Prevent Underage Drinking at 202-265-8922 or info@nccpud.com



11710 Beltsville Drive, Suite 300, Calverton, MD 20705.
Phone: 877-335-1287. Fax: 301-755-2799



Success Stories

Enforcing the Underage Drinking Laws Program

NEWS FROM THE FIELD

www.udetc.org

November 2004

A Multijurisdictional Approach Generates Activity, Produces Change in South Carolina's Midlands

Two years ago, underage drinking and related problems in the Midlands of South Carolina spurred the Lexington/Richland Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council (LRADAC) to facilitate the formation of multijurisdictional alcohol enforcement teams. The State's first Alcohol Enforcement Team (AET) was formed in the spring of 2002 to focus on School District Five within Lexington and Richland Counties. Known as "AET-5," the team includes the Lexington County Sheriff's Department, Richland County Sheriff's Department, Town of Irmo Police Department, and Town of Chapin Police Department. Officers from these agencies work together to enforce the State's underage drinking laws.

In light of the successful working relationship demonstrated in AET-5, a second team was established in August 2003 in downtown Columbia. This team (AETDT) focuses on Five Points and the Congaree Vista areas, which are frequented by students attending the University of South Carolina and other local colleges and universities. The team includes the Richland County Sheriff's Department and the University of South Carolina Police Department. It is a rare but important example of a local law enforcement agency and a campus police department working together to address underage drinking problems in college communities.

Later in 2003, a third team was formed in Lexington School District One with the County Sheriff's Department and the Town of Lexington Police Department. LRADAC added a fourth AET in April 2004 in Richland School District Two, with the Richland County Sheriff's Department.

All AETs engage in alcohol compliance checks, party patrols, traffic safety checkpoints, traffic stops, and shoulder taps. Before implementing compliance check operations, AET officers make "casual visits" to area merchants to inform them of the team's regular compliance check operations. Officers also inform merchants about the Tobacco and Alcohol Merchant Education program, a free service provided by LRADAC. This work is funded by OJJDP's Enforcing Underage

Drinking Laws Program through a grant to the State's Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services.

The successes of the AETs are evident in the measurable reductions in the accessibility and availability of alcohol in School District Five. The initial noncompliance rate recorded by AET-5 in May 2002 was 28 percent. Since that time, the noncompliance rate has dropped to as low as 4 percent (May 2003). The average noncompliance rate for the two-year period from May 2002 through May 2004 was approximately 11 percent.

The efforts of South Carolina's AETs have not gone unnoticed. The teams have received considerable

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positive media coverage of their work, thanks to the support of local community coalitions. They also were recognized at the national level with the 2003 Exemplary Award for Innovative Programs, an award bestowed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Service's Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, in collaboration with the National Prevention Network, the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of American, and the National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors. More recently, the pilot team, AET-5, was recognized by OJJDP (within the U.S. Department of Justice) at the Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws Program's National Leadership Conference in August. AET-5 received the 2004 Law Enforcement Partner of the Year Award.

Perhaps the recognition most valued by the officers who serve on South Carolina's AETs is the appreciation of local community members who recognize that the point behind the teams' work is not about making arrests and issuing citations. Rather, it is about preventing tragedies and creating the kinds of living environments that foster the development of safe and healthy youth.

For further information contact: Shannon W. Anderson, EUDL Project Coordinator, LRADAC, The Behavioral Health Center of the Midlands at (803) 733-1390 Ext. 159 or sanderson@lradac.org



11710 Beltsville Drive, Suite 300, Calverton, MD 20705.
Phone: 877-335-1287. Fax: 301-755-2799