

Underage Drinking Enforcement Training Center

Monthly Resource Alert

November 2006



11720 Beltsville Drive ■ Suite 900 ■ Calverton, MD 20705 ■ Toll Free 877-335-1287

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

State Spotlight: The Oregon Partnership

The Oregon Partnership was essential in a recent grassroots campaign to have a nationwide department store remove T-shirts sold in its "Back to School" section. The T-shirts were emblazoned with logos normalizing the use of alcohol. The CEO of the department store contacted the Oregon Partnership via letter stating that the T-shirts would be removed and were clearly not appropriate for the intended customers, who would most likely be under the legal drinking age. For more information, go to:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2006/10/16/business/media/16beer.html?ex=1161921600&en=f49fce23e150ddfa&ei=5070>.

New Research on Alcohol Use & the Developing Brain

Padget, A., Bell, M. L., Shamblen, S. R., & Ringwalt, C. L. (2006). Does learning about the effects of alcohol on the developing brain affect children's alcohol use? *Prevention Science*, 7(3), 293-302.

Protecting You/Protecting Me (PY/PM) is a classroom-based, alcohol-use prevention and vehicle safety program for students in grades 1-5 developed by Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD). PY/PM is one of the first alcohol prevention programs targeting children, which incorporates emerging research on the adverse effects of alcohol on the developing brain. Results indicate that, relative to comparison students from matched schools, PY/PM students increased their knowledge of the effects of alcohol on the developing brain, their perception of the potential harm of alcohol use, and their vehicle safety skills. They also exhibited increased negative attitudes toward underage drinking, strengthened their intentions not to use alcohol, and reported decreased riding with impaired drivers. Teaching children about the effects of alcohol on the developing brain appears to be a promising strategy for underage alcohol use prevention.

Success Stories

Montana's Multi-jurisdictional Approach Reveals Increase in Compliance Checks

In July 2005, using funds awarded from the MT Board of Crime Control, the Flathead County Sheriff's Office established a multi-jurisdictional Alcohol Enforcement Team

(AET). The AET selected officers from various agencies to participate in specific strategies that target alcohol accessibility and availability to persons younger than 21. Throughout the year, the team has been aggressive in conducting more than 200 Compliance Checks. Since its implementation, the overall compliance rate improved from 40 to 70%. This month's Success story shares the accomplishments of the AET and the effective results from the community's involvement.

Rhode Island's Social Host Law Follows the Lead of Neighbor States

Rhode Island joins more than 20 States with Social Host laws. Any adult in RI "who knowingly permits persons under 21 to consume alcohol in his/her home faces escalating penalties with repeat offenses." The law closes a loophole that officials said had made it virtually impossible to bring charges against adults who knowingly permit underage drinking. This month's Success story shares the positive results of persistence in the attainment of a successful goal.

November National Electronic Seminar Governors' Spouses Address Underage Drinking

Date: Thursday, November 16

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

Speakers: Mary Easley, First Lady of North Carolina, and Hope Taft, First Lady of Ohio

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.

To print a hard copy of this month's Resource Alert visit: www.udetc.org/documents/ResourceAlerts/ResourceAlert1106.pdf

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Did you Know...?

Alcohol use plays a substantial role in all 3 leading causes of death among youth: unintentional injuries (including motor vehicle fatalities and drownings), suicides, and homicides. National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, "[10 Leading Causes of Death, United States: 2002, All Races, Both Sexes](#)," 1999-2002 (cited 15 April 2005).

Quick Fact -

The CDC estimates that 4,554 underage deaths each year are due to excessive alcohol use. L.T. Midanik et al., "Alcohol-Attributable Deaths and Years of Potential Life Lost—United States, 2001," *MMWR Weekly* 53, no. 37 (24 Sept 2004): 866-870.



National Electronic Seminars Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws Program

The OJJDP Audio-TELECONFERENCE Series

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:

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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.

ODJF

Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws Program

AUDIO CONFERENCE

TOPIC

Governor's Spouses Address Underage Drinking

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DATE

Thursday, November 16, 2006

TIME

3:00–4:15 p.m. ET

PRESENTERS

Speakers:

Mary Easley

First Lady of North Carolina

Hope Taft

First Lady of Ohio

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.



Success Stories

NEWS FROM THE FIELD

www.udetc.org

November 2006

Rhode Island's Social-Host Law Follows the Lead of Neighbor States

Rhode Island joins more than 20 States with Social Host laws. "Incidents in West Warwick, Barrington, Burrillville, and elsewhere in 2002 spurred Rhode Island's Social Host effort", Barrington Police Chief John LaCross said. Each Spring for the past three years, LaCross drove to the State House where he and others testified in support of the bill. This year proved different.

Any adult in Rhode Island "who knowingly permits minors to consume alcohol in his or her home" faces escalating penalties with repeat offenses. The law states that a first-time conviction is a misdemeanor that carries a fine from \$350 to \$1,000 and/or imprisonment for up to 6 months. Conviction of a second offense is a misdemeanor and carries a fine of \$750 to \$1,000 and/or up to 6 months' imprisonment. A third conviction is a felony and carries a fine of up to \$2,500 and/or imprisonment for up to one year.

The law closes a loophole that officials said had made it virtually impossible to bring charges against adults who knowingly permit underage drinking. "Prior to this, they could only charge an adult if they knew they'd purchased the alcohol," said Denise Alves, Program Coordinator for Mothers Against Drunk Driving in Rhode Island. Supporters emphasize the law is a preventative tool. "It may be a deterrent," said Barrington Police Chief John

LaCross. "To tell their kids, 'Listen, I'm not going to take the risk of being arrested if one of your friends comes here and they end up getting sick or get into a car crash if they leave.'" LaCross sees the law applying to differing situations. For example, an adult who allows a party in their home to which young people can bring alcohol. Another example is an adult who spots clues--keg, beer bottles, cans and cups, loud noise, odor of alcohol, a large gathering--that reasonable indications of underage drinking, and the adult allows it to continue. But, LaCross said, adults are not held responsible in situations where youths are drinking in a garage, shed, or elsewhere on their property if there is no indication that drinking is going on.

"Many parents feel they are doing the right thing by allowing their children's underage friends to come over and drink at their house. They think it is not as dangerous because they are supervising the drinking. But that is the wrong mentality," Sen. Walter S. Felag (one of the sponsors of the bill) said in a statement announcing the law's passage. "The legal drinking age is 21 for a reason."

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bamodei@mhrh.ri.gov

Source: Sunday, July 23, 2006
Michael P. McKinney
The Providence Journal Staff Writer
http://www.projo.com/ri/barrington/content/projo_20060723_host23.1558070.html

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Success Stories

Enforcing the Underage Drinking Laws Program

NEWS FROM THE FIELD

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November 2006

Montana's Multijurisdictional Approach Reveals Increase in Compliance Checks

In July of 2005, using funds awarded from the Montana Board of Crime Control, the Flathead County Sheriff's Office established a multijurisdictional Alcohol Enforcement Team (AET), comprised of the following agencies: Flathead County Sheriff's Office, Kalispell Police Department, Northwest Drug Task Force, Montana Highway Patrol, Columbia Falls Police Department, Whitefish Police Department and the U.S. Forest Service. The AET selected officers from each agency to participate in specific strategies that target alcohol accessibility and availability to persons younger than 21. The AET grew out of "STOP Underage Drinking in the Flathead," a subcommittee of the Flathead Prevention Alliance. It was later deemed the coalition.

The overall goal of the AET is to save the lives of youth in Flathead County by preventing underage drinking. Throughout the year, the team has been aggressive in conducting more than 200 compliance checks. Since its implementation, the overall compliance rate improved from 40 to 70%. This accomplishment did not result just from the efforts of the AET, but from the community's involvement and support as well. Members of the team have trained more than 200 people in "Responsible Alcohol Sales." This training teaches the bartenders and sales clerks about the importance of asking for identification, detecting false identification, and not overserving patrons.

AET members are and have been available for public-speaking events at schools, committee meetings, and other social functions. Members are also involved in Alcohol Premise Examinations, where officers conduct walk-throughs to randomly check a patron's ID. This program, which helps identify false IDs, has been well received by the bartenders and the owners. Personal contacts have also been made with the bar owners during their peak business hours to ensure they have the

tools and resources available to support them in preventing underage drinking.

Among all the activities, Party Patrols have by far been the most successful program in locating and enforcing underage drinking laws. Since July 2005, more than 1,400 youths have been cited for Minor in Possession of Alcohol, and more than 100 adults have been charged with providing alcohol. A combination of adults and youths were additionally charged with Obstructing a Peace Officer, Resisting Arrest, and Possession of Dangerous Drugs and Firearms Violations.

The AET is also responsible for saving the lives of 14 youths who were found unresponsive at youth parties, after telephonic search warrants were issued. The youths were then transported to local area hospitals for alcohol poisoning.

The success of this program not only relies on the AET partnership, but also community members and retailers who support the AET goal of creating a safer and healthier community. The AET has set a trend towards changing the social norms and strongly emphasizing that underage drinking is not acceptable.

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