

Underage Drinking Enforcement Training Center

Monthly Resource Alert

December 2009



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.

New Research shows that Teen Male Athletes Drink More than they Smoke

Recent findings presented at a November meeting of American Public Health Association stated that adolescent males who play team sports are more likely to drink alcohol and get into fights, whereas sports participation generally reduces similar risky behavior among girls. They also found that girl athletes were less likely to smoke cigarettes or be depressed. Male athletes had binge-drinking rates 40 percent higher than non-athletes, and were 30 percent more likely to get in fights, but 30 percent less likely to be depressed and 20 percent less likely to smoke.

"Sports team participation appears to have both protective and risk-enhancing associations," said Susan M. Conner of the Injury Prevention Center at University Hospitals' Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital in Cleveland. The study results were gleaned from surveys of 13,000 U.S. high-school students. "These results indicate that healthy lifestyle benefits are not universal and do not apply equally across genders."

Success Stories: Montana

Improving On What Already Exists: Helena, Montana, Amends Social Host Ordinance

After a year and half on the books, Helena, Montana's social host ordinance was amended by the Helena City Commission. The original ordinance indicated that anyone who knowingly allowed underage drinking parties to take place on their property was subject to a civil citation. However, it soon became apparent that due to the civil nature of the violation there were barriers to enforcing the law. The city attorneys could not participate in the case, the issuing officer was required to appear in court as the plaintiff, the city had no warrant authority, the entire process was lengthy and the potential for resolution was slim. These issues prompted the Helena City Commission on November 3, 2009, with a 5-0 vote, to pass the amendment - changing the nature of the violation from a civil infraction to a misdemeanor.

Did you Know...?

That in a response to 19 states attorneys general request the FDA alerted 30 makers of caffeinated alcohol drinks that the agency would act to "ensure that the products are removed from the marketplace" unless the manufacturers could provide evidence of their safety within the next 30 days? An FDA official stated that consumption of alcoholic energy drinks has been associated with high risk for injury, drunk driving, and sexual assaults, especially among college students. The agency noted that the use of caffeine in alcoholic beverages has never been approved by the FDA.

This Success Story indicates the need to be vigilant and consistent on the prevention of youth access to alcohol. Through monitoring and reviewing the efficiency of their policies, Helena demonstrates how a collaborative and informed community can result in successful change.

December National Electronic Seminar Coalitions and Cops

Date: Thursday, December 17, 2009

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

Speakers: Lieutenant Mike Pryor, Tucson, AZ Police Department and Amy Bass, Community Prevention Coalition, Tucson, AZ

Collaboration between law enforcement and community groups is an effective method to develop and implement environmental strategies to prevent underage drinking. Our program will discuss the necessary steps for building a successful and productive relationship along with the developmental process of several innovative strategies and projects to reduce youth access to alcohol through both social and retail sources. Our program will also discuss the steps for educating communities on the importance of social host ordinances.

To print a hard-copy of this month's Resource Alert visit:
www.udetc.org/documents/ResourceAlerts/ResourceAlert1209.pdf



The Underage Drinking Enforcement Training Center would like to wish everyone a happy and safe holiday season!

The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily represent the views of the Office of Juvenile Justice for Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) or the Underage Drinking Enforcement Training Center (UDETC) and are solely of the author/source.

Quick Fact

Underage drinking cost the citizens of The United States \$68.0 billion in 2007. These costs include medical care, work loss, and pain and suffering associated with the multiple problems resulting from the use of alcohol by youth. This translates to a cost of \$2,280 per year for each youth in the State. More on this information, newly released from the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation, will be available at our website on December 15, 2009 at www.udetc.org.



Underage Drinking Laws Program

Success Stories

NEWS FROM THE FIELD

www.udetc.org

December 2009

Improving On What Already Exists: Helena, Montana, Amends Social Host Ordinance

On November 3, 2009, after a year and half on the books, Helena's social host ordinance was amended by the Helena City Commission. Montana's original social host ordinance indicated that anyone who knowingly allowed underage drinking parties to take place on their property was subject to a civil citation. After a media campaign alerting Helena citizens about the new ordinance, the Helena Police Department began issuing citations. It soon became apparent, however, that due to the civil nature of the violation, there were barriers to enforcing the law. The city attorneys could not participate in the case, the issuing officer was required to appear in court as the plaintiff, the city had no warrant authority and the entire process was lengthy, cumbersome and the potential for resolution was slim. These issues prompted the Helena City Commission to consider changing the nature of the violation from a civil infraction to a misdemeanor.

At a November 3rd public hearing, Drenda Carlson (Director of Youth Connections) reported that Montana still had some of the highest underage binge-drinking rates in the Nation and Lewis and Clark County youth rank amongst the highest in Montana. Though the original social host ordinance appeared to have some early successes, it had lost its effectiveness because of its unenforceability and did not have the impact originally expected. To increase its effectiveness and sustainability, the ordinance needed some improvement. The agreed resolution was to change the ordinance from a civil violation to a misdemeanor. Although the burden of proof would be greater, the ability to process the violation would be much more effective.

The new amendment was supported by community members who felt the impact of youth underage drinking; Mike Franklin (Director of Counseling Services, Carroll College) reported that alcohol abuse was the number one public health issue on the campus. He shared an example where "a group of Carroll students decided not to host an annual party for fear that they'd be cited under [the] social host [ordinance] should any one drinking be underage." Patrick Fischer, a sophomore at Helena High School, submitted public testimony about the harmful effects of alcohol on the teenage brain. He reminded the commission that "kids these days needed parents to act as parents, not as friends. Setting boundaries and clear expectations are important for a teen's success." Dan Bernhardt,

Chair of the Helena Citizens Council, recognized Helena was the Montana leader in establishing their Social Host Ordinance. The ordinance has since been adopted by Billings and Great Falls. "The thing about being the first, however, is that you don't have the benefit of waiting to see how it works and then mold your own to resolve any issues that may arise." Bernhardt acknowledged that "social host liability cannot, nor will it by itself, eliminate youth's access to alcohol; however it's irresponsible to do nothing because we can't do everything."

Approximately 20 audience members rose in support of amending the social host ordinance from a civil violation to a misdemeanor. After some healthy discussion, the commission voted unanimously (5 to 0) to pass the amendment. The amended social host ordinance will once again become actively enforced by the Helena Police Department as they work to reduce underage drinking in Helena. This story indicates the need to be vigilant and consistent on the prevention of youth access to alcohol. Through monitoring and reviewing the efficiency of its policies, Helena demonstrates how a collaborative and informed community can result in successful change.

Source:

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Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws Program

AUDIO CONFERENCE

TOPIC

Coalitions and Cops

Collaboration between law enforcement and community groups is an effective method to develop and implement environmental strategies to prevent underage drinking. Our program will discuss the necessary steps for building a successful and productive relationship along with the developmental process of several innovative strategies and projects to reduce youth access to alcohol through both social and retail sources. Our program will also discuss the steps for educating communities on the importance of social host ordinances.



DATE

December 17, 2009

TIME

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



PRESENTERS

Presenter 1:
Lieutenant Mike Pryor, Tucson Police Department, Tucson, AZ
Mike.Pryor@tucsonaz.gov

Presenter 2:
Amy Bass, MSW, Community Prevention Coalition, Tucson, AZ
abass@compasshc.org

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 [1Twww.udetc.org](http://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.



National Electronic Seminars Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws Program

The OJJDP Audio-TELECONFERENCE Series

2009-2010 National Electronic Seminars Calendar

December 17, 2009 3:00 – 4:15 p.m. Eastern Time

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January 28, 2010 3:00 – 4:15 p.m. Eastern Time

The A-B-C's of Local Evaluation

Do you feel overwhelmed by the prospect of launching a local evaluation and don't know where to begin? Do you wonder if you're collecting the right data, or aren't sure if your tracking measures are on target? You're not alone. Kick off the New Year right by getting answers to these important questions. Join national and state-level experts for tips on the A-B-Cs of program evaluation, and learn how you can implement local evaluation to successfully measure effectiveness of EUDL efforts in your states and communities. It's as easy as 1-2-3.



We want to hear from you!

Do you have an Underage Drinking Topic that would make a great National Electronic Seminar? Send us your suggestions at udetc@udetc.org and put 'NES Topic Suggestion' in the subject line!

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