Lessons Learned from Underage DUI Program Participants

Findings from Ventura County’s POLD Survey
UDETC Leadership Conference
August 20, 2010

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Today’s Agenda

- POLD Survey Overview
- Recent Findings from Underage DUI Offenders
  - Demographics
  - Place of Last Drink
  - Drinking Behaviors
  - Characteristics of Arrest
  - Gender Differences
  - Consequences and Prevention
- Working Towards Solutions
- Questions/Discussion
POLD Survey Overview

- Data collected via Ventura County DUI Program since 2001
  - 9+ years of data
  - 19,000 surveys
  - Avg. 220 surveys/month
  - 11% in Spanish

- Counselor administered
  - Ongoing training/TA provided

- 29-item questionnaire designed to capture information useful for identifying the places, settings and circumstances associated with impaired driving
Purpose of POLD Survey

POLD survey findings are used to:

- Assist VCBH, law enforcement, city and county officials, community members and local coalitions
  - Identify issues and shape policies/practices for enhanced public health and safety
- Develop publications such as the Ventura County POLD Spotlight, Municipal POLD Profile Reports, and County POLD Report
- Measure impacts of prevention efforts
Potential Survey Data Limitations

- **Social Desirability**
  - Respondent may want to appear a certain way

- **Memory Recall**
  - Respondent’s memory may be unreliable over time

- **However ...**
  - Large number of POLD Survey respondents
  - Exclusion of rare or unusual responses
  - Trends examined, remain relatively constant
  - Quality control procedures/protocols in place
Recent Findings from Underage DUI Offenders
Underage DUI Program Participants
(July 05–June 10)

- 5-year timeframe
- 681 respondents (6% of DUI Program Participants)
- 98% first offenders
- 72% male
- 45% attend college
- Few in the military (1%)

- Age
  - 18 = 10%
  - 19 = 40%
  - 20 = 50%

- Race/Ethnicity
  - 56% Caucasian or White
  - 34% Hispanic or Latino
  - 3% Asian American or Pacific Islander
  - 1% Black or African American
  - 1% Native American
  - 3% Multi-racial
  - 2% Other
Where were the underage youth drinking before their arrest for DUI?

- Private Residence = 72%
- Bar, Club or Restaurant = 11%
- At a Park, Beach or Campground = 6%
- In a Vehicle = 6%
- In a Hotel Room = <1%
- At Work = <1%
- In Some Other Place = 5%
Private Residences

- 55% reported 10+ people in attendance
- 53% reported this was a “house party”
- 93% reported underage people drinking
Bars, Clubs & Restaurants

- 2 in 3 said they were not asked to show ID

- 13% reported drinking at a place offering specials/promotions

- 38% of BCR mentions were outlets in Los Angeles County (e.g., Hollywood)

- 6 alcohol outlets accounted for 30% of the underage BCR mentions within Ventura County
Underage Drinking Behaviors
Before DUI Arrest

1. 85% 1 Location
2. 4 hours

3. 6–7 Drinks
4. 0.12 BAC
# Characteristics of Underage DUI Arrests

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<tr>
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<th>10 miles driven on average before being arrested for DUI</th>
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<td></td>
<td>Half with passengers in their vehicle when arrested</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1 in 5 crashed before their arrest</td>
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<td>23% of crashes caused physical injuries to the driver or others</td>
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3 in 4 thought it was very unlikely that they would get caught for DUI on the night of their arrest.
Gender Comparisons
Females reported drinking fewer drinks than males (6 vs. 7 drinks) yet reported slightly higher BAC levels (0.13 vs. 0.12)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Females</th>
<th>Males</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Avg. # hours drinking at POLD</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avg. # miles driven from POLD</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avg. # drinks consumed*</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consumed 10+ drinks*</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avg. BAC at time of arrest*</td>
<td>.13</td>
<td>.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Range for BAC at time of arrest</td>
<td>.03 – .26</td>
<td>.01 – .40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twice the legal limit or more (≥ 0.16)*</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>22%</td>
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*Significant difference, p<.05
Females were more likely to drink mixed drinks, shots and/or wine, whereas males were more likely to drink beer.
Females were less likely to have their last drink at a private residence and more likely to have it at a bar, club or restaurant.
Consequences & Prevention Strategies
Greatest Consequences of DUI Arrest

- Loss of Driver's License: 37%
- Financial Cost: 30%
- Impact on Family: 12%
- Having Conviction on Record: 8%
- Impact on Work: 7%
- Jail Time: 1%
- Other Consequence: 5%
# Top 5 Approaches to Prevent DUI

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Approach</th>
<th>Percent</th>
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<tr>
<td>Security personnel at bars/clubs who pay attention to and deal with heavily consuming patrons</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fines for people who host underage drinking parties</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Training bartenders and servers about responsible service of alcohol</td>
<td>19%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bartenders using only measured shots of alcohol so drinkers can accurately know how much they drank (no “heavy pours”)*</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More availability of food at bars and clubs</td>
<td>14%</td>
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Working Toward Solutions
Putting POLD Findings to Use

- **DUI Prevention Summit**
  - VCBH shares POLD survey findings with law enforcement, emergency responders, hospitals, MADD and other agencies at this annual event.

- **Safe Bars Task Force**
  - Coalition members meet bi-monthly to take a collaborative and data-driven approach to reducing impaired driving.
Putting POLD Findings to Use (cont.)

- **DUI Awareness Campaigns**
  - Posters, brochures and VIBs feature POLD findings to help raise awareness of the consequences of DUI

- **DUI Checkpoints**
  - Locations of checkpoints can be selected based on POLD data related to “problem” areas
This presentation was made possible through funding from Ventura County Behavioral Health, Alcohol and Drug Programs.
Questions & Discussion