WHY EL PASO

"The El Paso Police Department has been addressing Underage Drinking in our community through both enforcement and educational efforts. As a police department we know that underage drinking can lead to other things putting these youths and our citizens at risk. The El Paso Police Department supports community efforts to curb underage drinking."

- Greg Allen, Chief, El Paso Police Department

"Too often, our youth suffer from the after-effects of underage drinking because of the inability to make healthy choices. Prevention is the best way to save lives and reduce traumatic injuries. It is our responsibility, as parents and as adults in our community, to educate and to demonstrate healthy behaviors."

- Christine Leech, Director, Trauma & Neurosurgical Services, University Medical Center of El Paso

"We pledge to combat Underage Drinking at the Judge Enrique J. Pena Juvenile Justice Center – County of El Paso. Many youth and families that have come through our doors have been plagued by the introduction of alcohol at an early age. We will continue to provide education and treatment for this issue as we engage families in their rehabilitation and healing."

- Roger Martinez, Chief Juvenile Probation Officer, El Paso Juvenile Justice Center

"I support any and all programs that hold parents accountable for providing unsupervised parties and also allowing alcoholic beverages to underage minors. I am a parent that almost lost my son due to the negligence of a party that was hosted by adults; the minors were left unattended and unsupervised while being provided with alcoholic beverages.

If the adults that were suppose to have supervised had stayed and monitored the party, the trauma that not only my son went through but our whole family. Waiting to see if our son would wake up from induced alcohol poisoning has been the worst experience that a parent can go through."

- Julie Priego, Parent, Director of Prevention/Intervention Services, Aliviane Inc.

"I believe there should be consequences set for parents when underage drinking occurs on their property. If the parents do not know they should be informed because their child's well being is their responsibility regardless if the parents are with their child or not."

- Jacqueline Macias, Senior, Americas High School

"Under age drinking has become an increasingly high risk behavior among teens today due to alcohol promotion not only by companies but also by adults. Underage drinkers are not the only ones to blame. Adults or mentors can also be at fault."

- Randy Johnson, Senior, Montwood High School

SOCIAL HOST PREVENTION

An Initiative to Reduce Underage Drinking Parties

As a community, it is our responsibility to guide, protect and love our youth.

SOCIAL HOST PREVENTION

A comprehensive approach to reduce underage drinking, drug abuse and motor-vehicle fatalities.

Alcohol use by young people is often made possible by adults. After all, teens can't legally get alcohol on their own.

-Surgeon General’s Call to Action to Prevent and Reduce Underage Drinking, A Guide to Action for Communities

6070 Gateway Blvd. East, Suite 504
El Paso, TX  79905
Phone: 915-775-2555
Fax: 915-775-2559
E-mail: safecommunitiesept@sbcglobal.net
**THE PROBLEM – UNDERAGE DRINKING PARTIES**

**El Paso County, Texas High School Survey, 2006**
- 73% of respondents reported it is Somewhat Easy or Very Easy to obtain alcohol.
- 43% of respondents reported that they attend parties where alcohol is routinely present.

**Environmental Strategies Instrument (ESI) Phone Survey of 18-25 year-olds, 2008**
- 79% of the 18-20 year olds said they had their first drink before age 16.
- 86% of 18-20 year old respondents said it is relatively easy to obtain alcohol from friends and parties, while over 50% said it would be very hard to obtain from a grocery, liquor, or convenience store.

**El Paso Police Department**
- For the years 2006-2007, EPPD issued 3,203 citations to persons under 21 for alcohol related offenses, of which 63% were for Driving Under the Influence (DUI).
- During the enforcement activities of the Those Who Host Lose The Most campaign, between Aug. 21 and Sept. 30, 2008, 502 citations were issued. Of these, only 2 were arrests for providing alcohol to minors. All other 500 were to people under the age of 21.

**THE SOLUTION – SOCIAL HOST PREVENTION**

**Current Texas Law & Gaps**
- Under Texas State law, it is a Class A Misdemeanor for adults to purchase or furnish alcohol to minors under 21.
- The state law is insufficient because it only refers to individuals who furnish the alcohol. Police officers must follow strict rules and regulations to get sworn statements from witnesses, who are unwilling to testify against their parents, friends parents, family members, and/or friends over 21.
- Currently, the El Paso Police Department periodically deploys extra officers on the streets specifically to monitor underage drinking activities. A social host ordinance would give those officers, as well as the department as a whole, an additional tool to help combat underage drinking parties.

**Social Host Strategy**
- Social Host refers to adults who knowingly or unknowingly allow underage drinking parties on property they own, lease or control.
- Local social host ordinances are a tool for law enforcement to hold adults responsible for underage drinking parties on their property, regardless of who furnishes the alcohol.
- Adults who allow underage drinking on their property may be deterred only if they believe they will face legal or financial consequences.
- Social host ordinances allow for parents and adults who were unaware of parties on their property to provide an affirmative defense.
- As a best practice to reduce youth alcohol consumption, the Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) recommends implementing ordinances that prohibit teen drinking parties at private residences.

**SOCIAL ACCESS TO ALCOHOL BY PEOPLE UNDER 21 IN EL PASO**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>On an average weekend, 2,000 youths crossed from El Paso to Ciudad Juarez to drink. <em>Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation (PIRE) 2005</em></td>
<td>March 2006 - City Council approved a Special Curfew Ordinance limiting the hours minors under 17 can be in the surrounding area of the downtown bridge thus reducing access to bars and clubs in Juarez.</td>
<td>On March 17 &amp; 18, 2006, the number of young people ages 12-25 returning from Juarez was at 1,839. Over a year later, June 8 &amp; 9, 2007, that number was at 519. <em>RGSCC Bridge Counts</em></td>
<td>Underage drinking parties in El Paso begin to escalate due to Special Curfew Ordinance and violence in Juarez.</td>
<td>Aug. 21– Sept. 30—The Those Who Host Lose the Most Media &amp; Enforcement Campaign ran for 6 weeks.</td>
<td>With your support, we may decrease underage drinking rates in El Paso, Texas.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Those Who Host Lose The Most:**
- a six-week bilingual campaign in 2008, which used media, marketing and law enforcement strategies to:
  - Educate adults on the consequences of supplying alcohol to individuals under 21
  - Advertise the Crime Stopper Tip Line to report underage drinking parties
  - Increase monitoring of unsafe house parties where underage drinking takes place

*RGSCC Bridge Counts* 

Don’t be a Party to Underage Drinking. It’s Against the Law. 

**THOSE WHO HOST THE MOST** 

566-TIPS
Social Host Prevention Initiative

A comprehensive approach to reduce underage drinking, drug abuse and motor-vehicle fatalities.
RGSCC’s Mission

To promote health and safety by applying research-based environmental strategies to reduce substance abuse, thereby enhancing the quality of life for youth and adults living in the Paso Del Norte Region of the Rio Grande.
OPERATION B.R.I.D.G.E.

Bi-national Resources to Interrupt the Drinking Gateway Environment

A Division of University Medical Center of El Paso
73% of secondary students along the border reported obtaining alcohol at parties.

43% of respondents reported that they attend parties where alcohol is routinely present.

Texas School Survey of Substance Abuse Among Students 2004/2006
The Facts


- 79% of the 18-20 year olds said they had their first drink before age 16.

- 86% of 18-20 year old respondents said it is relatively easy to obtain alcohol from friends and parties, while over 50% said it would be very hard to obtain from a grocery, liquor, or convenience store.

El Paso Police Department

- For the years 2006-2007, EPPD issued 3,203 citations to persons under 21 for alcohol related offenses, of which 63% were for Driving Under the Influence (DUI).
Underage Drinking Parties

- Common Setting for Heavy & Binge Drinking
- High Risk Setting for Youth Alcohol Problems:
  - Inhibit brain growth
  - Alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes
  - Risky sexual behavior & sexual assaults
  - Unintended injuries
  - Violence
  - Potential for other drug use
- Technology Increases Dangers
- Social Access: Underage Drinking Considered Rite of Passage
Who is a Social Host?

Social Hosts - adults who knowingly or unknowingly allow underage drinking parties on property they own, lease or control.
Those Who Host Lose The Most

A six-week bilingual campaign, Aug. 21-Sept. 30, 2008, which used media, marketing and law enforcement strategies to:

- Educate adults on the consequences of supplying alcohol to individuals under 21
- Advertise the Crime Stopper Tip Line to report underage drinking parties
- Increase monitoring of unsafe house parties where underage drinking takes place
# Underage Drinking Enforcement

**Aug. 21 – Sep. 30, 2008**

**10:00pm-3:00am**

**8 officers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MOVING CITATIONS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hazardous</td>
<td>95</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-Hazardous</td>
<td>132</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLASS &quot;C&quot; CITATIONS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Consumption of Alcohol by Minor</td>
<td>150</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minor in Possession of Alcohol</td>
<td>37</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alcohol in Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>Curfew</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curfew Insufficient Control</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disorderly Conduct</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Failure to Identify</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Littering</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Container</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park After Hours</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Possession of Drug Paraphernalia</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Intoxication</td>
<td>4</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ARRESTS</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Minor Detectable</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DWI</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchase/Furnish Alcohol to Minor</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Possession of Marijuana</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misdemeanor</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL** 502
Current Texas Law & Gaps

- Under Texas State law, it is a Class A Misdemeanor for adults to purchase or furnish alcohol to minors under 21.
- The state law is insufficient because it only refers to individuals who furnish the alcohol.
- Police officers must follow strict rules and regulations to obtain sworn statements from witnesses, who are unwilling to testify against their parents, friends parents, family members, and/or friends over 21.
Social Host Strategy

- Local social host ordinances are a tool for law enforcement to hold adults responsible for underage drinking parties on their property, regardless of who furnishes the alcohol.

- Adults who allow underage drinking on their property may be deterred only if they believe they will face legal or financial consequences.

- Social host ordinances allow for parents and adults who were unaware of parties on their property to provide a defense.
Evidence-Based Strategy

As a best practice to reduce youth alcohol consumption, the Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) recommends implementing ordinances that prohibit teen drinking parties at private residences.
What Can You Do?

- Report Underage Drinking Parties
- Raise Community Awareness
- Organize & Mobilize Supporters
- Change Behavior & Attitudes
- Generate Discussion
- Advocate for Change
- Join the Social Host Committee
Social Host Committee Members

- A Smoke Free Paso del Norte
- El Paso County Attorney’s Office
- El Paso Ink
- El Paso Juvenile Justice Center
- El Paso Police Department
- Ft. Bliss Substance Abuse Program
- Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)
- Nuestra Comunidad Newspaper
- OSAR/ATR, University Medical Center of El Paso
- Texas A&M University Prevention Resource Center
- Texas Department of Family and Protective Services
- University Medical Center of El Paso Level 1 Trauma
Still not convinced...
Alcohol use by young people is often made possible by adults. After all, teens can’t legally get alcohol on their own.

-Surgeon General’s Call to Action to Prevent & Reduce Underage Drinking, A Guide to Action for Communities
Thank You!

Adriana Cadena
SPF-SIG Project Coordinator
915-775-2555
ac.rgscc@sbcglobal.net

A Division of University Medical Center of El Paso
COAST-TO COAST, RESPONSIBLE HOSTS:
The Nationwide Movement to Reduce Underage Drinking Parties

Ryan Treffers, J.D., Legal Policy Researcher
rtreffers@pire.org

Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation
www.pire.org

Center for the Study of Law and Enforcement Policy
www.cslep.org
An Underage Social Host law holds non-commercial individuals responsible for underage drinking events on property they own, lease or otherwise control.
Three Types of Social Host Liability

1) State Statutes (Civil or Criminal)
2) Court Decisions
3) City/County Ordinances
As of 1/1/08, 7 states had Underage Social Host Laws.
City & County Ordinances: Key Components

- Underage persons
- Knowledge requirement
- Range of Property Types
- Penalty
  - Criminal
  - Civil (may include response costs)
A Model Civil Public Nuisance Approach: Ventura County & Its Cities

Find more information at venturacountylimits.org
Currently over 185 communities in 23 states have underage social host ordinances.

Find more info at www.madd.org/socialhost
Spread of Underage Social Host Ordinances

**Minnesota**
- **2006** - 1 COUNTY
- **2008** - 2 COUNTIES & 9 CITIES

**Kentucky**
- **2006** - 0 ORDINANCES
- **2008** - 3 COUNTIES & 1 CITY

**Marin County, California**
- **2006** - COUNTY & 4 OF 11 CITIES
- **2008** - COUNTY & ALL CITIES
Marin County, California

Established: 2006

Type: Civil

Enforcement: 14 citations
City of Edmond, Oklahoma

Established: 2007

Type: Criminal

Enforcement: 16 arrests
Are They Working?

• “A deterrent effect”
• Change in how parties operate
• Fewer parties with parents present
• Continued public outreach necessary
Legal Considerations: Scope of an Ordinance

- How to define “Gathering”
- Always hold parent responsible?
- Knowledge requirement: “Know or should have known”
Legal Considerations: Exceptions & Defenses

• Family Gatherings
• Religious Observances
• Self Reporting:
  – Help Dispersing A Party
  – Emergencies (i.e. Alcohol Poisoning)
## Legal Considerations: Penalties

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Criminal</th>
<th>Civil</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Penalty Type</td>
<td>Jail or Fine</td>
<td>Fine (also can include response costs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hearing Type</td>
<td>Court</td>
<td>Administrative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standard of Proof</td>
<td>Higher Standard:</td>
<td>Lower Standard:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>“Beyond a reasonable doubt”</td>
<td>“By a preponderance of the evidence”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
COAST-TO COAST, RESPONSIBLE HOSTS:
The Nationwide Movement to Reduce Underage Drinking Parties

Additional resources available at:
• Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation – www.pire.org
• Center for the Study of Law and Enforcement Policy – www.cslep.org
• Alcohol Policy Information System (APIS) – www.alcoholpolicy.niaaa.nih.gov
• Mother’s Against Drunk Driving Social Host – www.madd.org/socialhost

THANK YOU
Please direct any questions to:
Ryan Treffers, J.D., Legal Policy Researcher - rtreffers@pire.org