

## 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.***



*A Division of University Medical Center of El Paso*

### Participating Organizations:

A Smoke Free Paso del Norte

Aliviane, Inc.

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

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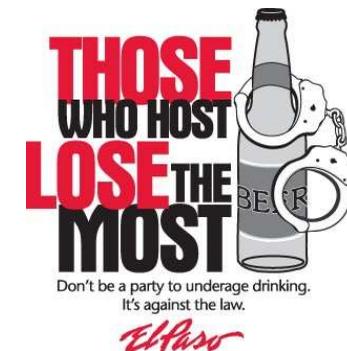
# SOCIAL HOST PREVENTION

*An Initiative to Reduce Underage Drinking Parties*

**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*



## 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

2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
On an average weekend, 2,000 youths crossed from El Paso to Ciudad Juárez to drink. *Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation (PIRE) 2005	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.	On March 17 & 18, 2006, the number of young people ages 12-25 returning from Juarez was at 1,839. Over a year later, June 8 & 9, 2007, that number was at 519. *RGSCC Bridge Counts	Underage drinking parties in El Paso begin to escalate due to Special Curfew Ordinance and violence in Juarez.	Aug. 21– Sept. 30— The <i>Those Who Host Lose the Most</i> Media & Enforcement Campaign ran for 6 weeks.	With your support, we may decrease underage drinking rates in El Paso, Texas.
				<i>Those Who Host Lose The Most</i> media spots ran in May-June and September and October.	

### *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

# Social Host Prevention Initiative

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



*A Division of University Medical Center of El Paso*

# 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.

**B**i-national  
**R**esources to  
**I**nterrupt the  
**D**rinking  
**G**ateway  
**E**nvironment



A Division of University Medical Center of El Paso

**SUNDAY**  
SEPT. 21, 2003  
\$1.50

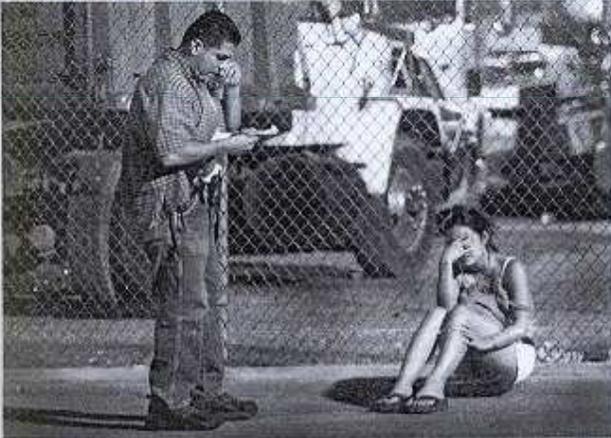
*El Paso* **Time**  
www.elpasotimes.com

## UNDERAGE DRINKING

Officers step up enforcement of curfews, raid gatherings



Officer Albert Gomez talks at the Santa Fe bridge while officers try to confirm the ages of four girls, who had not been drinking.



At Chihuahua Park, next to the Santa Fe bridge, an officer talks to the parents of a 14-year-old girl and asks them to pick her up. The girl was cited for curfew violation, disorderly conduct and possession of tobacco.

Photos by Mark Lumbly / El Paso Times

## More teens go to parties, Juárez

By Daniel Bonanda  
El Paso Times

It's just 11 p.m. at the Paso del Norte Bridge, and a teenage girl sobs as a police officer questions her about her age — one of several local efforts to curb underage drinking.

The 16-year-old girl was among a group of young people targeted for curfew checks as a recent Police raid on their picnic back and forth over the bridge on the occasion of Father's Day. She said a friend, also 16, had just walked back from Juárez when they were stopped by police enforcing El Paso's 11 p.m. curfew, targeting anyone younger than 17 heading in and from Mexico.

"It looks like it will be a busy night because of (high-school) football games that have finished," said Sgt. Eusebio Tamazunas, head of the police Underage Drinking Initiative.

Enforcement of the city's curfew, raids on underage drinking parties and even a proposal to ban minors from entering Mexico are among the ways police and activists are trying to curtail underage drinking in El Paso.

The start of the school year means an increase in parties and a rise in underage drinking, said police who have undergone drinking patrols during at least one party every weekend.

Police want information on big-and-run deaths 2A

Task force facts, figures 2A

On a recent Friday night, an ad hoc police task force dispatched plainclothes officers to a West Side block where drug-associated underage drinking was taking place. The officers conducted surveillance for underage drinking before several cops ended the party, police said.

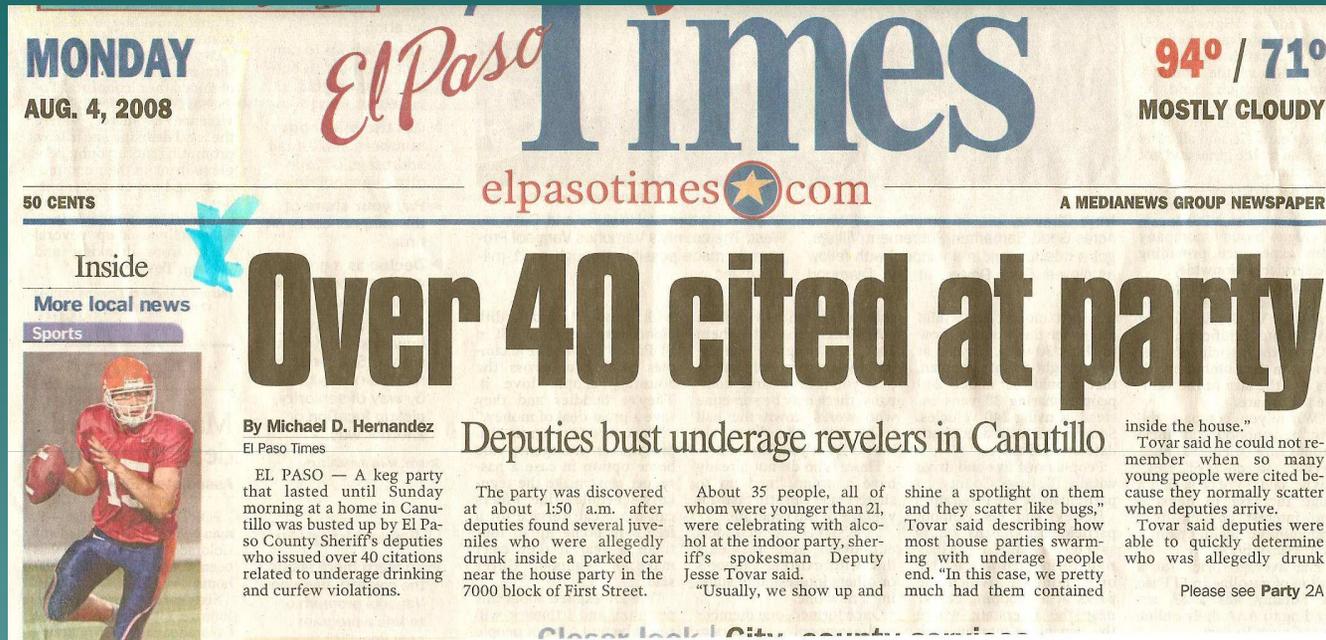
The 4-year-old ad hoc team consists of 11 officers and is headed in part by a \$185,000 case grant, which was received for fiscal 2003-04, Tamazunas said.

The team focuses on those areas, bi-national bridge operations, streets where minors attempt to buy alcohol and party calls, Tamazunas said.

Police investigate parties after receiving tips or after neighbors complain. But recently, drinking parties have been

Please see Drinking 2A

# Shifting the Host



**MONDAY**  
AUG. 4, 2008

*El Paso* **Times**

94° / 71°  
MOSTLY CLOUDY

50 CENTS

elpasotimes.com

A MEDIANEWS GROUP NEWSPAPER

Inside

More local news

Sports

## Over 40 cited at party

### Deputies bust underage revelers in Canutillo

By Michael D. Hernandez  
El Paso Times

EL PASO — A keg party that lasted until Sunday morning at a home in Canutillo was busted up by El Paso County Sheriff's deputies who issued over 40 citations related to underage drinking and curfew violations.

The party was discovered at about 1:50 a.m. after deputies found several juveniles who were allegedly drunk inside a parked car near the house party in the 7000 block of First Street.

About 35 people, all of whom were younger than 21, were celebrating with alcohol at the indoor party, sheriff's spokesman Deputy Jesse Tovar said.

"Usually, we show up and shine a spotlight on them and they scatter like bugs," Tovar said describing how most house parties swarming with underage people end. "In this case, we pretty much had them contained inside the house."

Tovar said he could not remember when so many young people were cited because they normally scatter when deputies arrive.

Tovar said deputies were able to quickly determine who was allegedly drunk

Please see **Party 2A**

- ◆ 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

## *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).



# 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

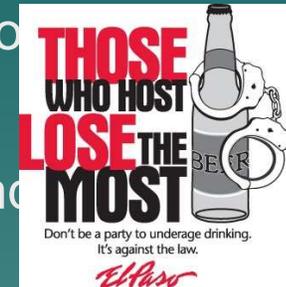
10:00pm-3:00am  
8 officers



<b>MOVING CITATIONS</b>	
Hazardous	95
Non-Hazardous	132
<b>CLASS "C" CITATIONS</b>	
Consumption of Alcohol by Minor	150
Minor in Possession of Alcohol	37
Alcohol in Park	2
Curfew	20
Curfew Insufficient Control	1
Disorderly Conduct	3
Failure to Identify	1
Littering	2
Open Container	11
Park After Hours	9
Possession of Drug Paraphernalia	2
Public Intoxication	4
<b>ARRESTS</b>	
Minor Detectable	19
DWI	9
<b>Purchase/Furnish Alcohol to Minor</b>	<b>2</b>
Possession of Marijuana	1
Misdemeanor	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>502</b>

# Current Texas Law & Gaps

- ◆ Under Texas State law, it is a Class A Misdemeanor for a person to purchase or furnish alcohol to minors under 21.
- ◆ The state law is insufficient because it only refers to individuals who purchase or 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 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



**CRIME  
STOPPERS**

*of El Paso, Inc.*

**(915) 566-TIPS (8477)**  
**1-877-566-TIPS (8477)**  
[www.crimestoppersofelpaso.org](http://www.crimestoppersofelpaso.org)



# 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...



*A Division of University Medical Center of El Paso*

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

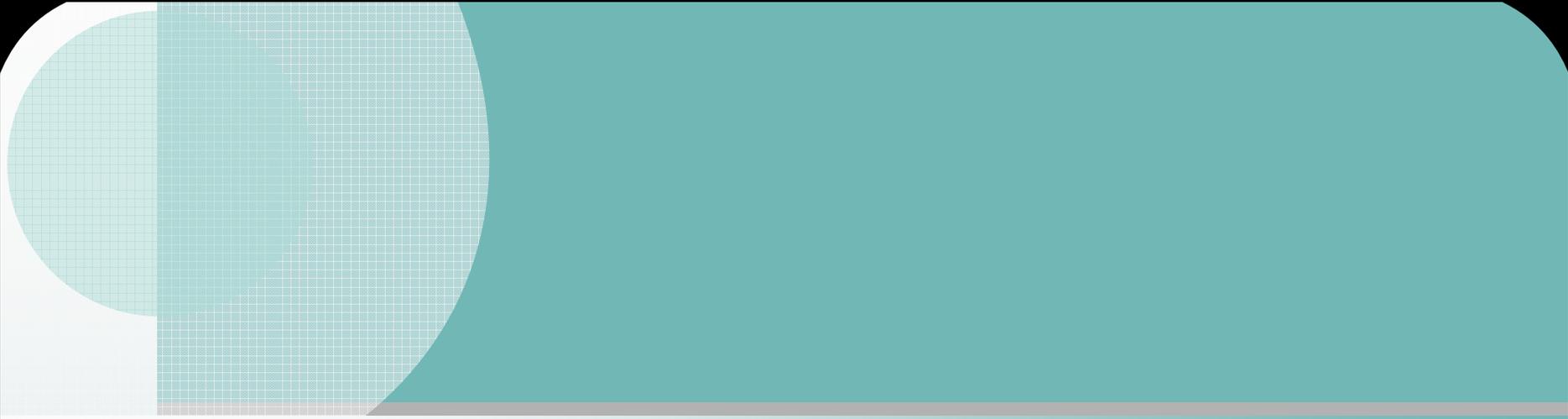
SPF-SIG Project Coordinator

915-775-2555

[ac.rgsc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ac.rgsc@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](mailto:rtreffers@pire.org)

Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation  
[www.pire.org](http://www.pire.org)

Center for the Study of Law and Enforcement Policy  
[www.cslep.org](http://www.cslep.org)

## Underage Social Host Liability Defined

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

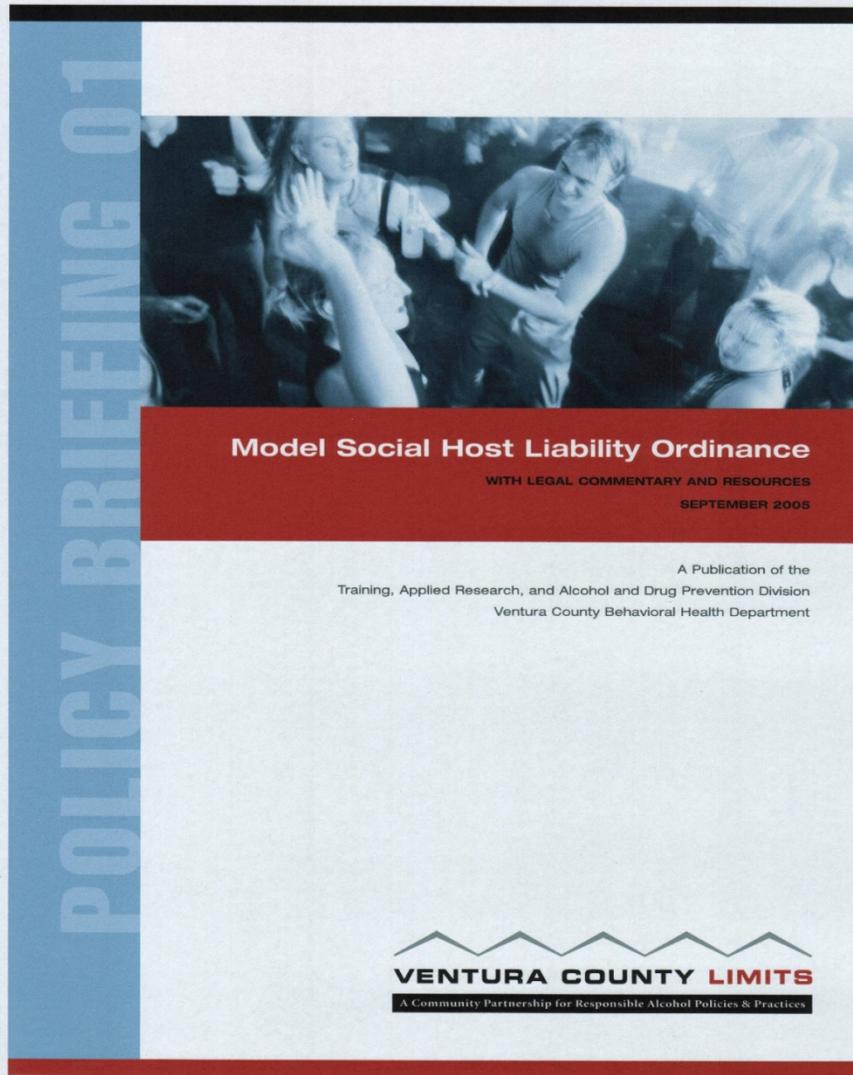


A photograph of a city skyline at sunset, with the sun low on the horizon and buildings illuminated. The title text is overlaid on this image.

# 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](http://venturacountylimits.org)

# Underage Social Host Ordinances

Currently over 185 communities in 23 states have underage social host ordinances

Find more info at [www.madd.org/socialhost](http://www.madd.org/socialhost)

**Get the full story on  
Social Host.**



# 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

	<b>Criminal</b>	<b>Civil</b>
Penalty Type	Jail or Fine	Fine (also can include response costs)
Hearing Type	Court	Administrative
Standard of Proof	Higher Standard: "Beyond a reasonable doubt"	Lower Standard: "By a preponderance of the evidence"

THANK YOU

Please direct any questions to:

Ryan Treffers, J.D., Legal Policy Researcher - [rtreffers@pire.org](mailto:rtreffers@pire.org)

**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](http://www.pire.org)
- Center for the Study of Law and Enforcement Policy – [www.cslep.org](http://www.cslep.org)
- Alcohol Policy Information System (APIS) – [www.alcoholpolicy.niaaa.nih.gov](http://www.alcoholpolicy.niaaa.nih.gov)
- Mother's Against Drunk Driving Social Host – [www.madd.org/socialhost](http://www.madd.org/socialhost)