

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.

Bi-national
Resources to
Interrupt the
Drinking
Gateway
Environment



A Division of University Medical Center of El Paso

SUNDAY
SEPT. 21, 2003
\$1.50 * www.elpasotimes.com

El Paso Times

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 Juárez raid on their cross-back-and-forth over the bridge on the occasion failed tonight. 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, catching 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. Elmerino Tamazunas, head of the police Underage Drinking Initiative.

Enforcers of the city's curfew, raise an underage drinking parties and even a proposal to ban minors from crossing 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 underage drinking citations during at least one party every weekend.

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 renewed 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

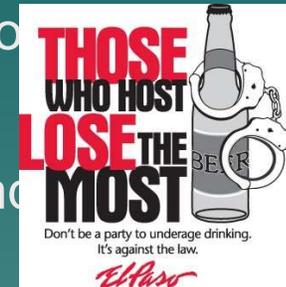
10:00pm-3:00am
8 officers



MOVING CITATIONS	
Hazardous	95
Non-Hazardous	132
CLASS "C" CITATIONS	
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
ARRESTS	
Minor Detectable	19
DWI	9
Purchase/Furnish Alcohol to Minor	2
Possession of Marijuana	1
Misdemeanor	2
TOTAL	502

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



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STOPPERS**

of El Paso, Inc.

(915) 566-TIPS (8477)
1-877-566-TIPS (8477)
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...



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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!

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