

## 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  
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Paso Level 1 Trauma

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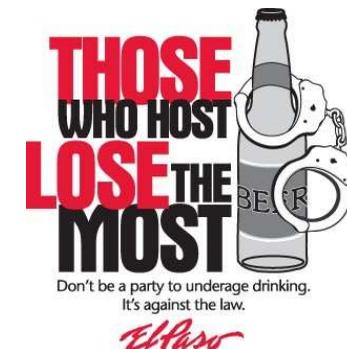
# SOCIAL HOST PREVENTION

*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.	<i>Those Who Host Lose The Most</i> media spots ran in May-June and September and October.
					<i>With your support, we may decrease underage drinking rates in El Paso, Texas.</i>

### *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