

Description of strategy

Teen parties are one of the highest risk settings for underage drinking. Young people report their heaviest drinking at large parties with peers, most of whom are underage, in private homes. Teen parties frequently lack adult supervision and can lead to alcohol poisoning, drinking and driving, sexual assaults, other violence, vandalism, and property damage. Despite the seriousness of the potential problems, communities tend to be tolerant of these parties and this tolerance is compounded by legal obstacles to law enforcement. Many states do not prohibit youth possession in private residences. Further, parents may also supply alcohol to their minor children. In some states police detecting a teen party may not have legal grounds to enter the premises, be unable to confiscate the alcohol, trace its original purchase, or hold the adult householder responsible for allowing the party on the premises (Prevention Resource Center, 2004).

Teen party ordinances function similarly to social host liability laws. The ordinances target the location where underage drinking occurs. The ordinances hold the individual responsible for underage drinking events on noncommercial property they own, lease, or otherwise control. The purpose of a teen party ordinance is to discourage underage drinking parties by creating a legal means to sanction the host and party attendees (Higher Education Center, 2011).

Discussion of effectiveness

Alcohol

Evidence suggests varied results for the effectiveness of teen party ordinances as a prevention strategy. Enforced teen party ordinances were found to be effective as part of a multi-component strategy to reduce incidence and likelihood of youth drinking, as well as off-premise underage alcohol sales (Saltz, Paschall, McGaffigan, & Nygaard, 2010; Saltz, Welker, Paschall, Feeney, & Fabiano, 2009). However, the evidence did not support the effectiveness of teen party ordinances for reducing binge drinking or perceived availability outcomes (Flewelling et al., 2012).

Intervening Variables	
Retail Pricing	
Retail availability	
Social availability	
Law Enforcement	
Community norms	
Promotion & media	

TEEN PARTY ORDINANCES

References for description of strategy

Prevention Resource Center. (2004). Preventing underage alcohol access: Essential elements for policy, deterrence and public support. Calverton, MD: Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation. Retrieved August 13th, 2012, from: http://resources.prev.org/resource_pub_pud.pdf

Higher Education Center for Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and Violence Prevention. (2011). Prevention update. Retrieved August 13th, 2012, from: http://www.higheredcenter.org/files/prevention_updates/january2011.pdf

Evidence base

Flewelling, R., Grube, J., Paschall, M., Biglan, A., Kraft, A., Black, C., ... Ruscoe, J. (2012). Reducing youth access to alcohol: Findings from a community-based randomized trial. *American Journal of Community Psychology*, 1–14. doi:10.1007/s10464-012-9529-3

Saltz, R. F., Paschall, M. J., McGaffigan, R. P., & Nygaard, P. M. O. (2010). Alcohol risk management in college settings. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, 39(6), 491–499. doi:10.1016/j.amepre.2010.08.020

Saltz, R. F., Welker, L. R., Paschall, M. J., Feeney, M. A., & Fabiano, P. M. (2009). Evaluating a comprehensive campus-community prevention intervention to reduce alcohol-related problems in a college population. *Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs*, (Suppl. 16), 21.

Further reading

National Association of Governors' Highway Safety Representatives. (2001). Community how to guides on underage drinking prevention: Guide 5, Enforcement. Washington, DC: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Available at: http://www.nhtsa.gov/people/injury/alcohol/Community%20Guides%20HTML/Guides_index.html

Pacific Institute of Research and Evaluation. (2000). A practical guide to preventing and dispersing underage drinking parties. Washington, DC: US Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Available at: <http://www.udetc.org/documents/UnderageDrinking.pdf>

Prevention Research Center. (2004). Preventing underage alcohol access: Essential elements for policy, deterrence, and public support. Calverton, MD: Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation. Available at: http://resources.prev.org/resource_pub_pud.pdf