



PARTNERS FOR A DRUG-FREE COMMUNITY
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Social Host Ordinance (SHO) Information

Statewide Stats

- In 2013 underage drinking cost California \$6.3 billion in medical care, lost productivity for school and work, vehicle crashes, suicide, violence, and pain and suffering associated with such use
- Youth who had engaged in past-month heavy alcohol use were more than 5 times as likely to have carried a handgun in the past year as those who had not engaged in heavy drinking
- Youth who engage in bullying and their victims report high levels of underage drinking
- Among youth ages 12 to 17 who experienced a past-year major depressive episode, 28.4% reported drinking in the past month
- 32.3% of dropouts reported past-month binge drinking

Local Stats

- The \$6.3 billion referenced above translates to a cost of \$1,811/youth in the state or \$7 million locally
- Approximately 1 youth/week on average is seen for alcohol poisoning in local hospital emergency rooms (53 visits/year)

Kids' data

- 13% of 7th graders, 26% of 9th graders, and 36% of 11th graders report drinking in the past 30 days
- 27% of 11th graders report driving after drinking
- 29% of 9th graders, 44% of 10th graders, and 52% of 11th graders reported being very drunk or sick after drinking alcohol

Binge Drinking

- More than 90% of alcohol consumed by teens is in the form of binge drinking
- 13% of 11th graders report binge drinking in the past 30 days

Home Parties

- In Redding, 1,323 calls for service for parties, with an estimated Officer Response cost of \$150,000-\$200,000, were made in 2013
- 63% of 9th graders, 74% of 10th graders, 32% of 11th graders, and 85% of 12th graders say it is fairly easy or very easy to obtain alcohol
- 84% of Redding youth surveyed stated that alcohol is always or sometimes present at parties they attend
- 26% of youth who drink stated that they drink at home
- 35% of youth who drink stated they drink in the home of a friend



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- When asked, “If you were drinking at a party and the police caught you, how likely would they be to do any of the following,” Redding youth (checking all that applied) responded:
 - ✓ Take alcohol away from you – 60.4%
 - ✓ Call your parent(s) or guardian(s) – 49.1%
 - ✓ Give you a warning – 58.5%
 - ✓ Cite or fine you – 41.5%
 - ✓ Take you home – 34%
 - ✓ Take you to the police station – 28.3%
 - ✓ Arrest you – 18.5%
 - ✓ Nothing – 20.8%

Parents

- An Underage Drinking Public Opinion Survey delivered to adults revealed:
 - ✓ 95.6% of respondents said that alcohol may harm brain development in adolescents
 - ✓ 89.9% of respondents said it was not okay for adults to provide alcohol to teens under any circumstances
 - ✓ 87.2% of respondents favored stricter penalties for adults who provide or sell alcohol to youth
 - ✓ Redding’s past thirty day binge drinking rate is higher than the state average and our youth are drinking too early (average age of first drink – 13 years), too often, and too much

Evidence that SHOs work

- In communities where social host ordinances have been enacted, law enforcement officers report that the law is a useful tool in addressing underage drinking parties
- The vast majority of citations for violations of social host ordinances are issued for first offenses
- Over time, the passage of a social host ordinance results in fewer calls for service for law enforcement
- Communities with social host ordinances have fewer large underage drinking parties

Benefits of Civil Social Host Ordinances

- Civil SHOs with strict liability require a lower burden of proof than criminal ordinances
- Civil SHOs can make enforcement more flexible and efficient
- Focusing on deterrence, not criminalization, is an effective community tool
- Civil SHOs can keep cases out of the court system
- Civil SHOs focus on the home party setting and associated problematic activities, not on an adult’s intention to provide or furnish alcohol to a person under the legal drinking age
- Strong civil SHOs provide a powerful enforcement tool and fill an important legal gap