



OJJDP FACT SHEET

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A Guide to Combating Juvenile DUI

by Sharon Cantelon and Thomas Cullen

The Police Executive Research Forum (PERF), with support from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), has developed a comprehensive Juvenile DUI Enforcement Program to help police executives tackle the problems of underage drinking and juvenile impaired driving. The program, which was implemented in Albany County, NY (in cooperation with the New York State Police); Astoria, OR; Hampton, VA; Phoenix, AZ; and Tulsa, OK, goes beyond the traditional police response to DUI (driving under the influence) by linking enforcement efforts with public education, prosecution, adjudication, and treatment. OJJDP and NHTSA have joined together to publish a four-part guide, *Strategies for Success: Combating Juvenile DUI*, which describes the program and presents instructions and resources for developing a local, systemwide response to juvenile impaired driving.

Background: The Juvenile DUI Problem

Many communities are hard at work shaping a response to the problem of underage drinking. Of particular concern is the number of adolescents who drive while under the influence of alcohol and other drugs. Education programs implemented in schools often yield encouraging but limited results. Many youthful offenders, undeterred by ineffective or nonexistent enforcement and apparently unfazed by the potential life-threatening and legal consequences of their actions, continue to engage in dangerous and delinquent behavior, including impaired driving. More than 35 percent of motor vehicle fatalities of individuals 15 to 20 years of age are alcohol related, and in 1997, that meant 2,209 youth died in alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes. There were 14 young impaired drivers involved in fatal crashes for every 100,000 young licensed drivers—twice the rate for drivers age 21 and older.

Strategies for Success: Combating Juvenile DUI

The four parts of *Strategies for Success: Combating Juvenile DUI* are directed at law enforcement officers and other juvenile justice

personnel who want to address issues related to the illegal consumption of alcohol by minors in their communities.

Part I: Building Programs That Work describes the juvenile DUI problem and presents the case for building a comprehensive criminal justice response to juvenile impaired driving. This section includes “The Chief’s DUI Checklist,” designed to help police executives determine the extent of the youth DUI problem in their communities, and an “Inventory of Do’s and Don’ts” that provides helpful hints gathered from the experiences of program participants in the five demonstration sites.

Part II: The Eight Foundation Elements of a Successful DUI Strategy discusses the eight essential elements of PERF’s youth DUI enforcement program, presents results from the five program sites, and offers examples of successful programs and activities. The eight foundation elements, which combine to produce a unified, aggressive, and proactive response to juvenile DUI, are:

- ◆ Policy oversight and coordination.
- ◆ Strategic and tactical planning.
- ◆ Reactive and proactive enforcement.
- ◆ Prosecution.
- ◆ Adjudication and diversion.
- ◆ Supervision and treatment.
- ◆ Public education.
- ◆ Feedback and evaluation.

Together, these eight elements provide a framework for a multi-disciplinary program that unites the local justice system with social services and the private sector. Successful programs described in the guide include the Adopt-A-School program in Hampton, VA, which educates minors and their parents about the dangers of alcohol and drug abuse, and the New York State Liquor Authority seminars in Albany County, NY, which educate alcohol license holders about their legal responsibilities.

Part III: Support Tools for Building Programs That Work provides examples of policy statements, news releases, and other practical material to help police chiefs or other justice officials interested in initiating a comprehensive juvenile DUI program. This section includes the Tulsa, OK, Police Department's "Juvenile Alcohol Prevention and Enforcement Proposal," a detailed description of one city's juvenile DUI program goals and objectives, and copies of press releases from programs in Phoenix, AZ, and Hampton, VA, that can be used as models for other communities attempting to solicit community support for juvenile DUI enforcement efforts.

Part IV: Leadership Roles for Officials presents articles by a police executive, a prosecutor, and a judge who give their unique institutional perspectives on the problem of juvenile DUI and offer advice to their peers on how to take a leadership role in combating underage drinking and driving. Thomas H. Carr of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, Washington, DC, discusses the need for police executives to recognize the juvenile DUI problem, examine the laws that govern alcohol use by minors, and build a team to address the problem. A. Gallatin Warfield, former Assistant State Attorney, Howard County, MD, presents fellow prosecutors with suggestions for implementing a juvenile DUI policy, facilitating police-prosecutor relations, developing appropriate programs, enlisting judicial support, and allocating resources. Finally, the Honorable Philip Trompeter of the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court in Roanoke, VA, describes the State's Driver's License Ceremony in which juveniles, accompanied by a parent, are required to receive their licenses in a special court ceremony presided over by a judge who uses the opportunity to educate young drivers and their parents about the dangers of alcohol use and the legal consequences of juvenile DUI.

PERF's Juvenile DUI Solution

Strategies for Success: Combating Juvenile DUI is the result of PERF's, OJJDP's, and NHTSA's shared belief that communities

must address the problem of juvenile DUI and ensure that youth and their families are thoroughly educated about the health and safety dangers of alcohol impairment and the legal ramifications of alcohol consumption. Law enforcement officers and justice system personnel must take swift, appropriate, and coordinated action to make it difficult, if not impossible, for youth to purchase alcohol and must take appropriate legal action if and when youth choose to consume alcohol illegally, including drinking and driving. Implementing PERF's DUI enforcement program will enable communities to save lives, reduce the short- and long-term economic costs of youth DUI crashes, and enhance cooperation among police, prosecutors, judges, probation officers, and other members of the criminal justice system.

How To Order

To obtain a copy of *Strategies for Success: Combating Juvenile DUI*, contact the Juvenile Justice Clearinghouse, 800-638-8736 (phone), 301-519-5212 (fax), puborder@ncjrs.org (e-mail), www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org (Internet), or the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 202-366-9588 (phone), www.nhtsa.dot.gov (Internet).

Sharon Cantelon is a Program Manager in OJJDP's Special Emphasis Division. Thomas Cullen is a Writer-Editor at OJJDP's Juvenile Justice Clearinghouse.

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