Building capacity, outcomes, and sustainability through a collaborative underage drinking enforcement and public education effort resourced by state and local partners: The South Carolina experience

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History of Addressing Underage Drinking in South Carolina

1. (1993) Community Trials research effort led by Dr. Harold Holder, PIRE in Florence, South Carolina.


3. (2002-2005) EUDL Discretionary grant -3 SC counties were funded to implement a comprehensive approach to underage drinking prevention based on enforcement, education/awareness and community support (AET Model).

4. (2005-2006) EUDL Block Grant funds used to expand discretionary grant concepts. The sites funded under the discretionary grant became mentor sites to 4 new sites in SC.
Alcohol Enforcement Teams

Support Activities (AET Training & Media Efforts)

- DAODAS
- County Alcohol & Drug Agencies
- Local law enforcement agencies
- AET Coordinators
- State AET Liaison
- Underage Drinking Action Group (UDAG)
- Circuit Solicitor’s Offices
- Community Coalitions

AET Partnerships & Structure
Outcomes in Reducing Underage Drinking in SC
## Training held in 43 of 46 SC counties since 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Training Topic</th>
<th># of Participants</th>
<th># of Officers</th>
<th># of Youth Actors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3-hour AET Class</td>
<td>1,067</td>
<td>614</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AET Activities</td>
<td>439</td>
<td>375</td>
<td>315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-Day AET</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fake ID Training</td>
<td>740</td>
<td>659</td>
<td>161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Controlled Party Dispersal</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAS Systems</td>
<td>351</td>
<td>328</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Safety Checkpoints</td>
<td>333</td>
<td>303</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Source Investigation</td>
<td>214</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-Day AET</td>
<td>840</td>
<td>757</td>
<td>476</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Various Topics</td>
<td>527</td>
<td>387</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>4,832</td>
<td>3,909</td>
<td>1,227</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LIST OF TRAINING EVENTS

1. AET 101 with Mock Party Dispersal, September 29, 2015, Denmark Technical College
2. Training of Trainers; Trends & Fads with SC Underage Drinking Laws, October 2, 2015, Spartanburg, SC
3. AET 101 with Fake & Fraudulent ID Training; October 14, 2015, Spartanburg, SC
4. AET 101 with Mock Party Dispersal, October 16, 2015, North Myrtle Beach DPS
5. 2-day AET class, November 2-3, 2015, Anderson CO SO
6. Source Investigation with Public Safety Checkpoints, November 6, 2015, North Myrtle Beach DPS
7. Fake & Fraudulent ID with PREP Training of Trainers, November 11, 2015, North Myrtle Beach DPS
8. Special Alcohol Events Management with Compliance Check Classroom, November 12, N. Myrtle Beach DPS

Webpage can be reached at scoutoftheirhands.org
AET Operations

- Compliance checks
- Saturation or directed patrol
- Regular traffic stops
- Loud music complaints
- Casual contacts
- School Resource Officers
- Presentations to community groups, political bodies, parents, students, etc.
- Fake ID checks in alcohol establishments
**FY2008 – FY2018 Enforcement Numbers**
* July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2018 (state fiscal years run July 1 to June 30)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>FY2008-2018</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>FY2008-2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Compliance Checks</td>
<td>80,229</td>
<td>Compliance Check Sales</td>
<td>10,214</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Safety Checkpoints</td>
<td>7,971</td>
<td>Bar checks</td>
<td>3,108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturation Patrols</td>
<td>2,774</td>
<td># of Parties Prevented</td>
<td>1,522</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Party Dispersals</td>
<td>1,524</td>
<td>Merchant Education</td>
<td>16,514</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Media Contacts</td>
<td>2,995</td>
<td>Shoulder Taps</td>
<td>321</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

** Enforcement & Education numbers are collected monthly but FY 2018 numbers are not included in this count**
Alcohol Compliance Checks on Underage Alcohol-involved Crashes: Evaluation of a State-wide Enforcement Program in South Carolina 2006-2016

Objective. This research was to evaluate the impact of the South Carolina Alcohol Enforcement Team (SCAET) program for reducing retail alcohol availability to underage persons to reduce drinking and driving crashes among that population. SCAET is unique as no other state has implemented a similar strategy statewide formed via an ongoing partnership between local law enforcement and community partners with sustained enforcement for over ten years.

Methods. The general research design used a natural experiment with an interrupted time series (ITS) analyses of drinking and driving crashes involving a driver under 21-years-old from 2006-2016. As the outcome measure Drivers under 21-years-old cannot legally drink or purchase alcohol in South Carolina. The period 2006 to mid-2010 was used as the pre-stable intervention period. Mid-2010 through December 2014 was used as the stable intervention period. Additional data analyzed included monthly total number of retail compliance checks, the average percent of actual underage alcohol purchases, and a calculated measure of the percent of the population under 21 years-old exposed to compliance checks each month. Drinking and driving crashes for drivers over 21 used as a control time series. Proper white noise ARIMA models were developed for both crash series.

Results. An ITS analysis of the pre-stable period compared to post-stable period was statistically significant (T=−3.76, p = .001). Overall, the results show a decline of drinking and driving crashes for drivers under 21 when compliance checks increase and when compliance checks decline crashes increase. Stable AET implementation over 78 months produced an overall 18% decline in such crashes. Also, during the pre-stable intervention period, there was a dramatic increase in compliance check enforcement followed by an equivalent decline in enforcement resulting from significant reductions in enforcement funding. A graphical examination of the dependent crash rate time series demonstrated that under-21 age driver crashes declined during the first wave of implementation and increased following a lag when enforcement declined, which provided additional empirical support for a SCAET impact on alcohol retail availability.

Impact of Alcohol Compliance Checks on Underage Alcohol-involved Crashes:
Test of a State-wide Enforcement program in South Carolina 2006-2016

Prepared for Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation, Suite 200, 11720 Beltsville Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20705, with support from internal funding for research and development, Corporate Investment Project 940418.01
June 18, 2018

Authors
01
Increased compliance checks

02
Reduction of Retail sale of alcohol to underage persons (reduced alcohol access)

03
Less underage drinking

04
Less drinking & driving crashes by underage drivers
The Relationship Between Purchase Rate and Drinking and Driving Crashes for Drivers Under 21 Years of Age
Monthly Total Compliance Checks and Under 21 Drinking and Driving Crashes

- Compliance Checks
- DUI Crashes Under 21
- 6 per. Mov. Avg. (Compliance Checks)
- 6 per. Mov. Avg. (DUI Crashes Under 21)
Continued alcohol compliance checks achieved reduction in buy rate which ultimately had a part to play in reductions in impaired driving traffic crashes

Buy rate reduced from 25% (2005) to 8.6% (2016) = 60% reduction. \(\text{Results for FY 2018} = 6.9\% \text{ or } -72.4\%\)

Impaired driving traffic crashes for > 21 year-olds decreased in 2010 through 2016

Strong downward trend in YRBS (past 30-day use, lifetime use, & binge drinking) followed after AET implementation

Current study provides strong empirical confirmatory evidence that MDLA is dependent on continued enforcement & advocacy for statewide underage drinking program with local emphasis
Limitations for study

South Carolina is private licensing state for off-premise alcohol sales. The same results may not occur in states with government operated alcohol outlets.

While study confirms need for “consistent & regular” enforcement of retail alcohol availability, dosage for compliance checks is not known.

It is not known how much statewide AET impacted underage drinking. Other factors exist (programs such as Alive @ 25 & traffic enforcement through SCLEN).

Possible two or more state research involving specific counties in each state.
What’s Next?
Sustainability and the Future of AET Training in SC
How do we plan to sustain the efforts?

- Continue to recruit & train a cadre’ of instructors using the UDETC model.
- Expand trainings for LEOs on addressing not only underage drinking but other substances as well.
- Continuously work with AET Coordinators to train new officers that join the teams (some AETs require this in AET contract).
- Encourage training to produce outcomes at state and local level.
- Actively seek “new” partnerships to train (i.e. SC Commission on Prosecution, SROs, DNR, etc.)
Environmental Prevention Strategies Reporting System

- Focus is on environmental strategies involving law enforcement: compliance checks, sobriety checkpoints, bar checks, party dispersals, shoulder taps.
- Operations-level data (nearly 10,000 operations per year).
- Replaced a paper-pencil reporting system (mailing, scanning, cleaning, and high lag-time).
- Completed by law enforcement officers in the field or by AET Coordinators at their offices.
- Real-time reports available at the state, circuit, and county levels.
- Launched in July of 2016
- Reboot scheduled for March of 2019, with user-friendly filtering and reporting.
Environmental Prevention Strategies Reporting

Coordinator Login

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Password

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Login
New Training Topics-Coming Soon in SC

- Creating Environmental Change in Communities on Alcohol – Spring 2019
- Electronic Cigarettes/Vaporizing Devices: New fads and trends, SC laws, youth use data, etc. Summer/Fall 2019
- Marijuana: New fads and trends, SC laws, youth use data, etc.
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