

WORKING TOWARD SOLUTIONS

VCBH and their partners are engaged in numerous prevention activities to address the problem of impaired driving and resulting tragedies. Below are some recent examples.

Strategy	Description
DUI Prevention Summit	VCBH brings together law enforcement, fire and other emergency responders, hospitals, MADD and other agencies to address factors that contribute to DUI and focus on collaborative prevention efforts.
Safe Bars Task Force	Multiple agencies meet quarterly to develop data-driven and collaborative approaches to reducing impaired driving.
DUI Awareness Campaigns	Posters, brochures, stickers, booklets, fotonovelas and more are developed and distributed in English and Spanish to community members to raise awareness of the consequences of DUI and how it can be prevented.
Responsible Retailer Program	This comprehensive program involves on- and off-sale alcohol licensees designed to help them stay in compliance with laws, and at the same time, maintain safe and responsible businesses.
DUI Checkpoints	“Avoid the 14” and other DUI enforcement operations are a visible deterrent and help get impaired drivers off our roads.
Designated Driver Programs	These programs provide incentives for patrons to plan their night out and <i>always</i> have someone sober behind the wheel.
Youth Outreach	VCBH will be establishing a Youth DUI Program, and in the spring of 2011 will launch “Real DUI Trials” in selected local high schools.

DESIGN: IDEA ENGINEERING



VENTURA COUNTY

PLACE OF LAST DRINK SURVEY



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SPOTLIGHT on Impaired Driving

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INTRODUCTION

This publication is dedicated to key driving under the influence (DUI) indicators for Ventura County. The primary data sources used include the:

- Ventura County DUI Program Place of Last Drink (POLD) Survey;
- California Highway Patrol (CHP) Statewide Integrated Traffic Records System (SWITRS);
- California Department of Justice, Criminal Justice Statistics Center (CJSC); and,
- California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS).

The information in this publication is intended to assist law enforcement, city and county officials, community members and local coalitions to identify issues and support practices and policies aimed at enhancing public health and safety.

However, as with many data sources these data are not without limitations. For example, although the POLD survey is conducted as an interview with DUI Program participants, rather than self-administered to increase data quality and the completion of all survey items, there is still potential for bias as with any self-report measure. That is, participants may have trouble remembering an event as time passes or may want to appear in a certain way, and therefore provide less accurate responses as a result.

Despite these possible challenges, with a large number of respondents and the long history of collecting and analyzing these data, such biases typically “wash out”. Also, using analyses that rely on large groups of respondents, while excluding rare or unusual responses, provides increased reliability of findings. Additionally, this volume of the *Spotlight* incorporates data from a variety of sources to help provide a more complete picture of the circumstances surrounding and impacts related to DUI in Ventura County.

The Place of Last Drink (POLD) findings are based on 2,244 POLD Surveys collected from Ventura County DUI Program participants arrested for impaired driving during a two-year period (January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2009). See below for additional details related to the six dashboard statistics on the right.

1) 6 Drinks

On average, participants said they consumed six drinks on the day of their arrest. Men tended to report drinking more drinks than women (7 vs. 5 drinks, respectively).

2) 0.13 BAC

Although men tended to report having more drinks, women had a slightly higher BAC than men (0.136 vs. 0.130). The average BAC when looking at women and men in aggregate was 0.131 – nearly twice the legal limit.

3) 1 in 4 under 21

Those ages 18-20 were more likely to be involved in a crash than their older counterparts. Almost one quarter (24%) of participants ages 18-20 crashed compared to only 13% of those 21-25 and 12% of those 26 and older.

4) 2,288 Crashes

In 2008, there were 1,310 alcohol-involved collisions in Ventura County. From January to October 2009, there were 978 alcohol-involved collisions (CHP-SWITRS, 2008–2009).[†]

5) 1,164 Victims

In 2008, 661 persons were injured and 36 killed by alcohol-impaired drivers. From January to October 2009, 446 were injured and 21 killed (CHP-SWITRS, 2008-2009).[†]

6) 27 out of 58 Counties

Recent OTS statistics representing the number of victims injured or killed by “had been drinking drivers” under the age of 21 in 2008 indicate that Ventura County was ranked 27 out of all 58 counties in California for having the highest number of victims in this category (i.e., a total of 96 victims were injured/killed by impaired drivers under 21 in 2008). Previously, in 2007, Ventura County was ranked 44 out of 58 with a total of 77 victims (OTS Rankings, http://www.ots.ca.gov/Media_and_Research/Rankings/default.asp).

[†]2009 is a partial year including CHP-SWITRS data available from January to October 2009.

IMPAIRED DRIVING DASHBOARD

6 Drinks

Average number of drinks consumed on the day of DUI arrest



1

0.13 BAC

Average Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) at time of arrest



2

1 in 4 under 21

Proportion of those under 21 who crashed before being arrested by law enforcement



3

2,288 Crashes

Number of alcohol-involved collisions in Ventura County in 2008–2009[†]



4

1,164 Victims

Number injured (1,107) and killed (57) by impaired drivers in Ventura County in 2008–2009[†]



5



6

46% from Bars, Clubs or Restaurants

The two most commonly reported places of last drink prior to DUI arrest among Ventura County DUI Program participants were a bar, club or restaurant (46%) or private residence (43%).

4 Hours at Place of Last Drink

DUI Program participants spent an average of four hours at their place of last drink before getting into their vehicle and driving while impaired.

7 out of 10 Drinking at 1 Location

The majority of DUI Program participants (73%) reported that they had not been drinking elsewhere before their place of last drink; most were drinking at one bar or one residence on the day of their arrest.

45% of Young Adults with Passengers

Almost half (45%) of participants ages 18–25 had at least one passenger in their vehicle when arrested for DUI. Significantly fewer (30%) of those 26 and older had passengers.

14% from Private Residences were under 21

Of those participants who reported leaving a private residence before being arrested for DUI, 14% were under legal drinking age. In fact, about three out of four (74%) DUI Program participants under 21 reported that their place of last drink was a private residence. The next most frequently mentioned locations for those under 21 were parks, beaches or campgrounds (7%), bars, clubs or restaurants (6%), and vehicles (6%).

8 Miles Driven on Average

Participants drove an average of 8 miles from their place of last drink before being stopped by law enforcement (range = 0–200).

Men: 72% Beer

About three-quarters (72%) of men reported drinking beer on the day of their arrest. The next most commonly reported drinks were shots (23%), mixed drinks (21%), wine (6%), and energy drinks (2%). (Note: The total is greater than 100% because some participants indicated drinking multiple types of drinks.)

Women: 34% Shots

Although women also reported drinking beer most frequently (39%), they were much more likely to drink shots (34%) and wine (22%) than men. The percentages of women who reported drinking mixed drinks (24%) and energy drinks (3%) were similar to the men. (Note: The total is greater than 100% because some participants indicated drinking multiple types of drinks.)

24 Outlets Account for 50% of POLD Mentions

11% of retail alcohol outlets (a total of 24 establishments) accounted for 50% of the bar, club or restaurant place of last drink mentions within Ventura County.

5,273 Arrests

In 2008, there were a total of 5,273 DUI arrests in Ventura County (i.e., 149 felony and 5,124 misdemeanor arrests). These numbers were down slightly from 5,415 DUI arrests in 2007 (i.e., 183 felony and 5,232 misdemeanor arrests) (California Department of Justice, Criminal Justice Statistics Center, <http://www.ag.ca.gov/cjsc/datatabs.htm>).

