

Since 2001, the Ventura County Behavioral Health Department's Alcohol and Drug Prevention Division has obtained an average of 180 Place of Last Drink Surveys each month from participants in the County's Drinking Driver Program. Drinking Driver Program participants are adults 18 and older who have been arrested and convicted of a Driving Under the Influence (DUI) or impaired driving offense. During their program exit interview, Drinking Driver Program clients are given the opportunity to voluntarily participate in the Place of Last Drink Survey. Available in both Spanish and English, the Place of Last Drink Survey was designed to capture information useful for identifying the places, settings and circumstances associated with impaired driving. An estimated 90 percent of all Drinking Driver Program participants complete a Place of Last Drink Survey.

As part of an ongoing commitment to data-driven planning and evaluation, the Ventura County Behavioral Health Department's Alcohol and Drug Prevention Division reviews and utilizes Place of Last Drink data to shape prevention activities countywide and measure the impact of their efforts. Selected findings from the Place of Last Drink database are extracted and summarized periodically for publication in the SPOTLIGHT. This information is intended to assist law enforcement, city and county officials, community members and local coalitions to identify issues and support policies aimed at enhancing public health and safety.

FOCUS OF THE CURRENT ISSUE: BAR, CLUB OR RESTAURANT AS PLACE OF LAST DRINK

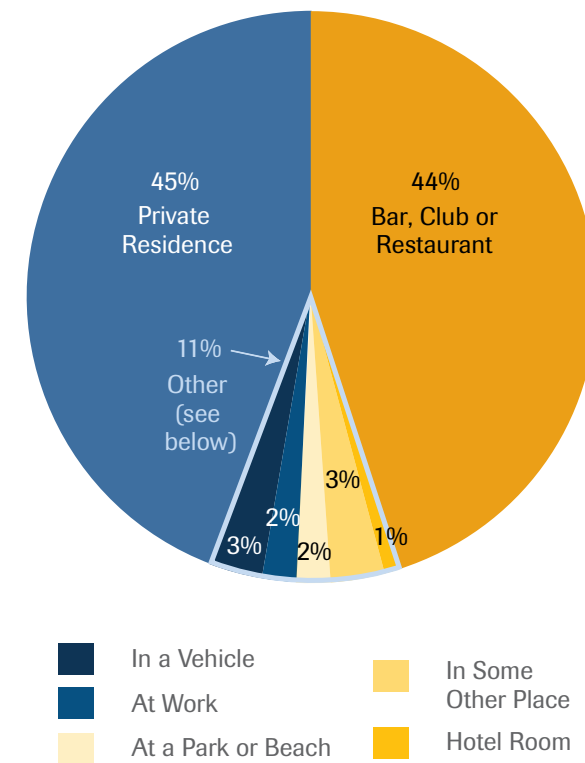
A key item on the Place of Last Drink Survey asks respondents to report where they had consumed their last drink prior to arrest. The two most commonly reported places of last drink among all respondents were in a private residence (45%) or at a bar, club or restaurant (44%). The remainder reported that they had been drinking elsewhere, such as in a vehicle (3%), at a park or beach (2%), at work (2%), in a hotel room (1%), or "in some other place" (3%), which includes locales such as a golf course or the Staples Center, for example.

In this issue of the SPOTLIGHT, data collected from Drinking Driver Program participants reporting that their Place of Last Drink was a bar, club or restaurant are highlighted.

Selected findings are presented on the following pages from 3,535 Drinking Driver Program participants completing their program between May 2005 and December 2006.

Figure 1.

Place of Last Drink (N = 3,535)



USING RESEARCH TO SUPPORT PREVENTION POLICY

The Ventura County Behavioral Health Department's Alcohol and Drug Prevention Division believes that the best solutions to community AOD problems are data-driven and community-involved.

As part of their commitment to addressing underage and binge drinking in Ventura County, the Prevention Division launched a community partnership for responsible alcohol policies and practices known as Ventura County Limits which includes community coalitions, elected officials, law enforcement, colleges and universities, youth and young adults.

CONTACT US

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SELECTED FINDINGS

- Persons whose Place of Last Drink was a bar, club or restaurant had, on average, a significantly higher BAC at time of arrest compared with those who reported drinking anywhere else prior to arrest. One third of those who were drinking at a bar, club or restaurant had a BAC twice the legal limit or more. More than one-quarter (26%) reported that their BAC was between .16 and .23 at time of arrest. An additional 7% had a BAC of .24 or greater.
- Those who had been drinking at a bar, club or restaurant reported consuming fewer numbers of drinks compared with those drinking somewhere else, yet reported higher Blood Alcohol Concentrations. Persons whose Place of Last Drink was a retail alcohol establishment (i.e., bar, club or restaurant) reported drinking distilled spirits/hard liquor more often. More than half (55%) of those coming from bars, clubs or restaurants indicated that they had been drinking mixed drinks or shots compared with 39% of those who had been drinking elsewhere. Alcohol content, serving size, and "heavy pouring" may all contribute to this phenomenon.
- Females were more likely to have been drinking at a bar, club or restaurant. While males make up the majority of Drinking Driver Program participants, females more often reported that their Place of Last Drink was a bar, club or restaurant as opposed to any of the other possible "last drink" locations.
- Those coming from a bar, club or restaurant were more likely to have a passenger in the car with them. Just under half (45%) had at least one passenger with them at time of arrest, compared with only one-third of those who had been drinking at other locations just prior to arrest.
- Most Drinking Driver Program participants were arrested in Ventura County. Four out of 5 Drinking Driver Program participants were arrested in Ventura County regardless of whether they had been drinking at a bar, club or restaurant or another type of location. No differences were found in how many miles persons had driven prior to arrest. The typical Drinking Driver Program participant had driven eight miles from where he or she had last been drinking prior to being stopped by law enforcement.

COMPARING YOUNGER AND OLDER DDP PARTICIPANTS

- Locations of Place of Last Drink bars, clubs and restaurants differed according to age. Younger adults (18 to 25) reported drinking at bars, clubs and restaurants in Thousand Oaks, Simi Valley, and Camarillo while older participants (26 and up) mentioned establishments in Oxnard more often (Figure 2). Approximately equal percentages of younger and older adults reported drinking at bars, clubs or restaurants in the cities of Ventura and Ojai. For those areas outside of Ventura County, younger adults mentioned Santa Barbara and Hollywood more often.
- Younger adults were more likely to drink a combination of beer, mixed drinks or shots, and/or wine. While less than 20% of those 26 and older reported drinking multiple forms of alcohol prior to arrest, 29% of those 18 to 25 years old indicated that they had consumed a variety of types of alcohol at the bar, club or restaurant where they had been drinking.
- Younger adults were more likely to have passengers with them. At time of arrest, almost 60% of those aged 18 to 25 had one or more passengers with them compared with 40% of adults 26 and older who reported that their Place of Last Drink was a bar, club or restaurant.

Figure 2: Cities/Locations of Most Commonly Mentioned Bars, Clubs or Restaurants as Place of Last Drink, Comparing Younger and Older Drinking Driver Program Participants

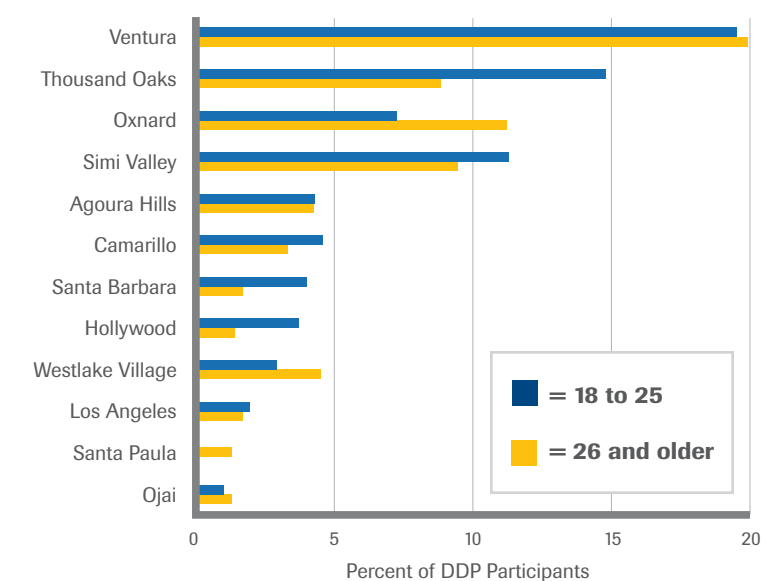


Figure 3.

Frequency and Location of Bars, Clubs or Restaurants in Ventura County Reported on the Place of Last Drink Survey



BAR, CLUB OR RESTAURANT LOCATIONS

Table 1: Bars, Clubs or Restaurants in Ventura County Reported on the Place of Last Drink Survey

Bars, Clubs and Restaurants in Ventura County Reported on the POLD Survey	Number of Times City Mentioned as Location of POLD Bar, Club or Restaurant	Number of Unique Bars, Clubs or Restaurants Mentioned per City	Number of Licensed Retail (On-sale Only) Alcohol Establishments*
Ventura	299	67	225
Thousand Oaks	205	44	140
Oxnard	163	64	151
Simi Valley	153	36	129
Camarillo	55	26	95
Santa Paula	15	9	27
Ojai	9	9	35
Port Hueneme	6	5	23
Fillmore	4	3	12
Moorpark	4	3	32

*Source: California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control, January 2007.

Place of Last Drink survey data are collected by Ventura County Behavioral Health Department's Drinking Driver Program staff with administrative oversight by Division Manager Patrick Zarate. The Ventura County SPOTLIGHT is developed by Dr. Kristen Donovan and Dr. Julie Slay of EVALCORP Research & Consulting. EVALCORP works with Ventura County's Alcohol and Drug Prevention Division on a number of key projects, assisting the Division through gathering, analyzing, and making use of critical data to effectively identify needs, develop policy solutions, and assess the impact of their prevention initiatives.

- Most of the Place of Last Drink bars, clubs or restaurants are within Ventura County. Seventy percent of all the bars, clubs or restaurants mentioned on the Place of Last Drink Survey are within Ventura County. Outside the county, frequently mentioned Place of Last Drink bars, clubs, or restaurants were located in the cities of Agoura Hills, Santa Barbara, Hollywood and Los Angeles.
- Four cities in Ventura County account for more than half (51%) of all bars, clubs or restaurants mentioned as participants' Place of Last Drink. The cities of Ventura, Thousand Oaks, Oxnard and Simi Valley account for 74% of all retail on-sale alcohol licenses in the County, suggesting that those who drank last at a bar, club or restaurant are doing so in a city where a majority of these types of establishments are located. However, in each city, different proportions of unique bars, clubs or restaurants are mentioned on the Place of Last Drink Survey compared with the total number of licensed retail (on-sale only) alcohol establishments (Table 1).
- In Ventura County, Place of Last Drink bars, clubs, or restaurants tended to cluster along Highway 101 and Highway 118. Over 80% of bars, clubs or restaurants mentioned most frequently on the Place of Last Drink Survey were within one mile of either the Hwy 101 (64%) or Hwy 118 (17%) corridor (Figure 3).

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The Alcohol and Drug Prevention Division



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PLACE OF LAST DRINK SURVEY

SPOTLIGHT: Bars, Clubs and Restaurants

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