

The OJJDP Judicial and Probation Outreach Project

Underage alcohol use is a serious health and safety problem that requires vigilance and action throughout the enforcement and judicial system. Judges at many levels of the justice system have contact with adolescents and have the opportunity to anticipate and/or intervene in alcohol use and abuse by adolescents. The OJJDP Judicial and Probation Outreach Project (JPOP) endeavors to increase the knowledge of judges and others in the justice system regarding:

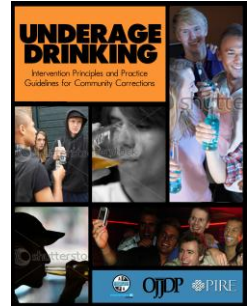
- *The nature, scope and evolving trends of underage drinking.*
- *Adolescent brain development and the range of serious consequences.*
- *The impact of parental substance use on children including encouraging appropriate intervention.*
- *Treatment for parents who are before the courts in order to decrease the risk of underage drinking among these children.*
- *Awareness of family stress factors that can increase the risk of alcohol use among vulnerable youth.*
- *Identification of alcohol use disorders and the importance of early access to treatment for at risk youth.*
- *Importance of supporting community-wide environmental strategies and enforcement in protecting youth and community safety.*

About the Project

The Judicial and Probation Outreach Project (JPOP), has been actively recognizing the key role that judges can play in reducing underage drinking and works to support meaningful and effective judicial engagement from November 2007 to October 2011. A review of the literature and existing programming in 2007 revealed that there were no programs in place to provide support the judicial community around the complex issue of underage drinking. Since 2007, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency prevention has administered this program to provide information, training, and technical assistance to further the project goals.

Newly Developed Judicial Document

In collaboration with the Judicial Project, a resource document entitled Intervention Principles and Practice Guidelines for Community Corrections has been developed for a 2011 release date. This document is a comprehensive compendium of information to guide judges in issues related to dealing with alcohol use by underage drinkers. A series of brief bulletins summarizing the information in this compendium is in process. These documents will serve as a key resource to alert judges to the issues related to adolescent alcohol use and provide practical guidance in how to approach these issues.



Project Accomplishments

The JPOP is the first comprehensive center to provide continuous support and education to judges, judicial educators, law clerks, state's

attorneys and probation agents about the complexities of underage drinking and its relationship to other risk behaviors and youth-community safety. Since its inception, the project has gathered, synthesized and disseminated information to judges through a variety of communication channels helping increasing numbers of judges to engage actively in an educated judicial response. The project has accomplished the following:

- *Disseminated emerging knowledge quarterly through Judicial eNews.*
- *Posted regular articles and case studies on www.UDETC.org.*
- *Expanded a growing audience of nearly 10,000 individuals with each publication*
- *Responded to strategic and special requests about special courts and other topics from over 1,500 individuals.*
- *Developed a speaker's bureau of judges to educate their peers on the topic of UAD adjudication, policy, law and implications.*
- *Trained over 3,500 members of the judicial community*
- *Webinars are archived on www.UDETC.org for continuing use.*
- *Provided live training at judicial conferences.*
- *Developed and maintains a collaborative relationship with judicial educators and juvenile court organizations.*
- *Produced judicial case studies highlighting innovative practices.*
- *Provided speakers to communities desiring to hear more about the issue of underage alcohol use and the role that judges can take.*

This project has been carried out through the combined efforts of the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation and the American Probation and Parole Association under the supervision of OJJDP. More information can be ascertained at www.udetc.org by clicking on the Judicial Project tab.

On the Forefront

As the first in its field, The JPOP provides the judicial community with a comprehensive center for acquiring research based information and a peer roundtable of national best judicial practices. It has played a critically important role in preventing underage drinking and completes the circle in the education of communities toward the importance of supporting the enforcement of underage drinking laws for the public safety.

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