

Enforcing the Underage Drinking Laws Program (EUDL)

Office of Substance Abuse

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

The Issue in Maine:

According to the 2009 MIYHS:

- ❑ Only 15.6% of high school students in Maine believe that underage drinkers in their community are likely to be caught by police (youth who believe they won't be caught are 1.5 times as likely to use alcohol as those who believe they will be caught).
- ❑ 67.5% of high school students report that it would be easy for them to get alcohol if they wanted to (youth who believe alcohol is easy to get are 2.5 times as likely to use alcohol as those who believe alcohol is hard to get).
- ❑ Among students who think that they will not be caught by their parents if they drink some alcohol, 49% had consumed alcohol in the past 30 days, compared with 15% of students who think they will be caught by their parents. Students who think they will not be caught by their parents are 3.3 times as likely to drink.



Maryann Harakall, MPPM
Prevention Specialist
11 State House Station
41 Anthony Avenue
Augusta, Maine 04333-0011
Telephone: 207-287-2595
TTY: 207-287-4475
Fax: 207-287-8910
osa.ircosa@maine.gov

For more information: www.maineosa.org

The Office of Substance Abuse is responsible for designing and implementing strategies to reduce underage drinking in Maine. An annual grant from the U.S. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's, Enforcing the Underage Drinking Laws Program (EUDL) supports the core components that focus primarily on changing certain aspects of the environment that encourage and enable underage drinking and on increasing the effectiveness of enforcement of alcohol-related laws.

Program Goals:

- ❑ To increase the perception among youth that they will be caught by police if they use alcohol illegally.
- ❑ To decrease underage access to alcohol.
- ❑ To increase youth perceptions that their parents will catch them if they use alcohol without their permission.
- ❑ To increase youth perceptions that adults in their community believe underage drinking is wrong.

Priority Populations:

Youth under age 21 and adults who provide alcohol to minors or provide places for minors to consume. Law enforcement, parents, merchants, and other adults in Maine communities who can take action to prevent youth alcohol use and related high-risk behavior.

Program Activities:

- ❑ Assess and monitor the issues, needs, and resources regarding underage drinking in Maine
- ❑ Provide law enforcement minigrants for "Strategic Underage Drinking Enforcement" initiatives
- ❑ Organize and staff the Underage Drinking Enforcement Task Force
- ❑ Support the Higher Education Alcohol Prevention Partnership.
- ❑ Analyze policy options, at both state and local levels, for increasing the effectiveness of enforcement of underage drinking laws
- ❑ Develop and provide technical assistance and trainings for law enforcement partners and community coalitions implementing environmental strategies to reduce underage drinking
- ❑ Partner with other stakeholders on strategies to strengthen retailers' efforts to reduce underage access to alcohol
- ❑ Support Card ME, a responsible retailing program
- ❑ Support statewide compliance checks
- ❑ Oversee the implementation of the Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws Assessment, Strategic Planning, and Implementation Initiative

January 2011