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## What is the EUDL program?

OJJDP's EUDL program supports and enhances efforts by States and local jurisdictions to reduce the availability of alcohol to minors. The program encourages close partnerships between law enforcement agencies and community groups involved in preventing and intervening in underage drinking. OJJDP also offers comprehensive training and technical assistance to guide States and communities in their efforts. The EUDL initiative is the only Federal program devoted exclusively to preventing alcohol consumption by minors.

Learn more at  
[ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/eudl](http://ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/eudl).

## Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws Program

Tragic social consequences can result when youth use alcohol. Underage drinking contributes to youth violence, traffic injuries and fatalities, crime, suicide, high-risk sex, and a host of other problems. In 2005, underage drinkers (defined as individuals younger than 21 years old) consumed 15 percent of all alcohol sold in the United States (Miller, 2006).

To address this serious problem, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's (OJJDP's) Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws (EUDL) program helps the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the 5 U.S. territories prevent underage drinking by emphasizing law enforcement.

## Authorizing Legislation

The statutory authority for the EUDL program may be found in Section 504 of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

Act of 2002, 42 U.S.C. 5783 and 5665-5667 and legislation appropriating funding for each fiscal year. From 1998 to 2009, Congress appropriated \$25 million annually for the EUDL program. Congress granted OJJDP the authority to administer the EUDL program in 1998.

## Eligibility

OJJDP's EUDL program awards two types of funding:

- *Block grants*—allocated annually to States for the general purpose of supporting the enforcement of underage drinking laws. The States and the District of Columbia are eligible to receive block grants. Each State's chief executive (i.e., the Governor) must designate an agency to apply for these funds. In FY 2008 and FY 2009, the five territories—Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Northern Mariana Islands—also received block grant awards.



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- *Discretionary grants*—awarded competitively to State agencies that administer the EUDL block grants program, including those with active EUDL discretionary program grants, to support the demonstration of best or promising practices at the local level. All States (but not the District of Columbia or the five territories) are eligible to apply for discretionary grants.

## EUDL Activities

OJJDP's EUDL program includes block grants, discretionary grants, training and technical assistance, and evaluations.

### Block Grants Program

Under the EUDL block grants program, each State, the District of Columbia, and the five territories received \$360,000 in FY 2009, totaling more than \$20 million for the program.

These EUDL funds support three types of activities: law enforcement task forces, media campaigns, and innovative programs. Many States focus on law enforcement, emphasizing compliance checks of retail alcohol outlets. Other enforcement activities include crackdowns on false identification, programs to deter older youth or adults from providing alcohol to minors, party patrols to prevent drinking at large gatherings, "cops in shops" to keep minors from purchasing alcohol, youth-focused campaigns to enforce impaired driving laws, and investigations to determine the source of alcohol and hold the responsible party accountable for their role in alcohol-related incidents. The funds also support public education programs and innovative methods for reaching youth.

### Discretionary Grants

EUDL discretionary grants support varied initiatives, all aimed at helping communities use a comprehensive approach to address underage drinking. To date, a total of 30 States have received discretionary funding, reaching approximately 300 communities.

In an effort to address underage drinking issues in college communities, FY 2008 EUDL discretionary funding aims to reduce the availability of alcoholic beverages to and the consumption

## *EUDL Funds at Work*

### Alcohol Enforcement Teams (South Carolina)

South Carolina has implemented Alcohol Enforcement Teams (AETs), multijurisdictional partnerships that use best-practice enforcement strategies to reduce underage drinking. These strategies include enforcement compliance checks, party patrols, merchant education, and publicity of such activities through the news media. In 2006, South Carolina used EUDL funds to expand the number of counties involved in the program. In 2007, the State allocated \$1.6 million to create AETs in all 16 counties in the State. By October 2007, all of the teams were active.

Only 5 months into FY 2008, State totals for various activities had surpassed those for all of FY 2007. Compliance checks—visits to ensure merchants comply with underage drinking

laws—had increased 90 percent, to a total of 2,559 checks; 185 public safety checkpoints had been operated; and more than 11,500 tickets had been issued for various alcohol-related offenses. In addition, 1,245 merchants in one county had been trained through a merchant education program.

### Youth in Action (Illinois)

Youth are a driving force in Dewitt County's efforts to reduce underage drinking. The rural county, with a population of 16,000, is in central Illinois and is participating in the EUDL Rural Communities Initiative. The Youth in Action (YIA) group has worked over the past 3 years with the Dewitt County Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (MADD) coalition and the EUDL Rural Project to implement a variety of environmental strategies to educate their community on the dangers of underage drinking. During the project period, 18 high school

of alcoholic beverages by university and college students younger than 21 years old in three States—Illinois, Nevada, and South Carolina. Each State is establishing partnerships with university/college campuses and adjacent communities to implement research-based and promising practices. The initiative aims to decrease the number of first-time alcohol-related incidents, decrease the incidence of unintentional injuries related to alcohol consumption among underage persons, and reduce alcohol-related traffic injuries or fatalities among underage persons.

In 2006, OJJDP formed a partnership with the U.S. Air Force to prevent underage military personnel from purchasing and consuming alcohol. OJJDP awarded more than \$1 million in discretionary EUDL grants to Arizona, California, Hawaii, and Montana to support partnerships between select civilian communities and Air Force bases in these States to reduce underage drinking and alcohol-related misconduct by underage airmen. In FY 2009, OJJDP expanded its partnership with the Air Force when it made available nearly \$1 million to up to four States for a 3-year grant period.

Launched with FY 2004 and FY 2005 EUDL discretionary funding, the Rural Communities Initiative has been implemented in seven States—California, Illinois, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Pennsylvania, and Washington. The initiative is nearing conclusion of its program efforts to establish or enhance research-based practices to enforce underage drinking laws in rural communities.

### Training and Technical Assistance

The training and technical assistance component of the EUDL program has been instrumental in helping communities and States enforce underage drinking laws around the country. OJJDP's Underage Drinking Enforcement and Training Center (UDETTC), managed by the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation, provides publications, training workshops, curriculums, regional meetings, national conferences, onsite strategic technical assistance, teleconferences, online resources, and other services. In FY 2008, UDETTC conducted 97 trainings, reaching more than 3,000 individuals in 29 States.

In FY 2009, UDETTC will launch the Youth Council, a new youth leadership initiative. The goal of this initiative is to provide youth ages 15 to 18 with effective prevention tools and strong leadership skills to support their efforts to prevent and reduce underage drinking in their communities.

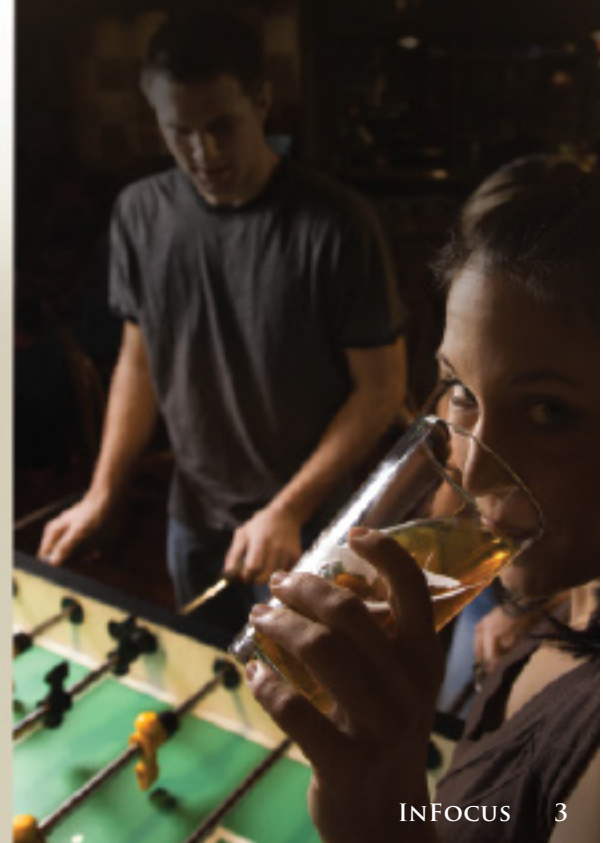
YIA members met twice a month with the EUDL project coordinator and once a month with the MADD coalition.

YIA members worked with local law enforcement on the planning and implementation of compliance checks on every licensed liquor retail business in the county. The YIA members also designed and implemented a program where they met with alcohol retailers and received permission from 87 percent of them to place warning stickers on packaged alcohol. The members also worked as decoys on shoulder tap operations throughout the county. As a result of these collaborative actions, three communities in the county adopted new ordinances raising the fine for selling alcohol to minors and requiring second-time offenders to attend mandatory training sessions.

## Alcohol Consumption by Youth in the United States

Underage drinking is widespread in the United States. Approximately 12.5 million underage youth drink each year. In 2007, according to self-reports by U.S. students in grades 9–12 (CDC, 2007):

- 75 percent had at least one drink of alcohol on one or more days during their life.
- 44.7 percent had at least one drink of alcohol on one or more occasions in the past 30 days.
- 26 percent had five or more drinks of alcohol in a row (i.e., binge drinking) in the past 30 days.
- 4.1 percent had at least one drink of alcohol on school property on one or more of the past 30 days.







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## Evaluation

The Wake Forest University School of Medicine is conducting an evaluation of the EUDL Community Trials Initiative. Under this initiative, OJJDP funded 5 States to support the implementation of best or promising practices for increasing the enforcement of underage drinking laws and preventing underage drinking in 34 communities. This initiative is being evaluated using a randomized community trial design and includes process and impact evaluation efforts. The researchers expect to release evaluation findings in 2009.

Researchers funded by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism are conducting an evaluation of the Rural Communities Initiative and the military discretionary program.

of EUDL funds and to improve program performance. Performance data also highlight programs that have been particularly effective, providing a valuable model for other initiatives. The sidebar “EUDL Funds at Work” describes two EUDL-funded programs that are helping families, communities, and law enforcement work together to prevent underage drinking. These programs are just two examples of the success of many EUDL-funded initiatives nationwide.

## References

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). 2007. Youth Risk Behavior Survey System. Retrieved March 24, 2009, from [www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/yrbs/pdf/yrbs07\\_us\\_alcohol\\_use\\_trend.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/yrbs/pdf/yrbs07_us_alcohol_use_trend.pdf).

Miller, T.R., Levy, D.T., Spicer, R.S., and Taylor, D.M. 2006. Societal costs of underage drinking. *Journal of Studies on Alcohol* 67(4):519–528. Cited in “Underage Drinking Costs,” at UDETC Web site. Retrieved March 27, 2009, from [www.udetc.org/UnderageDrinkingCosts.asp](http://www.udetc.org/UnderageDrinkingCosts.asp).

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Assistance; the Bureau of Justice Statistics; the Community Capacity Development Office; the National Institute of Justice; the Office for Victims of Crime; and the Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking (SMART).

## Performance Measures

OJJDP requires all States and territories that receive EUDL funds to submit annual performance data. OJJDP expects grantees to use this data to adjust their administration

## For More Information on the EUDL Program

To learn more about OJJDP’s EUDL program, visit [ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/eudl](http://ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/eudl).

For information about how to access EUDL funds that have been awarded to your State, or to request OJJDP-sponsored training and technical assistance, contact your State’s Juvenile Justice Specialist or EUDL Coordinator. Contact information is available on the OJJDP Web site.

- Visit [ojjdp.ncjrs.gov](http://ojjdp.ncjrs.gov).
- Click on “State Contacts” in the left navigation panel.
- Select the checkbox next to “Juvenile Justice Specialist” or “EUDL Coordinator.”
- Click on your State in the map provided.

Contact information is also available on the UDETC Web site.

- Visit [www.udetc.org](http://www.udetc.org).
- Click on “State Information” in the left navigation panel.
- Click on your State in the map provided.

For information about other OJJDP programs, go to [www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ojjdp](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ojjdp).

