

CDC Town Hall Teleconference

Binge Drinking Among Women and High School Girls
Q&A

January 15, 2013
2:00 pm–3:00 pm EST

Coordinator: Thank you and currently showing no questions, but as a reminder, star 1 to ask a question at this time. Again, please unmute your phone and record your name. Star 1 for questions. One moment please.

We do have questions coming through. One moment please. Our first question is from Anita Joseph. Your line is open. Please make sure your phone is unmuted at this time.

Anita Joseph: Hi. This is Anita. I have a question regarding if anybody has worked on social host ordinances on the call because early on in the third presentation I believe or maybe in the very beginning, they were talking about access to alcohol.

Diane Riibe: Am I on? This is Diane.

Rich Schieber: You're on.

Diane Riibe: We haven't specifically, Anita, worked on it. I know exactly what you're referring to. It certainly is an opportunity for communities to look at the availability of the alcohol through social environments and it's also a very important component to community strategy.

Rich Schieber: Can any one of the two of you tell us a little bit about such programs?

Diane Riibe: Go ahead Anita.

Anita Joseph: Okay. Well we've had a not a successful attempt a couple of years ago of passing an ordinance but we will be revisiting that, but generally what they do is these ordinances will hold adults liable.

It can be financially liable. There are different kinds of ordinances. We'd want one that was just a civil ordinance for financial liability if kids are drinking in their homes.

And there are many different ways of doing these ordinances and whether or not they, you know, apply to people who have open, I shouldn't say their homes, their properties whether they have open land or if you're a rural community like we are or if we're going to address apartments, that kind of thing.

But generally, it's to hold adults accountable if there is drinking on their property or in their homes. The enforcement part of that they would need to have in the ordinance as was suggested in this third presentation, some sort of response recovery cost because if you call out people, law enforcement to act on a complaint or a call it's costly.

So in order, part of the fine if a person were guilty, part of the fine would be in the recovery response cost. And then there is...

Diane Riibe: Can I clarify? Can I clarify just quickly Anita?

Anita Joseph: Sure.

Diane Riibe: For the social availability as opposed to the retail availability. It also differs from dram shop which provides a civil recovery at a different level, so this is a

local, community-wide ordinance that provides a financial penalty if a parent or other adult would provide in some fashion a party environment. So it's...

Anita Joseph: Right.

Diane Riibe: ...yes.

Rich Schieber: Let me ask. Has anyone else on the phone had any experience in this type of program?

Diane Riibe: I've worked with a lot of communities that have worked on it, so it's a pretty common ordinance for local communities to work if they're looking at social availability.

Rich Schieber: Well, can you say anything about its relative effectiveness?

Diane Riibe: I don't know that I know that specifically. I think the CDC guide really reflects the most effective component. I think what's important is really stating that community-wide standard.

And so if you have an ordinance in place, be it an alcohol outlet density ordinance, which of course is much different, much broader, looks at those who are licensed to sell their product as opposed to individual parents. I think the effectiveness is probably not in the same category.

Rich Schieber: Okay, thank you. Back to you Operator.

Coordinator: Thank you, and I believe Alex has got a question or comment on that. I'll open his line. Alex Tapia, your line is open.

Alex Tapia: This is Alex Tapia with Texans Standing Tall. I just wanted to let you all know we do, we are working in Texas and social host ordinances. We're working with six communities across the state.

And we're encouraging most of them to follow the process in which you start with that data collection piece and build the case statement that you need a social host ordinance that alcohol is a substance of choice, that social access is where most youth are getting it from. And that a social host ordinance is the route, a route to be able to help reduce access.

Rich Schieber: Operator?

Coordinator: Thank you, and moving to the next question. Tiffany Wiggins, your line is open.

Tiffany Wiggins: Yes, hello. My name is Tiffany Wiggins. I'm from the Power of Youth. Can you hear me?

Diane Riibe: Yes.

Rich Schieber: Yes.

Tiffany Wiggins: My question is, I have a project that I'm working on with UNC Chapel Hill. It's called the (Andrew Free North Carolina Academy, Building of Capacity). And my specific project is on merchant education, and we pretty much have just done the logistic part of what we're trying to do and trying to move into implementing.

And my question is especially to the people that did the shoulder tap. I'm not sure which one it was, but that's one of the components that I'm supposed to

be using in my project, and I just wanted to know if you could provide me with some advice or some type of direction as far as moving my project forward.

Diane Riibe: And I'd be happy, this is Diane. I'd be happy to do that, and I'd be happy to do that even offline. But I will say the merchant education, while important if it lacks the strong enforcement component just isn't as effective, so you would want to make certain you had a strong enforcement component.

Shoulder tapping again looks at third party provision of alcohol as opposed to both the retail and the kind of other social that we were referring to earlier, so it's even broader and I'd be happy to talk about it more and certainly welcome to make contact with me.

Tiffany Wiggins: I would like that, if I could get some contact information.

Diane Riibe: And that should be on the website. I'm assuming we have that available. Is that correct?

Tiffany Wiggins: I'm looking at the PowerPoint, but which one were you.

Diane Riibe: I'm, this is Diane, I'm the last presenter.

Tiffany Wiggins: Diane?

Diane Riibe: Yes.

Tiffany Wiggins: And what's your last name?

Diane Riibe: Riibe. R-I-I-B, like boy, and then E.

Tiffany Wiggins: Okay. I appreciate that because I need a little bit of some help.

Rich Schieber: That's what this is for.

Diane Riibe: Great.

Rich Schieber: Operator, next question please.

Coordinator: Thank you. Once again, just as a reminder, star 1 for questions. Next question is from Becky Porter. Your line is open.

Becky Porter: Hi, this is a quick question for Dr. Peterson. I'm just curious know what alcohol screening tool was used for women in clinic in your project.

Karen Peterson: We, yes, we basically adapted the expert questions, which really were just saying we're looking over a three month window collecting actually both within the last month and within the last three months.

And you certainly can argue about, you know, do you want to look at a different window, but that sort of, you know, within the parameters of the grant. So within the last three months, have you had four or more drinks on a single occasion? So even a single positive, or a single yes occasion is a positive.

Or on an average week, how many drinks do you usually drink? And then our clinicians were actually going through and helping people figure that one out because people don't know if they have a good handle on it. It's like, well how many days are you likely to drink?

How many drinks do you like to have on those days, to come up with that number? And they are eight or more.

Becky Porter: Thank you.

Karen Peterson: Sure.

Coordinator: We do have another question coming through. One moment please. The next question is from Margo Singer. Your line is open.

Margo Singer: Thank you. This is Margo Singer in New York. By the way we've had a dozen or more local governments and counties pass social host laws. We haven't been able to activate that at the state level, but it's been very successful in communities.

And they have seen, you know, arrests and, you know, a good enforcement of that. I do have a comment and a question. I'm really fond of alcohol taxes. It's a good environmental strategy, but it's just so hard these days with I think many states looking at filling state deficits and, you know, poor budget situations by, you know, increasing taxes.

So, you know, I think it's good that the tax increases can certainly reduce consumption but I would really love to see the tax money that's generated go to prevention efforts.

So I am curious to know if anybody has experience with that, and then I just would like to know if the CDC can comment anymore about any sorts of funding, RFPs or anything to help build state capacity that might be coming down the pike.

Rich Schieber: Dr. Kanny?

Dafna Kanny: Yes. I'll confer the funding question to our team lead, Dr. Bob Brewer.

Bob Brewer: Yes. Good afternoon. This is Bob Brewer and Margo thank you for your question. First of all, we're very interested in trying to build state public health capacity, particularly in alcohol epidemiology and are hoping to be in a position to fund more states to build that capacity.

As it is right now we are funding two states, New Mexico and Michigan, but unfortunately at this point don't yet have the funds to fund additional states although that is certainly something we are striving to do.

Also I want to just make a very quick comment. You were asking about alcohol taxes. It is admittedly a controversial intervention and one that of course we would suggest that communities and states need to make their own decision about whether it's right for them.

But there actually have been a number of states that have been looking at tax increases. Maryland is one that recently increased their sales taxes, but other states including Illinois and Massachusetts have also been engaged in tax, increasing their alcohol excess taxes as has Alaska.

So in fact there have been a number of states have moved forward with some tax increase. You were talking about the use of those monies for prevention.

Margo Singer: Right.

Bob Brewer: That, how those funds are going to be used is usually part of the legislative negotiation process as you might guess and the way those funds have been

allocated has varied across states. But certainly prevention, treatment would be among the different ways that those funds could be utilized.

Margo Singer: Thank you.

Coordinator: I'm showing no further questions on the phone.

Rich Schieber: Thank you. If everyone would please turn to page 23 which is slide 46, I wouldn't be doing my job as *Vital Signs* Science Coordinator if I didn't put in a plug. So here it is. We encourage you to become a fan on Facebook, and you'll see the URL there.

We would love to have you interact with us on Twitter, and tomorrow at 2:00 pm, Dr. Frieden, CDC director, will host an hour Twitter session and that would be a great time for you to jump in. We would encourage you to syndicate *Vital Signs* on your website so that you can have automatic updates arrive.

And if you wanted to have interactive buttons and banners that would highlight *Vital Signs*, there's a website for that, too, from our social media group. I'd like to also then on the next slide encourage you to keep up with public health practice stories from the field and the way to do that is on that URL website also.

And finally, we are an interactive organization and we do appreciate your feedback. We make changes based on feedback from you, so if you'd like to tell us anything about what you'd like to hear or a different format, any of those things for this OSTLTS Town Hall teleconference.

Please let us know, and you see a URL there, too. So if there aren't any other questions, I want to say thanks to our three presenters and especially thanks for everyone spending this hour together. I know what it means to take an hour out of a day for people and public health.

And I do appreciate it and the folks in the field are doing great work, and we appreciate that as well. If there's nothing else, I'm going to conclude this conference, and thank you again.

Coordinator: You know, we actually did have a last minute question come through on the phones. Tiffany Wiggins, your line is open.

Tiffany Wiggins: Yes, I want to know if we would get a certificate for this training.

Rich Schieber: We're checking on the answer for that. Just one moment please.

Tiffany Wiggins: Okay, and also my colleague was on the call, but I only gave my name so can I add her information now?

Rich Schieber: The colleague who you like to get information from, you mean Diane?

Tiffany Wiggins: No, my, I have a colleague in the office who with me was listening in, but I only gave my name when I called in.

Rich Schieber: Oh, I see. Sure. Operator, can you take that after we all hang up? Would that be all right?

Coordinator: I can. Thank you.

Rich Schieber: Okay, great.

Tiffany Wiggins: Thank you.

Rich Schieber: So you stay on the phone, we'll do that. In terms of your first question, we regret that we don't have the capacity to give CU credit for this, but who knows? That's an area of importance to us as well, so thank you for the prompt.

Diane Riibe: Yes, something we could explore.

Tiffany Wiggins: Okay, thank you.

Rich Schieber: Okay, any other questions?

Coordinator: I'm showing no further questions.

Rich Schieber: All right. Well thank you all very much, and we hope to hear from you next month at our town hall teleconferences. Bye-bye.

Coordinator: Thank you. This does conclude the conference today. You may disconnect at this time.