Oxnard/Port Hueneme
Place of Last Drink Study

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Prepared for:
Oxnard Police Department
Regional Roadside Sobriety Checkpoint Program
Oxnard-Port Hueneme Community Action Coalition

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Oxnard/Port Hueneme Place of Last Drink Survey

This study investigates where, when, and by whom alcoholic beverages were consumed by drivers in the Oxnard/Port Hueneme area just prior to their arrests for driving under the influence of alcoholic beverages (DUI). The study has been conducted for the Oxnard Police Department’s Roadside Sobriety Checkpoint Program, funded by the California Office of Traffic Safety.

This report summarizes the results of a survey of drinking drivers enrolled in drinking-driver classes conducted by the Ventura County Alcohol and Drug Program Drinking Driver program for the Oxnard-Port Hueneme area. From June, 1997, through February, 1998, a questionnaire was distributed to all enrollees attending the program’s First Offender and Multiple Offender classes. Questionnaires were administered by Drinking Driver program staff to enrollees at intake or, for persons enrolled at the time the survey commenced, at their next face-to-face meeting with their counselor. The questionnaires were sent to CLEW Associates, Berkeley, California, for analysis.

Data were collected from a total of 536 DUI offenders, including 235 participants in the First Offender program, 143 participants in the Multiple Offender program (persons convicted more than once of DUI), and 158 respondents enrolled in one or the other program who did not indicate whether they were first-time or multiple offenders. Of these respondents, 461 (86 percent) report their address as Oxnard or Port Hueneme. This survey’s findings apply just to the geographic area including these cities and the adjacent unincorporated parts of the county covered by the VC-ADP’s drinking-driver program for this area. Findings reported here are strongly influenced by police patrol patterns (where and when law enforcement officers are on patrol), particularly by DUI enforcement activities.

The survey focuses on environmental circumstances associated with drinking and driving. Local law enforcement officials and prevention planners can do much to reduce the likelihood of drinking and driving if they know about the locations, types of settings, and times at which drinking-driving occurs. This information provided by this survey can help set up checkpoints, develop appropriate training programs for social hosts and commercial hosts, enforce ABC laws and local nuisance abatement and zoning ordinances, and build support among local agencies and organizations for an alcohol-safe community.
Highlights of the Oxnard/Port Hueneme Place of Last Drink Survey

Environmental patterns of drinking among first offenders and multiple offenders are generally similar, as can be seen in the following tables. Data are provided for the experiences of these DUI offenders as a single group (“All Offenders”) as well as for the experiences of first offenders, multiple offenders, and those who did not answer the question about their status (“No Answer”).

- First offenders and multiple offenders combined report that the most frequently-used setting where they customarily drink then drive is their own home (“your own home”) (29 percent of offenders’ monthly episodes of drinking/driving). The next three settings where people customarily drink then drive are bars (15 percent of monthly episodes), someone else’s home (12 percent) and vehicle (11 percent). Open spaces (rural areas, parking lots, parks, beach/seashore) account for 22 percent. Restaurants and private clubs together account for nine percent (see p. 10).

- The top settings where all offenders drink, drive and then get arrested are bars (26 percent), someone else’s home (22 percent), your own home (19 percent), and restaurants and private clubs (13 percent) (see p. 3).

- Preferences for drinking-driving settings are generally similar for first offenders and multiple offenders. The most frequent drinking-driving setting for both groups is your own home, followed by someone else’s home and bars. Restaurants, private clubs, and vehicles form the next tier. Multiple offenders show preferences for open space, including rural areas. Multiple offenders’ frequencies are consistently higher for each setting than first offenders’, except for restaurants. These figures suggest that multiple offenders drink more often, in more settings, and drink-drive more frequently, than do first offenders (see p. 9).

- On the day they were arrested for DUI, about one half of all offenders (52 percent) had been drinking two hours or less before driving (see p. 2).

- About three-quarters of all offenders (73 percent) drank in just one place before being arrested for DUI. About one-sixth (16 percent) drank in two places, and about 11 percent drank in three or more places (see p. 2).

- The average age of first offenders is slightly over age 30; the average age of multiple offenders is in the middle 30s (see p. 1).

- Nine out of ten (89 percent) of all offenders are men. Among first offenders, one in seven are women. Among multiple offenders, one in eighteen are women (see p. 1).

- A total of 68 establishments were named as places of last drink prior to DUI arrest. Of these, eight were named twice and 15 places were named three or more times (see pp. 7-8).
Comparisons of ethnic representation among all offenders compared to the general population of Oxnard/Port Hueneme are as follows (see p. 2):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
<th>General population</th>
<th>All offenders</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anglo/Caucasian</td>
<td>63,260 (35%)</td>
<td>100 (19%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African-American</td>
<td>9,302 (05%)</td>
<td>9 (02%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian/Asian American</td>
<td>16,038 (09%)</td>
<td>32 (06%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latino</td>
<td>90,400 (51%)</td>
<td>379 (71%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No answer</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>15 (03%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>179,000 (100%)</td>
<td>536 (100%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>