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Beginning on Feb. 1, 2007, the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board (PLCB) has been required to prepare a biennial report on underage alcohol drinking and high-risk college alcohol drinking in this commonwealth. The report is presented to the House Liquor Control Committee and the Senate Law and Justice Committee. Details of the report include current levels and trends related to underage and high-risk drinking, current state preventative programs and current science that better defines the problems and suggests proven prevention strategies.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report, prepared by the PLCB as mandated by Act 85 of 2006, is a resource regarding the status of underage and high-risk drinking of alcohol within the commonwealth.

Research has shown that the human brain is not fully developed until the mid-20s and use of alcohol by teens could mean they never reach their full potential.¹ When drinking starts at a young age, youth are more likely to become dependent on alcohol², and indirect dangers of alcohol use are numerous – car crashes, assaults, risky sexual activity, drug use and other dangerous behaviors. High-risk drinking alone can cause death by alcohol poisoning. The 2017 National Survey on Drug Use and Health indicated an estimated 140.6 million Americans age 12 and older currently drink alcohol, and one out of every five minors between ages 12 and 20 – or 7.4 million American youth – reported having drunk alcohol in the last month. Additionally, about 2.3 million minors reported using alcohol for the first time within the last year.³

The PLCB has been addressing underage and dangerous drinking since its formation, and specifically, the mission of the Bureau of Alcohol Education is to provide leadership and resources that will reduce alcohol misuse in Pennsylvania. As problem drinking has evolved over time, so too have the programs and partnerships developed by the PLCB in the interest of social responsibility and public health and well-being.

Today, for example:

- As a responsible retailer of alcohol, Fine Wine & Good Spirits (FW&GS) store associates are the first line of defense against underage drinking. FW&GS personnel are trained to verify the age of those purchasing alcohol, and they conduct about one million age checks annually.
- The PLCB’s Responsible Alcohol Management Program (RAMP) provides training and resources to licensees and their employees so they may understand and employ responsible alcohol management practices. Training for servers and sellers, as well as owners and managers, addresses how to detect fraudulent identification and visibly intoxicated persons and provides guidance on establishing policies governing safe and responsible alcohol service. The Bureau of Alcohol Education also provides posters and training materials to licensees to address the issues of underage and high-risk drinking.
- The PLCB awarded a record amount of funding in the 2017-2019 Alcohol Education Grant Program – almost $2.3 million over two years – to 66 recipients, the highest number ever approved. These grants are awarded to schools, community organizations, municipalities, law enforcement organizations, nonprofit organizations, institutions of higher education and for-profit institutions to fund programs that focus on strategies to discourage and reduce both underage and dangerous drinking. Grants projects include increased police patrols, social norms campaigns, Parents Who Host, Lose the Most® campaigns, college alcohol assessment surveys, online alcohol education programs and peer training.

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• The PLCB uses grant funding from the National Alcohol Beverage Control Association (NABCA) to host a free conference showcasing prominent experts in alcohol education, prevention and enforcement who share their experience and knowledge with professionals, counselors, law enforcement officers, businesses, activists and educators interested in reducing underage drinking and promoting responsible drinking among those of age. In 2019, the PLCB is also using NABCA funding to help offset conference registration and travel expenses for attendees to the International Town & Gown Association’s City and University Relations Conference in State College.

• The annual PLCB Alcohol Awareness Poster Contest encourages students in kindergarten through 12th grade to convey to their peers positive, no-use messages depicting healthy alternatives to drinking or reasons why young people should choose not to drink alcohol.

• The PLCB’s award-winning Resident Assistant (RA) Training program is customized for each college campus to provide RAs and student leaders – those on the front lines as new college freshmen encounter the unique challenges of campus life – the tools they need to effectively guide and help other students through experiences with alcohol.

• The PLCB’s award-winning Know When. Know How.® statewide advertising campaign is a research-based education and prevention effort giving parents of children ages 8 to 12 the tools, resources and confidence they need to start having meaningful conversations with their kids about alcohol at an early age, before trial or use of alcohol begins.

With the passage of laws in 2016 that increased convenience and access relative to alcohol, the beverage alcohol landscape in Pennsylvania continues to transform. Today, more than 900 private retailers have the ability to sell limited quantities of both beer and wine to go, including more than 700 grocery and convenience stores. Increased visibility of alcohol in these places can present teachable moments for parents, providing a natural opportunity for parents to open the conversation about alcohol and make clear that alcohol use by minors is not tolerated by law, nor is it acceptable at home or anywhere else until the child turns 21.

How parents use alcohol themselves and address consuming alcohol with their kids plays a significant role in youth use of alcohol. In a 2017 interview with CNN, Dr. Gail Saltz, a professor of clinical psychiatry, stated that kids will emulate what they see as opposed to what a parent is telling them to do. In the same CNN segment, Dr. Robert Brewer, director of the excessive alcohol use prevention team at the CDC, said, “people who start at a younger age often persist in that behavior when they go on to college and beyond that.”

It is widely understood and scientifically accepted that the earlier in life a person begins drinking alcohol, the more likely the person is to experience alcohol problems later in life. It is central to the reduction of underage and dangerous drinking to acknowledge that parents and guardians have significant and unique influence over their children’s decisions regarding alcohol. Prevention must be a joint effort, not only from various state agencies, but also from schools, student leaders, law enforcement, parents, guardians and other influencers.

Underage drinking and its negative consequences experienced by youth, families, communities and society remain problems, despite decades of efforts to combat them. This report intends to present underage and high-risk drinking information within the context of research identifying the problems, review the agencies and programs across the commonwealth actively engaged in the prevention of underage and high-risk drinking and review emerging prevention techniques to better address the unique challenges posed by this critical public health issue.

Because prevention of underage and dangerous use of alcohol is a priority for many organizations, the PLCB’s development of this report relied on cooperation with and contributions from several partners, including other state agencies. The PLCB gratefully acknowledges the following organizations and their collaborative efforts.

**Pennsylvania State Police Bureau of Liquor Control Enforcement (BLCE):** The BLCE’s mission is to maintain or improve the quality of life for the citizens of the commonwealth through education and ensuring compliance with the provisions of the Liquor Code, Title 40 and related statutes. The BLCE’s purpose is to enforce the commonwealth’s liquor laws. To effectively achieve State Police goals and objectives, the BLCE must assist individual licensees, as well as the general public, in understanding the laws and regulations governing the proper and lawful operation of a licensed liquor establishment.

**Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP):** DDAP furthers the advancement and implementation of substance abuse prevention policies and practices throughout the commonwealth based on the latest research in the substance abuse field. This work is implemented locally in conjunction with Single County Authorities (SCAs) and their contracted prevention providers. SCAs plan and deliver underage and dangerous drinking prevention services by identifying risk factors influencing alcohol use and addressing patterns of and attitudes toward alcohol use.

**Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE):** PDE’s Office for Safe Schools is the primary source of technical assistance and guidance to public and nonpublic schools on alcohol, tobacco, other drug use and violence prevention activities. PDE is the administrative body for Student Assistance Programs (SAP) that provide assessment and intervention for students demonstrating behaviors potentially indicative of needing additional attention and/or services.

**Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT):** Reducing impaired driving has been identified as one of the seven vital focus areas in PennDOT’s Strategic Highway Safety Plan. Strategies within this focus area range from high-visibility, more frequent DUI enforcement to higher fines and penalties for impaired driving, and from streamlining DUI case processing through the courts to counter measures addressing drinking and impaired driving by those under 21.

**Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD):** PCCD’s mission is to enhance the quality, coordination and planning within the criminal and juvenile justice systems, to facilitate delivery of services to victims of crime and to increase the safety of our communities. PCCD also has a responsibility to the victims of crimes and to reduce the impact of crime on those victims.

**Municipal Police Officers’ Education & Training Commission (MPOETC):** Administered by the State Police and established in 1974, MPOETC sets certification and training standards for police officers employed by municipalities in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The commission oversees certification of schools and instructors for statewide training on a variety of enforcement-related topics, as well as certification of lethal weapons agents and certified firearms instructors.
Institute for Law Enforcement Education (ILEE): The ILEE serves the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as a research and delivery system for selected advanced law enforcement training. It is responsible for administering alcohol-related training and research programs in Pennsylvania, and about 4,000 students benefit from ILEE classes annually.

National Alcohol Beverage Control States Association (NABCA): Founded in 1938, NABCA is the national association representing states that directly control the distribution and sale of beverage alcohol. NABCA's mission is to support member jurisdictions in their efforts to protect public health and safety and ensure responsible and efficient systems for beverage alcohol distribution and sales. NABCA provides research, analytics and regulatory information related to alcohol policy.

PA Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) is Pennsylvania’s premier youth health and safety organization. The PA DUI Association has served as the affiliate agency for SADD, since 1989. The PA DUI Association supports the efforts of PA SADD by funding a State Affiliate Coordinator and providing support for technical assistance and programmatic support to over 500 registered school-based chapters in Pennsylvania.
No substance is more widely abused in America by persons under the age of 21 than alcohol.\(^5\) According to the 2017 Report to Congress on the Prevention and Reduction of Underage Drinking, alcohol consumption for minors between 12 and 20 years old has declined by 29.2 percent since 2004, and alcohol-related traffic deaths have declined 79 percent among 16- to 20-year-olds since 1982. The most effective way to continue to reduce underage alcohol use is ongoing coordinated efforts at all levels of government as well as among universities, schools, communities and families to implement strategies that have proven to be effective.\(^6\) This report discusses initiatives taken in Pennsylvania to address alcohol use among the underage and college population in Pennsylvania.

**Levels and Trends of Alcohol Use According to the Pennsylvania Youth Survey**

The 2017 Pennsylvania Youth Survey (PAYS) measures the need for prevention services among youth in grades six, eight, 10 and 12 in the areas of substance abuse, delinquency, antisocial behavior, violence and mental health issues. The survey questions ask youth about the factors that place them at risk for substance use and other problem behaviors, along with the factors that offer them protection from problem behaviors.

The PAYS is conducted in the fall of odd-numbered years. Beginning in 2013, the PAYS was offered at no charge to any district or school (public, private, charter and parochial), courtesy of funding provided by the PDE, DDAP and the PCCD.

The PAYS is administered in individual school buildings and is voluntary – youth may skip any questions they do not wish to answer or opt out of the survey entirely. Students are advised that their responses will remain anonymous and confidential. No individual student-level data can be obtained from the data set, and the results are only reported in aggregate at the local, county and state levels.

A total of 265,751 students in 1,013 public and private schools throughout the state participated in the 2017 PAYS. After invalid/dishonest surveys were removed, 253,566 surveys were represented in local-level reports. Results featured herein stem from the PAYS statewide sample, which is designed to gather data most representative of the entire state. Community-level summary reports were issued to nearly 418 school districts, charter schools and private schools.\(^7\)

Nearly an equal number of males and females in all grades took the PAYS (49.7 percent female, 50.3 percent male). With regards to ethnicity, 13.4 percent of respondents identified as Hispanic, Latino or Spanish ethnicity. With regards to race, respondents identified as white (71 percent), Black/African-American (8.8 percent), other race groups (12.3 percent, combined) or did not indicate a race (7.9 percent).\(^8\)

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\(^8\) Ibid.
The following map shows the percentage of students in participating counties who reported having used alcohol in their lifetime as compared to the state average, which decreased from 43.9 percent in 2015 to 43.3 percent in 2017. Armstrong (56.6 percent), Elk (54.7 percent) and Lawrence (52.2 percent) counties had the highest percentage of reported lifetime use of alcohol, and Snyder (32.4 percent), Lancaster (35.3 percent) and Dauphin (36.7 percent) counties had the lowest.⁹

While 89.4 percent of students thought their parents would disapprove of alcohol use, the following table shows the percentage of students in participating counties who reported their willingness to try alcohol compared to the state average (26.5 percent). Elk (36.4 percent), Armstrong (33.8 percent) and Lawrence (33.4 percent) counties had the highest percentage of reported willingness to try alcohol, and Lancaster (18.8 percent), Snyder (18.9 percent) and Blair (19.2 percent) had the lowest. It is worth noting that though Elk County had the highest reported willingness, that percent is down from 53.2 percent in 2015, and Potter County increased from 13.3 percent in 2015 to 29.3 in 2017.  

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The Penn State Evidence-Based Prevention and Intervention Support Center summarized that 41.5 percent of 12th graders reported “gave money to someone else to buy alcohol” was their primary source for alcohol, while 23.1 percent of all student respondents said their parents gave them alcohol. According to PAYS, 18.2 percent of all participants indicated they obtained alcohol from friends’ parents, while 25.4 percent said they got alcohol from a friend or sibling over 21.  

A dramatic shift in results among eighth and 10th graders that reported taking alcohol without permission was their primary source of alcohol: the 2015 PAYS showed 24.8 percent of eighth graders and 31 percent of 10th graders obtained alcohol primarily by taking it without permission, while those rates jumped to 42.6 percent and 40.4 percent, respectively, in 2017.
The following table shows the percentage of students in participating counties who reported their parents provided alcohol to them, as compared to the state average.\footnote{“2017 Pennsylvania Youth Survey State Report,” May 2018, Accessed 01 December 2018 via https://www.pccd.pa.gov/Juvenile-Justice/Pages/Pennsylvania-Youth-Survey-(PAYS)-2017.aspx.}

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</table>

By county, Potter (34.8 percent), Perry (33.6 percent) and Lebanon (33.3 percent) counties had the highest percentage of reported alcohol obtainment from parents; Lackawanna (12.9 percent), Luzerne (15.3 percent) and Greene (16.9 percent) counties had the lowest.\footnote{“Highlights from the 2017 PAYS Survey,” EPISCENTER. Accessed 01 March 2019 via http://www.episcenter.psu.edu/PAYS2017Highlights.}

Reports for the following counties are not available because the counties either contain only one school district or did not have at least two public school districts participating, thereby making anonymity of school results unachievable: Cameron, Clinton, Forest, Juniata, Mifflin, Union and Warren. Montour, Sullivan and Wyoming counties did not have any districts participate in 2017.
Alcohol Use Rates According to PAYS and Monitoring the Future (MTF)

When possible, the PAYS compares its Pennsylvania results to the 2017 MTF survey, a national survey conducted each year by the University of Michigan. MTF only surveys students in eighth, 10th and 12th grades.

When comparing the PAYS to the MTF survey results, lifetime alcohol use was higher in Pennsylvania compared to the national average for eighth grade (33 percent versus 23.1 percent), 10th grade (53 percent versus 42.2 percent) and 12th grade (69.2 percent versus 61.5 percent). Pennsylvania continued to stay below the national average for reported binge drinking by eighth, 10th and 12th grade students.14

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Alcohol Use: Lifetime, Past-Month, Binge Drinking (PAYS 2013, 2015, 2017; Monitoring the Future 2017)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Alcohol (Lifetime Use)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>13.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>35.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>61.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>74.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All</td>
<td>46.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

According to the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, teens and young adults believe their parents should have a say in whether they drink alcohol.15 Because of this, prevention professionals increasingly emphasize how crucial it is for parents to remain involved, even though they may feel their son or daughter is beyond their influence. As mentioned previously, nine out of 10 student respondents indicated their parents would disapprove of alcohol use. Additionally, PAYS provided students with the following statement, “My family has clear rules about alcohol and drug use,” and asked them to respond with one of the following responses: “NO!,” “no,” “yes” or “YES”. Results of the question are presented in the table below and illustrate how students reporting no clear rules about alcohol use have significantly higher lifetime and past-month alcohol use rates. Remaining aware that children look to parents and caregivers as a primary source for guidance and influence about their choices to use alcohol is vital when establishing rules about alcohol.
2017 Core Alcohol and Drug Survey

The Core Alcohol and Drug Survey, developed with funding from the U.S. Department of Education, measures alcohol and other drug usage as well as attitudes and perceptions among college students at two- and four-year institutions. The survey includes numerous questions about drugs and alcohol. Some deal with students’ attitudes, perceptions and opinions about alcohol and other drugs, and others deal with students’ own use and consequences of use. Questions also explore students’ demographic and background characteristics, as well as their perceptions of campus climate issues and policy.

Following are some key findings from the 2017 Core Alcohol and Drug Survey regarding opinions of students.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inquiry</th>
<th>2015 (%)</th>
<th>2017 (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students who consumed alcohol in the past year</td>
<td>81.4</td>
<td>83.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students under 21 who consumed alcohol in the last 30 days</td>
<td>60.0</td>
<td>62.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students aware their campus has alcohol and drug policies</td>
<td>95.4</td>
<td>95.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students believe the average student on campus uses alcohol once a week or more</td>
<td>88.1</td>
<td>87.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students who felt there was “great risk” associated with having five or more drinks in one sitting</td>
<td>48.9</td>
<td>45.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students who refused an offer of alcohol or other drugs in the last 30 days</td>
<td>61.3</td>
<td>59.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students said they saw drinking as central in the social life of fraternities</td>
<td>87.0</td>
<td>84.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students said they saw drinking as central in the social life of sororities</td>
<td>80.5</td>
<td>79.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students said they believe the social atmosphere on campus promotes alcohol use</td>
<td>47.7</td>
<td>48.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notably, the average number of drinks consumed per week per student at Pennsylvania institutions having participated in the 2017 Core Survey was 5.1 drinks, which is higher than the national average of 4.3 drinks (based on a sample of 123,430). The percentage of students who reported having binge drunk in the last two weeks at Pennsylvania institutions having participated in the 2017 Core Survey was 47.8 percent compared to the national average of 43.6 percent.16

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### Alcohol-Impaired Driving Fatalities: Pennsylvania, US and *Best State*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Total Fatalities in all Crashes</th>
<th>Alcohol-Impaired Fatalities (BAC = .08+)</th>
<th>Per 100 Million Vehicle Miles Travelled</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Percent (%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
<td>1,310</td>
<td>408</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>US</td>
<td>33,561</td>
<td>10,322</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Utah</em></td>
<td>217</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
<td>1,208</td>
<td>368</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>US</td>
<td>32,719</td>
<td>10,076</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Utah</em></td>
<td>220</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
<td>1,195</td>
<td>345</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>US</td>
<td>32,675</td>
<td>9,967</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Vermont</em></td>
<td>44</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
<td>1,200</td>
<td>364</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>US</td>
<td>35,092</td>
<td>10,265</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Utah</em></td>
<td>276</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
<td>1,188</td>
<td>327</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>US</td>
<td>37,461</td>
<td>10,497</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>*Utah/Mississippi</td>
<td>281/690</td>
<td>52/128</td>
<td>19/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
<td>1,137</td>
<td>314</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>US</td>
<td>37,133</td>
<td>10,874</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Utah</em></td>
<td>273</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the Governors Highway Safety Association compile data regarding crash fatalities and the prevalence of alcohol impairment among fatal crashes. The following table provides data for Pennsylvania and the U.S., as compared to the state with the lowest percentage of alcohol-impaired driving fatalities for each year.\(^{17}\) While Utah has been one of the best states since 2015, it is worth noting that in 2017, Kansas (24 percent), Mississippi (25 percent) and New Jersey (26 percent) were second, third and fourth.\(^{18}\)

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\(^{18}\) Ibid.
Underage and dangerous use of alcohol are issues addressed by many state and local agencies, as well as community groups, nonprofit and for-profit organizations. Often, evidence-informed practices are most successful in combating the problem. Organizations often cooperate or collaborate to ensure programs successfully reach the target populations. Thus, programs and initiatives addressing underage and high-risk drinking fall into these broad categories: enforcement programs, professional training, youth training, community-based programs, family-based initiatives, school-based initiatives and advertising and media.

**Enforcement Programs**

Enforcement programs are conducted by state, local and campus police departments to enforce laws and policies related to the sale, purchase, possession and use of alcohol by minors, as well as dangerous use of alcohol by adults. With increased access to alcohol comes the increased need for vigilance.

**PLCB-Funded Enforcement Programs**

In fiscal years 2016-2017 and 2017-2018, the PLCB provided a combined total of $58.6 million in funding to the Pennsylvania State Police Bureau of Liquor Control Enforcement (BLCE), the organization primarily responsible for enforcement of liquor laws.

The PLCB awarded a record amount of funding in the 2017-2019 Alcohol Education Grant Program – nearly $2.3 million over two years – to 66 recipients, the highest number ever approved. These grants are awarded to schools, community organizations, municipalities, law enforcement organizations, nonprofit organizations, institutions of higher education and for-profit institutions to fund programs that focus on strategies to discourage and reduce both underage and dangerous drinking.

- More than 40 funded community law-enforcement efforts for targeted underage patrols, training and equipment.
- Seventeen were used to support community and nonprofit organizations by funding initiatives such as Project Alert, Project Northland, the Strengthening Families Program, Project Sticker Shock and enforcement efforts.
- Three went to primary and secondary schools to fund various programs aimed at reaching students, such as enforcement during school special events and programs including Alcohol Wise, MADD’s Power of Parents® and Parents Who Host, Lose the Most®.
- Twenty-two grants helped schools, colleges and universities develop strategies to reduce underage and dangerous alcohol use through surveys and assessments, enforcement efforts, attendance at alcohol education conferences, training for resident assistants, peer education programs and evidence-informed programs like CHOICES, AlcoholEdu® and Operation Buzzkill.
**PennDOT Enforcement Programs**

An effective method of reducing crashes, injuries and highway traffic fatalities is creating general deterrence through high-visibility enforcement (HVE). As the perceived risk of being caught by law enforcement increases, the likelihood that people will engage in unsafe driving decreases.  

Given this, the NHTSA asserts that HVE programs have been an effective strategy in combating impaired driving, including reducing crashes involving underage drivers who have been drinking.

The number of crashes involving an underage drinking driver has declined 31 percent over the past five years. In addition, the number of minors charged with driving under the influence has declined by 46 percent since 2013.

The HVE program includes a strong media component alerting the public to the dangers of impaired driving and reminding residents that police are out enforcing DUI laws. This is supported by enforcement mobilization events, including DUI checkpoints and roving patrols, and publicizing the results of the enforcement efforts. Notable impaired driving enforcement efforts include two campaigns the Pennsylvania State Police conduct with local police departments, the “Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over” campaign, which runs from mid-August through Labor Day weekend, and the “Operation Safe Holiday” campaign, which runs from the week of Thanksgiving to New Year’s Day. Although these enforcement activities are not specifically aimed at minors, they are a deterrent to that group.

**BLCE Enforcement Programs**

The College Enforcement Initiative is an effort to provide a more visible alcohol use deterrent to students at select institutions of higher education in Pennsylvania as they begin the fall semester at colleges and universities across the commonwealth. The BLCE initiated a cooperative program with local and university law enforcement agencies, the intent of which is to preempt alcohol-related problems at identified locations during the first 30 days of classes. This program targets locations identified by each BLCE District Enforcement Office as a college or university town with a higher-than-average rate of underage drinking violations compared to other similar locations within the district enforcement office area. Incidents of underage drinking, underage driving under the influence, disorderly conduct and similar alcohol-related offenses are weighed when selecting locations to conduct this program. Also, specific requests for assistance from municipal police agencies are evaluated as received.

Tactics used by the BLCE include uniformed patrols in college dormitories to increase the awareness of the BLCE presence on campus; uniformed officers stationed outside licensed liquor establishments to provide investigative and arrest support to municipal police agencies conducting surveillance for minors; conducting patrols for minors in and around popular locations for underage drinking; and placing undercover officers both inside and outside licensed liquor establishments. In addition, meetings are scheduled with licensees located close to campuses to educate them about this program and to increase awareness of underage drinking. Finally, contact is made with State Police installations statewide to provide a coordinated response regarding this program and any enforcement efforts being planned by the local State Police barracks.

Funded in part by PCCD, BLCE conducts patrols for minors at and around licensed establishments, colleges, universities, concerts and sporting events where underage drinking is suspected. These minor patrols involve the assignment of more than one Liquor Enforcement Officer within a district enforcement office to investigate illegal sales to minors, consumption of alcoholic beverages by minors and the purchase, consumption, possession and transportation of alcohol by minors. The BLCE conducted 618 minor patrol details in 2017 and 678 in 2018.

In 2017, the BLCE investigated 10,349 incidents; of these, 2,026 were alleged minor incidents (19.6 percent). Investigations resulted in 1,761 violation letters, 2,759 warning letters, 1,498 non-traffic citations and 140 criminal complaints.

In 2018, the BLCE investigated 12,180 incidents; of these, 2,336 were alleged minor incidents (19.2 percent). Investigations resulted in 2,001 violation letters, 3,249 warning letters, 1,554 non-traffic citations and 269 criminal complaints.

Since 2005, the BLCE has worked with volunteers between the ages of 18 and 20 who attempt to purchase alcoholic beverages in a controlled, regulated manner as part of underage customer compliance checks. Underage buyers, mainly students from colleges and universities throughout Pennsylvania, work with and under the direct supervision of Liquor Enforcement Officers to enter licensed establishments and attempt to purchase alcoholic beverages. If the establishment serves the underage buyer, a Liquor Enforcement Officer immediately notifies the establishment about the age compliance check, and administrative action is taken against the licensee. In instances in which the underage buyer is declined service, a Liquor Enforcement Officer immediately notifies the establishment it has passed an age compliance check. On Dec. 22, 2017, Governor Tom Wolf signed House Bill 1902 into law as Act 75 of 2017, which reauthorized this effort through December 2022.

In 2017, 1,323 age compliance checks were conducted; 937 licensees were found to be in compliance and 386 licensees (29 percent) were not in compliance. In 2018, 1,754 compliance checks were conducted; 1,238 licensees were in compliance and 516 (29 percent) were not in compliance.

The underage drinking hotline 1-888-UNDER 21 was established by BLCE in 1999 to combat underage drinking across Pennsylvania. Callers, who can remain anonymous, are encouraged to provide tips about planned events involving underage drinkers or about parties already underway. The State Police refers calls that require immediate attention directly to the proper police agency for response. The hotline received 103 calls about drinking parties and minors being served alcohol in 2017 and 77 calls in 2018.
Professional Training

These initiatives provide training to a variety of professionals, including but not limited to law enforcement, teachers, alcohol service staff and a variety of social service professionals.

PLCB Professional Training

The PLCB’s Bureau of Alcohol Education holds an alcohol education conference that is free of charge to attendees, thanks to grant funding from the National Alcohol Beverage Control Association (NABCA). Law enforcement personnel, collegiate leaders, school staff, community prevention professionals and licensees from across the state learn about the newest trends and information related to reducing underage and dangerous drinking. Attendance at the 2018 conference totaled 201 participants.

The Responsible Alcohol Management Program (RAMP) was established in 2000 and offers practical advice regarding responsible alcohol management practices for licensees operating restaurants, hotels, clubs, distributors, breweries and wineries, to name a few.

RAMP teaches how to:

- Detect signs of visible intoxication and effectively cut off service to a customer who had too much to drink.
- Identify and card underage individuals.
- Detect altered, counterfeit and borrowed identification.
- Avoid unnecessary liability.
- Help reduce alcohol-related problems in the surrounding community.

RAMP is a voluntary certification that provides incentives for licensees that participate and complete all five components: Owner/Manager Training, Server/Seller Training, New Employee Orientation, Signage and Affidavit Request for RAMP Certification. The Owner/Manager Training, whether online or in-class, is facilitated by the PLCB. RAMP Server/Seller Training, whether online or in-class, is facilitated by PLCB-approved independent providers who are observed and monitored by the Bureau of Alcohol Education to ensure quality and consistency of training.

Act 39 of 2016 made RAMP Server/Seller Training mandatory for all alcohol service staff hired on or after Aug. 8, 2016. As a result, RAMP training completions are on the rise, with Owner/Manager Trainings increasing 20 percent and Server/Seller Trainings increasing by 56 percent between 2016 and 2018.
In addition to training, RAMP provides certification for licensees that complete all five steps within the RAMP program:

1. Owner/Manager Training
2. Server/Seller Training completed by at least 50 percent of the alcohol service staff
3. Employee orientation for all current employees and new hires
4. Visibly posting appropriate signage
5. Affidavit request for RAMP certification

RAMP certification is typically voluntary; however, some licensees may be required by the Office of Administrative Law Judge to complete certification following service to minors or visibly intoxicated patrons, and the PLCB may require RAMP certification as part of a conditional licensing agreement. Additionally, Act 39 of 2016 made RAMP certification a prerequisite for all licensees seeking wine expanded permits, which authorize the sale of limited quantities of wine to go. As a result, an increased number of licensees are seeking RAMP certification, as illustrated by the following chart.
The benefits of RAMP certification include:

- Knowledgeable, well-trained alcohol service staff and management
- Recognition as a responsible licensee in the community
- Less likelihood of dram shop liability
- Possible discount on liquor liability insurance
- Possible reduction in fines and penalties issued by an Administrative Law Judge for serving a minor or a visibly intoxicated patron, as long as the licensee was RAMP-certified at the time of the violation and had no citations for either of those two violations in the previous four years.

PLCB staff provide other valuable training at no cost to groups throughout the state. Strategic planning workshops are designed to assist institutions of higher education and communities to develop evidence-informed practices to most effectively address dangerous and underage drinking practices and patterns.

Another workshop, “Communities Working with Law Enforcement,” informs community organizations how to better collaborate with local law enforcement departments. Even though the goals of these organizations are similar, their methods for addressing problems may be at odds, and sometimes friction and misunderstanding exist between these groups. This workshop helps break through those barriers to form stronger working relationships.

**Department of Drug & Alcohol Programs (DDAP) Professional Training**

Professional trainings provided through DDAP’s 47 regionally established Single County Authorities (SCAs) include Student Assistance Program trainings for educators, counselors, substance abuse liaisons and other related professionals. This training aids in the identification of students in need of intervention/treatment services, and it assists in the coordination and collaboration necessary to effectively implement these services.

RAMP is also endorsed and promoted by DDAP’s SCAs. During fiscal years 2016-2017 and 2017-2018, SCAs in Beaver, Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Fayette, Washington and Westmoreland helped coordinate more than 30 RAMP Owner/Manager Trainings.
Institute for Law Enforcement Education (ILEE) Professional Training

ILEE conducts a variety of professional trainings for law enforcement personnel regarding the skills and techniques used to detect, investigate and participate in the prosecution of DUI and underage drinking offenses. Trainings address the use of the Standardized Field Sobriety Test, the most frequently used method of collecting and describing evidence of alcohol use/impairment. This training is especially significant because of the prohibition against the use of pre-arrest breath test instruments in court. ILEE training topics are expanded to cover any new devices or techniques accepted by Pennsylvania courts as they develop.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Total Courses</th>
<th>Total Trained Personnel</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Standardized Field Sobriety Testing</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>329</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evidentiary Breath Test Instrument Certification</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>504</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juvenile DUI Offenders and Underage Drinking</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interviewing Juveniles</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Municipal Police Officers Education & Training Commission (MPOETC) Professional Training

MPOETC’s basic program includes an optional training devoted to liquor laws. MPOETC has approved the following courses for Continuing Law Enforcement Education (CLEE) credit toward the mandatory 12 hours of in-service training each officer must receive annually. Officers are permitted to take any of the following courses once during any two-year certification cycle in lieu of the elective MPOETC courses:

- Alcohol Breath Analysis Instrument Operator Certification
- Alcohol Breath Analysis Instrument Operator Changeover
- Alcohol Breath Test Instrument Supervisor
- Alcohol Breath Analysis Device Operator Refresher
- Alcohol Breath Test Instructor Re-Certification
- BACs of Alcohol
- Breath Test Instructor
- Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Practitioner
- Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Practitioner Refresher
- Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Instructor
- Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Re-Certification
- Sobriety Checkpoint/Refresher
- Juvenile DUI Offenders and Underage Drinking
- Handling Anger in the Alcohol/Drug Impaired Subject
- Interviewing the Alcohol/Drug Impaired Subject
- Myths of Alcohol
- High in Plain Sight: Alcohol and Drug Concealment Trends and Identifiers

Although much of the alcohol-related enforcement training focuses on impaired driving, some of the courses address other “alcohol-fueled” crimes and violations such as criminal mischief, destruction of property, domestic violence, assaults, sexual assaults, etc.
Youth Training

Youth training provides young people specific skills to help them address alcohol-related concerns and assist them to make healthy decisions. Some youth training also teaches skills for mentoring and encouraging others to make good decisions.

PLCB Youth Training

As part of the PLCB’s ongoing efforts to curb underage and dangerous drinking on college and university campuses, the Bureau of Alcohol Education offers a training program for college and university resident assistants (RAs) and student leaders. RAs are often the first line of defense when it comes to addressing underage and dangerous drinking, especially for incoming freshmen struggling to navigate the unique challenges of campus living. Student leaders can have instrumental influence over their peers and can lead them to make healthy, safe choices. The training addresses issues including:

- Adolescent brain development and its role in decision making and impulse control
- Criminal, academic, social, health and safety consequences of underage and high-risk drinking
- The alcohol content of different drinks and how many drinks it takes, on average, to reach different blood alcohol content levels
- Signs and symptoms of alcohol poisoning
- Pennsylvania’s medical amnesty law and the legal protections it offers anyone under 21 who was drinking but contacts authorities to seek medical attention for someone in danger of suffering alcohol poisoning

As part of the training, student leaders are provided materials produced by the PLCB to aid in understanding of the issues and risks presented by underage and dangerous drinking. The “Goodnight or Goodbye” card shows the signs of alcohol poisoning and information regarding what to do when alcohol poisoning is suspected, while the medical amnesty card explains how someone underage may not be prosecuted if they come to another’s aid. “Your Degree Doesn’t Matter” lists the possible consequences an alcohol violation might have on one’s career.

Eighteen RA trainings for more than 550 attendees were conducted in the summers of 2017 and 2018 across the commonwealth.

Pennsylvania Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) Youth Training

In 2017-2018, SADD sponsored four statewide conferences and four regional conferences with more than 2,000 students attending and over 100 school districts represented. In Pennsylvania, the PA DUI Association is the organization recognized by SADD National to administer the SADD program and maintain brand standards including a comprehensive community approach program that includes teen-led, peer-to-peer prevention programming in schools and public awareness events.

PA SADD sponsors a Student of the Year program and works in partnership with SADD National to engage Pennsylvania students to serve on the National Student Leadership Council. Additionally, the efforts of PA SADD and the PA DUI Association led to implementation of the PA Youth Summit in 2017, focusing efforts on teen leaders advocating for stronger teen driving programs including impaired driving.

In 2017 and 2018, PA SADD students were selected as leaders for the national SADD SPEAKs program in Washington, DC. During 2018 Pennsylvania students selected for this program spoke at a Congressional briefing on Capitol Hill hosted by the U.S. Secretary of Transportation. Additionally, SADD student leaders from 10 schools fundraised and attended the SADD National Conference in Tampa, Florida (2017), and Tyson’s Corner, Virginia (2018).
Community-Based Initiatives

**PLCB and Grant Initiatives**

Community-based initiatives increase awareness of alcohol-related issues, as well as programs and processes generated from the community in response to alcohol-related issues.

In calendar years 2017 and 2018, the PLCB participated in more than 145 community events, including National Night Out events, the Pennsylvania Farm Show, conferences and health fairs.

The PLCB also develops and distributes various educational materials that can be ordered at no charge. All materials promote the safe and responsible use of alcohol for those 21 years of age or older and stress a “no use” message to those under 21. These materials come in many forms, including but not limited to pamphlets, children’s activity books and information cards. Some materials feature artwork from the PLCB’s annual Alcohol Awareness Poster Contest. Numerous items for use by licensees, like signage, are also available.

Customers can order, view and download all materials online through PLCB+, a web-based platform. In 2017 and 2018, 1,737 orders were filled and mailed. Additionally, many items were disseminated at events staffed by bureau personnel. In all, more than 350,000 items were distributed in 2017 and more than 440,000 items were distributed in 2018.

PLCB grantees participated in community-based initiatives including “Project Sticker Shock” events and good neighbor programs. The former educates those 21 and older about the risks of purchasing alcohol and illegally providing it to minors, while the latter are designed to create partnerships among community members, students, business owners, law enforcement and college administrators to foster a stronger and safer community.

PLCB grants to community organizations also helped deliver information about underage and dangerous drinking to targeted populations to encourage positive decision-making. Public awareness campaigns were also used to emphasize the dangers of underage drinking and the risks of purchasing alcohol for underage youth.

The PLCB also supports a number of organizations focused on underage and high-risk drinking through attendance at their regional and statewide meetings. Regional Communities That Care (CTC) groups, which coordinate local community coalitions, invite the PLCB’s Bureau of Alcohol Education to participate in meetings, as does the board of directors of the Commonwealth Prevention Alliance (CPA). Attendance at these meetings provides the opportunity for an exchange of information regarding strategies pursued at the state and local levels.

**Communities Mobilizing for Change on Alcohol**

Through funding and resources from DDAP, Communities Mobilizing for Change on Alcohol seeks to limit youth access to alcohol and communicate a clear message to the community that underage drinking is inappropriate and unacceptable. The program involves community members in seeking and achieving changes in local public policies and the practices of community institutions that can affect youth access to alcohol.

**International Town & Gown Association™ (ITGA) Initiatives**

ITGA strengthens town/gown partnerships by providing a network of professionals and resources and identifying and sharing promising practices, innovative solutions and professional development opportunities for municipal and university communities.
In 2018, the PLCB committed $20,000 in NABCA funding to continue “Town-Gown Relations & Strategies: The Pennsylvania Project” into phase III, which included:

- Expansion of the training program for colleges/universities and communities in the assessment of their town-gown relations; and
- Attendance by PLCB staff at the ITGA City and University Relations Conference in Columbus, Ohio.

State College and The Pennsylvania State University were selected to host the 2019 ITGA City and University Conference May 19 through May 22, 2019. This is the first time the conference will be held in Pennsylvania. Accordingly, the PLCB is partnering to help plan conference activities specifically related to responsible alcohol use. Additionally, through a $25,000 award from NABCA, the PLCB provided a $15,000 sponsorship to enhance the ITGA conference and $10,000 in mini-grants to Pennsylvania organizations to cover costs associated with attending the conference.

**Family-Based Programs**

Family-based programs seek to engage parents and other family members in educating youth regarding the dangers of alcohol use.

SCAs and their contracted providers, through funding and resources from DDAP, offer two parenting programs. The Strengthening Families Program is a seven-week, evidence-based parent, youth and family skills-building curriculum designed to enhance school success and reduce youth substance use and aggression among 10- to 14-year-olds. Sessions provide instruction for parents on understanding the risk factors for substance use; enhancing parent-child bonding; monitoring compliance with parental guidelines and imposing appropriate consequences; managing anger and family conflict; and fostering positive child involvement in family tasks. Children receive instruction on resisting peer influences to use substances. The Strengthening Families Program served 2,123 participants in 13 SCAs during fiscal years 2016-2017 and 2017-2018.

DDAP and PCCD support Guiding Good Choices, a prevention program for drugs and underage-drinking that provides parents of children ages nine to 14 with the knowledge and skills needed to guide their children through early adolescence. It seeks to strengthen and clarify family expectations for behavior, enhance the conditions that promote bonding within the family and teach skills that allow children to successfully resist drug and alcohol use. Guiding Good Choices served 336 participants in six SCAs during fiscal years 2016-2017 and 2017-2018.

**School-Based Initiatives**

Programs offered in the school setting and information infused into existing curricula can effectively provide information to students regarding alcohol-related issues and risks.

**PLCB School-Based Initiatives**

Since 1992, the PLCB’s annual Alcohol Awareness Poster Contest has encouraged students in kindergarten through grade 12 to develop posters with positive messages about alternatives to underage drinking. The contest is a valuable educational tool that provides students with an opportunity to learn about the dangers of underage drinking and identify healthy, fun and alcohol-free activities. Through their posters, students send an important message to their peers – there are many alternatives to underage drinking. More than 1,900 posters were submitted during the 2016-2017, 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 poster contests.

PLCB grants for reducing underage and dangerous drinking also assist school-based initiatives. In 2017, the PLCB awarded two-year grants to a record 66 organizations. Below are highlights of some of these projects grant funding enabled to assess alcohol and other drug usage, evaluate attitudes and perceptions among students and better address underage and dangerous drinking.
• Duquesne University, Immaculata University, Saint Francis University and the University of Scranton used grant funding to conduct the Core Survey.
• Immaculata University, Juniata College, Kutztown University and Neumann University implemented AlcoholEDU, an online, interactive, alcohol education and prevention course designed to increase alcohol-related knowledge, discourage acceptance of underage drinking and prevent or decrease alcohol use and its related negative consequences.
• Slippery Rock University used MyStudentBody, a comprehensive, evidence-based, online prevention program aimed at reducing the risk of drug and alcohol abuse and sexual violence among college students.\(^{22}\)
• Lackawanna College applied Alcohol-Wise, an online prevention course created for colleges.\(^{23}\)
• Immaculata University used Under the Influence Online Education Course, an online intervention tool that uses motivational interviewing to assist students experiencing problems with alcohol and other drugs.\(^{24}\)

Other collegiate grantees created brochures, posters, table tents and other materials to educate and motivate students.

**BLCE School-Based Programs**

The CHOICES Program is a culturally diverse alcohol awareness program presented by the BLCE that addresses the consequences of underage drinking. This program acknowledges that alcohol and other drugs are part of school life for many students and encourages students to educate themselves regarding the effects of alcohol and other substances on their mental, physical and emotional well-being. The program’s goals are to encourage students to make intelligent decisions and consider a wide range of healthy alternatives. The program is presented to students at the middle school, high school and college and university levels, and throughout the commonwealth’s seven Catholic dioceses. It is also presented at health fairs and during the Pennsylvania State Police Camp Cadet summer program, which introduces participants to the criminal justice system and establishes positive relationships with law enforcement personnel. Instructors for the CHOICES Program are Pennsylvania State Police Liquor Enforcement Officers who discuss the law, penalties, peer pressure and consequences of choosing to engage in underage drinking. Additionally, the officers are well-versed in alcohol consumption trends and issues related to educating youth.

At the college level, the CHOICES Program provides a valuable opportunity for the BLCE to participate in campus-community alliances. The program tries to motivate college-age students to make good choices and provides an opportunity for BLCE representatives to explain the laws and consequences in the event students make poor choices. In 2017, 31 presentations reached 1,445 youth, and in 2018, 25 presentations reached 1,534 youth.

**DDAP School-Based Programs**

Through funding and resources from DDAP, SCAs and their contracted providers offer the following school-based prevention programs.\(^{25}\)

*Alcohol Literacy Challenge* – Brief classroom-based program designed to alter alcohol expectancies and reduce the quantity and frequency of alcohol use among middle, high school and college students. Alcohol expectancies are an individual’s beliefs about the anticipated effects of alcohol use, including those that are positive (e.g. increased sociability, reduced tension) and negative (e.g. impairments to mental and behavioral functioning, increased aggressiveness or risk taking). The Learning Lamp, Inc. in Cambria County and East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania’s Office of Wellness & Prevention used PLCB grants to help with funding this program during the 2017-19 grant cycle.

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AlcoholEdu® for High School – An online, interactive, alcohol education and prevention course designed to increase alcohol-related knowledge, discourage acceptance of underage drinking and prevent or decrease alcohol use and its related negative consequences.

Brief Alcohol Screening and Intervention for College Students (BASICS) – Screening and intervention to reduce harmful consumption of alcohol and help college students 18 to 24 years old make better alcohol-use decisions. It is aimed at students who drink alcohol heavily and have experienced or are at risk for alcohol-related problems such as poor class attendance, missed assignments, accidents, sexual assault and violence.

Project Northland – Multilevel, multiyear program proven to delay the age young people begin drinking, reduce alcohol use among those who have already tried drinking and limit the number of alcohol-related problems of young drinkers. Designed for sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade students, Project Northland addresses both individual behavioral change and environmental change. Project Northland served 1,723 participants in two SCAs during fiscal years 2016-2017 and 2017-2018. The Community Health Council of Lebanon County used PLCB grant funding to carry out this program during the 2017-19 grant cycle.

Class Action – Second phase of the Project Northland alcohol-use prevention curriculum series. Designed for youth in grades nine through 12, the curriculum consists of eight to 10 group sessions in which students divide into teams to research, prepare and present mock civil cases involving hypothetical persons harmed because of underage drinking. Class Action served 775 participants in five SCAs during fiscal years 2016-2017 and 2017-2018.

LifeSkills Training (LST) – Program providing elementary students, middle school/junior high students and high school students with the necessary skills to resist social pressure to smoke, drink and use drugs. LST helps students develop greater self-esteem, self-mastery and self-confidence; enables children to effectively cope with social anxiety; increases their knowledge of the immediate consequences of substance abuse; and enhances cognitive and behavioral competency to reduce and prevent a variety of health risk behaviors. Twin Lakes Center, Inc. in Somerset County used PLCB grant funds to assist with this program during the 2017-19 grant cycle.

Project Alert – Drug prevention curriculum for middle school students designed to reduce both the onset and regular use of substances. The two-year, 14-lesson program focuses on the substances that adolescents are most likely to use: alcohol, tobacco, marijuana and inhalants. Project Alert served 20,401 participants in five SCAs during fiscal years 2016-2017 and 2017-2018. To Our Children’s Future With Health, Inc. and Shalom Inc., both in Philadelphia, used PLCB grants to fund portions of this program during the 2017-19 grant cycle.

Too Good for Drugs – School-based prevention program for kindergarten through 12th grade that builds on students’ resiliency by teaching them how to be socially competent and autonomous problem-solvers. The program is designed to reduce the intention to use alcohol, tobacco and illegal drugs. Too Good for Drugs served 56,260 elementary and middle school participants in 37 SCAs during fiscal years 2016-2017 and 2017-2018. The high school version of the program served another 6,881 participants in eight SCAs. Armstrong-Indiana-Clarion Drug and Alcohol Commission and Venango County Substance Abuse Program used PLCB grant funds to support facets of this program during the 2017-19 grant cycle.

Student Assistance Program (SAP) – An intervention service provided within the school setting intended to identify and address problems like underage drinking that negatively impact student academic and social growth. Services include assessment, consultation, referral and/or small group education for SAP-identified youth. The services are provided by cross-disciplinary staff including substance abuse and mental health professionals. In the 2017-2018 school year, 7,048 students were referred to SAP due to either a violation of the school’s drug and alcohol policies or suspected drug and alcohol issues.
DDAP also incorporates the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) into the SCA planning process. The SPF uses a five-step planning process to guide the selection, implementation and evaluation of effective, culturally appropriate and sustainable prevention activities. The SPF process promotes youth development, reduces risk-taking behaviors, builds assets and resilience and prevents problem behaviors across the life span of the programs. The idea behind the SPF is to use findings from public health research along with evidence-based prevention programs to build capacity and sustainable prevention. This, in turn, promotes resilience and decreases risk factors in individuals, families and communities.

The five steps of SPF are:
1. Assess prevention needs based on epidemiological data
2. Build prevention capacity
3. Develop a strategic plan
4. Implement effective community prevention programs, policies and practices
5. Evaluate efforts for outcomes

PDE School-Based Initiatives

Over the last three years, the PDE Office for Safe Schools has been leading an initiative to update standards for pre-kindergarten through 12th grade health and physical education (HPE) curricula. PDE – in conjunction with the DOH, DHS, DDAP and State Police, and in partnership with selected administration, certified higher education and K-12 HPE professionals – is in the process of creating and finalizing learning outcomes, an assessment toolkit, training modules and lesson plans for educators in the state. Areas covered include but are not limited to alcohol and other drugs, mental health, healthy eating and violence prevention. Topics covered in each grade are addressed in an age-appropriate manner. For example, core concepts at the pre-kindergarten level for drugs and alcohol include identification of household products that are harmful when intentionally inhaled or absorbed and identification of school and family rules about medicine use. At the 10th grade level, core concepts include defining socially appropriate ways to avoid or prevent use of alcohol and other drugs and long-term health benefits of abstaining from or discontinuing alcohol use. Each year of curriculum will build on the prior years and not only educate students on a topic, but also teach them skills needed to make healthy decisions. The anticipated completion of this initiative is spring 2020, and when complete it will provide a variety of resources for HPE professionals.

Advertising and Media

Through print, outdoor, online, broadcast and digital media and advertising – from brochures and billboards to social media and radio and television commercials – messages about underage and dangerous drinking are delivered to audiences throughout the commonwealth. Campaigns such as Talk. They Hear You®, “Buzzed Driving is Drunk Driving,” Parents Who Host, Lose the Most®, Buzzkill® and “The Ultimate Party Foul” are examples of successful public awareness programs.

PLCB Know When. Know How.℠ Statewide Advertising Campaign

In late November 2017, after a year of Pennsylvania-based research and campaign development, the PLCB introduced Know When. Know How.℠, a statewide education and prevention effort targeting Pennsylvania parents of children ages 8 through 12. In line with the agency’s mission of promoting no-use and zero-tolerance alcohol messages for those under the age of 21, the goal of the campaign is to prevent underage drinking by arming parents with the information, tools and confidence they need to begin having meaningful and effective conversations about alcohol with their children at an early age, before trial or use of alcohol begins. With an intensive research focus and a target of parents of young children, this alcohol education campaign is a new approach for the PLCB.
According to research in the *Journal of Adolescent Health*, one in three children has tried alcohol by age 8, and by 12 that number jumps to two out of three. And according to the *Journal of Substance Abuse*, kids who begin drinking by age 13 are four times more likely to become alcohol-dependent later in life.

Since kids ages 8 to 11 are most receptive to parents’ feedback, the PLCB, in conjunction with advertising firm the Partnership of Packer Oesterling & Smith, designed a campaign to give parents the tools they need to start talking to their kids earlier than they may have thought necessary. The campaign stresses that underage drinking doesn’t have to be one big, intimidating “talk,” but instead, that a series of brief, age-appropriate conversations that spring out of everyday experiences and grow as children mature over time are more effective.

With a heavy digital focus, while also including traditional television and radio commercials, the campaign features advertisements and messages that highlight facts and statistics, emphasize the role of parental responsibility as it relates to prevention, offers tips and resources for parents on how to start the conversation with their kids about alcohol and drives consumers to the campaign’s mobile-friendly website, KnowWhenKnowHow.org, for more information.

KnowWhenKnowHow.org presents information about alcohol in digestible bits and pieces so parents can become comfortable discussing the topic without being overwhelmed. The campaign website provides scenarios and tips on how parents can spark conversations about alcohol with their kids, and also features campaign advertisements, downloadable materials and suggestions for community partners in prevention to help promote the campaign.

From its initial launch on Nov. 27, 2017, through Dec. 31, 2018, the campaign totaled 41 million digital impressions, resulting in more than 79,188 link clicks and 52,687 Pennsylvania-based visitors to the Know When. Know How.SM website. The campaign’s dedicated YouTube channel, launched in June 2018, totaled 4.8 million views and logged 490 subscribers at the close of 2018. The campaign has also won 19 national and international awards for advertising excellence.

**PLCB Facebook Presence**

With regard to social media, the Bureau of Alcohol Education maintains the PA Alcohol Education Facebook page, which had more than 1,800 likes as of December 2018. The page features information about PLCB events and contests, grant projects and RAMP Owner/Manager Trainings; articles related to underage and dangerous drinking and tips for combating such behavior; photographs from events attended by bureau staff; and student-created alcohol education artwork submitted for poster contests.

**Additional Campaigns**

Several PLCB grantees ran media campaigns in conjunction with their 2017-2019 projects. Most often these included social norms campaigns targeted to college audiences, but grantees also engaged in social media campaigns, purchased targeted media buys, promoted enforcement efforts in local and university newspapers and produced public service announcements for local radio stations.

In 2017 and 2018, PennDOT used paid media advertising to promote messages related to impaired driving around Independence Day. Approximately $350,000 was spent over the two years. Each media buy included digital and radio messages while promoting NHTSA- and Governor’s Office-approved messaging. The combined campaigns made more than 28 million impressions.

PennDOT’s headquarters press office, regional safety press officers and various safety partners continued to share safety messaging throughout the year. Using the NHTSA communications calendar as a guide, the offices issued press releases promoting enforcement activities, law-enforcement training, community events and more.

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As previously mentioned, PennDOT and the Pennsylvania State Police also maintain presences on various social media platforms through which they promote messages to reduce underage and dangerous drinking.

DDAP supports the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s “Talk. They Hear You” campaign, a media campaign designed to help prevent underage drinking among children ages nine to 15 by providing parents and caregivers with the resources they need to properly address this issue with children early. The campaign website offers customizable radio, television and print public service announcements; social media tools; and fact sheets, talking points and other print materials to share with parents and caregivers in the community.
Emerging Trends

Generation Z and Alcohol

The newest generation is Generation Z (also known as Gen Z or iGens), which includes the newest adults of drinking age and all people born between the years 1995 and 2010. One of the most distinct traits among this generation is an overall decline of interest in and use of alcohol. Compared to Millennials (people born between 1980 and 1995), Gen Z is 11 percent less likely to engage in excessive drinking than Millennials (67 percent and 56 percent, respectively). Members of Gen Z are also more likely to disapprove of and see the danger in binge drinking compared to Millennials. Overall, while the oldest Gen Z members are just 23, the generation is showing patterns of drinking less and generally avoiding activities and substances they deem to be dangerous. Instead, they are engaging with various social media platforms and staying at home more than prior generations. Furthermore, according to Melissa Kress of Convenience Store news, “members of Gen Z are not only drinking less alcohol than the generations before them as they grow older (64 percent of Gen Z respondents said that), but they also expect to drink alcohol less frequently than older generations currently do.” Gen Z’s decision to drink less than previous generations as they get older is evidence that drinking in general is not seen as a preferred pastime in which to partake for this cohort, and, according to Kress, young people are avoiding “unhealthy activities such as excessive drinking and smoking” over the course of their lifetime.

There is no agreed-upon reason among prevention specialists, educators and researchers why Gen Z is abstaining from or drinking less alcohol than previous generations. One of the most prevalent theories, however, is that this lack of substance use is “a sign that public health messages are working,” according to Kimberly Leonard of U.S. News & World Report. This may indicate that education and prevention efforts aimed at this generation are having a greater effect on their actions than they have had on previous generations, or it could suggest that Gen Z’s exposure to older generations’ drinking habits has deterred them from heavier consumption.

Broader cultural impacts may also have contributed to Gen Z’s decline in alcohol use, as uncertainty and fear inspired by key events within Gen Z members’ lifetime (like the Great Recession of 2008 and frequent mass shootings) may be cause for Gen Z to avoid or drink less alcohol. This uncertainty may have made them more responsible or pragmatic decision-makers compared to previous generations. As such, underage and excessive drinking may be perceived as more irresponsible to Gen Z than it was to Millennials. Also, dangerous drinking may also seem an impractical way to spend time when Gen Z members consider the immediate and long-term dangers associated with it.

Regardless of the cause or causes of Gen Z’s healthier choices relative to avoiding alcohol or limiting alcohol use, the next generation’s reduced consumption is seen as a positive public health trend amongst prevention specialists, educators and researchers alike.

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29 Ibid.
34 Ibid.
37 Ibid.
Greek Life Policy Changes

Over the last few years, there have been frequent national headlines about hazing and alcohol-related deaths at Greek-life events at colleges and universities around the country. One Pennsylvania-specific case happened on Feb. 2, 2017, when a freshman pledging a fraternity at the Pennsylvania State University fell down the stairs inside the fraternity house after being pressured to drink an excessive amount of alcohol.\(^{38}\) He was left on a couch by fraternity brothers for 12 hours before emergency services were contacted.\(^{39}\) He succumbed to his injuries and passed away two days later. The 19-year-old’s death, along with the deaths of three other fraternity pledges in 2017, led to a meeting of the parents of the deceased students, the North American Interfraternity Conference (NIC) and the National Panhellenic Conference (NPC) to create a new coalition.\(^{40}\) The NIC represents 66 national fraternities, comprised of more than 6,100 chapters, and the NPC represents 26 national sororities, comprised of 3,288 chapters.\(^{41}\) The coalition was formed to prevent hazing deaths in the future, and it called for more regulation among Greek organizations regarding alcohol consumption and other hazing practices.

Following the untimely deaths of students and the formation of this new coalition, numerous measures have been put in place by Greek life, college and state officials. These policies and laws create more levels of regulation for Greek organizations and more direct oversight by colleges and states than was in place previously.\(^{42}\) In 2018, the NIC unanimously approved a measure that bans hard alcohol (any alcoholic beverages containing more than 15 percent ABV) at Greek events unless there is a certified bartender serving the alcohol.\(^{43}\) This ban must be put into effect by affiliated fraternity chapters by Sept. 1, 2019.\(^{44}\)

In 2017, Penn State implemented a similar ban, but also included a ban on kegs and limited the number of alcohol-related events held at chapter houses to 10 per semester (which averages about one event each week).\(^{45}\) At Lehigh University, the college’s Interfraternity Council decided in early 2017 to ban hard alcohol.\(^{46}\) Dozens of universities, including Penn State, are also going to use scorecards for Greek life chapters to keep track of incidents at chapter houses related to hazing, including alcohol violations.\(^{47}\) These scorecards, based on a scorecard originally developed by Penn State in 2017, also carry punishments for violations that include suspension of the offending fraternity or sorority.\(^{48}\) In addition, many universities throughout the country are delaying or even eliminating rush and pledge weeks until their Spring semesters in hopes that such changes will allow freshman to better acclimate to college life before pledging.\(^{49}\) This acclimation is predicted to protect the pledges from hazing pressure, which often includes underage and dangerous drinking.

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48 Ibid.

AN ACT

Amending the act of April 12, 1951 (P.L.90, No.21), entitled, as
reenacted, “An act relating to alcoholic liquors, alcohol and
malt and brewed beverages; amending, revising, consolidating
and changing the laws relating thereto; regulating and
restricting the manufacture, purchase, sale, possession,
consumption, importation, transportation, furnishing, holding
in bond, holding in storage, traffic in and use of alcoholic
liquors, alcohol and malt and brewed beverages and the
persons engaged or employed therein; defining the powers and
duties of the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board; providing
for the establishment and operation of State liquor stores,
for the payment of certain license fees to the respective
municipalities and townships, for the abatement of certain
nuisances and, in certain cases, for search and seizure
without warrant; prescribing penalties and forfeitures;
providing for local option, and repealing existing laws,”
FURTHER PROVIDING FOR DEFINITIONS; requiring the Bureau of
Alcohol Education to make certain reports to the General
Assembly; and further providing for special occasion permits
AND FOR LIMITING THE NUMBER OF SPECIAL OCCASION PERMITS.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
hereby enacts as follows:

Section 1. The act of April 12, 1951 (P.L.90, No.21), known
as the Liquor Code, reenacted and amended June 29, 1987 (P.L.32,
is amended by adding a section to read:

SECTION 1. SECTION 102 OF THE ACT OF APRIL 12, 1951 (P.L.90, NO.21), KNOWN AS THE LIQUOR CODE, REENACTED AND AMENDED JUNE 29, 1987 (P.L.32, NO.14), IS AMENDED BY ADDING DEFINITIONS TO READ:

SECTION 102. DEFINITIONS.--THE FOLLOWING WORDS OR PHRASES, UNLESS THE CONTEXT CLEARLY INDICATES OTHERWISE, SHALL HAVE THE MEANINGS ASCRIBED TO THEM IN THIS SECTION:

* * *

“PUBLIC HEARING” SHALL MEAN A HEARING HELD PURSUANT TO PUBLIC NOTICE.


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SECTION 2. THE ACT IS AMENDED BY ADDING A SECTION TO READ:

Section 217. Biennial Reports.--(a) The board’s Bureau of Alcohol Education shall prepare a report on underage alcohol drinking and high risk college alcohol drinking in this Commonwealth.

(b) A report shall be prepared biennially and shall address the following:

(1) Current levels and trends of underage alcohol drinking and high risk college alcohol drinking in this Commonwealth.

(2) Current programs conducted by State agencies to prevent underage alcohol drinking and high risk college alcohol drinking.
(3) Current science that better defines and suggests proven prevention strategies for underage alcohol drinking and high risk college alcohol drinking.

(c) The first report to the General Assembly shall be presented prior to February 1, 2007. Additional reports shall be presented every two years thereafter. A copy of the report shall be sent to the chairman and the minority chairman of the Law and Justice Committee of the Senate and the chairman and the minority chairman of the Liquor Control Committee of the House of Representatives.

Section 2. Section 408.4 of the act is amended by adding a subsection to read:

Section 408.4. Special Occasion Permits.--

(q) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the board may issue a special occasion permit to an eligible entity located in a dry municipality if the board is provided with a copy of a resolution adopted by the municipality’s governing body confirming support for the issuance of the special occasion permit. This subsection shall expire on January 1, 2007.

SECTION 4. SECTION 461(B.1) AND (B.3) OF THE ACT, AMENDED FEBRUARY 21, 2002 (P.L.103, NO.10) AND DECEMBER 8, 2004 P.L.1810, NO.239), ARE AMENDED TO READ:

SECTION 461. LIMITING NUMBER OF RETAIL LICENSES TO BE ISSUED IN EACH COUNTY.--* * *

(B.1) THE BOARD MAY ISSUE RESTAURANT AND EATING PLACE RETAIL DISPENSER LICENSES AND RENEW LICENSES ISSUED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION WITHOUT REGARD TO THE QUOTA RESTRICTIONS SET FORTH IN SUBSECTION (A) FOR THE PURPOSE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN A
MUNICIPALITY UNDER THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:

(1) A LICENSE MAY ONLY BE ISSUED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION IF THE APPLICANT HAS EXHAUSTED REASONABLE MEANS FOR OBTAINING A SUITABLE LICENSE WITHIN THE COUNTY.

(2) THE PROPOSED LICENSED PREMISES MUST BE LOCATED WITHIN EITHER OF THE FOLLOWING:


(II) A MUNICIPALITY IN WHICH THE ISSUANCE OF A RESTAURANT OR EATING PLACE RETAIL DISPENSER LICENSE HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE MUNICIPALITY FOR THE PURPOSE OF LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. UPON REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LICENSE BY AN APPLICANT, AT LEAST ONE PUBLIC HEARING SHALL BE HELD BY THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNING BODY FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECEIVING COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS RESIDING WITHIN THE MUNICIPALITY CONCERNING THE APPLICANT’S INTENT TO ACQUIRE AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LICENSE FROM THE PENNSYLVANIA LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD. THE GOVERNING BODY SHALL, WITHIN FORTY-FIVE DAYS OF A REQUEST FOR APPROVAL, RENDER A DECISION BY ORDINANCE OR RESOLUTION TO APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE THE APPLICANT’S REQUEST FOR AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LICENSE. IF THE MUNICIPALITY FINDS THAT THE ISSUANCE OF THE LICENSE WOULD PROMOTE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, IT MAY APPROVE THE REQUEST; HOWEVER, IT MUST REFUSE THE REQUEST IF IT FINDS THAT APPROVAL OF THE REQUEST WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT THE WELFARE, HEALTH, PEACE AND MORALS OF THE MUNICIPALITY OR ITS RESIDENTS. A DECISION BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE MUNICIPALITY TO DENY THE REQUEST MAY
BE APPEALED TO THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS IN THE COUNTY IN WHICH THE MUNICIPALITY IS LOCATED. A COPY OF THE APPROVAL MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE LICENSE APPLICATION. FAILURE BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE MUNICIPALITY TO RENDER A DECISION WITHIN FORTY-FIVE DAYS OF THE APPLICANT’S REQUEST FOR APPROVAL SHALL BE DEEMED AN APPROVAL OF THE APPLICATION IN TERMS AS PRESENTED UNLESS THE GOVERNING BODY HAS NOTIFIED THE APPLICANT IN WRITING OF THEIR ELECTION FOR AN EXTENSION OF TIME NOT TO EXCEED SIXTY DAYS. FAILURE BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE MUNICIPALITY TO RENDER A DECISION WITHIN THE EXTENDED TIME PERIOD SHALL BE DEEMED AN APPROVAL OF THE APPLICATION IN TERMS AS PRESENTED.

(3) THE BOARD MAY ISSUE NO MORE THAN TWO LICENSES TOTAL IN EACH COUNTY OF THE FIRST THROUGH FOURTH CLASS AND NO MORE THAN ONE LICENSE TOTAL IN EACH COUNTY OF THE FIFTH THROUGH EIGHTH CLASS PER CALENDAR YEAR.

(4) AN APPLICANT UNDER THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE REQUIRED TO SELL FOOD AND NONALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES EQUAL TO SEVENTY PER CENTUM (70%) OR MORE OF ITS COMBINED GROSS SALES OF FOOD AND ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES.

(5) IN ADDITION TO RENEWAL AND LICENSE FEES PROVIDED UNDER EXISTING LAW FOR THE TYPE OF LICENSE ISSUED, AN APPLICANT SHALL BE REQUIRED TO PAY AN INITIAL APPLICATION SURCHARGE AS FOLLOWS:

(I) FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS ($50,000) IF THE LICENSED PREMISES IS LOCATED IN A COUNTY OF THE FIRST THROUGH FOURTH CLASS.

(II) TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS ($25,000) IF THE LICENSED PREMISES IS LOCATED IN A COUNTY OF THE FIFTH THROUGH EIGHTH CLASS.

(III) THE INITIAL APPLICATION SURCHARGE MINUS A SEVEN HUNDRED DOLLAR ($700) PROCESSING FEE SHALL BE REFUNDED TO THE
(1) If the Board refuses to issue a provisional license under subsection (B.2), otherwise, the initial application surcharge minus a seven hundred dollar ($700) processing fee shall be credited to the State Stores Fund. The processing fee shall be treated as an application filing fee as prescribed in section 614-A(1)(I) of the Act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.177, No.175), known as “The Administrative Code of 1929.”

(6) A license issued under this subsection and a provisional license issued under subsection (B.2) shall be nontransferable with regard to ownership or location.

(7) An appeal of the Board’s decision refusing to grant or renew a license under this subsection shall not act as a supersedeas of the decision of the Board if the decision is based, in whole or in part, on the licensee’s failure to demonstrate that its food and nonalcoholic beverages were at least seventy per centum (70%) of its combined gross sales of food and alcoholic beverages.

(8) A license issued under this subsection may not be validated or renewed unless the licensee can establish that its sale of food and nonalcoholic beverages during the license year immediately preceding application for validation or renewal is equal to seventy per centum (70%) or more of its food and alcoholic beverage sales.

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(B.3) An intermunicipal transfer of a license or issuance of a license for economic development under subsection (B.1)(2)(I) must first be approved by the governing body of the receiving municipality when the total number of existing restaurant liquor licenses and eating place retail dispenser licenses in the receiving municipality exceed one license per three thousand.
APPLICATION IN TERMS AS PRESENTED UNLESS THE GOVERNING BODY HAS
NOTIFIED THE APPLICANT IN WRITING OF THEIR ELECTION FOR AN
EXTENSION OF TIME NOT TO EXCEED SIXTY DAYS. FAILURE BY THE
GOVERNING BODY OF THE MUNICIPALITY TO RENDER A DECISION WITHIN
THE EXTENDED TIME PERIOD SHALL BE DEEMED AN APPROVAL OF THE
APPLICATION IN TERMS AS PRESENTED.

* * *

Section 5. This act shall take effect immediately.
In order to be fiscally and environmentally responsible, the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board limits the printing of this document. This report can be accessed online at lcb.pa.gov.