

May 5, 2009 Board Meeting Presentation



Social Host Ordinance



What is a Social Host Ordinance?

- **A Social Host Ordinance holds responsible those individuals who host events at which underage individuals consume alcoholic beverages**
- **It can apply to parents or other adults (such as older siblings or landlords)**
- **It applies to underage drinking that occurs on property owned, rented, leased, or otherwise controlled by adults**
- **It is an additional tool to control underage drinking in the community**
- **Does not affect law enforcement's responsibility to enforce existing laws or allow greater access to residences than otherwise exists in State law**



What is a Social Host Ordinance?

It typically includes certain key elements:

- **Defines unlawful gatherings on private property where alcohol is served to minors**
- **The ability for law enforcement to issue a citation with fines attached (Civil not Criminal penalties)**
- **It can include escalating fines for repeat offenders**



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Why is Underage Drinking a Problem?

- **Underage and binge drinking is a significant community problem – it is the number ONE “drug of choice” for today’s youth**
- **A common way underage drinkers access alcohol is in the home and at parties held in homes**
- **Reports of alcohol poisonings, traffic collisions, property damage, community disturbances, violence, and sexual assault are an all-too-common result of these events**



Why is Underage Drinking a Problem?

- **It is estimated that the economic cost of the use of alcohol by California's youth, including traffic collisions, violent crimes, burns, drowning, suicide attempts, fetal alcohol syndrome, alcohol poisoning, and treatment is more than \$6.5 Billion per year**
- **The national annual cost of underage drinking is estimated to be at least \$53 Billion**



Why is Underage Drinking a Problem for the Santa Barbara Community?

- **California Healthy Kids data shows a growing number of Santa Barbara 7th, 9th, and 11th graders are participating in alcohol and drug treatment programs:**

	1999	2004
# of Adolescent Participants	363	1,772

- **Healthy Kids data also shows:**
 - **In 2004, 35% of 11th graders reported obtaining alcohol at parties where parents were present**
 - **In 2006, 37.3% reported drinking alcohol at home**



Why is Underage Drinking a Problem for the Santa Barbara Community?

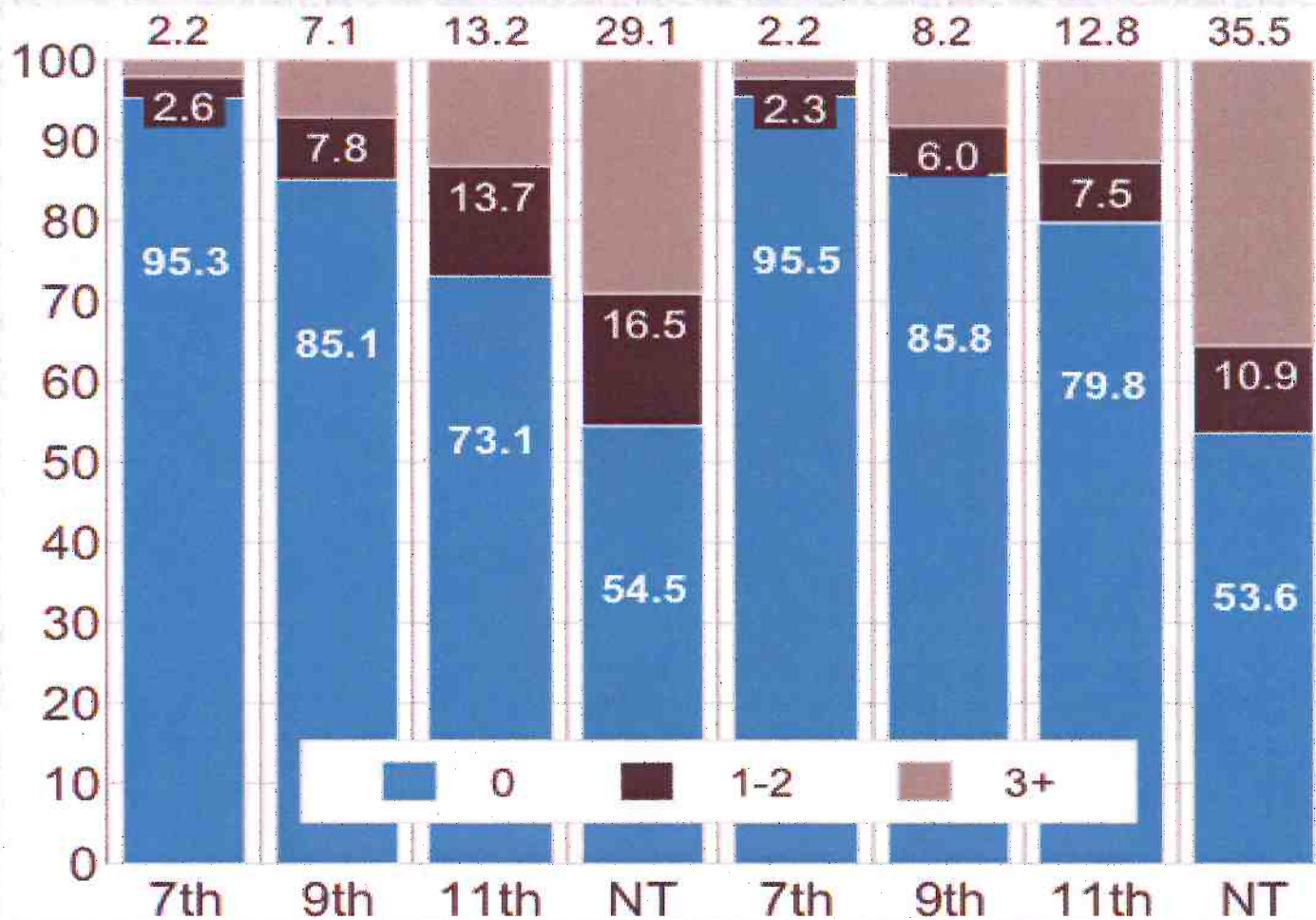
- **ADMHS data supports community concern regarding alcohol consumption by minors:**

Substance	9th Grade	11th Grade
Alcohol (Lifetime)	26%	45%
Marijuana (Lifetime)	17%	29%

Source of Alcohol	9th Grade	11th Grade
Home	20%	24%
Parties	5%	4%
Friends	8%	7%

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ADMHS - Percent of Students Reporting Binge Drinking & Marijuana Use (Past Month) by Grade & # of Days of Use

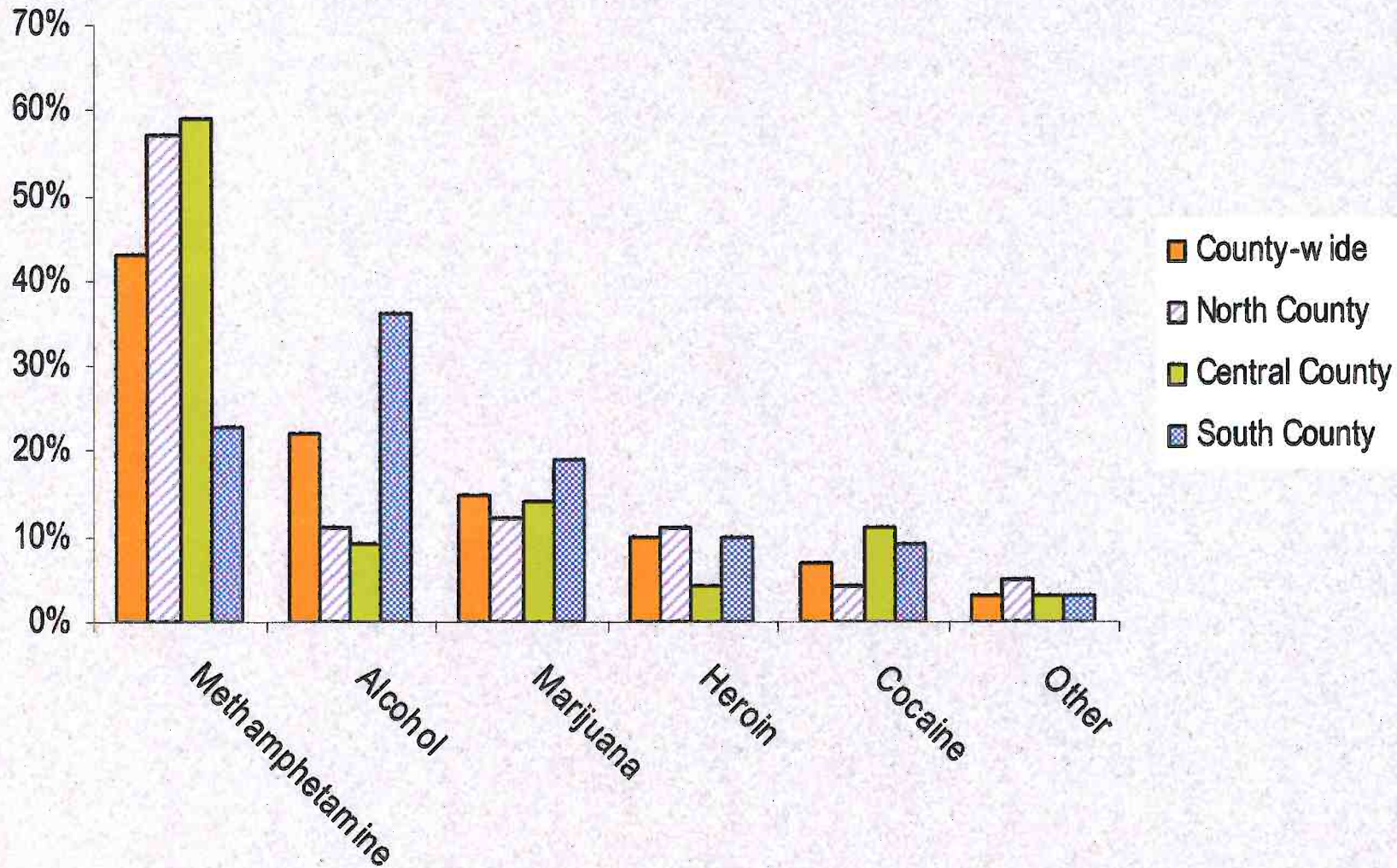


NT – non-traditional school

Binge Drinking
 Marijuana
 Taken from: Santa Barbara County's Children's Scorecard, 2006



ADMHS – Santa Barbara County Alcohol and Drug Usage



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Sheriff Department data shows a large number of alcohol-related arrests and citations in 2008:

Violation	#
Minor – Possession of Alcohol	1,490
Furnishing Alcohol to a Minor	49
Public Intoxication	1,293
Drunk Driving	412
Open Container in Public	740
Public Urination	225
Amplified Music After Hours	328
Disturbing the Peace	261

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What Contributes to Alcohol Consumption by Minors?

- **Weak or non-existent alcohol laws and policies**
- **Easy access to alcohol**
- **Inconsistent enforcement of laws and policies**
- **Alcohol advertising and promotion**
- **Lack of perceived risk and understanding of alcohol-related problems**
- **Community norms that tolerate underage drinking**

A Social Host Ordinance helps communities address all of these issues

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How a Social Host Ordinance Can Help

- **Social host laws are an effective form of public policy that help communities to reduce binge drinking and drinking and driving among the youth**
- **By penalizing adults for illegally supplying alcohol to youth, Social Host Ordinances help reduce the problem of underage drinking in communities**
- **Numerous states, counties, and cities across the nation are increasingly implementing social host laws**
- **It is anticipated that greater evidence of their efficacy will be reported in the years ahead as more and more jurisdictions are able provide data**



Santa Barbara County Draft Ordinance

- **One-year process involving community groups, individuals from the community, and a variety of County departments**
- **Five drafts incorporating much of the input received**
- **Proposed ordinance is generally consistent with Carpinteria's and City of Santa Barbara's ordinances**



Santa Barbara County Draft Ordinance

- **Key elements of proposed Ordinance include:**
 - **Defines gatherings subject to the Ordinance;**
 - **Defines adults held responsible**
 - **Prohibits unlawful gatherings where alcohol is provided to and/or consumed by any minor**
 - **Imposes fines from \$250 to \$1000 for successive violations of the ordinances**
 - **Allows for the reduction of fines upon the completion of appropriate counseling or alcohol program**
 - **Provides an administrative appeal process**
 - **Provides for judicial review**

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Ordinance Comparisons

Ordinance Elements	Santa Barbara County	Ventura County	City of Santa Barbara	City of Carpinteria
Defines a "gathering" subject to the Ordinance, including the number of participants	5 or more	2 or more	5 or/ 2 or more minors	2 or more
Defines adults responsible for underage drinking	X	X	X	X
Defines juveniles/minors covered by Ordinance	X	X	X	X
Prohibits gatherings in which minors possess or consume alcohol	X	X	X	X
First Violation Civil Penalties	\$250	\$1000*	\$1000	\$500
Second Violation Civil Penalties	\$500	\$1000*	\$2000	\$1000
Third Violation Civil Penalties	\$1000	\$1000*	\$2000	\$1000
Rolling/cumulative fine schedule	X	X	X	X
Response/Recovery Costs		X		X
Penalties for Underage Persons		X		
Provides process for waiver or reduction of Civil Penalties for completion of counseling/educational program	X		X	X
Provides administrative appeal process	X	X	X	
Provides for judicial review	X	X		

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Recommendations for Board Consideration:

That the Board conduct a hearing to consider recommendations regarding adding Chapter 48 to the County Code known as the “Santa Barbara County Social Host Ordinance” as follows:

- 1. Consider the introduction (first reading) of an Ordinance entitled, “An Ordinance of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara Adding Chapter 48 to Prohibit Underage Drinking,” (Attachment A); and**
- 2. Set a hearing for May 12, 2009 to consider the adoption (second reading) of the Ordinance entitled, “An Ordinance of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara Adding Chapter 48 to the County Code to Prohibit Underage Drinking.”**