

# ***Excellence in Prevention*** – descriptions of the prevention programs and strategies with the greatest evidence of success

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## **Name of Program/Strategy: Source Investigation Training (Reducing Social and Third Party Access)**

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### **1. Overview and description**

A substantial portion of alcohol obtained by underage persons is from social sources (friends, parties, homes, etc.) and other persons who purchase alcohol and provide it to underage persons (both persons themselves under the legal purchase age and persons who themselves are of legal age). The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, U.S. Department of Justice, has created a guide for reducing alcohol access by youth (OJJDP, 1999). The highest priorities recommended by OJJDP is a compendium of environmental strategies including “shoulder taps” and compliance checks. Shoulder taps occur when an underage person asks another person to purchase alcohol on their behalf. These are common means by which adolescents obtain alcohol (e.g., Jones-Webb et al., 1997a, 1997b; Smart, Adlaf, & Walsh, 1996; Wagenaar et al., 1993, 1996), in part because young people believe it to be less risky than purchasing alcohol themselves. Underage persons themselves are breaking the law through this purchase, even if they do not consume the alcohol. Adults of legal purchase age are also breaking

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***Excellence in Prevention*** is a project of Oregon Addiction and Mental Health Services and Washington Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery. Information is drawn from many sources, including the National Registry for Effective Prevention Programs (NREPP), sponsored by the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention.

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the law by purposefully purchasing alcohol for a young person. Shoulder tap interventions occur when an underage person or a person who appears to be underage age, stand outside a licensed alcohol outlet and approach an older person to request that he/she purchase alcohol for them. In such cases, the potential buyer may be offered a small “fee” for making this purchase. If the older person actually makes the alcohol purchase and gives it to the youth, then they can be arrested or cited by the police.

## **2. Implementation considerations (if available)**

## **3. Descriptive information**

<b>Areas of Interest</b>	Substance abuse prevention
<b>Outcomes</b>	
<b>Outcome Categories</b>	Alcohol
<b>Ages</b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male Female
<b>Races/Ethnicities</b>	American Indian or Alaska Native Asian Black or African American Hispanic or Latino White Race/ethnicity unspecified
<b>Settings</b>	
<b>Geographic Locations</b>	Urban Suburban Rural and/or frontier Tribal
<b>Implementation History</b>	
<b>NIH Funding/CER Studies</b>	
<b>Adaptations</b>	
<b>Adverse Effects</b>	
<b>IOM Prevention Categories</b>	Universal

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## **4. Outcomes**

### **Scientific Evidence**

The study of the willingness of males of legal purchase age to obtain alcohol for underage persons confirms that efforts to limit alcohol access from these sources most likely remains a significant challenge for youth drinking prevention (Toomey et al., 2007).

“Shoulder tap” interventions are a recommended strategy to directly reduce third party alcohol transactions by enforcing laws prohibiting the provision of alcohol to minors (NHTSA, 1997; Stewart, 1999). The utilization of strategies addressing shoulder taps is a potentially promising strategy to reduce third party sources of alcohol to minors that has not been seriously tested in replicated controlled studies.

## **5. Cost effectiveness report (Washington State Institute of Public Policy – if available)**

## **6. Washington State results (from Performance Based Prevention System (PBPS) – if available)**

## **7. Who is using this program/strategy**

<b>Washington Counties</b>	<b>Oregon Counties</b>

## **8. Study populations**

## **9. Quality of studies**

The documents below were reviewed for Quality of Research. The research point of contact can provide information regarding the studies reviewed and the availability of additional materials, including those from more recent studies that may have been conducted.

### **References**

Jones-Webb, R., Toomey, T., Miner, K., Wagenaar, A. C., Wolfson, M., & Poon, R. (1997a). Why and in what context adolescents obtain alcohol from adults: A pilot study. *Substance Use & Misuse*, 32(2), 219-228.

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Jones-Webb, R., Toomey, T. L., Short, B., Murray, D. M., Wagenaar, A., & Wolfson, M. (1997b). Relationship among alcohol availability, drinking location, alcohol consumption, and drinking problems in adolescents. *Substance Use and Misuse*, 32(10), 1261–1285.

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. (1997). *Youth DWI and Underage Enforcement*. Washington, DC: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. (1999). *Guide to conducting alcohol purchase surveys*. Calverton, MD: Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation.

Smart, R. G., Adlaf, E. M., & Walsh, G. W. (1996). Procurement of alcohol and underage drinking among adolescents in Ontario. *Journal of Studies on Alcohol*, 57(4), 419-424.

Stewart, K. (1999). *Strategies to Reduce Underage Alcohol Use: Typology and Brief Overview*. Washington, DC: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

Toomey, T. L., Fabian, L. E. A., Erickson, D. J., & Lenk, K. M. (2007). Propensity for obtaining alcohol through shoulder tapping. *Alcoholism, Clinical and Experimental Research*, 31(7), 1218-1223.

Wagenaar, A. C., Finnegan, J. R., Wolfson, M., Anstine, P. S., Williams, C. L., & Perry, C. L. (1993). Where and how adolescents obtain alcoholic beverages. *Public Health Reports*, 108(4), 459-464.

Wagenaar, A. C., Toomey, T. L., Murray, D. M., Short, B. J., Wolfson, M., & Jones-Webb, R. (1996). Sources of alcohol for underage drinkers. *Journal of Studies on Alcohol*, 57(3), 325-333.

## **10. Readiness for Dissemination**

### **Revised Code of Washington**

The Revised Code of Washington (RCW) is the compilation of all permanent laws now in force. It is a collection of Session Laws (enacted by the Legislature, and signed by the Governor, or enacted via the initiative process), arranged by topic, with amendments added and repealed laws removed. It does not include temporary laws such as appropriations acts.

### **RCW 66.44.270—Furnishing Liquor to Minors**

(1) It is unlawful for any person to sell, give, or otherwise supply liquor to any person under the age of twenty-one years or permit any person under that age to consume liquor on his or her premises or on any premises under his or her control. For the purposes of this subsection, "premises" includes real property, houses, buildings, and other structures, and motor vehicles and watercraft. A violation of this subsection is a gross misdemeanor punishable as provided for in chapter 9A.20 RCW.

## **11. Costs (if available)**

## **12. Contacts**