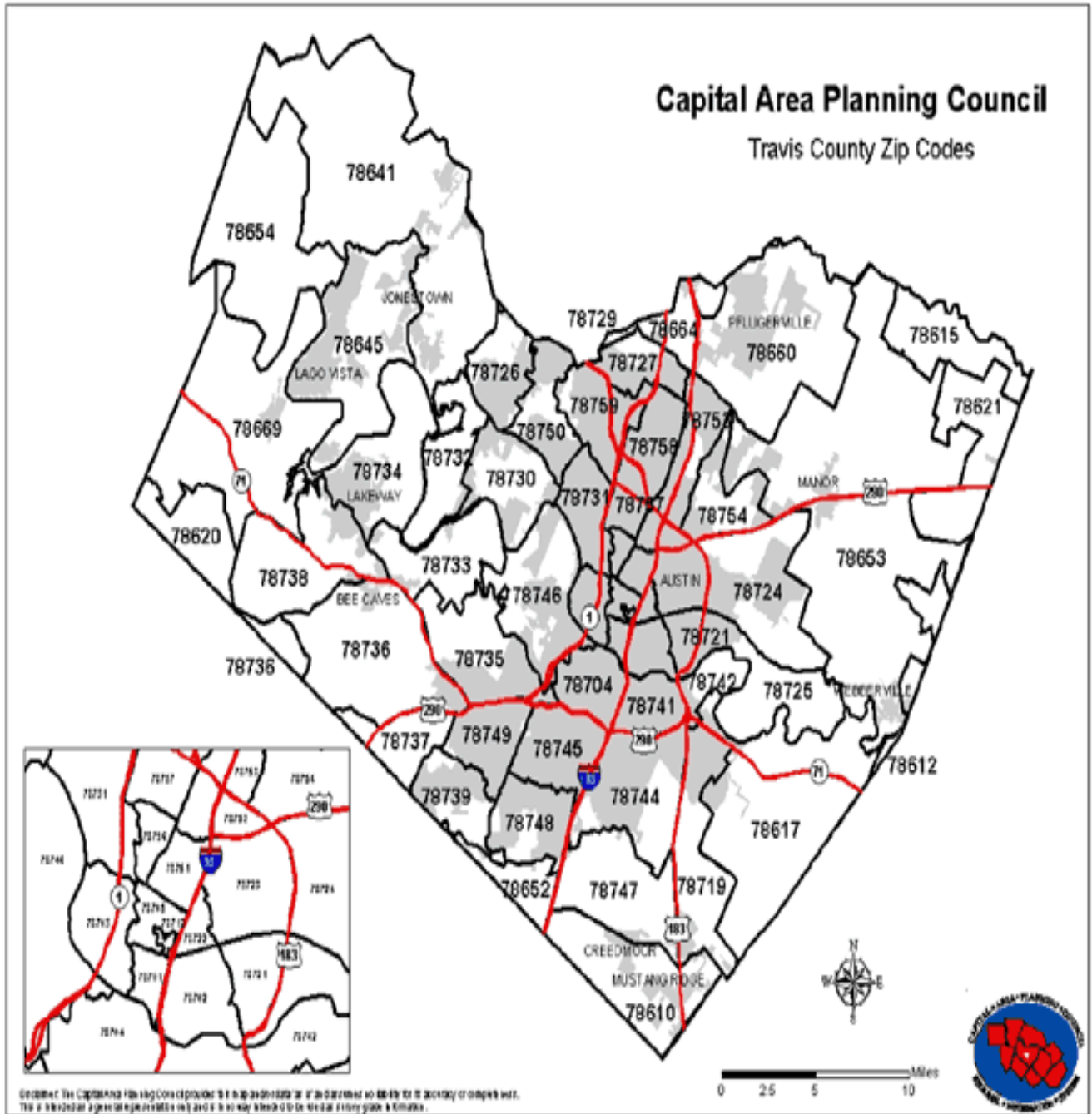


TRAVIS COUNTY ALLIANCE FOR A SAFER COMMUNITY Needs Assessment, 3rd Version – July, 2009

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has." Margaret Mead.



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Underage drinking and its associated consequences represent a serious and growing threat to the health and well-being of youth in Travis County. In recognition of this problem, the Alliance undertook the task of creating a Needs Assessment reporting on the prevalence of underage drinking to better determine the nature and extent of the problem in Travis County and to identify the nature of those needs associated with underage drinking. The Needs Assessment was predicated on the assumption that youth in Travis County have alcohol-related issues that are impacting the entire community. This report presents on the following: demographic data specific to Travis County; the findings of the Texas School Survey data specific to the region of Travis County; Texas College Survey data and data specific to University of Texas; alcohol-related arrests; alcohol-related traffic fatalities; alcohol-related policies and laws; health consequences; the economic impact of the problem; age of onset and binge drinking as key aspects of underage drinking; availability of alcohol; advertising by alcohol distributors; and other consequences associated with underage drinking in Travis County.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FINDINGS

Highlights from the review of the literature and data on underage drinking in Travis County which is located in Region 7 are as follows:

- The Texas state average of students in grades 10, 11, and 12 who reported that they had “used alcohol at least once” is 66% and the average for Region 7 is 64.6%. The Texas state average for students reporting they had “ever used marijuana” is 26% and the average for Region 7 is 28% (Texas School Survey, 2006).
- The “average age of first use of alcohol” for students in Region 7 grades 7-12 is 11.9 years of age and the Texas state average is 13 years of age (Texas School Survey, 2006).
- Ninth, 10th, 11th and 12th grade Region 7 females are reporting in a higher number than males of “ever used alcohol” (Texas School Survey, 2006).
- Binge drinking in Region 7 among 11th and 12th graders is higher than the Texas state average with 38% of 12th graders and 32% of 11th graders reporting participating in binge drinking past 30 days (Texas School Survey, 2006).
- In Region 7, 16.70% of seniors reported drinking and driving, the average Texas state average is 20% of seniors reporting they drank and drove. Over 60% of the time those who drank and drove did not get caught or get in trouble (Texas School Survey, 2006).
- Eleventh graders in Region 7 found it easier to get alcohol than 12th graders (Texas School Survey, 2006).

Law Enforcement and Traffic Data: Data from the Travis County Sheriffs Department, Austin Police, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, and Texas Department of Transportation was collected for the Travis County area. A snapshot of those findings follows:

- Travis County had the second highest number of MIP arrests in the state with 700 minor being arrested in 2007.

- In 2008 there were 16,999, Driving While Intoxicated (DWI), Driving Under the Influence (DUI), and Boating While Intoxicated (BWI) arrests for all ages in Travis County (1,701 persons per 100,000k have been **caught** driving intoxicated).
- Alcohol-related crashes for those under 21, in Travis County were 230 in 2006 down to 180 in 2007, a 22% drop. However, that decline reversed itself and in 2008 the alcohol-related crashes exceeded the 2006 number of crashes. Crashes went up 33% between 2007 and 2008 for Travis County.

Alcohol-related Costs: The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) estimated that the cost of each alcohol-related traffic fatality to be approximately \$977,000.

- There were 39 total alcohol-related traffic fatalities in Travis County in 2007. The overall estimated cost of these fatalities to Travis County was \$38,103,000.

The findings presented in this document confirm that there is a high prevalence of underage alcohol use, as well as serious consequences associated with such prevalence, in Travis County.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the Needs Assessment and consumption/consequences related to underage drinking, 5 recommendations are presented.

1. Support the enforcement of laws against the sales of alcohol to minors by increasing the number of routine compliance checks, among other enforcement measures.
2. Provide networking opportunities and training to the school districts and universities within the Travis County community that are most at risk for underage drinking.
3. Continue to educate the countywide underage drinking efforts through a media campaign.
4. Work to limit alcohol marketing that is targeted toward underage youth.
5. Implement environmental strategies that are Evidence-Based Practices (EBP).

LIMITATIONS OF THIS NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The Texas School Survey findings discussed throughout this report did not capture the students in the Austin Independent School District which is the largest school district within Travis County. However, the Texas School Survey did capture students in Region 7 which includes three Travis County school districts. From this survey the Alliance was able to gain a snapshot of student alcohol consumption rates for the general region.

There is no alcohol-related hospital admission data included in this report. The primary reason for this lack of data is the current UPPL laws but because the Alliance has practiced due diligence, a recent relationship has been forged with a local hospital trauma unit. The Alliance is attempting to get hospital admission numbers on alcohol and drug overdoses as well as any other alcohol-related incidents for Travis County.

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Epidemiological Profile – Travis County Travis County Alliance for a Safe and Drug Free Community

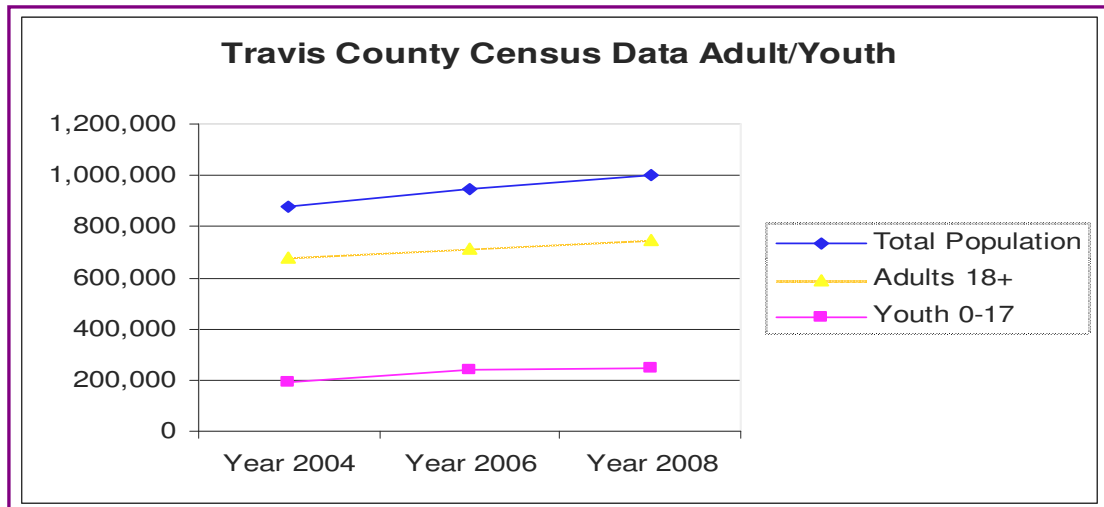
In 2007, the Travis County Sheriff's Department was awarded a grant to become the fiscal agency for a "Substance Abuse Prevention Community-Based Coalition Travis County Underage Drinking Task Force". In 2008, the Travis County Sheriff's Department did not renew this grant. In July of 2008, Austin Community Foundation for the Capital Area became the new fiscal agency for the Travis County grant hereafter referred to as the Alliance. During the transition it was agreed that Texans Standing Tall would be responsible for the programmatic direction of the Alliance. It is important to note how the Alliance was originally formed and to commend those members who were loyal to the Alliance during the absence of funding. Clearly this commitment speaks to the dedication of those community members who believe in the "call to action."

In the first year of the grant (2007), a needs assessment was created to identify alcohol consumption patterns and trends of youth and young adults. At this time, the epidemiological group reviewed the seven intervening variables found in the Strategic Prevention Framework-State Incentive Grant (SPF- SIG). The SPF-SIG is a five-year research project funded through the federal Center for Substance Abuse Prevention that is designed to reduce underage drinking. The project emphasizes the use of a five-step planning model that focuses on accurate assessments of community problems, mobilizing the community to action, developing a strategic plan, implementing evidence-based practices, and evaluating and monitoring the results.

During the Alliance and Epidemiological (EPI) group meetings the discussion focused on which of these seven intervening variables should be targeted under the strategic plan. The variables are all associated with the identified problem of high underage drinking, college binge drinking, and alcohol related fatalities in Travis County. In order to better isolate the problems faced by the target population (which is 12-25 year olds in the Travis County area), the EPI work group and Alliance members reviewed data on specific areas within Travis County.

Travis County Profile

Texas is the second largest state in the U.S. and Travis County, home of the state capital, is in the heart of Texas. Travis County is approximately 1,019 square miles with a 2008 US Census Bureau's population estimate of 998,543. Comparing this with a 2000 US Census Bureau's population estimate of 812,282 shows an estimated 22.9% population increase in eight years. (Texas' overall population for the same time period shows a 16.7% increase in population growth). Census data by age for Travis County is shown in the graph below:



Further population breakdowns for the target age groups from 12 through 25 in Travis County are as follows:

Travis County Population Projections by Selected Age Groups: 2004, 2005 & 2006²

Year	Age 12 - 17	Age 18 - 25
2004	61,235	128,621
2005	61,835	124,645
2006	62,195	120,217

Travis County is positioned centrally within Texas and three of the nation's 10 largest cities – Houston, San Antonio and Dallas – are less than four hours from Travis County. Mexico is also four hours by car from Travis County. Laredo, one of Mexico's major entry points into the United States, is directly linked to Travis County via the interstate highway IH-35. Some of the cities within Travis County are: Bee Cave, Briarcliff, Creedmoor, Jonestown, Lago Vista, Lakeway, Manor, Point Venture, Rollingwood, San Leanna, Sunset Valley, The Hills, Volente, Webberville, Austin and West Lake Hills. Portions of southern Round Rock, Pflugerville, and Elgin also extend into Travis County.

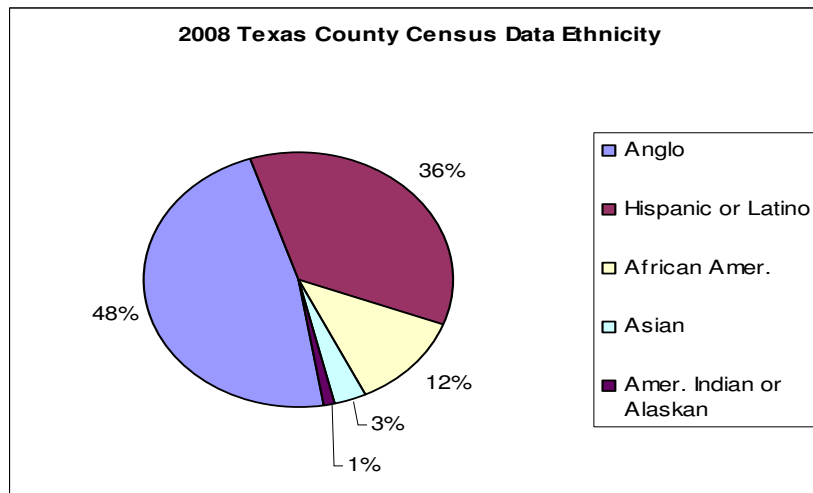
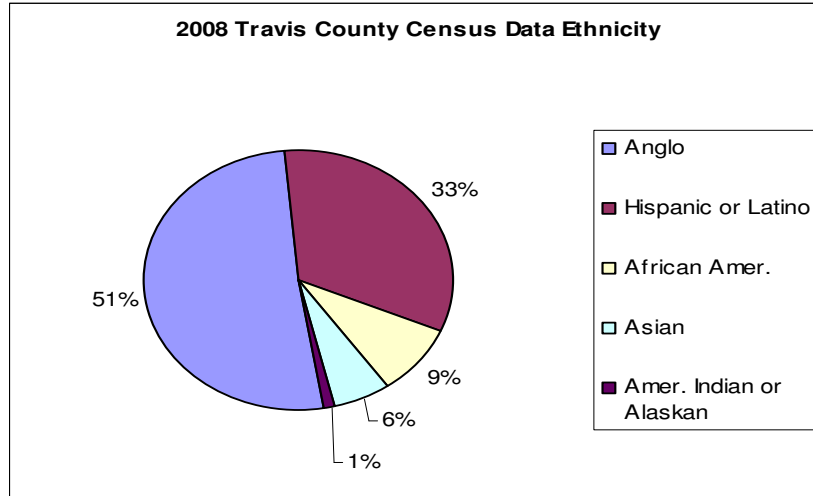
Travis County is a large and diverse area and at the heart of this county sits the capital of Texas - Austin. Austin is the largest city in Travis County covering a total of 232 square miles. Austin is the fourth-largest city in Texas (behind Houston, San Antonio, and Dallas), the 16th largest city in the United States, and the 5th largest city in the South. The city is the cultural and economic center of the Austin-Round Rock Metropolitan Area that has a combined population of more than 1.5 million and is among the fastest growing cities in the U.S.

Travis County has a median age of 32.2, which is four years younger than the national median (US Census Bureau, 2006). Twenty-five percent of the population is below the age of 18 (US Census Bureau, 2008) and almost half the population is between the ages 18 and 44. Together, the area's school districts, colleges and universities serve an estimated 200,000 students.

¹ Source: US Census Bureau, 2008, retrieved June 1, 2009

² Texas State Data Center at UT San Antonio. *Population Migration Growth Scenario 2002-2004*

Approximately 48.2% of the population is female and 51.8% males. Ethnic breakdown for 2008 finds that Travis County has a higher than State average population for Anglo and Asian's and a lower than State average for Hispanic and African Americans. Demographic estimates in percentages are shown in the charts below.



3

Other pertinent information includes the household incomes of those residing in Texas and Travis County. The Travis County median household income in 2007 was \$53,209 compared to the Texas overall median household income in 2007 of \$47,560. Travis County residents ages 5 to 17 that lived in poverty for the year 2004 numbered 25,794 or 18% of the population. In 2007, *all* persons below poverty accounted for 14.6% in Travis County and 16.3% in Texas. Families below poverty were at 10.5% in Travis County compared to the U.S. at 9.8%. In 2000, 84.7% of Travis County residents age 25 years or older were high school graduates and 40.6% have a bachelor's degree or higher. That is higher than the Texas average at 75.7% of all residents having high school degrees and 23.2% having a bachelor's degree or higher. 51.4% of residents

³ Source: US Census Bureau, 2008, retrieved June 1, 2009

in 2000 owned their own home compared to 63.8% in Texas. The median value of owner-occupied housing units was \$134,700 compared to a Texas median of \$82,500.⁴ There is no one standard industry base in Travis County - the occupational profile is as follows:

- 21% Local Government
- 19% Manufacturing
- 13% Professional
- 8% Retail
- 9% Health Care
- 30% All Other⁵

Target Community

School Districts

The Travis County Alliance has a large target area which includes 49 zip codes (see cover sheet of this report), seven whole school districts and two partial school districts in both urban and suburban areas. The total student enrollment for the below schools is approximately 147,913. The population breakdown for by school district is as follows:

- Austin Independent School District (AISD) – student enrollment: 78,000,
- Round Rock Independent School District –student enrollment: 7,044 (for Travis County)
- Pflugerville Independent School District – student enrollment for all of Pflugerville is 19,811, however only one high school (Connelly High) is in the Travis County District so the reported number is higher than the actual enrollment (an estimated count of the Connelly high school is 4,000 students)
- Leander Independent School District – student enrollment: 28,954
- Lago Vista School District – student enrollment: 967
- Manor Independent School District – student enrollment: 6,132
- Del Valle Independent School District – student enrollment: 8,506
- Lake Travis Independent School District – student enrollment: 6,250
- Eanes Independent School District - student enrollment: 7,340⁶

Texas Education Agency (TEA) Overview of “At Risk” Youth by Factors

The TEA defines “at risk” youth by factors that are synonymous with dropping out of school, such as “lack of school success” (grades, test score), health and social support needs (homeless, pregnant, parenting), and behavior (referrals to alternative education or the criminal justice system). The chart below shows the percentage of “at risk” high school students by district. The

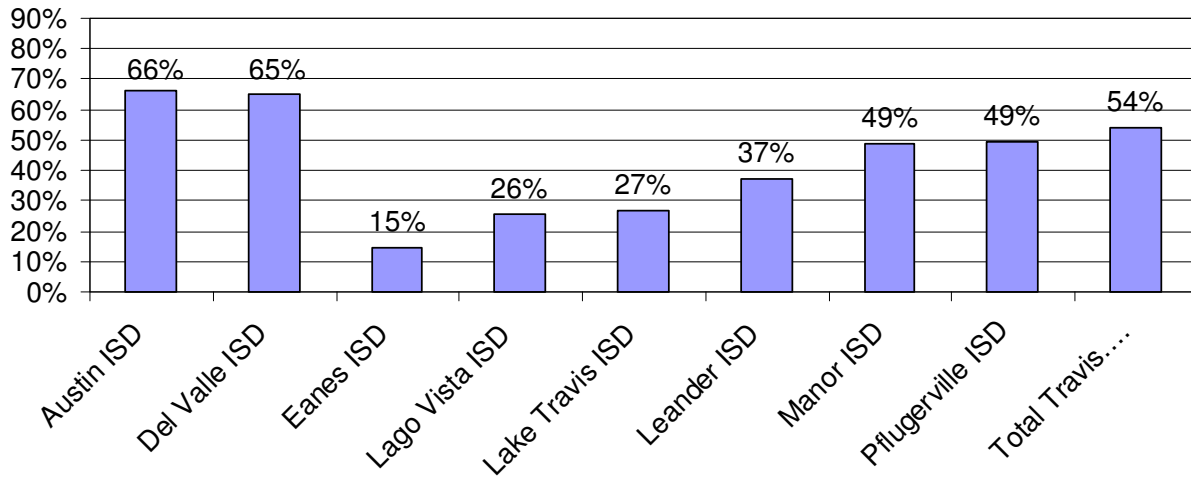
⁴ US Census Bureau, retrieved June 6, 2009

⁵ US Labor Bureau of Statistics, retrieved June 8, 2009

⁶ The Travis County school districts student enrollment was communicated over the telephone and can be found on the school districts website

three districts with the lowest percentages of “at risk” students (Lake Travis, Eanes and Lago Vista) also have the three lowest dropout rates in Travis County.⁷

"At Risk" Students in Travis County Schools Year 2004-2005 Grades 9-12



The County line divides some schools found in Round Rock and Pflugerville school districts. For example, Round Rock ISD has a student population of 40,224 and 7,044 of those students are counted in Travis County. The same with Pflugerville ISD one high school out of two are counted as part of Travis County. In addition to the Independent School Districts, the Texas School for the Blind and Texas School for the Deaf are also found in Travis County. As a result of the large number of schools located in Travis County, there is a large number of young people in close proximity.

The AISD district supports 107 campuses and it is the largest school district in Travis County. It includes children from all economic levels and backgrounds. The district has students from homes in which 57 different native languages are spoken, with children coming from such varied locations as Uzbekistan, the Sudan, Mexico, Bolivia, Vietnam and South Korea. The ethnic distribution in AISD is as follows: 52% Hispanic, 31% Anglo, 14% African American, and 3% Asian. More than half of the students come from low-income families and 20% enter AISD as English-Language learners⁸. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, in 2004 AISD had 93,547 students that ranged from ages 5-17. Of those aged 5-17, 20,606 families lived in poverty.

⁷ Texas Education Agency website, Region XIII, found June 14, 2009 in the Community Action Network, December 2006 issue

⁸ Found on the Austin Independent School District (AISD) home page

Colleges and Universities in Travis County

In addition to the school districts above, Travis County also has 10 universities and colleges. The colleges/universities have a total student enrollment of 82,064 and is broken down by school as follows:

- University of Texas – student enrollment: 50,000⁹
- Austin Community College – student enrollment: 25,735
- Lutheran Concordia University – student enrollment: 700
- Huston-Tillotson University – student enrollment: 685
- St. Edward's University – student enrollment: 4,450
- The Episcopal Theological Seminary of the Southwest – student enrollment: 97
- The Acton School of Business – student enrollment: 90
- Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary – student enrollment: 175
- Park University – student enrollment: 132 (Austin accounts for 1% of the overall Park University enrollment across the nation)
- A branch of Le Tourneau University – the main campus is in Longview, Texas and it is unsure how many students are enrolled in the Travis County satellite campus
- (Total student enrollment for the universities and colleges listed above are: 82,064)

As stated above students at the University of Texas (UT) total 50,000 and there are 36,838 in the 15-25 age group and UT is only one campus out of 10. It is because of the many universities and colleges in Travis County that a larger percentage of the population is aged 18 – 25 and according to National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) statistics, large groups of young people in close proximity drink more.¹⁰

UT Enrollment by Ages (2007)¹¹

15-17 years old	134	0.26%
18-20 years old	18,895	37.79%
21-24 years old	16,615	33.23%
25 years old	1,194	2.38%
26 and above	13,162	26.34%
Total Approximate Enrollment	50,000	100%

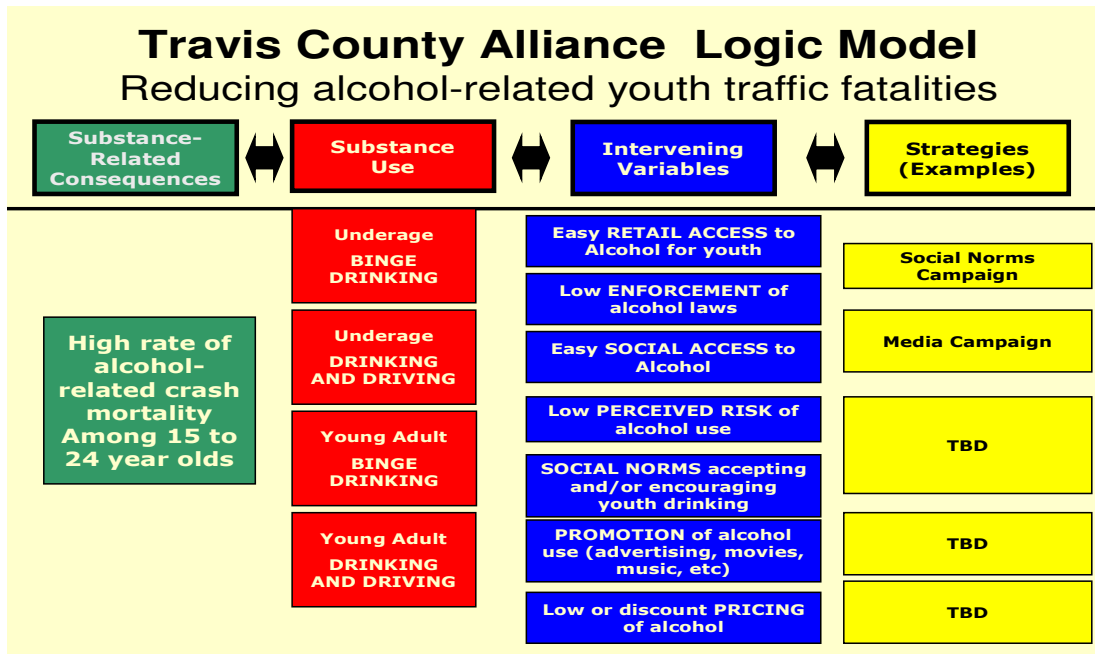
⁹ University of Texas website, 2007

¹⁰ National Survey on Drug Use and Health <https://nsduhweb.rti.org/>

¹¹ Source: University of Texas website, 2007

2. LOGIC MODEL FOR TRAVIS COUNTY

The logic model below was taken from the SPF/SIG Department of State Health Services and will serve as a guide for the sections that follow in this report.



The upcoming sections will address alcohol-related data for 15-25 year olds. Initial data will focus on the seven intervening variables listed in the SPF-SIG model. They are as follows: easy retail access, low enforcement, easy social access, low perceived risk, social norms, promotion of alcohol use, and low or discount pricing. In conjunction with a review of the above seven variables, the report will also discuss alcohol consumption, perceived risks, and alcohol related consequences, specific points of discussion will be on the following:

- Age of onset - average age of first use of alcohol or drugs
- Past 30-day alcohol and drug use
- Perceived risk of harm
- Drinking more than 5 drinks in one setting (binge drinking)¹²
- Where/how minors get alcohol

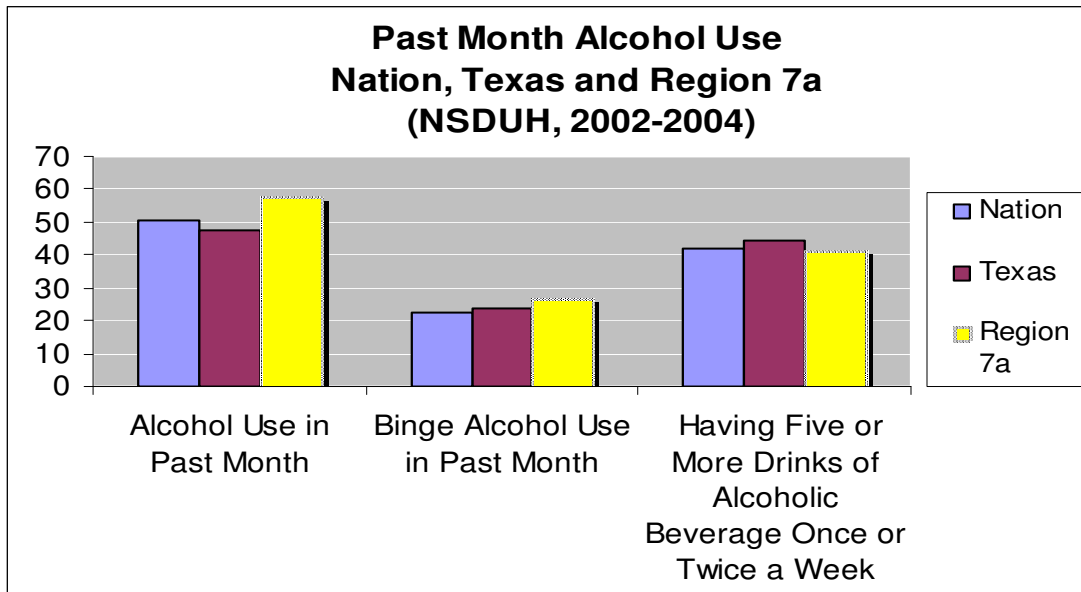
Geographic areas will often be referred to as Regions in this report. Department of State Health Services has broken Texas down into eleven Regions and Travis County is located in Region 7. Other counties in Region 7 are as follows: Bastrop, Blanco, Burnet, Caldwell, Fayette, Hays,

¹² The National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism defines binge drinking as a pattern of drinking that brings a person’s blood alcohol concentration (BAC) to 0.08 grams percent or above. This typically happens when men consume 5 or more drinks, and when women consume 4 or more drinks, in about 2 hours.

Lee, Llano, Travis and Williamson County. Region 7 is then further broken down into Region 7a and Region 7bcd; Travis County is in Region 7a.

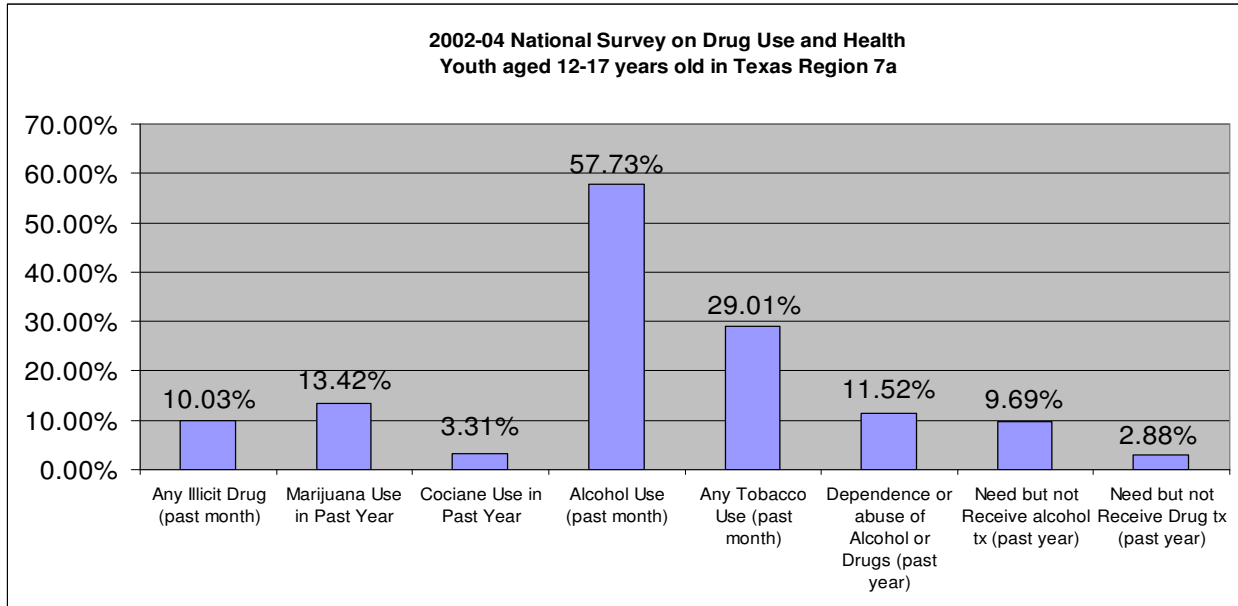
3. CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL

Consumption of alcohol by amount ingested is addressed in the two tables below. The responses in the following table are to three questions: 1) have you consumed alcohol in the past month, 2) have you had five or more alcoholic drinks in the past month, and 3) do you have five or more drinks of alcohol once or twice a week. Alcohol use and binge drinking in past month is higher in Region 7a (Travis County) than the state and national average according to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health.¹³



Further data, found in the graph below regarding alcohol and drug consumption is again found in the NSDUH survey which shows that alcohol is the drug of choice for those aged 12 to 17 in Travis County (Region 7a).

¹³ 2002 – 2004 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH)



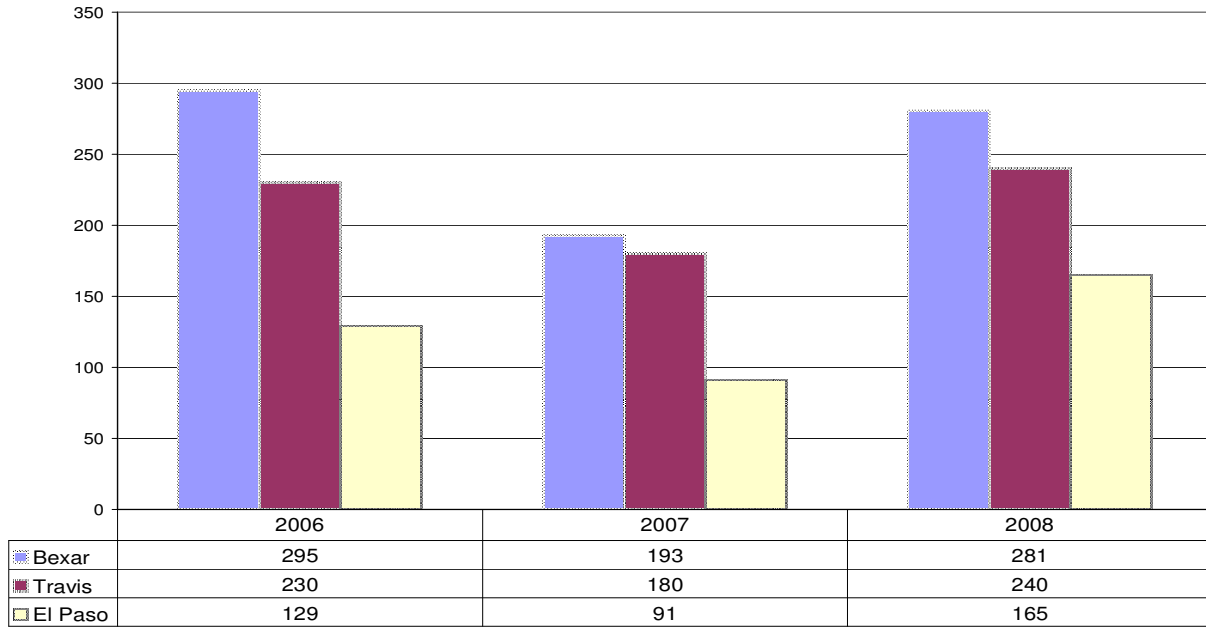
There are 12 Coalitions funded by the SPF/SIG grant in Texas. Coalitions closest to Travis County in regards to demographics and population size are El Paso and San Antonio (Bexar County). It is because of these similarities that data on these counties/cities are reported on in this section. Additionally, surrounding counties are also reported on because of their close proximity.

4. ALCOHOL-RELATED CRASHES

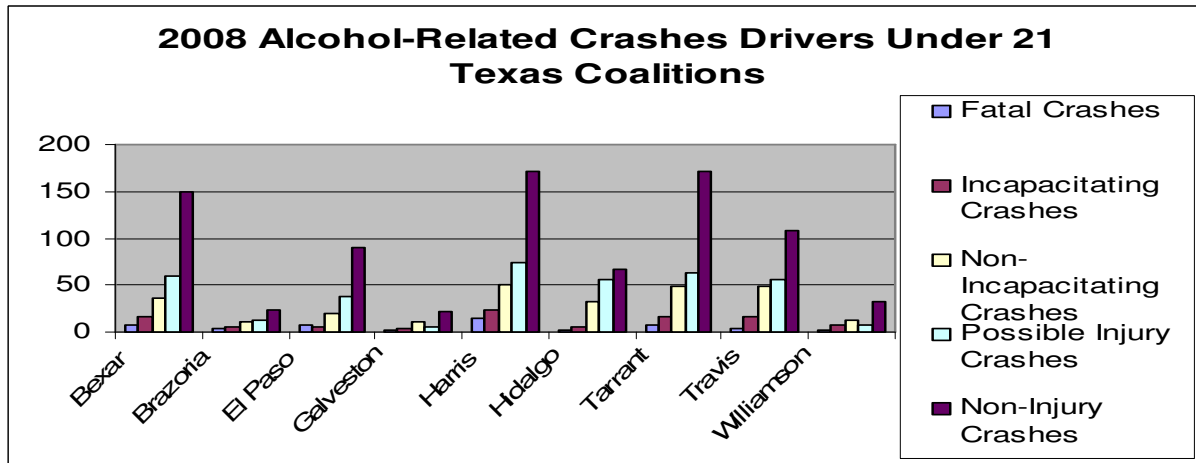
Alcohol-related crashes for those under 21, in Travis County were 230 in 2006 down to 180 in 2007, a 22% drop. However, that decline reversed itself and in 2008 the alcohol-related crashes exceeded the 2006 number of crashes. Crashes went up 33% between 2007 and 2008 for Travis County. Bexar and El Paso Counties also went up significantly. The data is shown in the graph that follows.¹⁴

¹⁴ Texas Department of Transportation

Under 21 Alcohol-Related Crashes 2006, 2007, 2008



The following graph shows the 2008 alcohol-related crash data for those under the age of 21 by type of crash. Types of alcohol-related crashes fall into the following categories: fatal crashes, incapacitating crashes, non-incapacitating crashes, possible injury crashes and non-injury crashes. Travis County is compared to other counties where there are SPF/SIG Coalitions in Texas for a point of reference.¹⁵

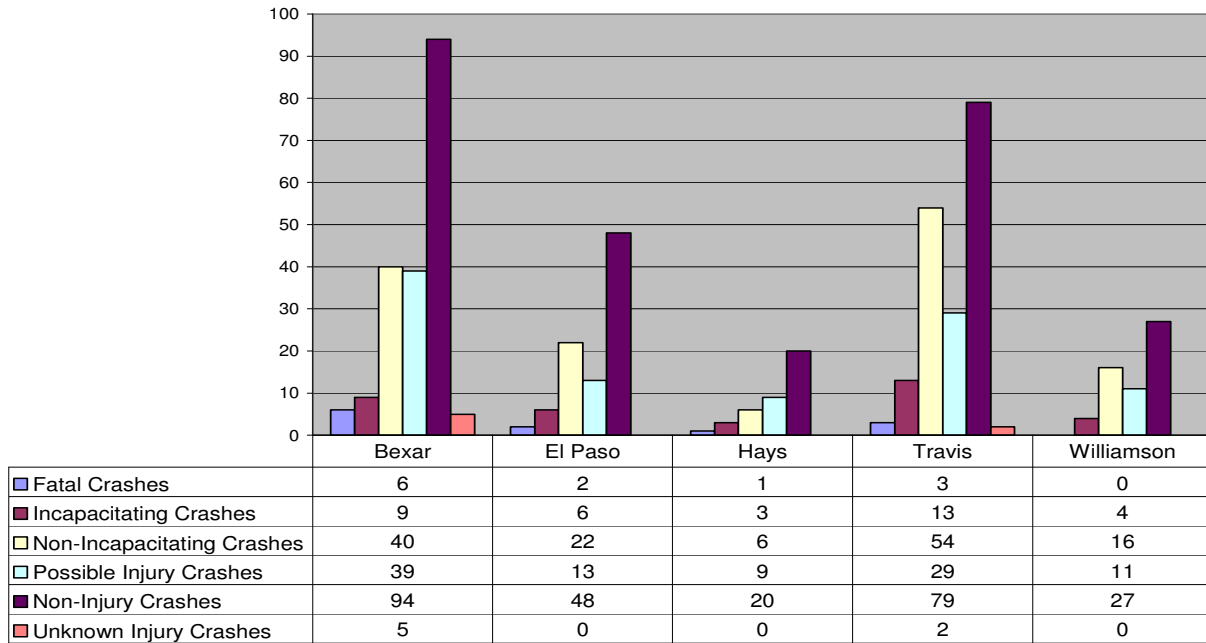


The graph that follows gives a closer snapshot view of the actual numbers of drivers in Bexar, El Paso, Hays, Travis, and Williamson County by what *type* of crash for 15-21 year olds. The data

¹⁵ Open Records Request to Texas Department of Transportation. TRF_TECrashDataRequest TRF_TECrashDataRequest [TRF_TECrashDataRequest@dot.state.tx.us]

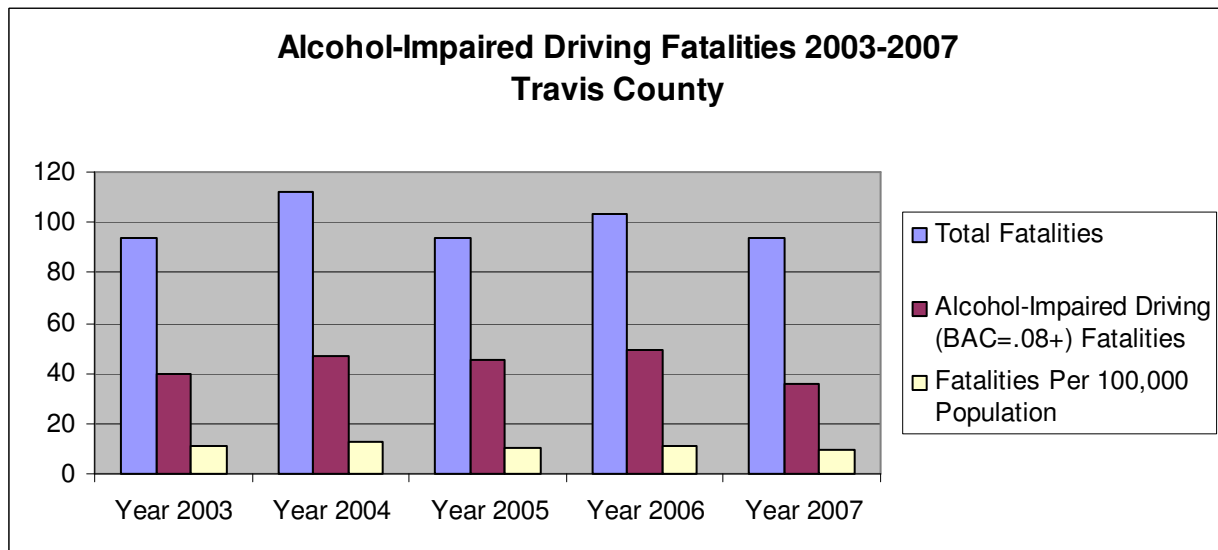
shows that Travis County leads the other four counties in non-incapacitating and incapacitating crashes but it's lower than Bexar in fatal crashes.¹⁶

2007 Alcohol-Related Crashes by Type



The graph below shows fatalities from 2003 to 2007 have gone up and down over the years, with 2007 alcohol-related fatalities for “all ages” declining.

Alcohol-Related Traffic Fatalities for Travis County (All Ages)¹⁷



¹⁶ Open Records Request to Texas Department of Transportation. TRF_TECrashDataRequest TRF_TECrashDataRequest [TRF_TECrashDataRequest@dot.state.tx.us]

¹⁷ National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Alcohol-related Driving Fatalities in Texas (All Ages)

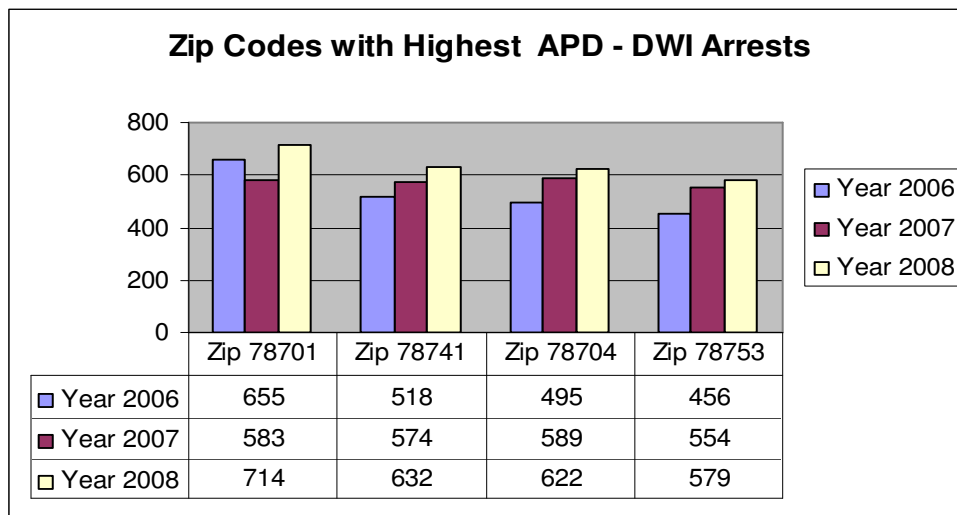
- Year 2007: Total traffic fatalities, 3,531 and 1,400 (39.6%) of those were alcohol-related
- Year 2008: Total traffic fatalities, 3,363 and 1,292 (38.4%) of those were alcohol-related¹⁸

5. ARREST AND CRIME DATA

Travis County has 34 different arresting agencies, ranging anywhere from Austin Police Department to the Austin Parks Department. Based on that, the only method to capture the actual Driving While Intoxicated rate for Travis County was through a request to the Travis County Jail Booking office via the Travis County Sheriff’s Department. One of the original Alliance members was instrumental in gathering this data.¹⁹ The following data reflects the total number of Driving While Intoxicated (DWI), Driving Under the Influence (DUI), and Boating While Intoxicated (BWI) arrests for Travis County:

- 2007 = 16,818
- 2008 = 16,999²⁰ (Roughly 46.5 drivers a day are arrested for being intoxicated)
(Approximate Travis County Population 2008 = 998,543 which equates to 1,701 persons per 100,000 population have been “**caught**” driving intoxicated)

Additional data shown in the graph below was provided by the Austin Police Department (APD). The graph shows that in 2008, the highest number of DWI arrests for Austin occurred in the 78701 zip code which is the downtown, 6th street area.²¹



¹⁸ Source: Texas Department of Transportation

¹⁹ Tracy Miller Alliance Member, Travis County Sheriff’s Department Research and Planning Office provided data

²⁰ Source: Travis County Sheriff’s Dept. & Texas State Data Center at UT San Antonio. Population Migration Growth Scenario 2000-2007.

²¹ Sharon Bauer, member of the Travis County Alliance Epi workgroup provided the number of DWI arrests by zip code

The high concentration of DWI arrests in Travis County may be attributed to several factors:

- The outstanding work of local law enforcement
- The high concentration of alcohol retail establishments located in 78701
- The close proximity of the UT campus to downtown
- The large number of apartments located in 78741 that are occupied by UT students

Additional Consequences Related to Alcohol and Drug Abuse

In addition to the high number of DWI arrests in Travis County, crime rates are also higher than the Texas average. The following two charts report on crimes/traffic fatalities in Travis County and the State of Texas which are often consequences of alcohol and drug abuse.

2004 Crime Rates for Travis County and State²²

	Texas Average	Travis County
Reported violent crime rate per 100 K population	280.9	419
Reported property crime rate per 1,000	24.96	56

6. HEALTH DATA

At this time there is no specific Travis County hospital data regarding alcohol-related health consequences available. This is partially due to the HIPPA laws and partially due to the UPPL law. The UPPL law states that health insurers would not have to reimburse patients for costs incurred when an accident is a result of “the insured’s being intoxicated or under the influence of any narcotic.”²³ Attempts have been made to prohibit insurers from denying coverage and in Texas the attempt to repeal was heard in committee but “left pending.” These are but two reasons why this data is so difficult to acquire. However, data was found on the targeted age group’s admissions into drug and alcohol treatment.

Target Age Group Seeking DSHS funded Drug and Alcohol Treatment: The graph below depicts clients admitted into DSHS funded drug and alcohol treatment facilities in Travis County by primary drug of choice for each age group admitted. Average age of first use by primary drug was 14.1 years for Alcohol and 12.7 years for Marijuana. An important caveat is that the information is limited to the population who were served by a DSHS-Clinic²⁴. DSHS serves only those who are uninsured and don’t have any other sources of payment. In that regard, it is a

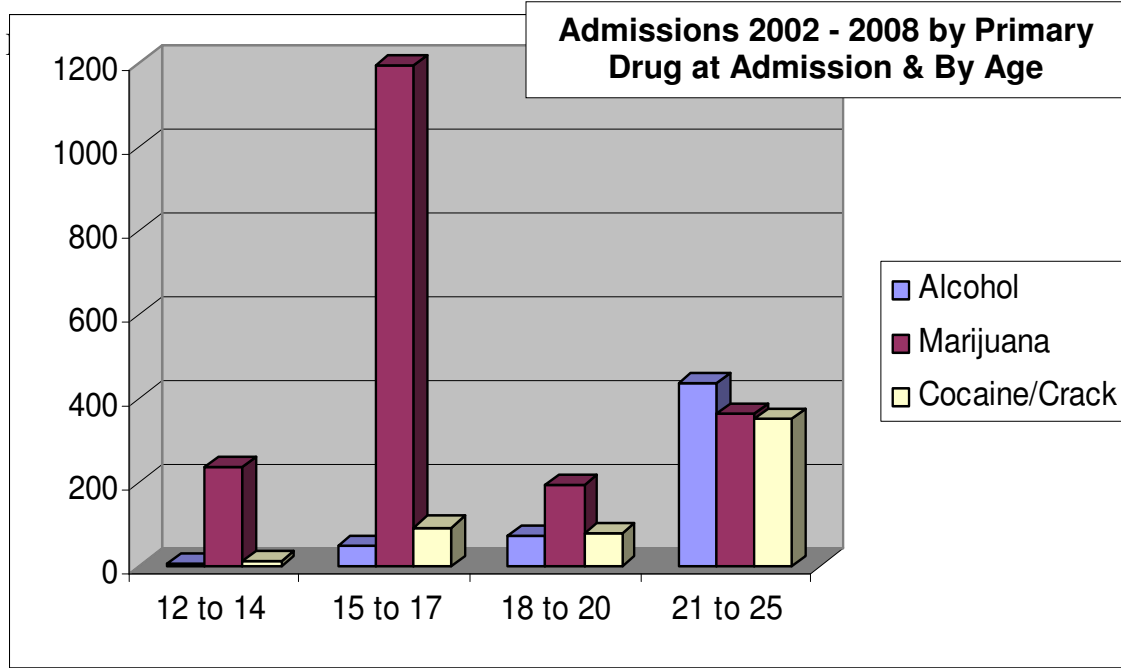
²² 2004 Uniform Crime Reports -Downloaded from Department of State Health Services epidemiological report

²³ American College of Surgeons, Found on-line June 2009, http://www.facs.org/fellows_info/statements/st-55.html

²⁴ Data gained from Dr. Martin Arocena with Department of State Health Services, August 2008

very biased sample of the population, nonetheless the progression for alcohol admissions increases and marijuana decreases as those persons age. That finding reinforces the theory that alcohol abuse can and often does progress to alcohol addiction.

Clients Admitted FY 2002 - FY 2008 by Selected Primary Drug at Admission and By Age²⁵



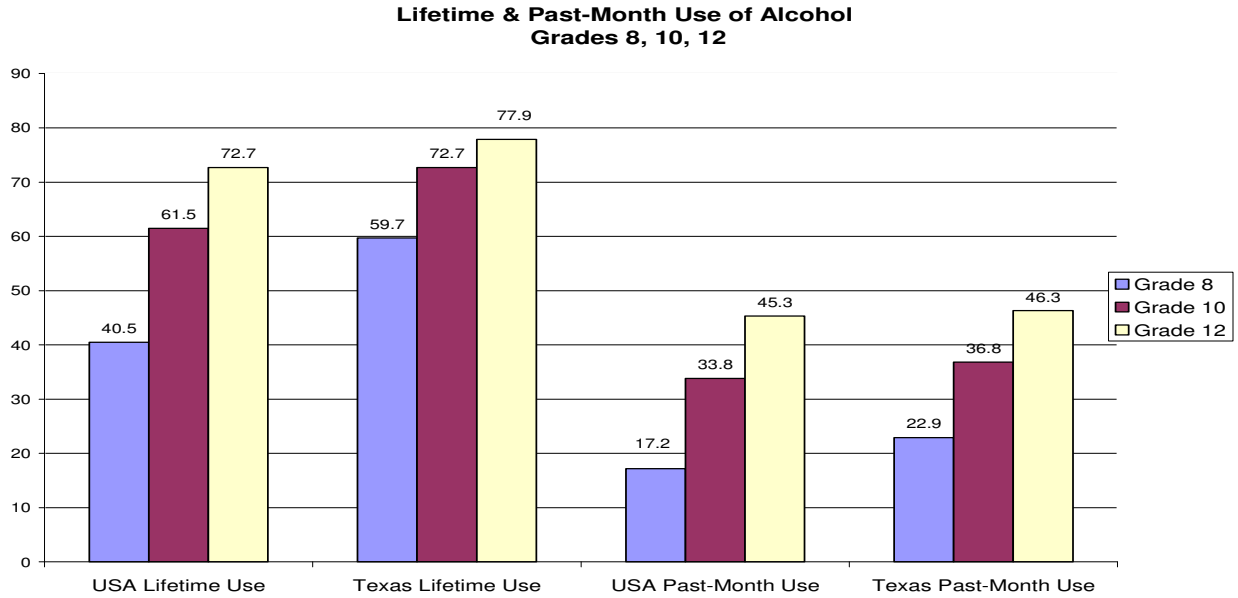
7. TEXAS SCHOOL SURVEY CONSUMPTION TRENDS

Consumption of Alcohol at the National, State, and County Level: The Department of State Health Services began conducting surveys and sampling data in conjunction with Texas A & M University Public Policy Research Institute since 1988. The 2006 Texas School Survey was recently released, marking the tenth biennial survey of drug and alcohol use conducted in Texas. The survey had 141,905 students in grades seven through 12 from 81 school districts in the state participate. The study found that alcohol was the most widely used substance, followed by tobacco, and marijuana, and concluded that 48% of adolescents used alcohol, tobacco, inhalants, or illicit drugs in the past school year and 66% of Texas secondary students used alcohol at some point in their lives.²⁶ The graph below compares Texas and the Nation by underage drinking problem for “lifetime and past-month use of alcohol” in percentages.²⁷

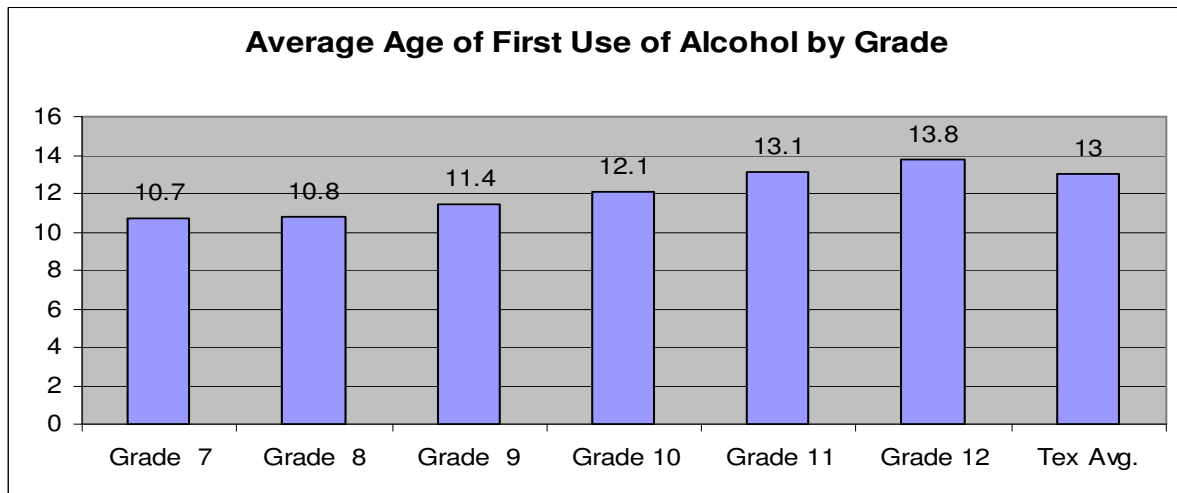
²⁵ Data gained from Dr. Martin Arocena with Department of State Health Services, August 2008

²⁶ 2006 Texas School Survey of Substance Use, Retrieved from the Texas Department of Health Services website

²⁶ Monitoring the Future Survey and Texas School Survey 2006



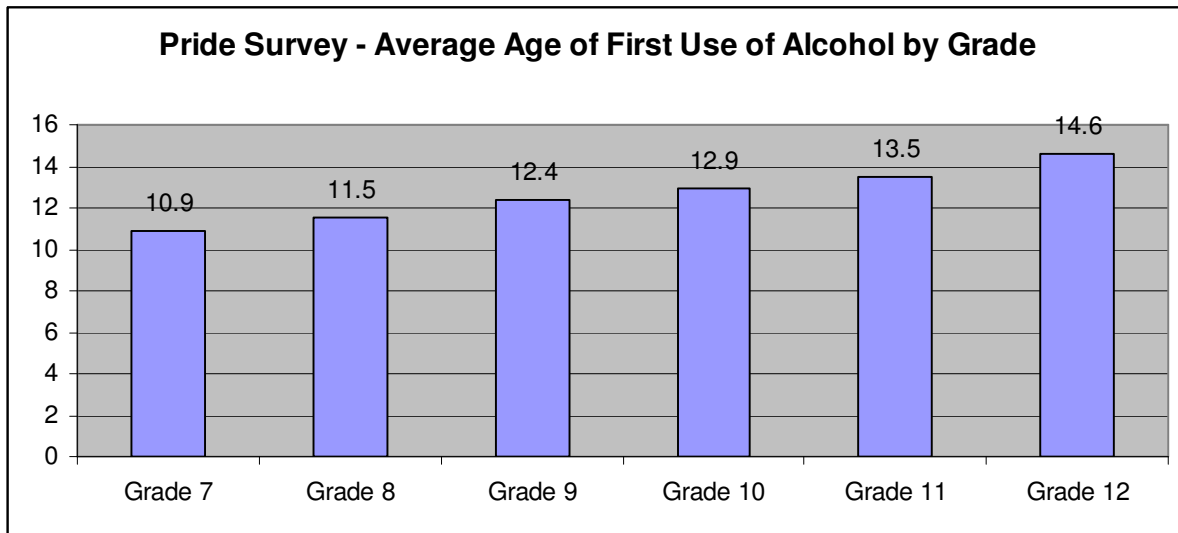
The Texas School Survey also includes items that measure prevalence of alcohol consumption, estimates of perceptions of risk, measures of attitudes toward its consumption, and items to determine the sources of alcohol (e.g., retailers, friends, parents, etc.) among others (Arocena, 2008). The charts and comments that follow are regarding the Spring 2006, Texas School Survey findings for Region 7. The Texas School Survey 2006 found that the average age of first use of alcohol by grade level for the State of Texas is 13 years of age. However, the average age of first use for Region 7 is 11.9 years of age which is lower than the state average - students in Region 7 start using alcohol at a younger age than the state average.²⁸



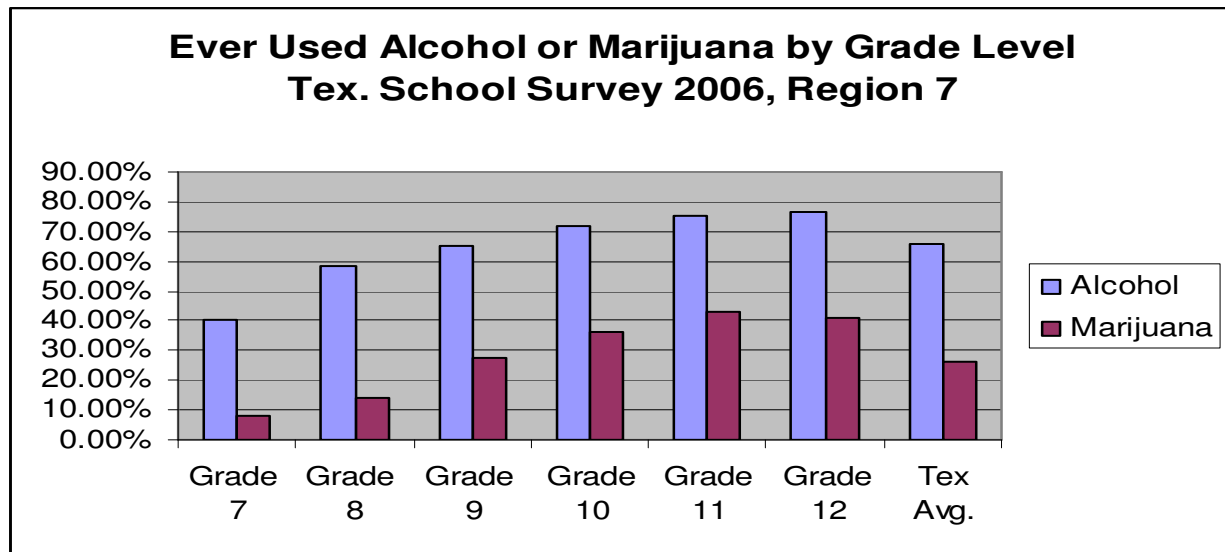
The Pride Survey (2007), administered in Eanes Independent School District (EISD), also attempted to answer the question of how young are students beginning to drink. It should be mentioned that staff in EISD are Alliance partners and the school district is located within Region 7 but like AISD, Eanes did not participate in the Texas School Survey rather they

²⁸ Texas School Survey, 2006

conducted the Pride survey. The average age of onset for Eanes ISD was 12.6 years of age, see graph that follows.²⁹



The following graph shows the response from the question regarding “ever used Alcohol and Marijuana” by grade level. The student average for Region 7 “ever used alcohol” is 64.6% and the Texas average is 66%, the student average for Region 7 “ever used marijuana” is 28% and the Texas average is 26%. The AISD Student Substance Use and Safety Survey (SUSS) student survey also found similar findings; the AISD marijuana consumption was higher than the alcohol consumption when compared to the state average.



The data shown above and in other tables within this report show that alcohol “drug of choice” for youth in Travis County.

²⁹ Eanes Independent School District Pride Survey

AISD Student Substance Use and Safety Survey

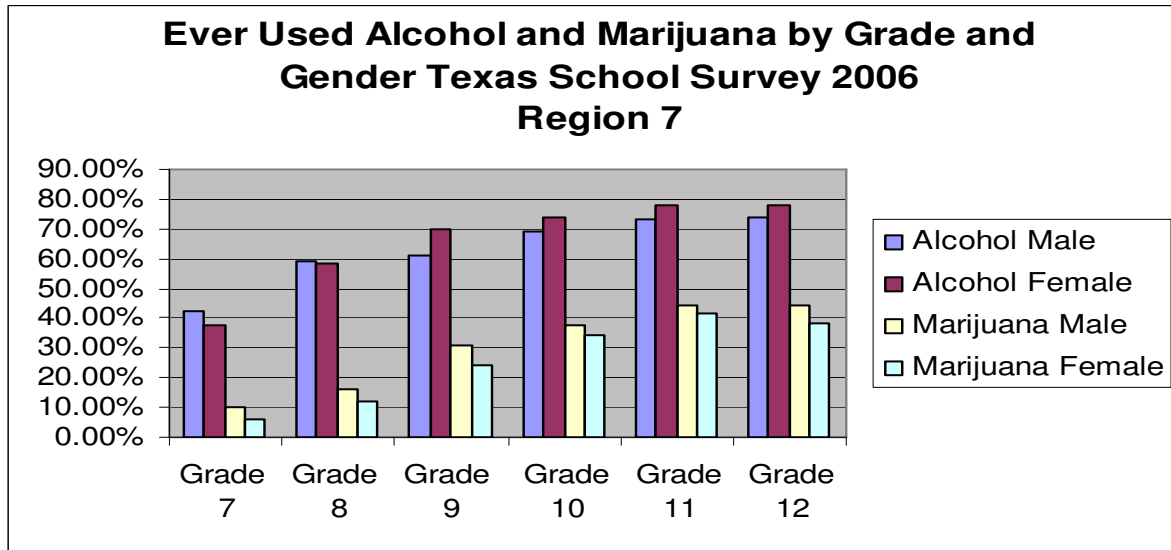
Austin Independent School District (AISD) did not participate in the Texas School Survey in years 2006-2007, however they did conduct a survey of their own called the Student Substance Use and Safety Survey (SUSS). Students from the 7-12th grades were surveyed in a random sample for school years 2006-2007. The alcohol question in this survey read: How often did you use alcohol in past month? The Texas School Survey asks about past month use with a series of different types of alcohol included such as wine, liquor, beer, etc. which has resulted in the Texas School Survey consistently having higher rates of 30-day use among teens than those reported in AISD SUSS survey. However, SUSS found that AISD students had consistently higher rates of marijuana use than their peers in the Texas School Survey.

Gender Trends: Additional information specific to alcohol and marijuana use by gender begins to show an interesting trend. The Texas School Survey found that 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grade females are beginning to report in higher numbers than males regarding “ever used alcohol”. A recent study by Dr. Scott Walters at the University of Texas School of Public Health found “the increase in female alcohol consumption is a consequence of the gender gap closing.” “One of the most remarkable changes of the last 50 years is that young women have become more like young men.” In addition, this article reported that females are engaging in other risky behavior such as drug use at a growing rate. Additionally, Executive Director David Jernigan with the Center on Alcohol Marketing and Youth (CAMY) stated, "People expect teenage boys to drink," said CAMY executive director Dr. David Jernigan. "They have not historically expected girls to drink. Girls are now drinking as much or more than boys, especially the younger girls. They are drinking liquor. The boys are still drinking beer." Dr. Jernigan attributed much of this shift to the advertising of alcohol distributors and the sweeter alcoholic drinks which are targeted for females.³⁰

This gender phenomenon is also supported by the Texas College Survey (2005), showing a 22.7% increase in binge drinking for females on college campuses between the years of 1997 and 2005. Although females are leading in alcohol use males continue to be ahead of them in the “ever used” category of marijuana use. The Texas School Survey (2006) findings are found in the graph below.³¹

³⁰ Join Together (2006), *Camy blames ads for female binge drinking ads.*

³¹ Texas School Survey 2006



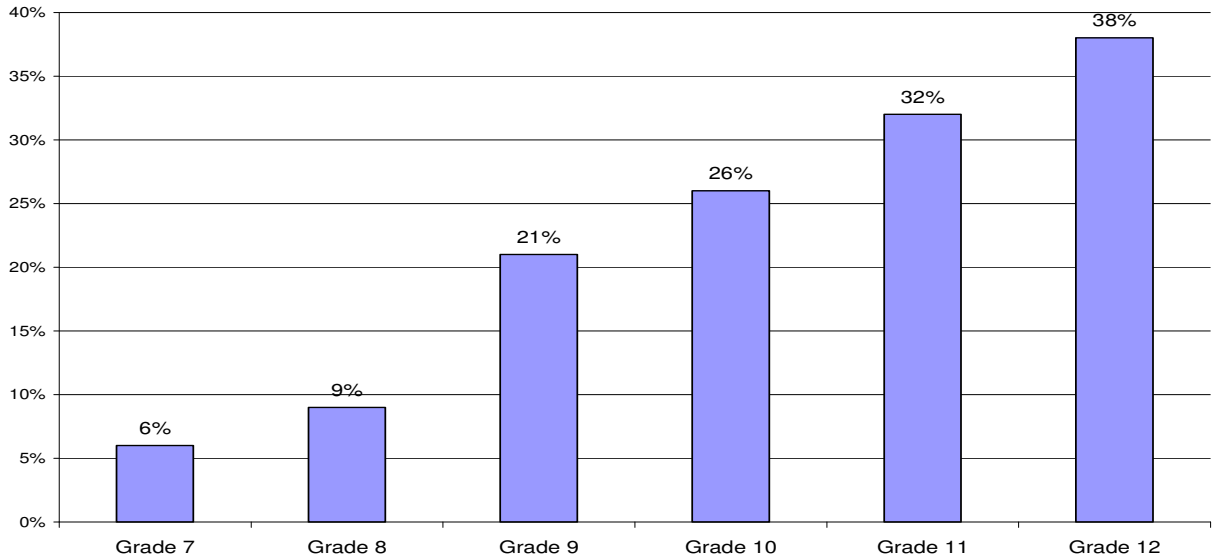
Binge Drinking:

Binge drinking is defined as consuming 5 or more standard drinks but the term is often taken to mean consuming 5 or more drinks for males or 4 or more drinks for females within a two hour time period. However, these numbers can vary significantly based on weight and gender. The *National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism* recently redefined the term "binge drinking" as anytime one reaches a peak blood alcohol consumption level (BAC) of 0.08% or higher. Risky behaviors associated with binge drinking include, "driving while intoxicated, traffic accidents, violence, property crime, suicides, engaging in risky sexual behaviors which can result in HIV and other STDs, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, traumatic injuries, drowning, alcohol poisoning, psychoses, and alcohol dependence."³²

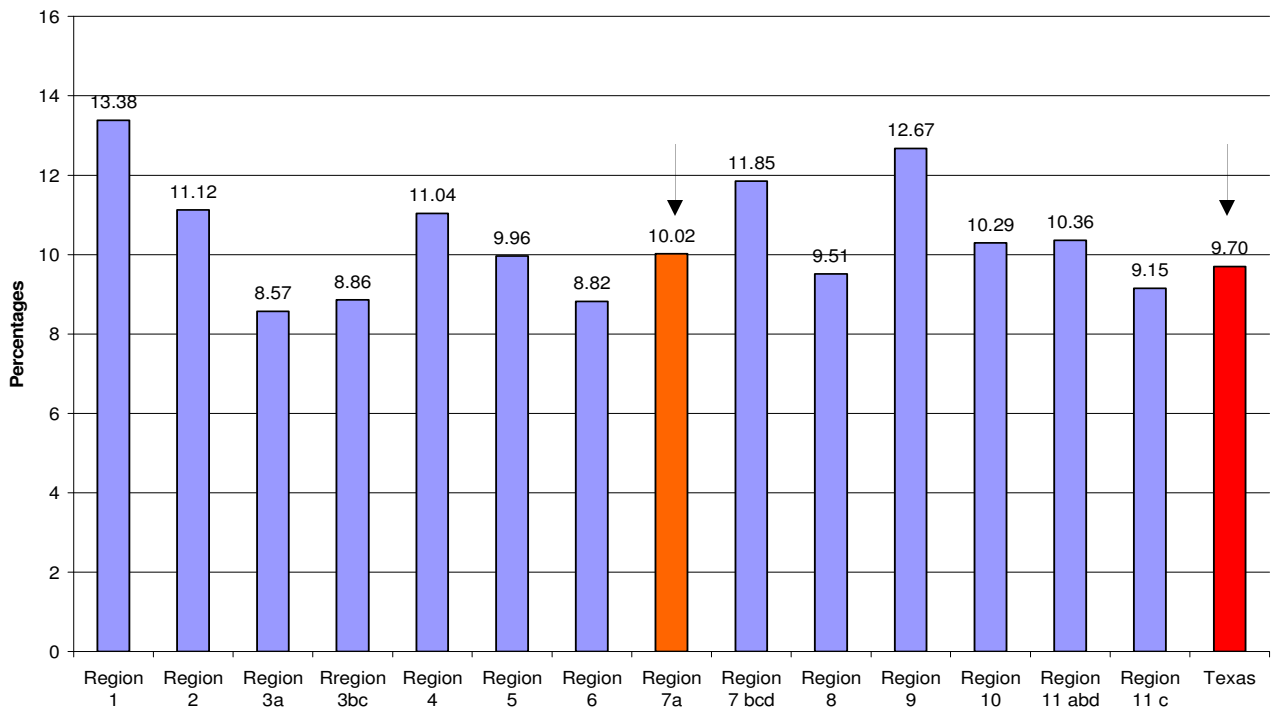
Binge drinking in Region 7 among 11th and 12th graders who participated in the Texas School Survey are higher than the State average with a reported 38% of 12th graders and 32% of 11th graders saying that they did "binge drink alcohol in the past 30 days." The following graph reflects the percentage of students by grade level who reported having 5 or more drinks of alcohol (binge drinking) at one time in the past 30 days in Region 7:

³² Pacific Institute Research and Evaluation, 2004

Percentage of Students who Binge Drink Alcohol Past 30 Days, TX School Survey, 2006
Region 7



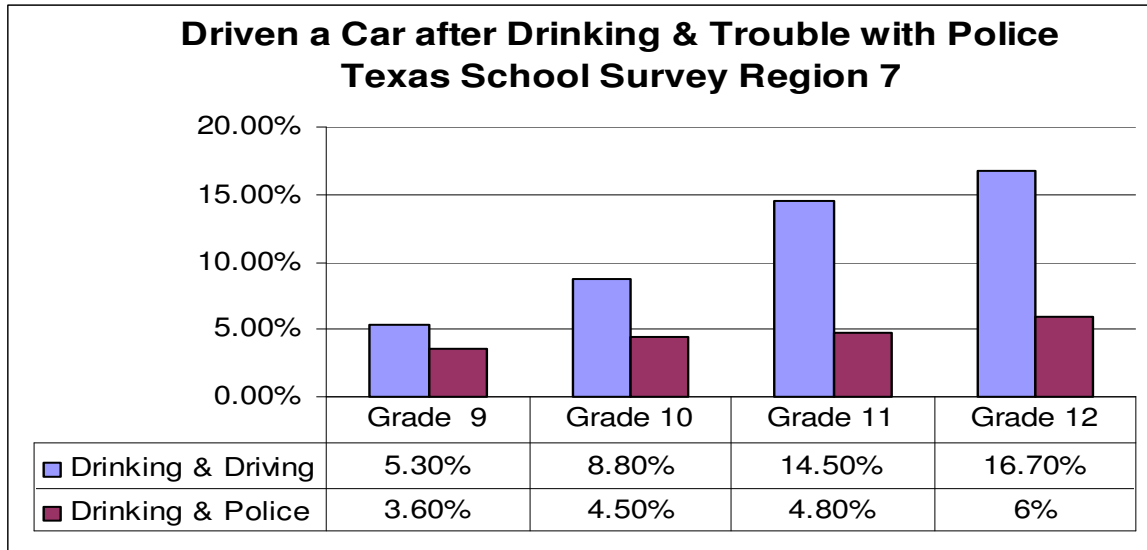
Binge Alcohol Use on Past Month Persons Ages 12 to 17 (2002, 2003, 2004)
Source: NSDUH



The graph above was created by Dr. Martin Arocena (DSHS) and includes binge alcohol use in past month for persons ages 12 to 17 for all Regions in Texas. Region 7a is highlighted in red with a percentage rate of 10.02% for alcohol use in past month, which is slightly higher than the Texas average of 9.70%.

6. ALCOHOL-RELATED CONSEQUENCES

When youth drink there are often alcohol-related consequences that follow. The chart below displays the fact that underage drinking could lead to trouble with the police and in school. The chart also shows that over 60% of the time 11th and 12th graders have not gotten caught when they drank and drove. The question that was asked on the 2006 Texas School Survey is as follows: “During the past twelve months, how many times have you, a) driven a car when you’ve had a good bit to drink and b) gotten into trouble with the police because of drinking?” The responses for Region 7 are found in the graph below.



Other pertinent findings from the Texas School Survey:

- 9% of 9-12th graders reported driving a car while drunk or high on drugs
- 16.7% of seniors reported driving a car while drunk or high on drugs
- Grades 8, 10, 12 are more likely than their peers nationally to report lifetime use

Additional Consequences to Alcohol and Drug Use

Additional recent data is found in the Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) data collected by the Texas Education Agency (TEA). The TEA website breaks down disciplinary actions by cause and is reported in actual numbers not percentages.

Comparison data is found in the table shown below.

School District PEIMS Disciplinary Actions by Reason for 2006 – 2007³³

	Controlled Substance	Alcohol	Tobacco	Gang Violence
Austin ISD	671	46	15	50
San Antonio ISD	317	15	48	30
El Paso ISD	214	26	27	26

The PEIMS data shows that Austin ISD leads in controlled substance and alcohol infractions as well as gang violence but trails significantly in tobacco use. This disciplinary data for AISD is compared with El Paso and San Antonio because the other PEIMS data for school districts located in Travis County was not consistent and therefore excluded from the table.

The data partially supports the findings in *Data from 2006 Monitoring the Future National Survey Results on Drug Use* which is found in the *Surgeon General's Call to Action, 2007*³⁴. That report found that more adolescents use alcohol than use cigarettes or Marijuana however the disciplinary actions found in the chart that follows, reflect the use of controlled substances more than alcohol (or at least for those who get caught) but students did use more alcohol than tobacco in AISD.³⁵

9. EASY RETAIL ACCESS

Easy Retail Access is one of the first of seven intervening variables that is discussed and found in the Travis County Alliance Logic Model. Retail access is one of the target environmental variables that the Alliance has chosen to address with the use of compliance checks and retailer education; this will be discussed in greater detail as the report progresses. The importance of this variable is grounded in the Birckmayer, et.al. (2004), article which states “studies that look at variations of restriction on availability or efforts to change the retail availability of alcohol have generally found that reduced retail availability results in lower alcohol consumption and associated problems.” The article goes on to say “without availability, there can be no use and associated problems.”³⁶

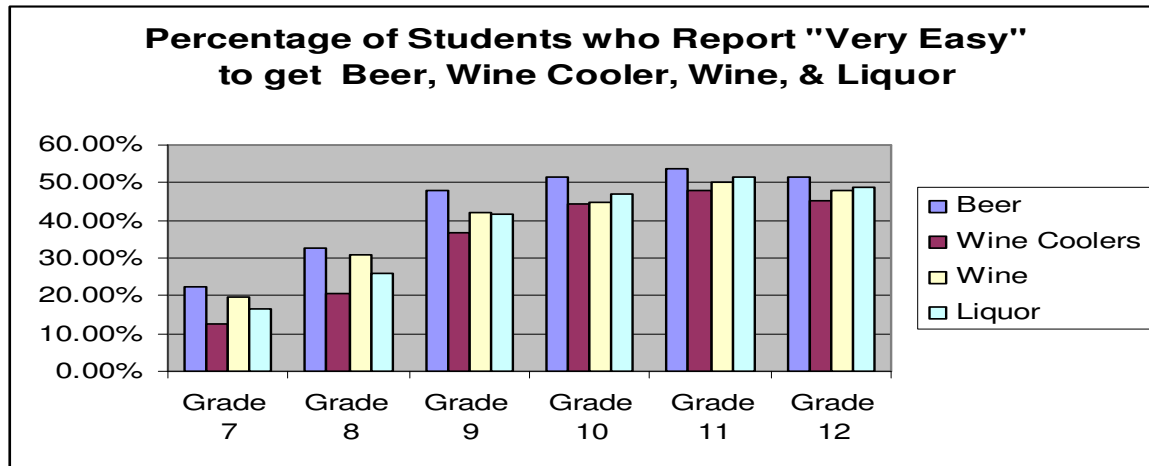
³³ Texas Education Agency website

³⁴ Found in *Data from 2006 Monitoring the Future National Survey Results on Drug Use* (found on page 3 of this report) which is found in the *Surgeon General's Call to Action, 2007*

³⁵ Texas Education Agency – Retrieved July 2008, from http://www.tea.state.tx.us/adhocrpt/Disciplinary_Data_Products/Download_District_Student_Incident_Counts.html

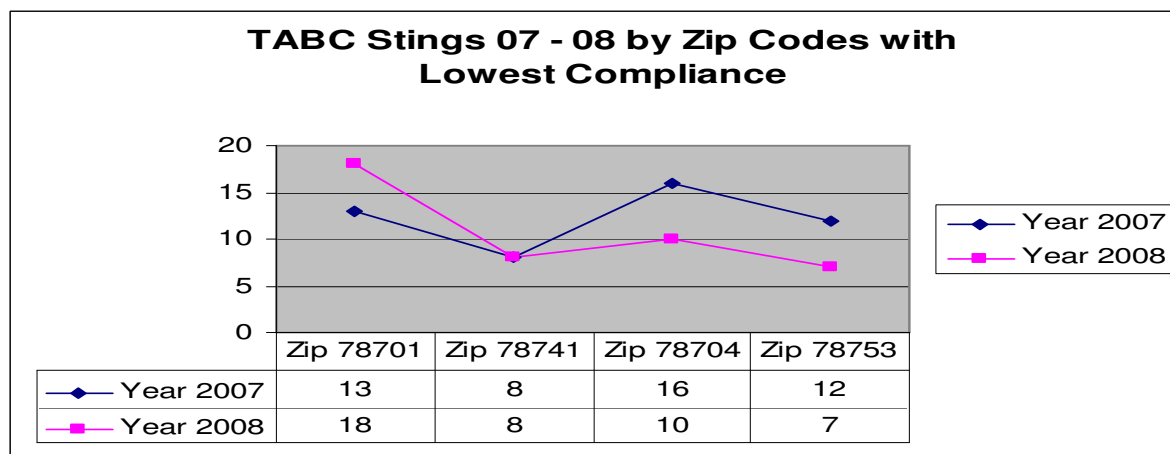
³⁶ Birckmayer, J.D., Holder, H.D., Yacoubia, G.S., & Friend, K. B. (2004), A general causal model to guide alcohol, tobacco, and illicit drug prevention: Assessing the research evidence. *The Journal of Drug Education*, 34(2); 121-153.

The Texas School Survey found that 18% of the overall students for all of Texas got alcohol from a store, “easy retail access.” The responses to the Texas School Survey question: “If you wanted some, how difficult would it be to get – Beer, Wine Coolers, Wine and Liquor” for Region 7 is found below.



The chart above displays a higher percentage of 11th graders than 12th graders in Region 7 finding it “very easy” to get the above alcoholic products.

Additional “easy retail access” can be found in the following display of TABC data by retailers with the lowest compliance. The importance of this slide is grounded in the earlier section on “DWI’s by Zip Code” - the highest rate of arrests for 2006-2008 were in the 78701, 78741 and 78704 zip codes. The graph below shows that the lowest retail compliance was also found in 78701 and 78704. An interesting caveat to this finding is that for the year 2007, DWI arrests were higher in 78704 than they were in 78701 (see page 18) which supports the theory that “easy retail access” can often drive alcohol consumption. Additional TABC sting data will be discussed in the “liquor law violations” section of this report and efforts to combat retailers who are non-compliant is discussed in the subsequent section. TABC compliance data by zip code, for 2007 and 2008 are shown in the graph below.



³⁷ Texas Alcohol Beverage Commission website, Retrieved on line January 2009

10. LOW ENFORCEMENT

Low enforcement of alcohol laws in Travis County has historically been a result of lack of manpower rather than a lack of commitment to enforce the laws. In fact, law enforcement in Travis County has boldly addressed underage drinking with cutting edge policies that were often met with community resistance. These policies support current research that has consistently found that enforcement policies “combined with penalties for sales, has been found to reduce youth drinking and associated problems, including alcohol-related crashes.”³⁸ Efforts documenting law enforcements attempts to address the underage drinking issue are found throughout this report and specifically in the “enforcement” discussion that follows.

The Sheriff has given the Travis County Sheriffs Office (TCSO) Reserve Unit the responsibility of working with TABC for their monthly minor stings. APD has discontinued their stings after grant funding ended in late 2008. A member of the Epidemiological workgroup volunteers for these stings and is currently trying to get details for each “buy” on the offender and store/bar. This epi member has reported that most defendants get deferred adjudication with the courts and the store pays the fine. TCSO has about 30 Reserve Deputies, plus they are starting a new recruitment effort in 2009.

Law Enforcement Policy Changes

No Refusal Policy: APD law Enforcement in Travis County is struggling to keep ahead of those who break the law. Recent budget cuts are responsible for fewer officers on the street. Budget cuts have recently come in the way of a freeze on APD overtime and the recruitment of new cadets. Additional struggles come in the way of “no refusal weekends” where APD has informed the community that refusing a breathalyzer test will no longer be an option. APD has conducted 68 “Blood Draws” as of May 1, 2008 and the debate over the police department's policy to draw blood if they suspect someone of driving while intoxicated and they refuse a breathalyzer test is under heavy scrutiny by the Austin City Council and some of the community. Given this debate and lack of support the “blood draws” have been stopped until the City Council comes to an agreement to move forward or stop the policy.

Arrest and Transport: On May 18, 2009, the Travis County Sheriff reserve officers began the first on-scene “arrest and transport” operation for those retailers who are non-compliant during minor sting operations. Prior to this policy change, retailers who sold to minors were given a citation and asked to appear in court. According to the Reserves who issues these citations, the retailer is typically given a fine for non-compliance. The new policy allows for immediate action and the seller is transported to jail which means the owner or another employee has to take over or close the store. Following this policy change, and at the time of this report, the first operation had the following results:

- 12 locations stung
- 6 purchases of alcoholic beverages
- 5 arrest warrants issued
- 2 subjects transported to Travis County Jail
- 50% compliance

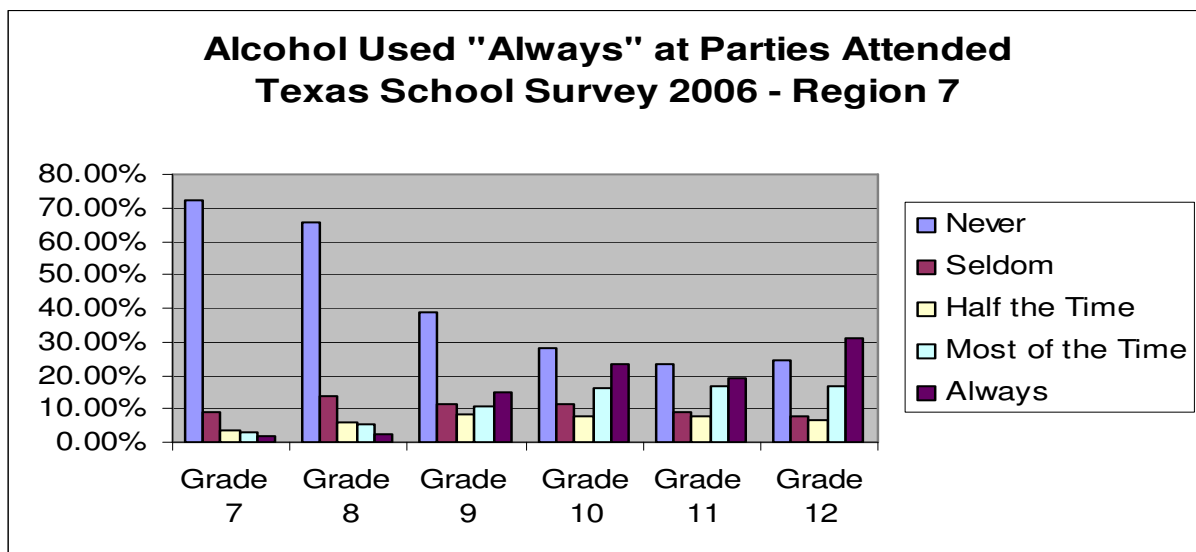
³⁸ Grube, J. W. (1997). Preventing sales of alcohol to minors: Results from a community trial. *Addiction*, 92.

The new operation will take notice of the time constraints that could possibly befall this project – meaning will the time it takes an offender to be transported to jail take away from the amount of stings that the officers are able to conduct.

11. EASY SOCIAL ACCESS TO ALCOHOL

- The Texas School Survey reported the following on “easy social access to alcohol:”
 - 63% of grade 7-12 got alcohol at parties (TX average)
 - 54% of grade 7-12 got alcohol from friends (TX average)
 - 28.3% of 12th graders got alcoholic beverages “most of the time” from friends (Region 7)
 - 24.4% of 12th graders got alcoholic beverages “always” from parties (Region 7)

Social Access to alcohol at parties is evident in the findings from the Texas School Survey for Region 7. The following chart displays the responses to the question, “Thinking of parties you attended this school year, how often was alcohol used?”



The data presented above shows that the number of students who “never” get alcohol at parties decreases as the grade level gets higher and the number of students “always” getting alcohol at parties increases with grade levels.

Social Access at Social Events in Travis County

Travis County hosts a number of music events each year and it boasts a large amount of bars that support live entertainment. The highest concentration of these bars are located on 6th Street (78701 zip code). The overall amount of actual bars in Travis County for 2007 is as follows:

- The Texas Alcohol and Beverage Commission (TABC) has licensed 1,207 on-premise alcohol retailers
- 298 of those 1,207 on-premise alcohol retailers also hold food and beverage licenses

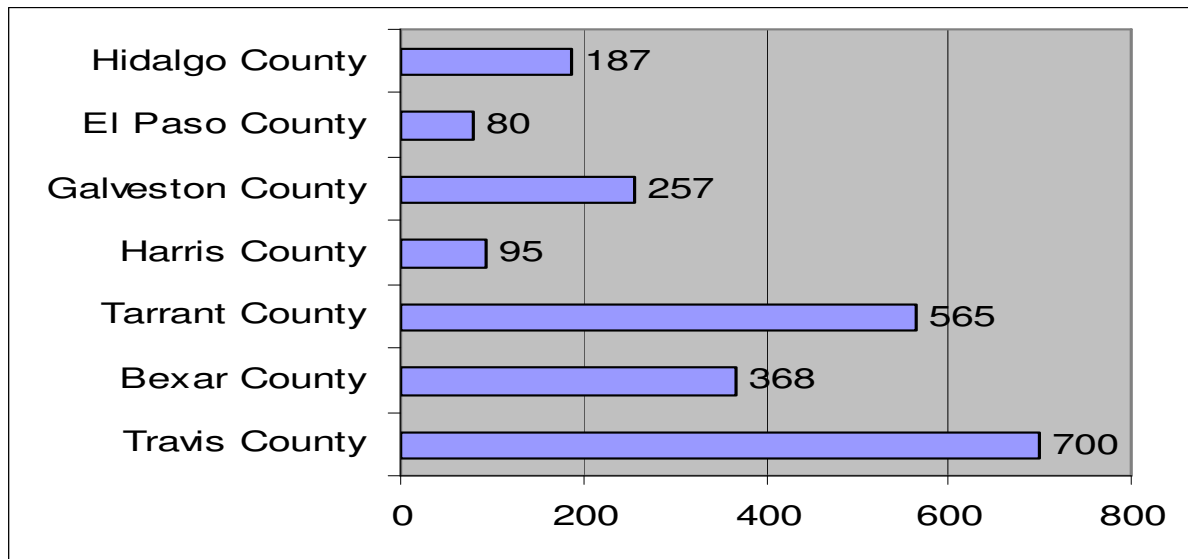
- There are 765 off-premises retailers who sell alcohol

Knowing the number of bars in close proximity as well as the number of alcohol retailers is important because research has found that retail outlet density plays a factor in greater alcohol use and violence (Gruenewald, Ponicki, & Holder, 1993)³⁹. Treno et al. (1993), “found that higher outlet density was positively related to drinking and driving among licensed youth drivers and negatively related to riding with drinking drivers among youth who did not have driver license.”⁴⁰ Similar research denotes that a fast population growth (which Travis County has), leads to more alcohol related outlets. In conclusion, the above research shows the increased risk factors for the young people of Travis County.

TABC Arrest Data for September 2007 to August 2008

Travis County has the second highest number of minor in possession/consumption of alcohol arrests in Texas. Cameron County (South Padre Island) with 777 arrests leads Travis County’s 700 arrests. Cameron County had almost 90% of those arrests occur in the month of March (spring break) while Travis County had the highest amount of arrests in March and April. It should be noted that Cameron County includes a geographic area of 905.76 square miles (e.g., South Padre, Harlingen, Brownsville area are all included in Cameron county) with a 2006 population of 387,717 which is significantly lower than Travis County at 1,019 square miles with a 2006 population of 948,160. The State of Texas as a whole had 7,487 arrests for "minor in possession/consumption of alcohol" (MIP) and Travis County accounted for 9.3% of that number. That said, when looking at the big picture - Travis County accounts for 9.3% of the overall MIP arrest data but only 4.03% of the overall population of Texas.

Minor in possession/consumption of alcohol September 07-August 08⁴¹



³⁹ Gruenewald, P. J., Ponicki, W. R. and Holder, H. D. (1993). The relationship of outlet densities to alcohol consumption: A time series cross-sectional analysis. *Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research*, 17, 38-47.

⁴⁰ Treno, A.J., Parker, R. N., & Holder, H.D. (1993). Understanding U.S. alcohol consumption with social and economic factors: A multivariate time series analysis, 1950-1986. *Journal of Studies on Alcohol*, 432.

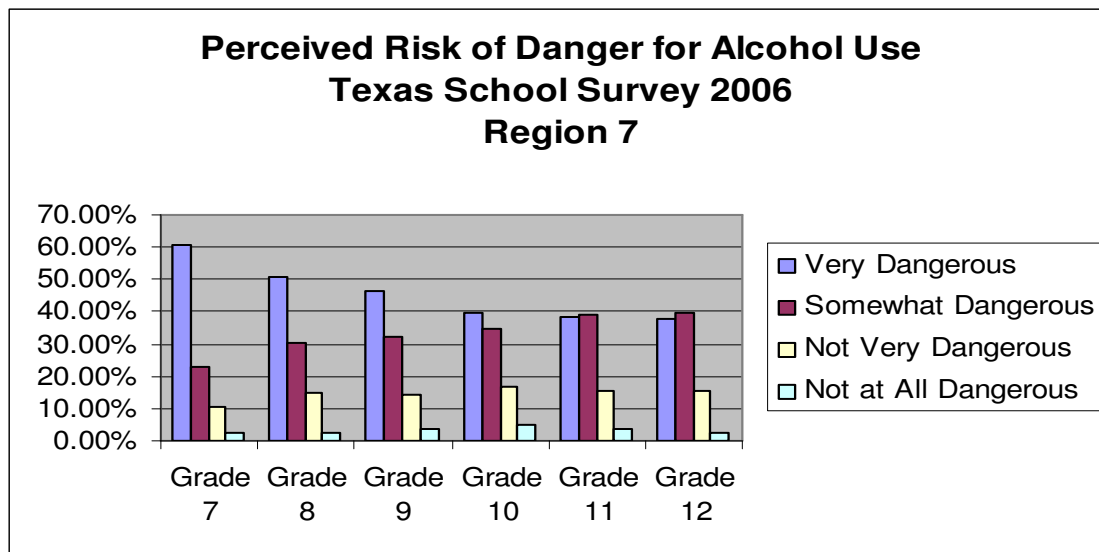
⁴¹ Texas Alcohol and Beverage Commission (TABC), December 2008

Additionally, the TABC arrest data for those under 21 years of age as well as adult arrests of those who made alcohol available to a minor in Travis County from September 2007 to August 2008 is as follows:

- 700 Minor in possession of alcohol (shown in graph above)
- 31 Juveniles in possession of alcohol
- 35 Making alcohol available to minor
- 75 Sale/Serve/Deliver/Make available to Juvenile
- 36 Fake ID's⁴²

12. LOW PERCEIVED RISK

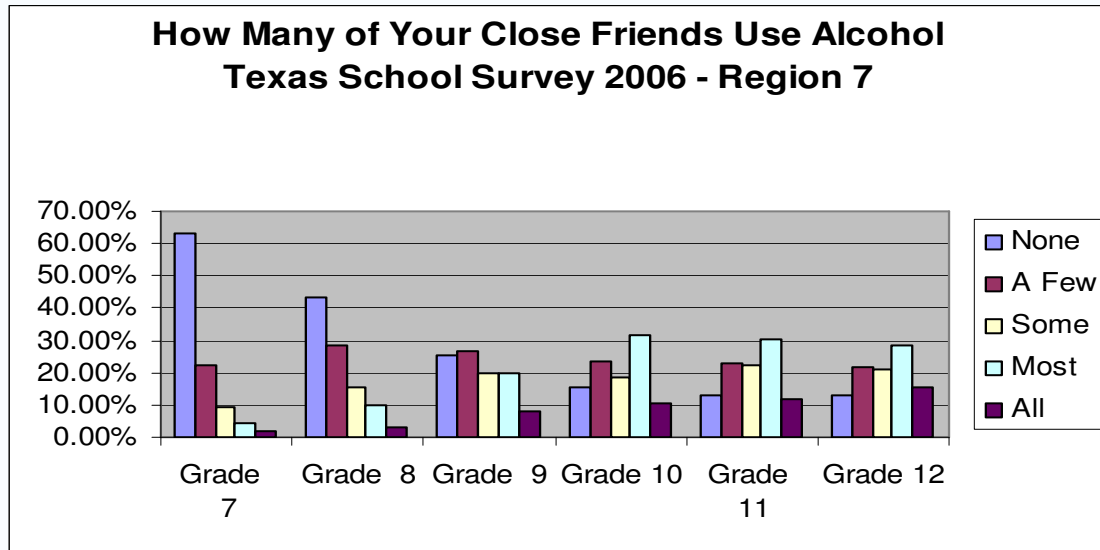
The Texas School Survey asks “How dangerous do you think it is for kids your age to use alcohol?” It appears from the findings below that the student’s “perception of risk” lessens as they age. Sixty percent of the students in the 7th grade reported that alcohol use was “very dangerous” while 38% of seniors reported that alcohol use was “very dangerous”. The chart below displays those findings for Region 7 in percentages.



13. SOCIAL NORMS

Social Norms Accepting and/or Encouraging Youth Drinking:The Texas School Survey addressed social norms by asking the following question, “About how many of your close friends use any alcohol product?” The graph below shows that students believe that their peers are using alcohol and that belief increases with grade level.

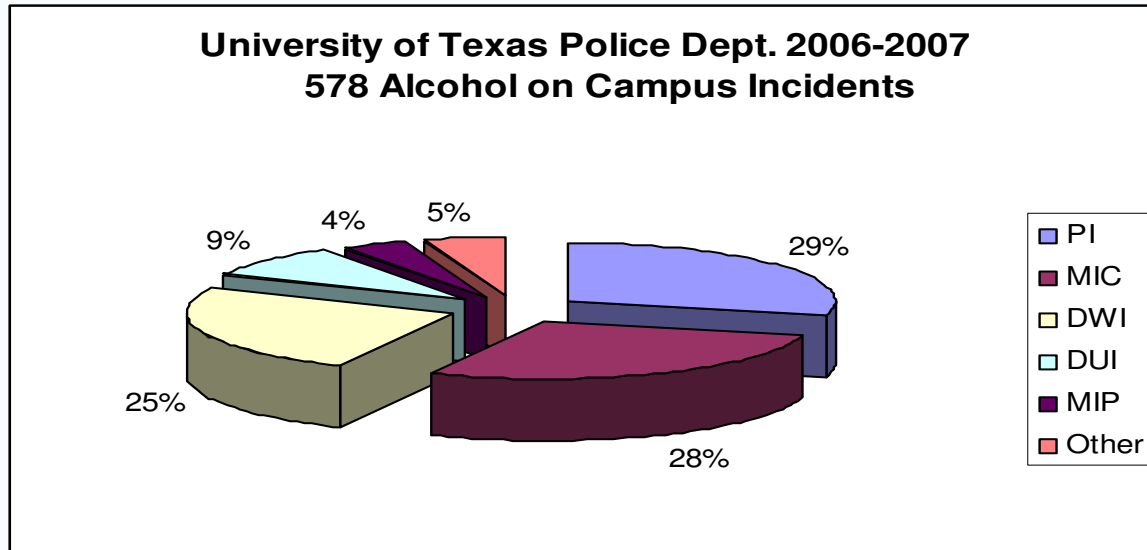
⁴² Texas Alcohol and Beverage Commission (TABC), December 2008



Social Norms at the University of Texas Campus

As mentioned in the beginning of this report the University of Texas at Austin has one of the largest student populations in the nation. Like most large campuses they struggle with the underage drinking problem and have formed a University alcohol task force. That group consists of University of Texas Police Department (UTPD), Division of Housing (DHFS), Dean of Students (DOS), and Alcohol and Drug Education Programs (ADEP). One of the UTPD has been an active member of this Alliance since it began and was the donor of the reported data in this section. Recent 2007 data from these task force members found that the Division of Housing (campus dormitories) had 170 alcohol incidents and of those incidents, 21 involved calling Emergency Medical Staff (EMS), and 10 of those 21 required transportation to the Emergency Room (ER). Additionally, the on campus Alcohol and Drug Education Program provided services for 856 students who sought treatment for alcohol-related issues. Lastly, between September 2006 to June 2007, UTPD had 578 alcohol incidents on campus which reflect the efforts of the UT task force.⁴³ The breakdown of those 578 is found in the graph which follows:

⁴³ Alliance member Dennis Chartier with the University of Texas Police Department (10/18/2007) provided the above UT arrest data to the Alliance.



- PI = Public Intoxication
- MIC = Minor in Consumption
- DWI = Driving While Intoxicated
- DUI = Driving under the Influence
- MIP = Minor in Possession

University of Texas 2008 Survey: The results of the 2008 UT incoming freshman survey of students are as follows:

- 5.6% of students reported driving after having 5 or more drinks within the last 30 days
- 54.4% male & 59.9% female used alcohol, 1-9 days in past 30 days (A chart with UT hot spots can be found in the appendix section of this document)

Social Norms Reflective of Parent's Norms/Attitudes

The most recent Texas College Survey (2005), found some interesting data in regards to how the student's parent's beliefs affect a student's drinking patterns.⁴⁴

- Students who said their parents did not approve of teens their age using substances were less likely to use substances
- 17% of secondary students whose parents disapproved of their drinking beer actually drank in the past month
- 53% of secondary students whose parents strongly or mildly approved of their drinking beer drank in the past month
- Those students who participated in extracurricular activities reported lower use of substances than those who did not participate in extracurricular activities

⁴⁴ Texas College Survey (2005) Retrieved from the Texas Department of Health Services website

- Students who participated in school band reported the lowest lifetime and past-month substance use⁴⁵

14. PROMOTION OF ALCOHOL

Availability and Media Marketing: The Center on Alcohol Marketing and Youth (CAMY) (2005), analyzed 154,621 alcohol ad placements on television and in the television market, specific to the Austin area. The following is a direct quote from CAMY⁴⁶.

- On a per capita basis, youth ages 12 - 20 were more likely than adults to see 33,409 ads, or 21.6% of ads that were shown in Austin during 2005
- Six brands of alcohol exposed youth to more alcohol advertising per capita than adults
- Youth were more likely to see alcohol advertising per capita than adults on nine networks
- Youth were more likely to see alcohol advertising per capita than adults on 618 programs

In 2001, there were 58,196 ads and \$641,108,662 dollars spent in the making of those ads. In 2005, 154,621 alcohol ads were viewed and \$912,948,394 dollars were spent on advertising. In 2005, 33,409 alcohol ads were more likely to be seen by youth ages 12-20 per capita than adults age 21+. The Texas School Survey found that 56% of secondary school students surveyed stated that they have received information on drugs or alcohol from television, radio or other audio and video. Grube and Wallack (1994), determined that exposure to alcohol advertising did have an impact on young peoples perceptions of alcohol. The researchers found (1) that young people who had the most exposure had more positive attitudes toward drinking and (2) those that were exposed were more likely to become drinkers.⁴⁷

15. LOW OR DISCOUNT PRICING

There are a large proportion of bars in Austin's downtown (78701) area that are in close proximity to the University of Texas. In addition to the large amount of establishments that sell alcohol in this area, UT also has a significant number of "home" football games where tail-gating is allowed. Event-Specific Prevention (ESP) strategies that address college student drinking associated with peak times and events have been an ongoing goal for campus police.⁴⁸ A recent study conducted "ongoing web-based daily-monitoring at the University of Texas at Austin

⁴⁵ Texas College Survey (2005) Retrieved from the Texas Department of Health Services website

⁴⁶ Center on Alcohol Marketing and Youth website and handouts received at the 2007 Coalition Summit in Austin, Texas. <http://camy.org>

⁴⁷ Grube, J., and Wallack, L., (1994). Television beer advertising and drinking knowledge, beliefs, and intentions among school children. *American Journal of Public Health*, 83, (1), 1-6.

⁴⁸ Quote from Dennis Chartier, Alliance member and University of Texas Police Department

⁵⁰ Neal, D. J. & Fromme, K. (2007). Hook 'em horns and heavy drinking: Alcohol use and collegiate sports. *Addictive Behaviors*

⁵¹ Neighbors, C., Walters, S., Lee, C., Vader, A., Vehige, T., Szigethy, T., & DeJong, W. (2007) *Event-Specific Prevention: Addressing College Student Drinking During Known Windows of Risk*. Addictive Behavior.

allowing assessment of drinking levels of students ($n = 541$) over two full football seasons.”⁴⁹ The study found that the heaviest alcohol consumption was done on high-profile football game days. Alcohol consumption was compared to other well-known drinking days such as New Years Eve and Halloween weekend. Another interesting result was found in regards to consumption patterns between men and women during ESP times. Men increased their drinking for all games while women increased their consumption of alcohol only during “away games.” “Among lighter drinkers, away games were associated with a greater likelihood of behavioral risks as intoxication increased.”⁵⁰ The chart below discusses specific pertinent findings regarding “low or discount pricing of alcohol.”

Low or Discount Pricing Used to Increase Sales

Bars near campuses compete for student purchasers with drink specials
Density of sales locations creates retail competition
Discount pricing is available in quantity purchases from warehouse retailers
Convenience/gas stores price beer cheaply to attract customers
Retailers offer holiday discounts
Density of sales locations creates retailer competition

Liquor Law Violations

In accordance with Texas State law you must be 21 years of age to buy liquor. As discussed earlier in the law enforcement section, liquor law violations are acts committed by an underage youth or an adult in violation of the state’s laws. The Texas Alcohol and Beverage Commission (TABC), often in collaboration with TCSO reserves, set up sting operations to prevent stores and bars from selling alcoholic beverages to minors. In 2006, TABC conducted 767 attempts to buy liquor (sting operations) in Travis County, resulting in 166 (22%) minor “buys”. Violations for the calendar year 2006 in Travis County are as follows:

- 166 sales or 22% of the attempts to buy resulted in cases in 2006 (results of the sting operation)
- 532 cases of Minor in possession/consuming alcoholic beverage
- 26 cases of making alcoholic beverage available to a Minor
- 133 cases of public intoxication (adult and minor)

16. SERVICES AND PROGRAMS

In response to the underage drinking problem in Travis County many prevention programs as well as juvenile and adult residential and outpatient services have been created. Current Travis County prevention programs that this Alliance will partner with are as follows:

1. Why Risk It? TCUDPP – Gloria Souhami
2. Danger Without Intentions – Guy & Debra
3. STAR CART – Jim Riley, APD
4. Brown Distributing – Diane Hodges
5. TCSO – Shattered Dreams, Community Services and Outreach Unit
6. DPS – Trooper Robbie Barrerra – programs throughout central Texas Area
7. YouthLaunch – Myra Constable and Jessica Roe
8. MADD program – Jill Johnstone
9. Party 101 Consequences – Video produced by AISD and the Independent Insurance Agents of Texas.
10. St. Edward's University, Austin Community College, and University of Texas
11. Phoenix House
12. YWCA
13. Youth and Family Alliance also known as Life Works
14. Pax United
15. Workers Assistance Program
16. Reentry Program
17. Drug Demand Reduction – State Family Program Office, Camp Mabry

Available Treatment Services for both Juveniles and Adults in Travis County

- Lifeworks 441-8336. 24 hour youth hotline; crisis counseling, youth shelter, mentoring and parenting classes, educational and vocational assistance, GED preparation and independent living skills
- Palmer Drug Abuse Program. Provides free help for youths 12-18 years of age and parent support groups. 512 - 927-0422.
- Out Youth Austin 419-1233. Provides support groups and a drop-in center for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning youth ages 12-19; drop-in center Tues., Wed., and Sun. 4:30-8:30pm
- Expect Respect School Based Services 356-1628. In-school counseling and support groups for students who have experienced abuse and/or witnessed domestic violence.
- The Phoenix Academy 440-0613. Serves adolescents only; offers crisis intervention, referrals, and inpatient and outpatient services
- Teen and Family Counseling Center 327-5040. Low cost, outpatient drug and alcohol treatment program available to teens; parent and family support groups; general counseling for children and adults; adolescent group therapy
- Victory Outreach 480-9628. Faith-based individual and group counseling
- Youth Advocacy 444-9505. Case-management services, parent/youth group counseling
- Travis County Juvenile Justice Integrated Network
- Austin Recovery –adult residential treatment (ages 18 and over), 70 male and 100 female beds; 512-997-0101

17. SUMMARY

The Travis County Alliance has taken the original needs assessment along with a 2008 survey of Alliance members to determine its direction in addressing the underage drinking problem in Travis County. Some of the highest concerns pinpointed by the Alliance are: the ability of minors to purchase alcohol; the hosting of parties (making alcohol available) by parents, relatives, and friends; the high number of DWI, DUI, and BWI arrests; the high number of MIP's; the high number of alcohol-related crashes and fatalities; the higher than state average of students (12-17 years) who drank alcohol in past month; and the lower than state average of first use of alcohol (age of onset, 11.9 years of age). The lower age of onset is important because research supports the theory that the developing brain of adolescents undergoes significant changes during adolescence, and alcohol can seriously damage the long and short-term growth processes (National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism). Other long-term effects of early alcohol use can include a greater propensity for alcohol addiction as found in the increased number of individuals entering into drug and alcohol treatment as they mature (see page 16).

A brief overview of the most pertinent data presented in this report is as follows:

- Travis County has the second highest number of minors in possession/consumption of alcohol arrests in Texas
- Travis County has a large amount of alcohol retail establishments in close proximity to young people
- Females are beginning to report in higher numbers than males regarding "ever used alcohol"
- The number of alcohol-related crashes and fatalities for "all ages" increased in 2006, decreased in 2007 and increased in 2008

In reviewing how the number of alcohol-related fatalities impact the Travis County community as a whole it is important to do a cost review to better determine the impact of drinking and driving. The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) estimated that the cost of each alcohol-related traffic fatality to be approximately \$977,000. That equates to the following breakdown:

- The number of "*Under 21*" alcohol-related traffic fatalities in Travis County (2007) was 3. Given the NTSB projected costs of traffic fatalities, the cost for 3*\$977,000 gives the Travis County community a cost of \$2,931,000.
- The above cost to Travis County is just for those under the age of 21 - the overall costs to Travis County for "*ALL*" alcohol-related fatalities is much higher. More specifically, based on the NTSB estimated cost and the 36 alcohol-related fatalities for those over 21 years of age plus the 3 under 21 years of age fatalities gives a total number of 39 alcohol-related traffic fatalities for 2007 which brings the overall cost of alcohol-related traffic fatalities in Travis County to \$38,103,000.

Travis County is not the only county or state that is battling the underage drinking problem. In 2006, the National Highway Traffic Safety reported that: "Texas is the number one offender when it comes to the number of fatalities where the driver or motorcycle operator was legally

drunk (.08 or above). Texas eclipses every other state with 1,354 fatalities.” This equates to 48% of Texas traffic fatalities are a result of alcohol use and the National average is 41%. Additionally, this report finds that Travis County is one of the highest counties for alcohol-related fatalities in the nation when compared by population. Lastly, the Austin Police Department in 2007 released the following statement: Patti Robertson stated that “We are at 800 per 100,000 people for DWI arrests”. “What that means is we are ... the highest in the state for DWI arrests. I think that speaks volumes.”⁵¹

18. YOUTH VIOLENCE

The Travis County Alliance is making data-driven decisions based on this report and Alliance member feedback. One of the directions they have chosen to address is the ability of minors to buy and get alcohol. This is an issue that ultimately feeds into the high number of MIP’s, alcohol-related crashes/fatalities, DWIs, youth violence, drop out rates, teen pregnancies, and alcohol poisoning. More data needs to be reviewed regarding alcohol-related hospital admissions - this should include alcohol and drug overdoses as well as other trauma injuries that were consequences of alcohol use. More data needs to be collected specific to AISD and more focus should be given to the current alcohol policies within the University of Texas. DWI, retail compliance, and alcohol-related crash data should be correlated with event-specific dates at UT and event-specific prevention (ESP) strategies should be reviewed. Current partnerships are being explored between AISD, UT, and Brackenridge hospital trauma unit - key stakeholders from all three institutions have been invited to Alliance meetings.

19. DATA SOURCES

- U.S. Census Bureau Data
- University of Texas Data Center in San Antonio
- Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) – Driving Under the Influence (DUI) arrests for Austin Police Department (APD), Travis County Sheriffs Department, and Travis County Booking reports from the jail
- Minor in possession arrests (MIP)
- Alcohol related crashes and fatalities for Texas and Travis County
- Number of licensed on premise liquor licenses in Travis County (Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission, TABC)
- The Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) data from the Texas Education Agency (TEA)
- The Texas School Survey (Liu, 2006)
- The Texas College Students Survey (2005)
- Eanes Independent School District, Pride Survey (2008)
- University of Texas incoming freshman survey (2008)

⁵¹ Quote taken from Austin American Statesman interview with Austin Police Department, Patti Robertson spokesperson, retrieved on March 9th, 2007.

- The number of successful sting operations conducted in Austin and Travis County
- The number of prevention programs/resources that are available for 12-25 year olds
- The number of Department of State Health Service admissions into state funded drug and alcohol treatment for youth and adults
- Uniform Crime Reports
- Fatality Analysis Reports (FARS)
- Texas Department of Health and Vital Statistics
- National Survey on Drug Use and Health
- Texas Department of State Health Services – State Epidemiological Report
- Center on Alcohol Marketing and Youth (CAMY)
- National Highway Transportation Safety Administration’s (NHTSA) State Alcohol Related Fatality Rates

