Governor Cuomo Announces Historic Crackdown on Underage Drinking in 2019

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo recently announced that New York State’s efforts to deter underage drinking and promote health and public safety resulted in a record number of fake identification seizures and citations issued in 2019. A total of 918 fake IDs were seized—up from 892 in 2018. In addition, a record of 1,016 citations were issued to people attempting to buy alcohol while underage—up from 922 citations issued in 2018. This enforcement initiative helps educate young New Yorkers and prevent avoidable tragedies on our roadways.

"Underage drinking is a serious and dangerous offense that will not be tolerated," Governor Cuomo said. "These record numbers underscore our strong commitment to cracking down on underage drinking and holding those who enable it accountable."

The seizures and citations are part of the Operation Prevent initiative, a year-round enforcement effort led by the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles. It focuses on cracking down on underage drinking and the sale of alcohol to minors at concert venues, bars, restaurants and alcohol retailers throughout the state. In 2019, DMV investigators carried out enforcement sweeps at 127 locations statewide.

Citations and fake ID seizures by regions include: Capital Region 122 citations and 123 IDs seized. Central NY 213 citations and 134 IDs seized. Finger Lakes Region 325 citations and 269 IDs seized. Long Island 82 citations and 82 IDs seized. Mid-Hudson Valley with 16 citations and 25 IDs seized. Mohawk Valley with 202 citations and 229 IDs seized. Southern Tier with 20 citations and 20 IDs seized. Western NY with 36 citations and 36 IDs seized.

In addition, the State Liquor Authority conducted 165 operations at 2,253 locations across the state resulting in 480 charges for selling alcohol to a minor. In total in 2019, the SLA issued 1,159 charges.

The SLA also continued to promote compliance through the Alcohol Training Awareness Program, a training focused on reducing sales to minors and intoxicated patrons. The number of ATAP trainings completed by licensees and their staff increased by nearly 20 percent from 23,139 in 2018 to 27,092 in 2019. This includes more than 400 business owners and servers who received free ATAP training hosted by the SLA in collaboration with the Empire State Restaurant & Tavern Association as part of Governor Cuomo’s continued efforts to combat underage drinking.

Mark J.F. Schroeder, DMV Commissioner and Chair of the Governor’s Traffic Safety Committee, said, "Our investigators are well-trained to spot even the best-looking fake identifications. Young people should know that buying a fake ID is a waste of their money and puts them at risk of being charged with violating the law. More importantly, being impaired by consuming alcohol can have dangerous, lifelong consequences."

Vincent Bradley, State Liquor Authority Chairman, said, "Cracking down on underage drinking remains a priority for the State Liquor Authority. Under Governor Cuomo, we have significantly augmented our resources by coordinating our efforts with the DMV and local law enforcement to help keep our communities safe by cracking down on these illegal sales."

New York State Office of Addiction Services and Supports Commissioner Arlene González-Sánchez said, "These prevention efforts are an important way that we can educate young people about the serious negative consequences associated with underage drinking. Operation Prevent is making a real difference across New York State, and helping to support our efforts to combat underage alcohol use."

Crackdown continued on page 2
Persons under the age of 21 found to be using fake IDs or false documents with the intent of purchasing alcohol can be ticketed and have their license suspended or revoked for a minimum of 90 days or up to one year. Additionally, businesses charged by the State Liquor Authority with underage sales face civil penalties of up to $10,000 per violation, and repeat offenders also face potential suspension or revocation of their liquor licenses. Additionally, employees or licensees who sell to minors can be arrested and charged with a misdemeanor.

NYS OASAS reports: drinking alcohol before age 21 can interfere with brain development, causing potential learning difficulties well into the early 20s; and early alcohol use is associated with poor grades, absenteeism and higher school dropout rates.

New Yorkers struggling with an addiction, or whose loved ones are struggling, can find help and hope by calling the state’s toll-free, 24-hour, 7-day-a-week HOPEline at 1-877-8-HOPENY (1-877-846-7369) or by texting HOPENY (Short Code 467369).
March—Problem Gambling Awareness Month

As March Madness reaches a crescendo with an estimated $10 billion in bets placed on the NCAA basketball championship games, calls to the National Problem Gambling Helpline (1-800-522-4700) spike an average of 30% during the month.

For the eighteenth year, Steuben Council on Addictions, in collaboration with the National Council on Problem Gambling, dedicates the month of March to helping people. The campaign theme “Awareness + Action” is all about taking action and having conversations about problem gambling issues and directing people to the help they may need. Approximately 2 million U.S. adults (1% of the population) are estimated to meet criteria for gambling disorder. Another 4-6 million (2-3%) are considered to meet criteria for problem gambling. And yet for many residents of the US, gambling remains a hidden addiction.

Using the tagline #AwarenessPlusAction, Problem Gambling Awareness Month (#PGAM) is designed to help raise awareness of the prevention, treatment and recovery services available for those adversely affected by gambling. This grassroots campaign brings together a wide range of stakeholders, including public health organizations, treatment providers, advocacy groups and gambling operators working collaboratively to let people know that hope and help exist.

Across New York, groups hold conferences, host screening and training days, run media campaigns, and conduct awareness initiatives to reach people who can make a difference in ensuring that problem gambling services are widely available and accessible.

To learn more about gambling awareness, contact us at (607) 776-6441 or find us on Facebook. In the section to the left, learn more about gambling screening and other areas for help.

March is Problem Gambling Awareness Month (PGAM). Problem gambling, simply put, means that one’s gambling is causing problems in their life. This could be financial, relationship, or occupational. Problem gambling not only impacts the individual, but the people around them including loved ones and coworkers. The New York Council on Problem Gambling has partnered with the National Association for Mental Illness (NAMI), this month to raise awareness on the close connection between problem gambling and mental health.

Additionally, March 10th is National Gambling Screening Day. Treatment providers are encouraged to screen all patients for problem gambling by using the Brief Biosocial Gambling Screen (BBGS). This tool can be easily incorporated in the intake process and provides more local information on the impact of problem gambling. To learn more about how you can become involved for National Gambling Screening Day, please contact the Finger Lakes Problem Gambling Resource Center (FL-PGRC) at FingerLakesPGRC@nyproblemgambling.org.

If you or someone you care about is experiencing problems due to gambling, call the FL-PGRC at (585) 351-2262 or check out their Facebook at Finger Lakes PGRC. For more information on problem gambling.

Steuben County Underage Party & Drug Information Tip Line

Anyone with information relating to underage drinking such as parties, underage sales, etc. or information relating to illegal drugs, such as sales, dealers, or other suspicious activities are encouraged to use the tip line.

The tip line will be monitored seven days a week, 24 hours a day, all calls are kept anonymous.

Do your part to help make our communities safe for everyone!

1-844-378-4847

Youth who drink alcohol are more likely to experience: School problems, such as higher absence and poor or failing grades. Social problems, such as fighting and lack of participation in youth activities. Legal problems, such as arrest for driving or physically hurting someone while drunk.
2020 Steuben County Task Force on Under Age Drinking
Countywide Poster Contest

For Students in the 6th, 7th, and 8th grades

Rules: Submit design on an 8 ½” x 11” sheet of paper
Colored pencils, crayons, & paint are all acceptable.
On back top left of entry sheet, write in pencil the name(s) of designer(s),
teacher name, grade, class room number and school district.
Entries may be an individual or class/group design and you may attach a
paragraph describing what the poster means to the designer(s).

Poster should capture some of the following ideas:
- Anyone less than 21 years of age should not drink alcohol
- It is not legal, safe, or healthy for teens to drink alcohol
- Parents should not provide alcohol or a location for teens to drink alcohol.
- Prevention of injuries and death in youth as it relates to alcohol

Entry Deadline (NO LATER THAN 4/30/20)
Steuben Council on Addictions
8 E. Morris Street, Bath, New York 14810
Attn: Jim Bassage, Prevention Director
Questions (607) 776-6441 ext. 207

Countywide Poster Contest- Classroom Prizes:

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<th>1st Prize</th>
<th>2nd Prize</th>
<th>3rd Prize</th>
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<td>&quot;T&quot; shirt</td>
<td>Pizza Party</td>
<td>Ice Cream Party</td>
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UAD reserves the right to use the winning poster design in Steuben Prevention Coalition
and Task Force activities and publications