



State of Arizona
Department of Liquor Licenses and Control

Press Release

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10 Years of Success in Underage Liquor Sales Prevention

PHOENIX – In a time when government programs are under scrutiny for their cost, relevance, and performance, the Arizona Department of Liquor tracks 10-years of success in preventing the sale of liquor to underage persons through their Covert Underage Buyer (CUB) Program.

Of the total liquor-related arrests made by the Department of Liquor, the CUB Program constitutes approximately 14 percent. To maximize efficiency, a CUB detail begins only after two actions occur; 1) the Department receives a complaint that a liquor-licensed establishment may be selling liquor to underage customers and, 2) the liquor officer has established reasonable suspicion that unlawful activity is occurring on the licensed premises. This triggers step three; a CUB, accompanied by a liquor officer, is sent into the establishment to attempt to purchase liquor.

Of the 15 sworn officers at the Department of Liquor, one liquor officer and twelve CUBS conduct all CUB operations.

Fiscal Year	# of Locations Investigated	# of Locations that Sold to CUB	% of Locations that Sold To CUB	Administrative Citations Issued	Criminal Citations Issued	# of CUBs Used
2012	215	82	38.1	225	193	52
2011	234	62	26.5	143	69	46
2010	169	96	56.8	207	129	69
2009	392	115	29.3	234	229	115
2008	572	172	30.0	416	349	80
2007	450	108	24.0	200	201	n/a
2006	475	148	31.2	409	317	n/a
2005	337	108	32.0	342	283	n/a
2004	217	55	25.3	122	136	n/a
2003	122	33	27.0	70	71	n/a
Totals	2,773	772	27.8	1,878	1,777	n/a

Since the inception of the CUB Program, almost 3,000 establishments have received a visit from a CUB. Of those establishments, close to 1/3 sell to the CUB after the CUB has presented a valid ID stating he/she has not yet reached age 21 or the clerk neglected to ask for an ID at all. Liquor officers have issued almost 4,000 citations of which half (administrative citations) are issued to the licensee and half (criminal citations) to store clerks that completed the sales transaction with the CUB. Although it's impossible to estimate exactly how many sales to underage these arrests have prevented, at an absolute minimum we can state that 772 have been prevented in the 10-year history of the CUB operations. The Arizona Department of Liquor instituted the Covert Underage Buyer (CUB) program in June of 2003.

Prior to participating in CUB investigations, each CUB, required to be between the ages of fifteen to nineteen, receives training consisting of state liquor laws, CUB Program guidelines, personal and public safety measures. Department of Liquor CUB operations include CUB Program training for the agency and other state, county, and local law enforcement agencies. This allows the CUB Program to operate statewide. The Department of Liquor and other state law enforcement agencies often collaborate on in CUB details as shown in county and city CUB statistic for calendar year 2012 on the next page. These collaborations are indicated by Scottsdale Police Department (SPD) and Payson Police Department (PPD) and CUBs located in Tucson (TPD) in which the local agency issued the citations and provided the CUBs.

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2012 Covert Underage Buyer (CUB) Program

Detail Statistics

Date	Cities/Towns	Counties	# of Stores Investigated	# of Stores That Sold	Administrative Citations Issued	Criminal Citations Issued	# of CUBs Used
January 6	Phoenix, Avondale, Buckeye	Maricopa	7	3	6	6	2
January 21	Tempe, Chandler, San Tan	Maricopa, Pinal	6	3	8	8	2
February 5	Phoenix, Glendale	Maricopa	7	3	6	6	2
February 24	Tucson, Marana, Eloy	Pima	8	2	4	4	2
March 15	Phoenix, Glendale, Tempe	Maricopa	6	2	4	4	1
March 16	Avondale, Tolleson, Phoenix	Maricopa	5	4	8	8	1
March 17	Tucson	Pima	7	0	0	0	1
March 30	Phoenix, Tonopah, Tempe	Maricopa	6	4	8	8	1
April 20	Phoenix, Tempe, Gilbert, Glendale	Maricopa	8	0	0	0	2
April 27	Phoenix, Glendale, Mesa, Gilbert	Maricopa	7	3	6	6	2
May 5	Tempe	Maricopa	13	4	10	10	1
May 19	Phoenix, Glendale, Mesa, Gilbert	Maricopa	8	2	6	4	2
May 25	Safford, Thatcher, Globe	Gila, Graham	6	1	2	2	1
June 14	Superior, Chandler, Glendale, Phoenix	Pinal, Maricopa	5	2	4	4	1
June 15	Phoenix	Maricopa	6	3	6	4	2
June 29	Phoenix, Tempe, Apache Junction, Surprise	Maricopa, Pinal	6	3	6	6	1
July 13	Tempe, Coolidge, Maricopa	Maricopa, Pinal	6	2	10	4	2
July 20	Scottsdale	Maricopa	5	2	10	SPD	SPD (3)
July 27	Scottsdale, Phoenix	Maricopa	8	3	6	6	2
August 4	Tucson	Pima	7	5	12	12	2
August 17	Tucson	Pima	10	3	15	15	TPD (2)
August 25	Buckeye, Tolleson, Peoria, Phoenix	Maricopa	5	1	2	2	2
September 1	Bisbee, Benson, Douglas	Cochise	4	3	12	12	2
September 22	Phoenix, Chandler, Glendale	Maricopa	4	2	8	8	2
September 28	Phoenix, Goodyear, Tempe, Scottsdale, Gilbert	Maricopa	7	1	2	2	2
October 19	Glendale, Tempe, Phoenix, El Mirage	Maricopa	6	4	20	8	1
October 24	Payson	Gila	8	1	2	PPD	1
November 15	Tempe, Scottsdale	Maricopa	3	1	2	2	1
November 16	Tolleson, Phoenix, Cave Creek, Coolidge	Pinal, Maricopa	5	1	2	2	2
November 20	Tucson	Pima	7	5	14	18	2
November 27	Phoenix, Tempe	Maricopa	4	2	4	4	1
December 4	Tucson	Pima	5	3	6	6	2
December 5	Sierra Vista, Benson	Cochise	5	2	8	6	2
December 17	Glendale, Tempe, Phoenix	Maricopa	5	2	6	6	2
Totals			215	82	225	193	52