

Modified Cops-in-Shops/Anti-Shoulder Tapping Program

Program Purpose

To prevent illegal alcohol purchases and shoulder-tapping by minors.

Description

In a traditional Cops-in-Shops program operation, one OLCC inspector or law enforcement officer team member works inside a licensed business, alongside employees, to identify and cite minors for attempted purchase of alcohol and/or use of false or altered identification. Another team member works outside the business, to cite adults who furnish alcohol to minors. To help assure the success of the operation, OLCC takes the following steps:

- Contacts licensees to see if they will participate in the program
- Releases information to the media explaining the program
- Sends the names of cited people to the local media for publication

Cops-in-Shops programs are an effective approach to preventing illegal underage alcohol use. The programs work because they focus on the people who are purchasing alcohol illegally. Additionally, retailers and law enforcement agencies actively cooperate to deter minors from purchasing alcohol and to stop adults who purchase for minors.

The Century Council, a national not-for-profit organization dedicated to fighting alcohol abuse across the United States, established the Cops-in-Shops program. The council itself was established in 1991 by 17 concerned members of the alcohol industry. More than 800 brewers, vintners, distillers and wholesalers support the council.

Results

Minors' potential alcohol purchases will be reduced. Minors knowing that the person behind the retail counter, checking ID, may be a police officer or OLCC inspector will deter illegal purchasing attempts. Adult furnishing of alcohol to minors should also be reduced.

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Cops-in-Shops

