

ENGAGING LAW ENFORCEMENT

Practical Guidance for Coalitions

Law Enforcement is a vital sector to engage for successful prevention. Research has shown reductions in alcohol sales to underage youth by as much as 35% to 40% when alcohol policies are combined with proper enforcement. This is especially true when these strategies are combined with media advocacy to educate the community about the laws and enforcement practices. Dent, Grube & Biglan, 2005



Enforcement equals Prevention

Engagement Tips

- 1** Provide free Illinois Law Enforcement Training & Standards Board/MTU certified training.
- 2** When possible, provide resources to increase their enforcement efforts, including equipment and funding for prevention strategies.
- 3** Share local substance use data with law enforcement. Enforcement efforts should be evidence-based and adhere to "best practice" protocols.
- 4** Recruit and train youth to assist law enforcement with their enforcement operations such as compliance checks.
- 5** Publicly support enforcement efforts aimed at enforcing alcohol laws. Reward/acknowledge officers and agencies that actively enforce alcohol laws.
- 6** Be respectful of their time and legal limitations on their ability to act.
- 7** Never break their trust or breach their confidence.
- 8** Partner to host a booth at community events, fairs and festivals.

The Alcohol Policy Resource Center at Prevention First provides resources, tools, training and assistance on evidence-based alcohol policies and law enforcement strategies. All trainings are certified by the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board through local MTUs.
<https://www.prevention.org/alcohol-policy-resource-center>