

FY 2017 (July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017) Recap of AET Operations

- A. Compliance checks occur at alcohol establishments. The checks are conducted by law enforcement officers using an undercover youth volunteer to attempt to purchase alcohol from the establishment. In FY 2017, law enforcement officers conducted 6,696 alcohol compliance checks (5,449 off-premises and 1,247 on-premises) with a recorded 574 purchases for a buy rate of 8.6%. Alcohol checks were recorded in 38 counties (*Abbeville, Aiken, Anderson, Bamberg, Barnwell, Beaufort, Berkeley, Calhoun, Charleston, Chester, Chesterfield, Clarendon, Colleton, Darlington, Dillon, Dorchester, Florence, Georgetown, Greenville, Greenwood, Hampton, Horry, Jasper, Lancaster, Laurens, Lee, Lexington, Marlboro, Newberry, Oconee, Orangeburg, Pickens, Richland, Spartanburg, Union, Williamsburg, and York*). For tobacco, there were 543 tobacco compliance checks with 30 purchases for a 5.5% buy rate. Tobacco checks were recorded in 13 counties (*Aiken, Bamberg, Barnwell, Berkeley, Calhoun, Darlington, Greenville, Horry, Orangeburg, Pickens, Spartanburg, Sumter, and York*). SLED participated in 1,779 compliance checks (27% of total AET compliance checks).
- B. It is noted that in the year (FY 2006) before AET expanded statewide, there were 613 alcohol compliance checks and 83 tobacco checks recorded from the county authority agencies. The buy rate or non-compliance rate for alcohol was 22% and for tobacco 16.9%. While it is difficult to compare buy rates from FY 2006 to FY 2017 due to less checks conducted in FY 2006, the main success is that compliance checks are frequently conducted in South Carolina county level teams comprised of local and state (mostly SLED) officers. The first year that AET expanded statewide in FY 2007, there were 1,349 alcohol compliance checks and 585 tobacco checks with a 20% alcohol buy rate and 17.9% tobacco buy rate.
- C. Bar Checks are conducted at on-premise alcohol establishments. The operation is not a compliance check in the sense that an undercover youth is sent into an establishment to attempt to purchase alcohol. The operation occurs when law enforcement officers “*walk through*” an establishment checking for fake IDs, observing for retailer violations, and conducting casual contacts with alcohol outlet personnel and patrons. There were 248 operations recorded in FY 2017 in 14 counties (*Aiken, Barnwell, Berkeley, Charleston, Darlington, Georgetown, Greenville, Horry, Jasper, Lee, Lexington, Oconee, Spartanburg, and Sumter*). The officers recorded 133 violations, which included 26 tickets for fake ID, 15 verbal or written warnings, and 79 various retailer violations.
- D. Alcohol Enforcement Teams in 13 counties recorded 92 party dispersals in FY 2017. A party dispersal is conducted when officers receive a complaint from a source and investigate that complaint. In some cases, officers observe a social gathering involving individuals under the legal alcohol drinking age of 21 years old while on duty and investigate the gathering. In FY 2017, the predominant source for the party investigation was citizen complaints (48%), including complaining parents that had retrieved their children from the gathering, loud noise complaints, and two occasions where citizens reported gun fire from the party location. Forty percent of the party investigated by law enforcement officers were initiated by the officers themselves. AETs recorded dispersals in *Anderson, Berkeley, Charleston, Greenville, Hampton, Lancaster, Orangeburg, Pickens, Richland, Spartanburg, Sumter, Union, and York* counties. There was a total of 329 officer hours recorded at the gatherings involving 3,503 people. Officers recorded 244 tickets and arrests at the gatherings.

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- E. AETs across South Carolina recorded 434 public safety checkpoints in 24 counties (*Bamberg, Beaufort, Calhoun, Charleston, Cherokee, Chester, Chesterfield, Colleton, Darlington, Dillon, Dorchester, Fairfield, Georgetown, Hampton, Horry, Jasper, Lancaster, Lee, Lexington, Marlboro, Oconee, Orangeburg, Spartanburg, and Sumter* counties). The checkpoints expended almost 696 hours. Officers recorded contact with 5,710 vehicles resulting in 4,157 citations and arrests. Highlights of those citations and arrests were 144 DUI (.08 or greater BAC) arrests, 9 tickets for under 21 Zero Tolerance (.02 to .079 BAC), 10 stolen vehicles recovered, 20 fugitives apprehended, 240 tickets for open container, and 24 felony arrests. Fourteen underage individuals were ticketed for alcohol possession/consumption at the checkpoints.
- F. Saturation patrols, also called directed patrol, are sometimes described as “roving checkpoints”. Public safety checkpoints are stationery while saturation patrols are conducted by officers patrolling in vehicles. Both enforcement operations concentrate on areas where vehicle crashes and traffic violations occur. These focus areas are determined by data analysis and officers’ knowledge about the areas. In FY 2017, there were 131 saturation patrols that expended at total of 304 hours. This operation was recorded in 9 counties (*Bamberg, Beaufort, Chesterfield, Darlington, Jasper, Lee, Marlboro, Orangeburg, and Sumter*). The patrols resulted in 1,839 citations and arrests. In those violations, there were 27 DUI arrests, 805 speeding violations, and 499 citations for various other violations, ranging from seat belt violations, no child restraint, littering, and others.
- G. Shoulder tap operations are also called “*Hey, Mister*” operations because undercover youth are positioned in off-premises alcohol outlet parking lots for the purposes of asking adults to purchase alcohol for them. These operations are also called third party transfers and individuals in South Carolina who do this can be charged with Transfer of Alcohol to Underage (South Carolina law 61-4-90 for Beer or wine or 61-6-4070 for alcoholic liquors). Nine shoulder tap operations were held in FY 2017 in 5 counties (*Bamberg, Greenville, Lexington, Orangeburg, and Richland* counties). In those operations that expended 27 hours total, the undercover youth approached a total of 190 individuals. Of those individuals, only 4 people transferred the alcohol to the youth. Those 4 people were cited and officers discovered 16 other alcohol-related offenses (public intoxication, open containers, etc.) as well as 8 other offenses (outstanding warrants, drugs, etc.).
- H. The AET training team conducted 26 training sessions on underage drinking issue topics in FY 2017. The team trained 370 individuals, including 349 law enforcement. At Mock Party Dispersal training, 12 actors portraying underage partiers participated in the training. The training sessions occurred regionally in 12 counties (*Barnwell, Charleston, Cherokee, Florence, Horry, Jasper, Lexington, Marlboro, McCormick, Pickens, Sumter, and York*).
- I. General information about AET is found at <http://scoutoftheirhands.org/index.html>.