Party disturbances and high-risk drinking: two problems for the price of one

Tom Casady
Chief of Police
Lincoln, Nebraska
• Binge drinking by young people is a national epidemic
• Relationship to other serious problems
  – Alcohol-related deaths and injuries
  – Violent crime
  – Neighborhood decay
Wesleyan student arraigned on arson charge

By the Lincoln Journal Star
Tuesday, Apr 24, 2007 - 07:12:12 pm CDT

Prosecutors on Tuesday charged Brandon Lovegrove, a 22-year-old Nebraska Wesleyan University student, with attempted arson in connection with an incident at a Wesleyan fraternity in November.
High-risk drinking in violent crime

- Armed robbery
- Assault
- Homicide
- Child abuse
- Rape
Neighborhood impacts

- Noise, disorder and decay
- Fragile neighborhoods with many other challenges
- High percentage rentals
Analyze

• What’s the baseline data?
  – College Alcohol Study
  – UNL Omnibus Survey
  – Police incidents

• Where is the problem located?
  – GIS analysis
  – College Alcohol Study
  – UNL Omnibus Survey
  – Last drink data
Alcohol Outlets Near Campus

121 within one mile of campus

36 “College Bars” Based on the Nearman Scale

Last drink data shows these are leaders
Density of Party Complaints Near Campus
Binge Drinking Locations

Occasions

- Off-campus party
- Bar
- Greek House
- Dorm
- On-Campus Event
- On-Campus Bar

Diagram showing the number of occasions for binge drinking at different locations.
Source of alcohol for underage UNL drinkers

- Older Student: 91%
- Student Under 21: 43%
- Relatives: 22%
- Purchased with no ID: 18%
- Stranger: 13%
- Fake ID: 12%
- NU Directions Coalition
- Strategic planning process
- Series of goals and strategies
  - 13 goals, 4 task groups
  - Policy and enforcement
Environmental Model Used by NU Directions

- **POLICY**: Defining and codifying community standards
- **ENFORCEMENT**: Consistent consequences when community standards are violated
- **EDUCATION**: Building knowledge and efficacy of community standards
Retail enforcement strategy

- Underage sales
- Serving intoxicated persons
- High-risk marketing
Responding to the party scene

- Focus: off-campus drinking parties
- Objective: increase perception of risk by underage and high-risk drinkers and hosts
- Increased arrests
- Reports to student judicial affairs
- Enhanced publicity and word of mouth
Party Patrol

- Six officers, one sergeant
- 6 nights per semester
- Undercover party-goers
- MIP arrests
- Focus on hosts/tenants
  - Maintaining a disorderly house
  - Sale without a license
  - Procuring alcohol for minors
- Monday Press Release/Conference
- Special attention to first week of school
Weekend parties keep cops busy

By TOM RUCKER

The Lincoln Police Department's party patrol received 92 citations and busted 35 parties over the weekend, saying it was the busiest weekend for the party patrol that ever occurred," Lincoln Police Chief Dan Beck said.

The citation included issuing a disorderly person citation for failing to act sober and for causing a disturbance at a party. Police had been called to the party after a loud argument and were able to disperse the crowd.

The parties were held throughout the city, with some in residential neighborhoods and others in businesses. Police said they were able to break up the parties quickly, and no one was arrested.

The party patrol was created in 2018 to help reduce the number of parties that occur in residential neighborhoods. The patrol has been successful in reducing the number of parties and the amount of citations issued.

Party Patrol hits the streets across Lincoln

NU Directions member among those cited by police.

By ARON SANDERS

Lincoln Police Department's party patrol issued 92 citations and busted 35 parties over the weekend, saying it was the busiest weekend for the party patrol that ever occurred. The citations were issued in Lincoln.

The city of Lincoln had a quiet weekend, with only a few party citations issued. The party patrol was successful in reducing the number of parties and the amount of citations issued.

The party patrol was created in 2018 to help reduce the number of parties that occur in residential neighborhoods. The patrol has been successful in reducing the number of parties and the amount of citations issued.
Our latest approach

- Maintain targeted party enforcement
- Focus on landlords, managers and owners
Information for landlords

- Police CAD data for previous 6 months by address
- Available 24/7/365 via Internet
- Presentations to business associations
- Brochure with the details
- On-line background checks for prospective tenants
Assess

- Arrests way up
- Complaints way down
- High risk drinking by UNL students steadily reduced
- Secondary effects reduced
MIP arrests

+421%
Maintaining a disorderly house arrests

+404%
“BINGE” Drinking Rate of UNL Students

UNL Omnibus Study (2003 - 2005)
UNL Students Experiencing 5 or More Harms Due to Their Drinking

UNL Omnibus Study (2003 - 2005)
Party disturbance CFS

Monthly Average

- 2005: 163
- 2006: 152
- 2007: 128
Police, student leaders unite against wild house parties

By LORI PILGER / Lincoln Journal Star
Thursday, Aug 23, 2007 - 12:41:17 am CDT

Thinking of throwing a “back to college” beer bash?

Lincoln police and student leaders from the city’s three largest colleges gathered Wednesday as part of a campaign called “We Agree” to spread the word about the consequences for hosting parties that get out of control.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln student president David Solheim said college students account for a fraction of the wild parties in Lincoln, but they share in the responsibility for the reduction of the harmful effects.
What we’ve learned

- The importance of data
- Enforce high-risk marketing-related violations in retail areas
- Target party enforcement efforts
- Publicize, but don’t polarize
- Arm police with property owner information
- Get property owners to step up
- Enlist neighborhood associations
lincoln.ne.gov
nudirections.org
lpd304.blogspot.com