

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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January 22, 2019

One store sells alcohol to minor in Anadarko

On January 17, 2019, the Regional Prevention Coordinator (RPC) in conjunction with the Anadarko Police Department conducted 9 alcohol compliance checks throughout Anadarko. Throughout the compliance checks, only one store sold to a minor.

According to the 2014 Oklahoma Prevention Needs Assessment (OPNA) survey, 71% of Caddo County 12th graders reported using alcohol in their lifetime. The RPC recently selected Caddo County as part of their alcohol enforcement plan and has been working with local law enforcement to help reduce underage drinking. “Since beginning the checks on a regular basis in 2017, stores are recognizing and remembering the need to ask for I.D.’s and correctly check them and sales to minors has gone down by almost 40%,” according to RPC Director, Lynsi Mayfield.

In lieu of the alcohol sales to minors, the RPC will follow up with all stores checked to offer a FREE Responsible Beverage Service and Sales (RBSS) training. The training will educate store owners and clerks about laws regarding alcohol sales to minors as well as how to properly check an I.D.

According to National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, “each year, approximately 5,000 young people under the age of 21 die as a result of underage drinking; this includes about 1,900 deaths from motor vehicle crashes, 1,600 as a result of homicides, 300 from suicide, as well as hundreds from other injuries such as falls, burns, and drowning.” For this reason, underage drinking prevention strategies such as alcohol compliance checks are initiated throughout the state in hopes of reducing sales to minors that lead to death and injury.

The RPC is funded through the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services and conduct compliance checks every year. For more information regarding Alcohol Compliance Checks or RBSS Training please contact the RPC at (580)323-9736.