

HOZHO Residential Risk Management Program (RRMP) Event Host Training (Component IA)

The Event Host Training program trains students in responsible practices as hosts and participants at social events. Property manager acceptance of EHT certification can help the students find safe and attractive apartments. See HOZHO booth for full program description.

Data

A Party Risk Assessment Survey was conducted to assess drinking and partying practices of students living in Isla Vista. Teams of 2-3 student observers attended 29 parties in private apartments open to strangers. Observations were recorded on hand-held PDAs. Observations were made August 2005 through June 2006 at parties mostly in the 6500, 6600, and 6700 blocks of Del Playa and Sabado Tarde.

Findings

- IV parties, with an average size of 65 party-goers, often overflow the host's apartment into surrounding areas, front yards, back yards, driveways and balconies.
- Two thirds of the parties included music and live dancing. One third of the parties had live music.
- No age IDs were required to get into a party. About one-third of the parties were "open to all" and the others used informal means to control access. About one-sixth of the parties made it difficult for unknown men to enter unless accompanied by a woman.
- Observers found little being done to discourage intoxication. Alcohol was available by self-service at about four-fifths of the parties. Observers noted intoxicated people having continued access to alcohol at 15 parties while at 12 parties observers were unable to determine whether this was occurring. At only one party were intoxicated persons observed being denied alcohol.
- Non-alcoholic beverages were available at about one-third of the parties. Food was hardly ever available (2 out of 29 observations).
- Beer, mixed drinks and hard liquor are preferred; wine was available at less than half the parties.
- Problematic behavior included nuisance circumstances (overcrowding, loud noise), personal risk-taking (climbing on balconies over the ocean), under-aged drinking, and unwanted contact (unwelcome sexual advances). Violent behavior, willful damage, were observed less frequently.
- Illicit drug use occurred in about one-fifth of the parties, near all of it involving marijuana.
- Law enforcement was involved in about one-seventh of the parties; about half were shut down.

Implications for Prevention

IV party hosts need to curtail underage drinking and excessive drinking that occur with almost no restraint, with constant potential for nuisance to neighbors, injury, violence and property damage.