THE EFFECTS OF LEGAL SALE OF ALCOHOL ON THE DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED PROBATIONER

by

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A THESIS

Approved:



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THE EFFECTS OF LEGAL SALE OF ALCOHOL ON THE DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED PROBATIONER

A Thesis

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by

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ABSTRACT

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Purpose

The purpose of this project was to determine if a change permitting legal sale of alcoholic beverages in Denton, Texas would make a difference in (1) the number of Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) offenders, (2) the characteristics of the DWI probationer with respect to twenty-one variables including the usual demographic data and the twelve hours prior to arrest and (3) the attitude of the local officials as to policy in dealing with DWI offenders.

Methods

The methods used in the study were (1) collection of data from persons granted probation for DWI and ordered by the County Court at Law to attend sessions of the Denton County Safety Education Program and (2) the comparison of the before legal sale group of probationers with the after legal sale group as to any significant difference in either the number of arrests, demographic or profile data. Chi-square and t-Test were used to evaluate the data of the before legal sale (BLS) to the after legal sale (ALS) groups. A .05 level of confidence

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was considered significant in evaluating the results of the data.

Findings

- 1. There was no significant difference between DWI probationers following a vote to legalize the sale of alcoholic beverages in Denton, Texas.
- 2. The number of people granted probation for a DWI offense in Denton County during six months prior to legal sale was 319. The number for the six months following was 259; however, this was not found to be a significant difference.
- 3. The comparison of sex, race, age, and education of the BLS (before legal sale) and ALS (after legal sale) groups showed no differences. The income of the BLS group was higher than that of the ALS group.
- 4. No difference was found between the two groups in either the conditions of drinking or the amount of alcohol consumed in the twelve hours preceding their arrest. The attitude as to arrest and charge revealed the BLS group more receptive to DWI educational programs.
- 5. Policies affecting the disposition of allegations against DWI offenders by the local law enforcement of court officials did not change after legal sale of alcohol.

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Without employment at Denton County Probation Department this research would not have been possible. The opportunity to develop the Denton County Safety Education Program made the data collection possible. Chief Probation Officer, Mr. Charlie J. Cole, Jr., encouraged the researcher and gave the approval to complete my classwork at Sam Houston State University, as well as this thesis. For this opportunity and support I am most grateful.

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The County-District Attorney, Mr. John Lawhon, gave the encouragement and experience needed to develop the program. Judge J. Ray Martin, County Court at Law of Denton County, provided significant support and cooperation to the program making this research possible. The Judge has been a source of encouragement to complete the research.

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CHAPTER I

BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

The purpose of this study is to determine the impact on the driving while intoxicated offender (DWI) of local option purchase of alcoholic beverages in the Denton County, Texas area. It is often assumed that a town that does not have legal sale of intoxicating beverages will have fewer and different DWI offenders than a town where alcoholic beverages are sold. The local option precinct of Denton, Texas was researched to determine (1) if the number and profile of the DWI offender was different after a change in the law and (2) if the attitude of the local officials and community leaders was different after the purchase of alcoholic beverages is legal. The changes, if any, would be related to a semi-rural community and the rising social problem of the DWI offender.

The Social Problem of the Drinking Driver

The rising social problem of the DWI offender has received much attention in the past ten years from the Federal, State, and local government due to the increasing number of fatal driving accidents involving drinking drivers. Although the problem of alcohol and highway safety first became apparent as long ago as 1904—and was underscored as serious in 1924—

it was only recently that the Federal Department of Transportation confirmed the magnitude of the problem by directing the National Highway Safety Bureau to make the reduction of drunk driving fatalities its number-one priority.

While the traditional enforcement and judicial processes have shown a marked increase in the arrest and conviction of DWI cases, it appears that the alternatives of more arrests, higher fines, jail sentences, and even loss of drivers licenses have not deterred the abusive drinking driver, who, nationally, accounts for 50 percent or more of serious traffic accidents. ("Denton County Safety Education Manual,"

According to one publication, <u>Highway Users Federation</u> for Safety and Mobility, one reason the drinking driver problem is difficult to control is because it is rooted in the American culture. Eight out of every ten males over twenty-one years of age in this country, and two out of every three females, are consumers of alcoholic beverages. The number of motor vehicle operators who drink is estimated to be 88.6 million, which is three-fourths of the driving population.

This does not mean that all 88.6 million drivers who consume alcoholic beverages at one time or another are highway menaces. On the contrary, the vast majority are not. But it does mean that the public's attitude toward the drinking driver is very tolerant—"There but for the grace of God go I"—and this attitude is reflected in legislation, administrative policy,

jury verdicts and in other ways which make DWI a difficult social problem and law violation. (Highway Users Federation for Safety and Mobility, 1975)

Another factor is that in our mobile society people use automobiles to get to and from places where drinking may take place. Thus, it is one of the realities of our time that the majority of adults drive, that the majority drink and that an unknown, but probably substantial, number may sometime do both. The resulting problem was brought clearly into focus by Herman I. Krimmel, Director of the Cleveland Center on Alcoholism, when he wryly observed that popular acceptance of the custom of drinking and then driving does not cancel its dangers, as reported by Kenneth A. Rouse in The Way to Go, A Summary for Responsible Adults Who Drink and/or Drive. 1

The Drinking Driver in Denton County, Texas

For the past four years, the number of persons on probation in Denton County for the offense of driving while intoxicated has increased, from 551 in October, 1972, to 961 in September, 1976. The largest increase was between April, 1975, and October, 1975, with the number in April being 648 and in October being 933 (see Figure 1). During this same time span, several agencies in the community changed their policy in dealing with DWI offenders.

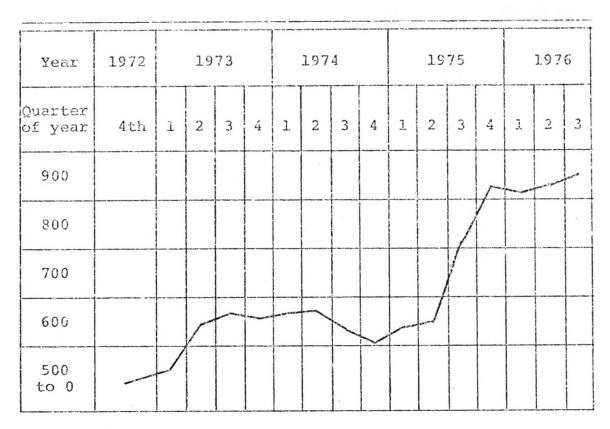


Figure 1.--Persons on probation for DWI in Denton County, Texas.

Source: Denton County Probation Department. Monthly Statistical Report. 1972-76.

In addition to the great increase in the number of people granted probation for the offense of driving while intoxicated, 31 people were killed in Denton County in 1975 due to traffic accidents. This was double the number in 1974. Seventeen of the people were killed in five accidents with three of the drivers registering over .20 percent in the blood alcohol concentration test.* Twenty-seven of the deaths during

^{*}Texas law presumes a person under the influence of intoxicating liquor with a .10 percent of alcohol in his blood.

the entire year occurred between January 1 and April 30, 1975. Due to these statistics, 2 the Texas Department of Public Safety increased the number of patrolmen in the county from five to thirteen. The number of arrests by the Department for suspicion of DWI went from 400 in 1974 to 870 in 1975 and continued to remain at this level during 1976. In addition, the several local law enforcement agencies in municipalities have increased the number of arrests on suspicion of DWI. (Denton Police Department, Monthly Crime Report, April, 1975)

The Community Effort Concerning the Social Problem of the DWI Offender

The Chief Probation Officer directed the Coordinator of Community Resources to develop a program of education for the offender. The county attorney agreed to support and help instigate such a program. A professor from North Texas State University volunteered his services in developing the content of the classes and supervision of the training staff. In a joint effort, these three persons designed a program for Denton County similar to the DWI programs in many local towns and counties across the United States, but unique in design for the particular needs of Denton County probationers. The proposal was accepted by the County Court at Law Judge, who had expressed his lack of confidence in the deterrent effects on

former DWI offenders. Community support was available due to a request being made of the Denton City Council to provide such a program as well as a Denton County Grand Jury reporting to the District Court the need for such a program. The Texas Commission on Alcoholism funded the Denton County Alcoholism Program and gave the needed support for treatment of the offender who is a problem drinker and/or an alcoholic.

Through the cooperative efforts of the above agencies, the Denton County Safety Education Program was designed and implemented to confront the rising social problem in Denton County. Each person ordered to attend the program was treated as an individual, a responsible adult in a non-punitive setting, informed of the facts about drinking and driving, and encouraged to assess his own drinking and driving behavior in order to be in a better position to select practical alternatives. Data were obtained from each person in the program as to age, sex, income, educational level and profile of the drinking pattern on the day of arrest. These data were the vehicle for the comparison made in this study.

The History of Legalization of Alcoholic Beverages

The historical attitudes toward alcohol have had a bearing on the laws of Denton as well as the value position of social behavior in the community. In Western history, the problems connected with the use and misuse of alcohol have

been difficult. Alcohol, particularly wine and beer, was used in the earliest Western civilizations. Ancient Egyptian, Babylonian, Greek, Roman, and Hebrew documents contain references to intoxication and demoralization. Despite these problems, alcohol remained a socially important and acceptable adjunct to conviviality throughout the ages and well into the early Industrial Revolution. The Industrial Revolution, and the urban squalor that followed, plus the discovery of a cheap alcoholic beverage--gin--led to stern protests against the use of alcoholic beverages and to the first repressive laws against its sale and use. Calvinistic moral and religious conceptions provided the normative framework for opposition to the use of alcohol. The problem was no longer behavioral deviation as represented by excessive drinking and alcoholism; the focus had shifted so that drinking itself had become a moral and normative issue, according to a historical study. (Dinitz, 1951)

The early American colonists reflected this moral concern. To the Puritans, particularly, all alcoholic beverages were anathema. Stringent rules and regulations governed the use of alcohol, and emerging cities, particularly Boston, were viewed as threatening the moral fiber of decent, Godfearing citizens. Nevertheless, the consumption of alcohol-particularly distilled spirits--showed no appreciable signs of decreasing. The turning point in American history came shortly after the Civil War. The influx of various ethnic groups--

the Germans, Scandinavians, and Irish--who were morally, behaviorally, and traditionally "wet" -- aroused considerable antipathy. The widespread introduction of beer led to hostility toward drinking in general, and toward the saloons, bars, and taverns in which it occurred. The morality of the use of alcohol became a major source of contention and a focal point in the conflict between the native white, rural Protestants and the politically emerging, urban Catholics, immigrant groups. The conflict was heightened even more when immigrants from southern and eastern European countries began their mass migrations to the United States. The newer groups, although differing from the earlier ones in their drinking patterns, were unmistakably and outspokenly "wet." (Dinitz, 1951) same historical pattern can be found in Denton County between the Protestants and Catholics as to the drinking of intoxicating beverages. Some German communities in adjoining counties are famous for their beer and taverns.

The issue was finally joined politically with the formation of organized "dry" groups, such as the WCTU (Women's Christian Temperance Union) and the Anti-Saloon League, which applied pressure on state legislatures to enact state-wide prohibition laws. These maneuvers were countered by the "wets" and the result was a maze of conflicting laws and statutes according to Peter H. Odegard in Pressure Politics: The Story of the Anti-Saloon League. The net effect was that the rural states went "dry"; the urban states remained "wet."

Many states vacillated between the two, being "wet" and "dry" by turn. Finally, a sufficient degree of consensus was achieved to enact Prohibition as the Eighteenth Amendment to the Constitution. Prohibition became law in January, 1920. It was repealed by the Twenty-first Amendment to the Constitution in December, 1933. (Dynes, Clarke, Dinitz, and Ishino, 1964)

In the intervening thirteen years, the issue of total abstinence was debated vigorously. Despite Prohibition, drinking remained a major pastime. In certain urban areas and for certain classes of people, drinking acquired a romantic aura far beyond that which it had ever possessed. Those who had used alcoholic beverages and those whose cultural heritage included the traditional and social use of alcohol experienced only minor difficulties in quenching their thirst. Persons who had been abstinent by conviction were hardly affected by the "noble experiment," as Prohibition was called. persons, no doubt, would have remained abstinent regardless of the legality or illegality of drinking. Many of the residents of Denton County were during this time abstainers, and since most of the spirits consumed were distilled or brewed at home, the legality of alcoholic beverages was of no great concern to most of the population. On the one hand, drinking had become a deeply imbedded social pattern at some social gatherings such as weddings, high school graduations, and family holiday celebrations. On the other hand, Calvinistic

traditions defined the use of alcohol as immoral and many sermons and lectures were heard throughout the county and in Denton each time an election referendum petition was circulated.

Legalization of Alcoholic Beverages in Denton County, Texas

The <u>Denton Record Chronicle</u> reports that controversies over the sale of liquor in Denton County date back to the 1800's. Prior to Prohibition on a national level, saloons were regular members of the business community. In 1886, a Denton city wet-dry election was held and the "for prohibition" forces won by 10 votes. In 1902, a countywide election calling for legal liquor failed in the majority of the county, although the measure was approved in two small communities, according to the county court records. Throughout the years, the controversy continued with only one countywide election for the sale of 3.2 beer in 1933. It failed.

After national prohibition and its subsequent failure, Texas adopted local option—a measure that gives any geographical area that is surrounded by some sort of boundary line the authority to decide on legal sale of alcoholic beverages. Under local option, some communities and towns in Denton County have veered from "wet" to "dry" but not the town of Denton. Pilot Point, a farming community with a substantial German ethnic background and both Protestant and Catholic religions and schools, had a brief but boisterous period of legalized sale of beer. But dry years soon followed after a

Texas attorney general's ruling that no wet areas would be allowed in counties that had once voted dry. After that opinion was handed down, the then county attorney of Denton County went to Pilot Point and gave those selling alcoholic beverages 30 days to sell out and close up. In 1965, a Texas Supreme Court ruling reversed this decision due to a case that went up from the famous town of Impact near Abilene.

Two permits for the sale of liquor were then granted in Pilot Point, but again the "wet" reign was short-lived. The Baptist Church there went to work to get signatures on a petition for a wet-dry election according to former County Judge, W. K.

Baldridge. The election was called, defeated, and again an order was issued to "dry up" the town of Pilot Point. (Denton Record Chronicle, Mar. 21, 1976)

Controversy became more active in the 1970's when two trailer park towns became incorporated cities and went wet. Lincoln Park began in mid-March, 1970. Located nine miles east of Denton on state highway 380, the fifty-acre city with seventy-two mobile homes voted the community wet by 24 to 4 the following June. Corral City, located nine miles west of Denton on Interstate 35 West followed the same pattern but not as smoothly. On August 30, 1971, the then Denton County Judge Tom Todd called a liquor election for Corral City, but receiving affidavits from several persons stating that they did not live in, own land in, and never intended to live in Corral City, the order for the election was revoked. Following

a ruling from the Texas Supreme Court ordering the Judge to review the election, the incorporation of the city was found valid. The second liquor election was held October 29, 1973, and passed for the sale of liquor. Although surrounded by continuing charges of voting abuses and illegal acts, including a full-scale Grand Jury investigation, the two towns and their liquor stores remained in business. Lake Dallas, a town a few miles south of Denton, later went wet with five liquor stores (more than any other type of business in the town). (Denton Record Chronicle, Jan. 25, 1974)

According to the <u>Dallas Times Herald</u> of April 2, 1976,
"Few doubt that Denton drinkers are the chief patrons of
liquor stores in the three outlying towns." Several attempts
were made in recent years to organize a local option election
in Denton. One failed to acquire sufficient signatures even
to turn into the county clerk's office. Another drive in 1973
resulted in enough names on the petitions, but a sufficient
number could not be certified to order an election. However,
Denton had not been completely dry or dependent upon the
nearby wet towns for alcohol since the last election in 1902.
There were eleven private clubs in operation and six clubs
operating under nonconforming use permits, allowed because
they were opened prior to a city ordinance requiring licenses
(see Figure 2).

Early in 1976, "Citizens For A Change" obtained the necessary signatures of registered Denton voters to call for

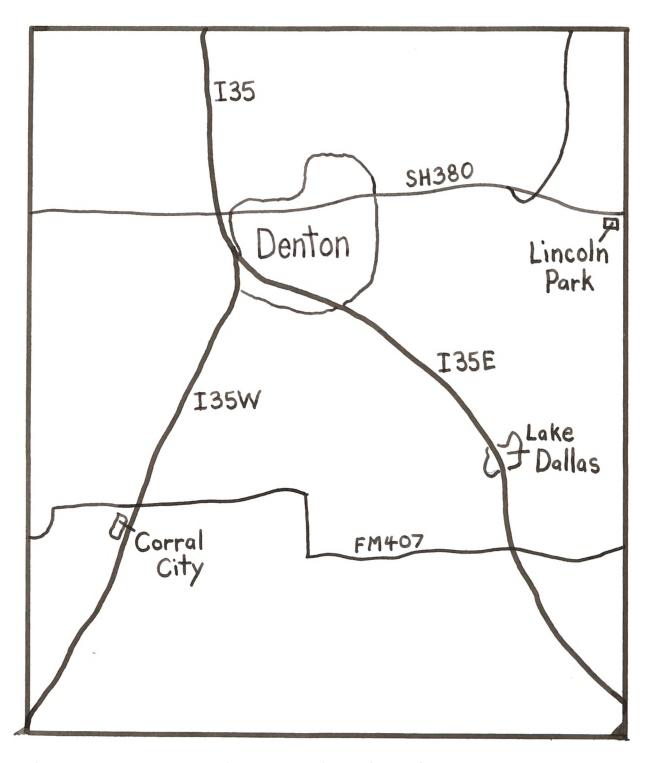


Figure 2.--Wet towns in three directions from Denton, Texas.

an election on the question of legal sale of beer and wine within Denton city limits. On February 25, 1976, the County Clerk (Denton Record Chronicle) announced that 1,976 signatures had been certified to force the election. On March 9, 1976, the Denton County Commissioners ordered the election held April 3, 1976, at the Civic Center to coincide with city and school district balloting. After a heated and costly campaign by the "wet" (Citizens For A Change) and "dry" (Citizens Against Legalized Liquor) forces, the citizens voted to legalize the sale of beer and wine for on-premise and off-premise consumption in the city of Denton. However, it was not until May 13, 1976, that the first alcoholic beverages were legally sold in Denton.

Questions to be Researched by Study

Laws pertaining to the sale of alcoholic beverages have been changed in many local communities during the past ten years as the drinking of alcohol has become more acceptable behavior to the voting population. Some communities have retained the "dry" status feeling that this is a deterrent to the problem of the DWI offender. Since 1902, when the citizens of Denton first voted themselves "dry" by a count of 2,747 to 2,630, many residents have driven a minimum of 8 miles in three directions from Denton to purchase alcoholic beverages. Many of the more affluent citizens have done their

drinking of alcohol in the near cities of Dallas and Fort Worth. An interstate highway passing through Denton in the past ten years has made the liquor stores, clubs, and restaurants serving alcohol an easy drive.

As the number of DWI offenders increased in Denton County and other similar communities in Texas, there has existed a need for a study such as this to determine if a community or county retaining the "dry" status does have a deterrent effect on the DWI offender. Many individual citizens and some organized groups such as churches and groups against the legal sale of alcohol have long asserted that a change would bring a larger number of offenders, more auto accidents, and conversion of the community into "sin city." By research that is scientific and uses data that are valid this study by a comparison of the before legal sale and after legal sale of beer and wine in Denton, Texas, should provide an accurate answer to this question.

Would the data obtained from the persons attending the Denton County Safety Education Program show a difference after the change in the law making beer and wine available in Denton? Would there be more or fewer persons granted probation for a DWI offense? Would the county judge, county attorney prosecutor, and/or the law enforcement personnel change their attitude or policy concerning the DWI offender following legal sale of alcohol in Denton? Would the person arrested be drinking for a different reason? Would he be

drinking a different beverage, in a different place and with different people than before? Would his attitude concerning the arrest be different? These are the questions under study in this research; and what the investigation reveals should answer the question of whether a change to legal sale of alcoholic beverages makes a difference in the number and profile of the DWI offender and the attitude of the local officials and community leaders.

The questions of attitude change in the public officials was measured by interviews of the county judge and the county attorney prosecutor and by review of policy instructions to the law enforcement personnel. Questions concerning number, age, sex, income and educational level were answered by comparing the demographic data of DWI offenders granted probation in Denton by the County Court at Law. The profile of the drinking pattern of the offenders was compiled from participants in the Denton County Safety Education Program before and after the change in the law.

It was hypothesized that there would be no significant change in the number, age, sex, income or educational level of the DWI offender in Denton, Texas, following the legal sale of alcoholic beverages in the local precinct; also that the profile of the offender concerning the twelve hours preceding the arrest would be the same for all offenders. This profile included reason for drinking, time of day, what they were drinking, who they were drinking with and why they were

drinking, as well as their attitude concerning the arrest. The attitude of the local officials was expected to be acceptance of the offender, and the policy of the courts and law enforcement were expected to remain the same as to arrest and court trial.

CHAPTER II

RESEARCH OF RELATED LITERATURE

The Legislation of Moral Standards

Freeman and Jones (1973), in discussing the passing of laws to control human behavior both from a moral and an objective position, state that every aspect of social behavior and community condition is covered by law or some other institutional norm. However, they feel that were the laws all enforced and all sanctions fully implemented, community life would be thrown into chaos. At the time of passage, most laws probably reflect the views of a substantial proportion of community members. But they cannot be taken at face value to indicate objective norms at any future point in the lifespan of a community. (Merton, 1971)

The authors (Freeman and Jones, 1973) feel that enacting laws may be a way by which the community seeks to avoid taking action on certain behavior and conditions and may be a form of mass psychotherapy designed to minimize concern of community members over an issue. "Many times formal sanctions are brought to bear not because the behavior or condition violates the expectations of all or even most community members, but because it is inconsistent with the moral standards of a few people in the community." (Freeman and Jones, 1973,

p. 14) It also follows that many laws that are actively enforced, at least upon some citizens, are out of sympathy with the attitudes of a majority of community members.

A pertinent study done by Warriner (1958) seems to relate to the conditions in Denton, Texas, prior to May of 1976. The study could have been done in Denton.

In a clinical study of The Village, a small rural community in Kansas, we discovered a systematic inconsistency between the public and private expressions of values about drinking alcoholic beverages. In public people affirmed an "official" morality which held that the drinking of alcoholic beverages was wrong, that The Village was a "dry" town, and that only "bums and other elements of the lower classes" drank. In observations of several thousand events we found no instance in which there was a public violation of rejection of this official morality. The general applicability of our observation was confirmed

This publicly expressed ideology was not, however, an indication of the private drinking behavior or of the personal sentiments and beliefs of the members of the community. For example, one of the leaders of The Village who had expressed the official morality most directly and forcefully during our visit to the community was a regular though moderate drinker in his home and within his clique. Similarly, some members of the Women's Christian Temperance Union drank and served alcoholic beverages in their homes. Although some members of the community expressed personal moral beliefs consistent with the official morality the majority did not feel that there was anything wrong with moderate Many of our informants recognized this inconsistency and typically expressed the idea that "this town is full of hypocrites: they vote dry and drink wet." (Warriner, 1958, p. 165)5

The foregoing quotation could perhaps describe the citizens and community leaders of Denton prior to the local option election on April 3, 1976. Some citizens after six months still say that the college students were the ones that voted the town "wet," but a survey made as to the age of the

voters on that day by a political science class at NTSU, put many of the voters out of the age range of college students. It very well could have been that in a pattern the reverse of "The Village" in Kansas, the voters of Denton talked dry and voted wet.

The most closely related research found in the area of social change was a study done by Schnelle, John F.; Weathers, Mary T.; Hannah, Jerry T. and McNees, M. Patrick (1975) and reported in the Journal of Community Psychology. The potential legalization of liquor was the subject of considerable controversy and interest in the entire Middle Tennessee area. As a service to the region, the Rutherford County Guidance Center took responsibility for evaluating the effect of this reform on three social variables: automobile accidents, public drunks and driving while intoxicated. three cities the voters legalized liquor, but they did so in different years. Previously, liquor, except for beer, was not legally sold in any of the three communities. A fourth community evaluated did not legalize liquor for the time span of the study. The subjects in the study were citizens of four cities located in adjacent counties in Middle Tennessee. Data were gathered on a monthly basis for the four target cities and measures were (1) number of arrests for DWI, (2) number of arrests for public drunkenness, and (3) total number of automobile accidents. These three measures were selected for analysis because the citizens in this region were concerned about the effects of liquor legalization on these measures. This concern was reflected by the fact that campaigns for and against liquor legalization most often involved comments about the effect of liquor on driving accidents and public displays of drunkenness. Data were obtained directly from court and police records from each city for a minimum of twelve months prior to and subsequent to the liquor legalization.

Results from the Schnelle, et al. study showed that there were no apparent social changes in any of the experimental cities at the time of the social legislation. The conclusion that legalized liquor produced no change in accident rates, public drunk arrests and driving while intoxicated arrests is extremely plausible. No other explanation rivals the plausibility of the "no effect" conclusion. At the same time, one needs to guard against overgeneralizing any "no effect" results. A quote from the authors seems appropriate and in direct relation to the situation in Denton County prior to the legal sale. They state:

It can only be said that making packaged liquor more accessible in these communities had no effect on the social measures. In all cases the legalized liquor intervention took place in communities where all types of alcohol was available but liquor was available only if transported in from surrounding areas or bought illegally within the community. The liquor legalization changed only the fact that liquor no longer had to be imported. Against this context only can it be said the legalized liquor had no effect. 6

The buying and selling, availability and legality of alcohol in Denton County were parallel to the towns in Tennessee. If

this study finds a "no effect" result, the conclusions and evaluations could be the same.

Research on Instrument and Subjects of the Drinking Driver

Dr. Richard D. Yoder and Dr. Robert A. Moore reported a study, "Characteristics of Convicted Drunken Drivers" in the September, 1973 Quarterly Journal of Studies in Alcohol using the same instruments that were used in this research. The subjects of their study were students in the course entitled The Impact of Drinking and Driving, who were required to attend as a condition of their probation after a conviction of driving under the influence of alcohol in the El Cajon (California) Municipal Court District.

In an effort to increase their effectiveness in deterring drivers in their district, the judges of the El Cajon Municipal Court District requested the University of California San Diego Extension Service to initiate an educational program for persons convicted of DWI. It consists of four evening sessions of two and one-half hours each. The basic course content in Denton is similar to that used in Phoenix, Arizona (1970), and covers the reasons for concern about drinking and driving, the driver's task, the physiological and psychological effects of alcohol, alcoholism as an addictive disease, and current and contemplated DWI countermeasures.

Demographic information and data forms were administered to each student containing questions concerning the twelve hours before arrest. The same profile information of the twelve hours preceding the arrest and the student's attitude concerning the arrest were the data utilized in this study from students attending the Denton County Safety Education Program. The primary purpose of the Yoder and Moore (1973) study was to describe a population of persons convicted of DWI so that the probable effectiveness of the current countermeasures program could be estimated and revisions or new countermeasures could be proposed on a rational basis. The sample, the instrument and need for the study in California were the same, but this study questioned whether the data on DWI offenders would reflect a significant difference after the legal sale of alcohol. In the El Cajon community most establishments which serve liquor are so located that the only means of access to them is by automobile. was true of Denton in the first sample. Rational friends might be presumed to try to discourage the inebriated from driving, but according to the study in California, they did Most of the drinking was done with friends, family and co-workers, in a public place. Yet 92 percent of the probationers could recollect no effort to prevent them from driving. "Some of the fundamental characteristics of our present culture seem to be entwined with alcoholism, psychological stress, and other personal factors, in this problem

called 'driving while intoxicated.'"⁷ The reflections of these authors have a relationship to the background information that the DWI offender is a rising social problem in this country.

In a research project Dr. Mark B. Sobell, Linda C. Sobell, and Fred H. Samuels found that many alcoholism treatment and DWI education programs obtain data concerning social, vocational and drinking histories from the clients' self-reports. Treatment decisions and outcome conclusions are often based on this information. Self-report accuracy is important to all disciplines which depend on such information. Few studies, however, have questioned or evaluated the validity of self-report data. Some investigations have examined the validity of self-report information about descriptive, biographical, and other factual topics; other studies have compared self-reports with interview techniques, according to the above authors, but few have investigated the validity of self-reports of behavior generally considered to be deviant or antisocial.

The March, 1974, Quarterly Journal of Studies on Alcohol in an article entitled "Validity of Self-Reports of Alcohol-Related Arrests by Alcoholics" by Sobell, et al., reports that "self-reports by alcoholics of prior alcohol-related arrests, as obtained in this study, were found to be sufficiently valid to warrant their use as a primary source for life history data." All seventy subjects of this study

completed a questionnaire providing self-descriptive social and drinking history data. Responses were then confirmed during a thirty to forty-five minute interview conducted with each subject. Following the discharge of all subjects from the hospital, the official arrest records, commonly known as "rap sheets," were obtained on each subject. A Pearson product-moment correlation coefficient was calculated using self-reports and official record totals on all alcohol-related The Pearson correlation coefficient for congruence (r = .65) was similar in magnitude to that typically required to qualify personality test items as reliable. The authors report that it seems reasonable to assume that persons would be more highly motivated to falsify arrest information than most other aspects of life history reports. They further state that in cases where subjects were not accurate in their reports, the low median discrepancies might best be interpreted as evidence that most subjects did not attempt to falsify reports deliberately.

On the basis of this reported valid study, it seems reasonable to assume that the self-reporting data concerning the DWI offense of our subjects is accurate information.

Therefore, data from the persons attending the Denton County Safety Education Program was considered as valid and accurate for the purpose of this research.

Research on Education Programs for the DWI Offender

In April, 1974, a planning meeting was held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, to consider the need for a manual for DWI

offender programs. From this meeting, the need was endorsed and the content of the manual was identified. It was agreed that procedures and evaluation instruments to be incorporated in the manual would be field-tested for one year in four states and the results evaluated. The four test sites were the Arizona Tri-City (Tempe, Mesa, Scottsdale) Driving While Intoxicated Program; the New York DWI Counterattack Program; the Ohio (Akron) DWI Program; and the Wisconsin Group Dynamics Traffic Safety School. From this study, Dr. James L. Malfetti, director, and the research associate, Darlene J. Winter, while using concepts from relevant literature in constructing the manual, used as their major source direct observation of DWI counseling programs and of what worked and did not work within the four programs examined. The AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety provided the funds for all aspects of development, field testing and publication for the Counseling Manual for DWI Counterattack Programs. The manual was a Safety Research and Education Project of Teachers College, Columbia University, New York, New York. (1976) This source provides the most current research on design and evaluation of education programs for the DWI offender in the United States.

The model for a program and counseling services for DWI offenders in many communities follows the general format of the DWI Phoenix (1971) course developed in Arizona by the Phoenix Alcohol Research and Re-Education Project. The

project was a result of a group of concerned people--including the Phoenix Chief Magistrate, associate magistrates, police officials, public health investigators, and educators--feeling that something beyond the usual punitive and legal measures should be tried to cure the social problem of 3,000 people arrested each year on the charge of driving while under the influence of alcohol.

The program consists of five sessions lasting for two and one-half hours each and six months probation for the DWI The aims of the course are to provide information on the consequences of drinking and driving, to consider why people drink and drive, and plan countermeasures. The participants are encouraged to analyze their own drinking habits against the opinions of their peers and those of the instructors and to examine ways in which they might modify their behavior. Counselors with special training in alcoholism are present for referrals of those who wish additional help to appropriate community agencies. Tests and inventories are administered at the first and last sessions. The results are used for evaluation of the course as well as for referral counseling. The counseling services take the form of more individual personal confrontation with the problem of alcoholism and/or problem drinking. Referrals to the counseling sessions may occur any time during the five weeks or at the end of the fifth session. The prior arrest record and data collected during the course by the Michigan Alcoholism

Screening Test (MAST) plus knowledge and opinions concerning alcohol form the basis for referral to counseling sessions. The DWI Phoenix is one approach, a corrective program for persons convicted of DWI, with promise not only for reducing drunken driving, but also for dealing with a more pervasive condition—problem drinking—suffered by a third of the participants according to the research of Malfettia and Winter. (1976)

The Arizona Tri-City (Tempe, Mesa, Scottsdale) Driving While Intoxicated Program as reported in the Counseling Manual by Stewart and Winter (1976) is a project of the Arizona State University Department of Alcohol Research and Re-Education Project. Offenders are sent to sessions of the program held each week for five consecutive Wednesday evenings in a regular courtroom of the Tempe Municipal Court. The two and one-half hour sessions are taught by professionals associated with the Extension Division of Arizona State University. Attendees pay a fifty-dollar registration fee. program is self supporting. The class sessions provide information on the effect of alcohol on the human body and on driving skills. Through lecture and group sessions participants examine their own habits and try to make the changes necessary to avoid drunken driving. The format of this program is a class session followed by a small group session. The five sessions include: Introduction, The Drinking Driver, Alcohol and Driving Skill, Problem Drinking, and Personal Action.

Since inception over 1,500 participants have gone through the Tri-City DWI Program. Evaluation has not reached the level of sophistication to measure the precise impact of this experience on each of their lives. Modification in attitude and behavior regarding drinking and driving are difficult to measure. Driving records should provide the best source for measures of change in DWI patterns, but they have been notoriously unreliable. However, by crediting testimonials from DWI's who have completed the program and the feelings of the people supporting and conducting it, the researchers have concluded that the program has had a positive educational impact on a community and that is probably where movement toward social progress has its greatest hope as expressed by the researchers Stewart, et al. (1976)

The New York DWI Counterattack Program as researched and reported by the director (Malfetti, 1976) in the Counseling Manual for DWI Counterattack Programs has become state wide (58 sites) and has been extended from five to seven sessions. After a guilty plea or trial, the convicted DWI becomes eligible for the DWI Counterattack Program unless his record indicates special circumstances. The court picks up the DWI's license and gives him a letter instructing him to make an appointment within one week for an interview with the District Director of the Department of Motor Vehicles. The court mails the license and a certificate of conviction to the District Director who checks the files to determine

the DWI's status. When the DWI offender reports for his interview and is found eligible, the alternatives under the law are explained to him. If he elects to attend the DWI program, he is assigned to the next available course. The student then attends the five weekly sessions of the DWI Counterattack Program. A thirty-dollar fee is paid at the first class period. Any missed class for which the student provides an acceptable excuse must be made up during the next cycle of the course. The course sessions consist of lectures, discussions and films, all designed to stimulate changes in attitude and behavior.

A counselor is present at each session. He is given time in class to explain his functions and express his willingness to talk to anyone who might so wish--not only DWI's, but also family members or other interested persons. He has interviews with each DWI offender some time during their stay in the program, and he attempts to recommend to each one the kind of help he needs, if any. Upon finishing the course satisfactorily, the person receives a "Certificate of Completion." His name is sent to the Department of Motor Vehicles, and his license reinstated and mailed to him within a week. The aims of the course are to provide information on the consequences of drinking and driving and to consider why people drink and drive and what countermeasures they can take.

Extensive evaluation of the New York DWI Counterattack Program has been researched. In summary, Malfetti, et al., (1974) found that although potential problem drinkers and definite problem drinkers improved in knowledge as much as those without drinking problems, they did not improve in attitude to the same extent as the non-problem drinkers. A related study assessing the DWI programs in New York State presented a driver record follow-up of all course graduates. In the words of those who prepared the report, the results showed that "graduates of ... DWI Counterattack programs whose suspension or revocations were alcohol related experienced lower alcohol-related conviction rates after graduation than 'untreated' drivers in control groups."

Another similar program for reducing the number of DWI offenders is the Akron Driving While Intoxicated Program (ADWIP) which is a reeducation project geared toward helping the drinking driver fully understand the nature of the problem and the consequences of his behavior so that he will attempt to modify his behavior in accordance with this new knowledge.

Extensive research in attitude change has been conducted by Robert Zeh and his associates (1976) on the Akron program. He has demonstrated that a significant attitude change occurs after completion of the ADWIP, but changes in attitude are not necessarily followed by changes in overt behavior. This is particularly true of problem drinkers, for eliminating one symptom does not cure the disease according to the above researchers. Additional counseling would

therefore appear to be desirable--even necessary--for most of the DWI offenders.

In summary, the data researched on the Akron program revealed that a referral program in conjunction with a DWI education program can effectively identify problem drinkers and refer them to already existing community agencies for further treatment. Data also showed that as the alcoholism score on the tests increased, there was a decreasing tendency to deny that a problem existed or an attempt to control the problem without outside help. Thus, those with evident drinking problems seemed more ready to obtain further treatment than those for whom the problem was potential or emerging. The latter group therefore required the greater motivation effort. (Zeh, 1976)

Manual for DWI Counseling, has a program which is an alternative to license revocation. However, revocation may be ordered in addition to the Wisconsin Group Dynamics Traffic Safety School (GDTSS) if past driving record indicated repeated offenses. The student attends from five to eight weekly sessions which are conducted as small group discussions. There is also an evaluation session six months later to give students a chance to determine progress and share experiences with one another. In addition to the sessions above, every student must attend an individual exit interview of one to two hours with a Driver Improvement Analyst of the Department

of Motor Vehicles. It is held to develop communication and understanding between the student and the Department, to explain the role of the Department and the relationship of the course just completed and the follow-up program. Another purpose of the interview is to identify problem drinkers and refer them to alcohol treatment facilities.

This program (GDTSS) has several aspects that are different from most DWI programs. First, it is state wide in forty-eight different locations with guidelines and session content the same in every location. In addition, the program involves the Department of Motor Vehicles in direct referrals in lieu of court, the exit interview described earlier, and an evaluation report on each of the students. It is unfortunate that no evaluation by a valid research method has been done on this program. The most encouraging evaluation came from the students and their families who felt that their lives had been improved. More objectively, the value of the program to Wisconsin can in part be seen in the growing number of OWI (Operating a Motor Vehicle While Intoxicated) arrests and convictions, the decreased number of reduced charges and plea bargaining in OWI citations, and the increased identification and referral of people with drinking problems. These data are reported by the Department of Motor Vehicles each year, but no definite efforts have been made for controlled studies of the effectiveness of GDTSS and related programs. According to Dr. Richards of Wisconsin State

Department of Public Instruction and Francis J. Echerman, the Director of Safety of the American Automobile Association, Wisconsin Division (1976) in their report, "This task is very much before the state of Wisconsin and the Wisconsin DMV." 10 They also state that the strengths of the program seem great and its potential vast making it all the more important that the outcomes be measured so that the weaknesses can be overcome and the strengths shared.

Conclusions from the Research of Literature

The relevance of the design of DWI Education and Counseling Programs as they relate to this research can be found in the number and design of programs throughout the United States. The aims and formats of the programs relate to change in the attitudes of the American people in the social problem of the drinking driver, the drunk driver, and the DWI offender, as well as the changes in laws concerning the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages. Social change is occurring in the United States by education and treatment as opposed to punishment in the deviant use of alcohol. Denton, by the fact of having an election and the vote concerning alcohol sale, reflects this change in attitude and legal controls.

In 1966, Morris E. Chafetz, M.D., of the Harvard Medical School, presented a paper at the Fourth World Congress

of Psychiatry in Madrid, Spain. The Quarterly Journal of Studies on Alcohol reported this article entitled "Alcoholism Prevention and Reality." (1967) Dr. Chafetz relates that "although drinking problems have troubled mankind over the centuries, only recently have scientific and humane efforts replaced moralism and punishment as measures of dealing with them."11 He states that the decision to drink is a private, individual decision, and that historically most cultures have avoided attempts to deny alcohol to the majority who use it. Those cultures which have a low incidence of social problems concerning drinking have a cultural pattern very different from that of the United States. Those cultures with no problems, according to Dr. Chafetz, abhor intoxication, give no recognition to the consumption of large amounts of intoxicants; the beverage is sipped slowly, consumed with food, and drunk in the company of others in a relaxed, comfortable atmosphere. On the other hand, in cultures with a high incidence of problems concerning alcohol, people drink quickly, often without food, often alone, while prowess in drinking is supported, especially in the male sex, intoxication is tolerated, and drinking tends to be connected with guilt, conflict, and ambivalence of the individual. Since the dissolution of close, tightly knit social units centered in the family and the flood of information and stimulation provided by the mass communication in our society, the family no longer provides social responsibility in this area. Dr. Chafetz feels that the education of responsible behavior as to drinking should begin at an early age and is the responsibility of the mass media and educational institutions. His conclusion is, "It is time we faced the world as it is and created programs of early identification and prevention based on observable realities. Such an approach would lessen the destructiveness of unhealthy alcohol use." 12

CHAPTER III

METHODS AND RESULTS

Site of the Study

Denton, Texas, a town of 50,000 citizens is located in northeast Texas at the top of the Metroplex area of Dallas and Fort Worth. Dallas is 39 miles southeast, Fort Worth is 33 miles southwest and the Oklahoma border is 33 miles due north (see Figure 3). The heavily used Interstate Highway 35 lies to the west of the larger part of the town, where it

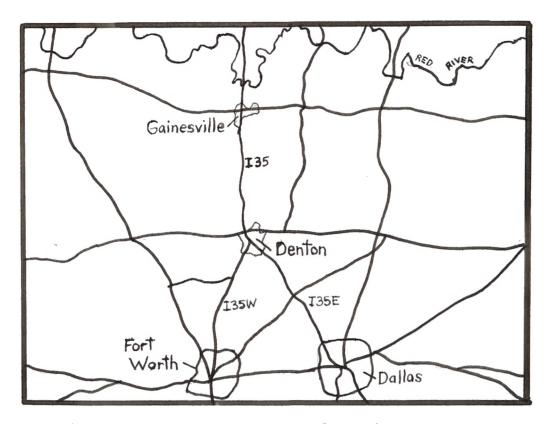


Figure 3.--Metroplex area of northeast Texas.

divides into I 35 E and I 35 W routing the traffic to Dallas and Fort Worth respectively.

Denton is the home of North Texas State University with 17,000 students and Texas Women's University with 8,000 students. These two universities, located on opposite sides of the town, are the most important source of income in the area. The next three largest industries in the area are a brick manufacturer, a milling company and a division of one of the largest business form printers in the United States. There are four large banks and an equal number of savings and loan companies. The assets of these eight financial institutions total over 131.1 million dollars.

The average median family income in Denton County according to the 1977 Criminal Justice Plan for North Central Texas (1976) is \$9,137.00 with poverty disproportionately high in the minority groups. Census records reported by North Central Texas Council of Governments show 36 percent of the Negro and Spanish-American families below the poverty level as opposed to 6.6 percent of the white families. The ethnic population is 90 percent white, 6.1 percent black and 3.9 percent Spanish-American with the mean age being 24 years.

These income, poverty, and ethnic figures were reported by the North Central Texas Council of Governments in 1977. The data were collected in 1976.

Denton is governed by a City Council with five elected council-persons, and in 1976 Denton elected its first woman

mayor. A city manager and staff are responsible for providing services to the community according to policy set by the Council. The county government has four commissioners elected from precincts designated according to population distribution. The commissioners' primary responsibility in the past has been roads, bridges, and county barns. As the entire county becomes more populated, the commissioners are forced to help in providing the social services found in larger urban areas. Many of the citizens who live in Denton County drive south each day to work in Dallas or Fort Worth.

Arrests for the offense of DWI is a frequent occurrence in the county. The number has increased each month for the past four years. There has been some variance in the amount of increase depending on the law enforcement policy and personnel. There is no more stigma to a DWI arrest to many of the local population than to that associated with receiving a parking ticket. Some members of local men's service clubs have admitted to having received a DWI ticket, some have acknowledged needing to receive a ticket, and some have expressed humor concerning the dumb fellow who was caught. general attitude is that it is all right to drink and drive as long as one does not get caught. In addition, the attorneys in Denton are the bail bondsmen, a situation which makes release from jail a simple process. The members of the law profession in Denton have easy access to the jails due to the size of the town. Their ability to make bonds for the DWI

offender is a very lucrative business for some attorneys.

Release from jail on recognizance is seldom available to or used by the offender.

Sample of the Study

The sample used in this study includes offenders granted probation for DWI in Denton County between January and December of 1976. The people in the sample were ordered to attend classes of the Denton County Safety Education Pro-Motorists convicted of a Driving While Intoxicated offense in the Denton County Court at Law were assigned to the DWI education program at the discretion of the Judge. After conviction, the court imposed fines and court cost, granted probation and included participation in the program as condition number fourteen in the court order. This condition states, "Probationers are ordered by the Court to attend and complete four consecutive classes in the Denton County Safety Education Program at the times specified by his Probation Officer."13 The probationer was then instructed to report to the Denton County Probation Department. Upon reporting to the Probation Department, the probationer filled out a data sheet giving information necessary for the records, had his fingerprints taken for the Department of Public Safety of Texas and was interviewed by a probation officer concerning the conditions of his probation. The offenders ordered to attend the

Safety Education Program were given a card with the dates, time and instructions to the location of the classes. The reverse side of the card gave the conditions for attendance and completion of the sessions as follows:

YOUR PERSONAL APPEARANCE PROMPTLY AT THE TIMES SCHEDULED IS REQUIRED BY THE COURT under the terms and conditions of your probation.

CLASSES WILL START PROMPTLY AT 7:00 P.M. Failure to be present is regarded as an unexcused absence.

Your may be Disqualified from the class and referred to the Probation Department for possible revocation of your probation for any of the following reasons:

- Any unexcused absence;
- 2. Failure to make up an excused absence; or
- 3. Any conduct not conducive to the orderly operation of the class . . . no odor of alcohol on breath.

IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY PREVENTING YOUR ATTENDANCE, you must contact the Denton County Probation Department not later than 3:00 P.M. of the day following the class you missed.

BE THERE -- BE ON TIME

The samples for this study were persons attending the classes. Prior to the first session, the participants were asked to fill out a data collection packet that was not part of the court records. From this demographic data, the age, sex, income and educational level were compared for any difference before and after the legal sale of alcohol in Denton. The profile was obtained from the data collection instrument filled out by the participant prior to the first class session. These data were computerized at the North Texas State University Computer Center. All participants used in the samples for this study had been arrested in Denton County and

received probation for a Driving While Intoxicated offense from the Denton County Court at Law. Some of the participants were not residents of the county but may have lived in adjacent counties and been ordered to attend the classes in Denton.

Data Collection Instruments

Official statistical records of the Denton County
Probation Department provided data for comparison of the
number of persons granted probation for each of the twelve
months in 1976.

The demographic data were drawn from the records of the Denton County Safety Education Program. This information was given by each probationer prior to the first class session.

These records are the property of the Denton County Safety Education Program and the Denton County Alcoholism Program.

tended the classes was obtained from the Pre-Course Questionnaire. This instrument concerns the twelve hours prior to
the arrest. The instrument provided the information regarding
the time of day they began drinking, where they were drinking,
with whom they were drinking, what and how much they had
drunk, why they were stopped by the police, what was the occasion for drinking, why they were drinking and six questions
concerning their attitude about the arrest and participation

in the classes of the Denton County Safety Education Program.

(See Appendix A for exact copy of these questions.)

The information from the three sources above provided the data researched in this study. These data were used for a before and after comparison following the legal sale of alcoholic beverages in the City of Denton. Information from the courts and law enforcement personnel in regard to policy governing the DWI offender was obtained by interview. The County Court at Law Judge, the County Attorney, the Chief of Denton City Police and the Sergeant of the Department of Public Safety were also interviewed.

Analysis of the Study Results

Probationers in the BLS (before legal sale) and ALS (after legal sale) were compared to determine if a local precinct voting for the sale of alcoholic beverages after seventy-five years would make a difference in the DWI offender. Would a semi-rural community change after becoming "wet"? Is the problem of the DWI offender any different after a vote to sell liquor in a community? Would the forces to keep Denton a "dry" community prove to be correct in their prediction that Denton would become "sin city" and an unsafe place for their families?

The number of persons granted probation for a DWI offense prior to legalized sale of beer and wine was compared with the number of persons granted probation following the legalized sale. This comparison was made to determine if the number of offenders would increase following the change in local laws. These data are reported in Table 1. The mean for the BLS group is 53.16 and the mean of the ALS group is 43.16. A t-Test revealed no significant difference at the .05 level of confidence. The average number of DWI offenders did not change following the legalized sale of liquor in Denton as predicted by the "dry" forces.

A study of the demographic data was conducted. Differences in the BLS and ALS groups as to sex, race, age, education and income level are reported in Tables 2 through 6.

Following the change in sale of alcohol, would one find more or fewer females arrested? The data in Table 2 show a 2.9 percent difference. It would seem rational that with legal sale of alcohol more women would be arrested for DWI in Denton. This has not been true. The ratio of males to females ordered to attend the Denton County Safety Education Program for DWI offenders shows no difference. A chi-square of 0.54 for 1 df revealed no significant difference in the sex ratio.

Would the racial distribution change after the legal sale of alcohol in Denton? Table 3 reveals that there is no difference. The chi-square of 1.3 showed no difference in the BLS and ALS groups. Caucasians account for 84.4 percent of the DWI probationers; Blacks, 9 percent; and Mexican-Americans,

TABLE 1.--Number of persons granted probation before and after legal sale of alcohol

Year of 1976	Before legal sale
Month	Number
January	64
February	45
March	51
April	50
May	46
June	63
Mean = 53.16	Total 319
	After legal sale
July	55
August	52
September	54
October	42
November	33
December	23
Mean = 43.16	Total 259

t = 1.20, p < .50, df = 10

Source: Bruning, James L. and Kintz, B. L., <u>Computational</u>
Handbook of Statistics (Glenview, Illinois: Scott
Foresman and Company, 1968, Appendix B, p. 219).

TABLE	2Comparison	of	sampl	es	as	to	sex	before	and	after
		-	legal	sal	e c	of a	alcoh	nol		

Group	Males	Percent	Females	Percent	Total
Before Legal Sale	138	93.2%	10	6.8%	148
After Legal Sale	49	96.1%	2	3.9%	51

Chi-square = .54, p < .50, df = 1

Source: Bruning, James L. and Kintz, B. L. <u>Computational</u>
Handbook of Statistics (Glenview, Illinois: Scott,
Foresman and Company, 1968, Appendix C, p. 221).

TABLE 3.--Comparison of samples as to race before and after legal sale of alcohol

Group	White	Black	Mexican American	American Indian	Total
Before Legal Sale	123	13	8	3	147
After Legal Sale	45	5	1	0	51

Chi-square = 1.3, p $\langle .75, df = 3 \rangle$

Source: Bruning, James L. and Kintz, B. L. Computational Handbook of Statistics (Glenview, Illinois: Scott, Foresman and Company, 1968, Appendix C, p. 221).

4.5 percent. Referring to the report by NCTCOG, the population distribution is 90 percent, 6.1 percent, and 3.9 percent, respectively.

The ages of the BLS and ALS samples are reported in Table 4. The mean age of the BLS group is 31.5 years and the mean age of the ALS group is 29.1 years. No significant difference was found between the two groups as to age.

The data in Table 5 indicate that the mean educational level of the two groups is very similar. It is of interest to the researcher that one out of five persons in the BLS group is either in college, a college graduate, or in graduate school, while one out of four in the ALS group is in some level of university education. The combined sample shows 6.3 percent of the persons have less than a seventh grade education. The teachers in the sessions for the Safety Education Program do observe some few in each group that cannot read the English language, and it is occasionally necessary to provide interpreters in the Spanish language.

The statistics do show a significant difference in the income level of the two groups. Some probationers were reluctant to give their yearly income, making the number in both of these samples smaller than the number used with the other variables. The range in reported income in the BLS sample varies from \$900 to \$55,112 per year. The ALS sample ranges from \$1,248 to \$16,200 per year. Table 6 reveals a significant difference in the income level of the two groups (t = 2.12, p < 0.036). However, because of the small sample sizes and the skewness of the data, this conclusion is tentative.

TABLE 4.--Comparison of samples as to age before and after legal sale of alcohol

				ge			
Group	Under 20	Under 30	Under 40	Under 50	Under 60	Over 60	Total
Before Legal Sale	14	45	20	12	8	5	104
After Legal Sale	6	27	9	5	3	1	51
Group		Mean A	ge				
Before		31.480	8				
After		29.117	6				

t = 1.07, p = 0.284, df = 10

TABLE 5.--Comparison of samples as to education before and after legal sale of alcohol

Group	18	Educ 16	ational 14	Level b	y Number of 10-11	Years in 7-9	n School Under 7	Total
Before Legal Sale	5	8	16	45	30	28	11	143
After Legal Sale	0	4	8	13	11	10	1	47
Group		M	lean Lev	el of Ed	ucation			
Before			12 and	1/2 yea	rs			
After			12 and	1/3 yea	rs			

t = 0.51, p = 0.612, df = 12

TABLE 6.--Comparison of samples as to income level before and after legal sale of alcohol

			In some I area?			
Group	Under \$5,000 per Year	Under \$10,000 per Year	Income Level Under \$15,000 per Year	Under \$20,000 per Year	Over \$20,000 per Year	Total
Before Legal Sale	15	37	13	6	13	84
After Legal Sale	9	16	4	2	0	31
Group		Mean I	evel of Income			
Before		\$11	,213.8906			
After		\$ 7	,344.3867			

t = 2.12, p = 0.036, df = 8

As reported in the previous chapter, Yoder and Moore, doing research in El Cajon (California) Municipal Court District, used a similar population to the one in Denton County. Class attendance was ordered by the court for both populations of DWI offenders. The purpose of the Yoder and Moore study was to increase the effectiveness of deterring the drinking driver and to improve the content of the classes for the DWI offenders. Both programs were researched by using data concerning the twelve hours prior to arrest asking the same questions of the probationers. (See pages 78 through 80 of Appendix A.)

The research by Malfetti and Winter on other programs for DWI offenders contained the same or similar questions asked by this research. These questions are labeled Precourse Questionnaire in all of the programs reviewed. In Denton, the probationer was asked to have the questionnaire completed prior to attending the first class.

The credibility of the answers given by the individuals in the BLS and ALS samples is supported by the research referred to above. ("Validity of Self-Reports of Alcohol-Related Arrests by Alcoholics" by Sobell, et al.)

The first question in the questionnaire referring to the kind of day, showed no difference in the answers given by the two samples. They were asked to think of the twelve hours prior to their arrest and respond to it being "a usual or unusual day." Sixty-three percent of the entire sample answered

that the day of their arrest had been a usual day. In comparing the BLS and ALS samples, Chi-square equals .42 with a p $\langle .75.$

A review of Table 7 shows the time of day the person started drinking and when he was arrested. The larger number of the people in both groups started drinking after 4 p.m. and were arrested after 4 p.m. Most activity occurred between the hours of 8 p.m. and 12 midnight. The Department of Public Safety reports that six cars were on patrol during these hours as compared to two during the daylight hours of 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Also, it is easy to determine from the Table that in both samples, only four persons started drinking after midnight while 45 (30 percent) of the BLS group and 19 (37 percent) of the ALS group were arrested after midnight and before 8 a.m. Is the drinking of alcoholic beverages a nighttime activity for most people? It would appear to be true.

Concerning the question about where the person drank, the following response alternatives were available: bar, home, friend's home, office, or automobile. The BLS and ALS groups show the same percentage drinking in bars; 35.3 percent. The second highest category for the BLS group was drinking at home. The ALS group was drinking more at friends' homes than in their own homes. It is of interest that the same percentage was drinking in bars, since before the legal sale of alcoholic beverages, there were only private clubs available in Denton for the purchase of alcohol.

TABLE 7.--Time of beginning to drink and time of arrest before and after legal sale of alcohol

During what hours did you start drinking?*									
Group	8 a.m. to noon			8 p.m. to 12 midnight	12 midnight to 8 a.m.	Total			
Before Legal Sale	9	25	48	60	2	144			
After Legal Sale	2	9	18	20	2	51			
		When we	re you arrest	ced?*					
Group	8 a.m. to noon		4 p.m. to 8 p.m.	8 p.m. to 12 midnight	12 midnight to 8 a.m.	Total			
Before Legal Sale	2	4	28	64	45	143			
After Legal Sale	1	3	5	23	19	51			

Question #2, Chi-square=4.97, p <.50, 4 df Question #8, Chi-square=3.55, p <.50, 4 df

^{*}Questions #2 and #8 from the Denton County Safety Education Program, Pre-Course Questionnaire. See Appendix A.

The favorite beverage in Denton County is beer. In the ALS group, 78.4 percent drank beer and 76.9 percent drank beer in the BLS group. The local option vote in Denton legalized only the sale of beer and wine, but it appears that for all practical purposes, the town became "wet"—at least for over 75 percent of the DWI population. Between the two samples, a difference of 1.5 percent is shown for those persons drinking whiskey, vodka, or gin.

No significant difference was found in the number of drinks consumed by the two groups. The mean number for both groups was 5 to 6 drinks. Over half (51 percent) of the respondents reported they had drunk 3 to 4 drinks or 7 to 10 drinks. Nine percent of the BLS group reported that they had drunk over 11 drinks as compared to 12 percent in the ALS group.

No difference was found as to why the person was stopped by the police. (Chi-square = .106, p < .50) The BLS group was stopped by the police most frequently for a traffic violation; secondly, for an automobile defect; and thirdly, for an accident. The same is true of the ALS group. Twenty-one of the 114 in the BLS group reported being stopped by the police due to a traffic accident with eight persons in the ALS group being stopped for this reason. In data collected by the Denton County Safety Education Program, three persons in the two groups reported that injuries occurred and no one reported fatalities due to DWI.

Another question investigated concerned the occasion for drinking. Forty percent of the people indicated no occasion for drinking and twenty-eight percent drank after work. Nineteen percent reported the occasion for drinking was a celebration of some sort. No differences were found between the groups.

Closely associated with the question concerning the occasion for drinking was why the person drank. Of the BLS group the reasons given for drinking were as follows: lonely, thirteen (10 percent); angry, four (3 percent); escape, five (4 percent); upset, ten (8 percent); and for no reason, 100 (75 percent). No one in the ALS group reported drinking for the first three reasons. Seven (15 percent) answered that they drank because they were upset. The remaining thirtynine (85 percent) answered that they drank for no reason. The Chi-square value of 10.10 with 4 df revealed a significant difference at the .05 level of confidence. Due to a lack of variance in the data from the ALS sample, a conclusion of difference between the two groups is questionable.

Questions eleven through sixteen of the questionnaire were asked of the DWI probationers to obtain an idea of their attitude concerning the arrest. As with the questions concerning the twelve hours prior to arrest, these attitudinal questions were used in the other DWI education programs researched.

When asked how much they thought they were to blame for their arrest, there was no difference in the answers given

by the BLS and ALS groups. The answers available are: not at all to blame, slightly to blame, somewhat to blame and mostly to blame. A Chi-square test showed no difference. (Chi-square = 1.53, p < .75)

The data concerning how fair the arrest was show that the offenders had extreme attitudes. Thirty percent of the population felt that the arrest was "not at all fair" and 27 percent felt that the arrest was "entirely fair." A Chisquare test was made and showed no difference. (Chi-square = 1.06, p <.95)

Seventy-five percent of the ALS group said that there was "no chance" of their being arrested again for DWI in the next year. The BLS group did not report as many certain of avoiding a DWI arrest, with only sixty percent answering "no chance." The Chi-square test yielded 3.95 at 4 df and p < .50. The same percentage of both groups (23 percent) answered that there was "very little chance" of being arrested again within the next year on a DWI charge.

Since one of the main goals of probation is to help the offender change the behavior which led to arrest, the attitude of the probationer about this point is important. The DWI probationers were asked "How difficult will it be to change your behavior that led to your arrest?". The response of "very easy" was given by 58.8 percent of the entire sample. Less than 20 percent (18.1 percent) felt that it would be somewhat difficult, difficult, or extremely difficult for

them to change their behavior. The Chi-square test shows no difference. (Chi-square = .59, p < .075)

Many of the probationers ordered to attend the classes for DWI offenders had never heard of such a program and were often angry at the court order requiring their attendance. However, the classes are becoming better known each month and the attitude of the probationers about receiving help has improved since the beginning of the program. The groups were asked "how valuable" they felt the course would be. More people in the ALS group (77.6 percent) felt that the classes would be valuable to them than did people in the BLS group (68.9 percent). The question of the value of the classes was answered before the probationer had any knowledge of what the classes were like or the purposes of the program. Chi-square indicates no significant differences between the two groups.

When asked what they would do in the future to avoid a DWI arrest, the most frequent answer of both groups was that they would "drink at home" or "use alternate transportation."

(Chi-square = 10.67, p < .50) This is a significant difference between BLS and ALS groups. A further review of the data about future arrests and how to avoid them shows the largest difference in the two groups being the alternative to "seek help with drinking problem." In the BLS sample of 126, only two selected this answer, while in the ALS sample of 51, seven people said they would seek help. The percentages of the groups are 1.5 percent (BLS) and 15.2 percent (ALS) in regard to seeking help.

The findings concerning the attitude of the local officials following a change in the law were secured by interviews with the local law enforcement officers, the County Attorney and the County Court at Law Judge. The Chief of Police of the Denton Police Department and the Sergeant of the Highway Patrol both stated before the test that their policy would not change regarding DWI offenders as did the County Court at Law Judge. Both law enforcement directors stated that they were reminding their line staff that even though alcoholic beverages were for sale in Denton that it was still against the law to drink and drive. The County Attorney did not change his policy, but a different deputy was assigned to the court during the study making it difficult to determine any attitude change for this public office.

Six months after the change in law, these public officials were interviewed again and asked if they could see or report any difference in the DWI offender from their records. The Denton Police Department Chief, Mr. Wayne Autry, reported that he saw no difference in the number of offenders and that his crime reports showed none. The Sergeant of the Highway Patrol reported surprise that his department was arresting fewer people for DWI following the change in law. Sergeant Culp, DPS, stated that his men were stopping just as many cars as before but that they were not finding as many DWI offenders. Sergeant Culp said, "I don't know if the Safety Education Program is doing it or what our department is doing is, but

let's both keep on because we have less accidents and less people killed than we did two years ago." Judge Martin said that he could tell no difference in the DWI offenders but that he "feels" the breathalyzer readings are lower than before the legal sale of alcoholic beverages. He said that his court definitely has not changed the policy following the change of the law in Denton, Texas.

Summary

The analysis of the data to determine differences in the DWI offender granted probation after the legal sale of alcoholic beverages shows no significant changes. The number granted probation for DWI did not change significantly, nor did the sex, race, or age distribution of the BLS and ALS groups. A difference in income level was found but its validity is questionable due to differences in the number of subjects reporting their income. The profile of the individuals in the sample with regard to the twelve hours prior to their arrest shows no difference. The data show that the probationers do not change their drinking habits with the availability of beer and wine in a community. They drink the same beverage, for the same reason, with the same people, at the same time and are stopped by the police for the same reasons at the same time of the night.

The attitudes of the people arrested for DWI concerning the arrest did not change following legal sale of alcohol. Some thought the arrest was fair and some did not. Some people felt they could change and avoid future arrest and some did not. Fewer people said they would seek help with their drinking problem, and a significant difference was found between the two groups.

The law enforcement personnel, the county attorney and the Judge found no difference in the DWI offenses following the legalized sale of alcohol in the community.

CHAPTER IV

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

The purpose of this study was to determine if a community remaining "dry" did have a deterrent effect on the drinking driver. This study measured the impact on the DWI offenses following the change in Denton, to the legal sale of beer and wine. The change was due to a local option election for the permitted sale of alcoholic beverages in April of 1976. Many advocates of a "dry" precinct maintained that the number of DWI offenders would increase, that the number of auto accidents would increase and that the community would become "sin city."

Alcoholic beverages had not been sold in Denton, except at private clubs for seventy-five years, yet the number of DWI arrests increased 57 percent from October of 1972 to September of 1976. Liquor was available within nine miles in three different directions from Denton, and two large urban cities are located within an hour's drive to the south. The study compared the "before legal sale" and "after legal sale" of alcoholic beverages, the change in the number of DWI offenders, the change in the DWI probationer, and the change in the community attitude of the courts and law enforcement personnel.

Data on persons granted probation for DWI and ordered to attend sessions of the Denton County Safety Education Program were gathered. This is an educational program for DWI probationers with the goal of giving people alternatives and hopefully preventing another DWI arrest and/or conviction. The probationers were compared both before and after the legal sale by number of persons, sex, race, age, education and income level. A comparison was made of the self-reported actions of the probationer during the twelve hours prior to his arrest. The attitudes of the subjects as to accepting education and changing behavior to avoid future arrest were also compared. County Judge, County Attorney, and law enforcement officials were surveyed by interview for any changes in their attitudes toward the treatment of the DWI offender.

Results of the Research

The results of this study indicate that a community voting "wet" has no effect on the DWI probationer, nor is the number of persons arrested increased or decreased significantly. The sex, race, age, and education showed no difference when comparing the BLS and ALS groups. The income level comparison did show a difference, but this result is questionable due to the size of the ALS sample.

The ten questions asked the probationers concerning the twelve hours prior to arrest revealed no difference

between the two samples as to the kind of day, when they started drinking, where, with whom, what, how much they drank, why they were stopped by the police, when they were arrested, or the occasion for drinking. Why the person drank did reveal a difference between the BLS and ALS samples, but again the size of the ALS sample makes this difference questionable.

The attitude concerning the arrest and acceptance of education and help showed before and after differences. In answer to the questions concerning their chances for rearrest and what they would do in the future to avoid arrest, no significant difference was shown.

The procedures of the County Court at Law did not change, nor could the Judge determine any difference in the type of offenders following the change to sale of beer and wine in Denton. The Texas Department of Public Safety and the Denton Polic Department reported no difference either in needed procedure or added patrol duty following the change.

The implication of this study is that the forces who campaigned for a "dry" community were not correct. Their predictions of the changes that would occur in a town when alcoholic beverages are for sale locally did not prove to true. The number of DWI offenders did not increase, drinking did not increase among the citizens, and added law enforcement to protect "their families" was not needed.

Relation of Study to Literature

In all the literature researched, Schnelle, et al. (1975) is the only pre-post study of the legal sale of alcoholic beverages that could be found. This study and the present one are of similar design and population, including DWI offenders and data obtained from court records. The "no effect" conclusion was found in both studies. The legal sale of liquor showed no apparent social changes in the Tennessee community nor in the Texas community of Denton.

The study by Yoder and Moore (1973), done with a similar population, used participants in a DWI education program. Although theirs is not a pre-post study and concerns who people drank with and where they drank, the data were collected using the same instrument as used in this study. Comparing the two studies reveals consistency in the finding that most of the drinking was done with friends in a public place such as a bar.

Stewart and Winter (1976) in a DWI education program similar to the Denton County Safety Education Program reported that modification of attitude and changes in drinking and driving behavior were difficult to measure. This researcher concurs with their study and can report only the crediting testimonials shown in this study. Participants in the sessions of the DWI education program in Denton verify that the information gained is valid, interesting and will

help them to avoid future arrest. The officials of the community also report that the Denton County Safety Education Program had a positive impact on the problem of the DWI offender.

The studies by Malfetti, et al. (1974) in New York and Zeh, et al. (1976) in Akron, Ohio, were conducted to check the validity of the content of these DWI education programs. Their research model could be used for a future study of the Safety Education Program in Denton. Much of the data collected, computerized and analyzed would be useful in researching the same questions as studied by Malfetti and Zeh.

Policy Recommendations

The rising social problem of the DWI offender needs to be viewed as a social problem. The public attitude of acceptance of the use of alcoholic beverages is evident by the fact of 90 percent of the adult population drinking at one time or another. There is little continuity between states as to the law, enforcement, and terminology in dealing with the alcohol-related offender. Most local governments are shackled with the problem of enforcement of the laws and have few alternatives to offer. The punitive disposition of jail and/or fines has not proved effective as evidenced by the increase in the number of offenders and auto accidents involving drinking drivers. It is impossible to control

human behavior in a free, affluent society by moralistic and punitive laws.

The article referred to earlier by Dr. Chatetz in the Quarterly Journal of Studies on Alcohol (1969) recommends that experts in alcohol problems provide realistic guidelines for the finding of persons who are alcoholics. Dr. Chafetz is concerned that alcohol is used as a problem-solving medium in our society by many individuals. Dr. Chafetz believes that alcohol problems are a destructive force in our society and that we must take social action to prevent or remove the use of alcohol as a means for individuals within society to express some of their disturbances. Such action will not remove the underlying causes of the individual's problems but will shift the means of expression and solution, hopefully to a less socially destructive area. His suggestion is that this can be done by effecting a change in the attitude toward alcohol and the social significance of drinking in a culture. We concur with his conclusion of a need for a change in attitude toward alcohol in general which is preventive and concerns, on the one hand, the development of responsible drinking behavior, based on physiological and societal factors, and on the other hand, a negative sanctioning of the intoxicated state. This is realistic and a positive approach to this country's fastest growing social problem.

One of the approaches recommended is more and improved educational programs for the DWI offender. Some states

and communities within the states have such programs but these efforts are minimal compared to the number of offenders. A national program, however desirable, would be unmanageable without uniform laws. State guidelines are recommended for accountability of local programs. Agencies such as the Department of Public Safety, Police Departments, and Probation Departments are suggested sponsors of DWI education programs. The Masterplan for Probation in Texas should include screening for alcoholics as well as education programs for the DWI probationer.

The preventive measures should start with educational sessions on drinking and driving. This addition has been recommended by the class participants in the Denton County Safety Education program. Other preventive programs could be sponsored by driver license bureaus, driver education programs, automobile insurance companies, automobile manufacturers, alcoholic beverage distributors and colleges and universities through their community services schools.

FOOTNOTES

FOOTNOTES

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APPENDIX A

Denton County Safety Education Program Pre-Course Questionnaire

DENTON COUNTY SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAM

Name		

CONFIDENTIAL

THE INFORMATION ASKED FOR IN THIS COLLECTION OF DATA IS CONFIDENTIAL AND IS $\underline{\text{NOT}}$ FOR COURT RECORDS. IN NO WAY WILL IT BE USED AGAINST YOU.

THERE ARE A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF QUESTIONS

IN THIS COLLECTION FOR WHICH THERE ARE INDIVIDUAL INSTRUCTIONS.

WE ASK THAT YOU READ EACH SET OF DIRECTIONS CAREFULLY AND

ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS. PLEASE BRING THIS TO THE FIRST SESSION

COMPLETED.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR COOPERATION.

DENTON COUNTY SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAM

DATE		#			
NAME		ADDRESS	ADDRESS		
CITY					
SEX	RACE	DATE OF BIRT	н		
EDUCATI	ON	MILITARY STATUS			
MARITAL STATUS NO.		NO. OF HOUSEHOLD	OF HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS		
FAMILY PHYSICIANOCC		OCCUPATION	CCUPATION		
ADDRESS					
SPOUSE'S OCCUPATION					
ADDRESS					
INSURANCETOTAL INCOME					
I. LEGAL STATUS: (DWI OFFENDER)					
1.	1. Was car registered in your name?				
	Туре				
2.	Date arrested?		e		
3.	Was there an accide	nt?Inj	ured		
	Killed	Number of Vehicle	es		
4.	Number of accidents in last 3 years?				
	Number reported				
5.	Other arrests for driving offenses involving				
	alcohol	Charge			
	Dates				

DENTON COUNTY SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAM PRE-COURSE OUESTIONNAIRE

General Instructions

Please select the best choice of the suggested alternative answers for each question and mark your choice on this questionnaire.

Mark your answers as darkly as possible.

If you should have to erase be sure to erase completely.

Mark only one answer for each question.

DIRECTIONS: Think of the 12 hours before your DWI arrest. Read the following questions and mark the appropriate letter to show how you feel.

- 1. What would you call the 12 hours before your DWI arrest?
 - A. An unusual day B. A usual day
- 2. During what hours did you start drinking?
 - A. Morning: 8 a.m. to noon
 - B. Afternoon: 12 noon to 4 p.m.
 - C. Evening: 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.
 - D. Late evening: 8 p.m. to 12 midnight
 - E. Early morning: 12 midnight to 8 a.m.
- 3. Where did you drink?
 - A. Bar B. Home C. Friend's home D. Office E. Automobile
- 4. With whom did you drink?
 - A. Husband or wife B. Other relatives
 - C. Friends D. Strangers E. Alone
- 5. What did you drink?
 - A. Beer B. Wine C. Whiskey, vodka or gin
 D. Cocktails E. Other
- 6. Approximately how much did you drink during this time?
 - A. 0-2 drinks B. 3-4 drinks
 - C. 5 6 drinks D. 7 10 drinks E. 11 drinks or more

- 7. Why did the police stop you?
 - Traffic violation B. Automobile defect C. Accident
- 8. When were you arrested?
 - Α. Morning: 8 a.m. to noon
 - Afternoon: 12 noon to 4 p.m.
 - C. Evening: 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.
 - Late evening: 8 p.m. to 12 midnight
 - Early morning: 12 midnight to 8 a.m. Ε.
- 9. What was the occasion for drinking?
 - A. Celebration B. After work C. Tragedy D. Business E. None
- 10. Why did you drink?
 - A. Lonely B. Angry C. Escape E. No reason D. Upset
- 11. How much are you to blame for the events that led to your arrest?
 - A. Not at all to blame
 B. Slightly to blame
 D. Mostly to blame
- 12. Do you feel it was fair to be arrested?

 - A. Not at all fair B. Slightly fair C. Somewhat fair D. Mostly fair

E. Entirely fair

- 13. What do you believe are your chances of being arrested again on a DWI charge within the next year?
 - A. No chance B. Very little chance
 - C. 50-50 chance D. 75% chance E. 100% chance
- 14. How difficult will it be to change your behavior that led to your arrest?
 - A. Very easy B. Somewhat easy Somewhat difficulty D.
 - Difficult C.

E. Extremely difficult

- 15. How valuable do you feel this course will be for you?
 - Not at all valuable B. Slightly valuable Α.
 - D. Valuable Fairly valuable
 - E. Extremely valuable

- 16. What will you do to avoid future DWI arrest?
 - A. Will seek help with drinking problem
 - B. Will use alternate transportation when drinking
 - C. Will drink less when planning to drive
 - D. Will drink at home
 - E. Other (Write your comments on the back side of the ANSWER SHEET)

Vita removed during scanning.

