

2011

LAST DRINK ANALYSIS



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November 1, 2011

I. Discussion

Over the last year the NH Division of Liquor Enforcement has partnered with the NH Traffic Safety Agency and local, county and state law enforcement agencies to conduct a last drink survey at 15 sobriety checkpoints throughout the State of New Hampshire. The goal of the last drink survey is to identify where a person suspected of driving under the influence of alcohol consumed his or her last drink. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (2005) reports;

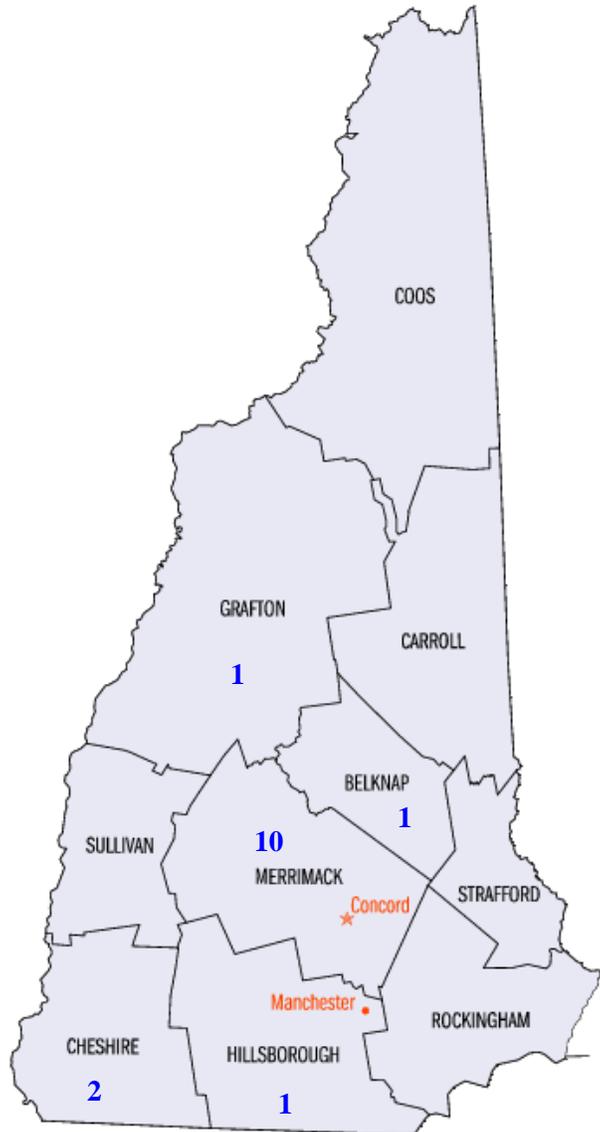
The cost of alcohol-related harm to society is enormous, both in human and economic terms:

- At least 85,000 Americans die each year from alcohol-related causes, making alcohol-related problems the third-leading cause of death in the United States (Mokdad, et al., 2004).
- Drinking and driving is a significant cause of injuries and fatalities in the United States. Alcohol was involved in 40 percent of traffic crash fatalities and in 7 percent of all crashes in 2003, resulting in 17,013 fatalities and injuring an estimated 275,000 people (NHTSA, 2004).
- Almost one in four victims of violent crime report that the perpetrator had been drinking prior to committing the violence. Alcohol was involved in 32 to 50 percent of homicides (Spunt, et al., 1995; Goldstein, et al., 1992; Greenfeld, 1998).
- Thirty-nine percent of accidental deaths (including drowning, poisonings, falls, and fires) and 29 percent of suicides in the United States are linked to the consumption of alcohol (Smith, et al., 1999).
- The total monetary cost of alcohol-attributable consequences (including health care costs, productivity losses, and alcohol-related crime costs) in 1998 was estimated to be \$185 billion (USDHHS, 2000).

This study also revealed that approximately 50 percent of the people arrested for driving under the influence consumed their last drink at an on-sale licensed establishment (NHTSA, 2005).

II. Results

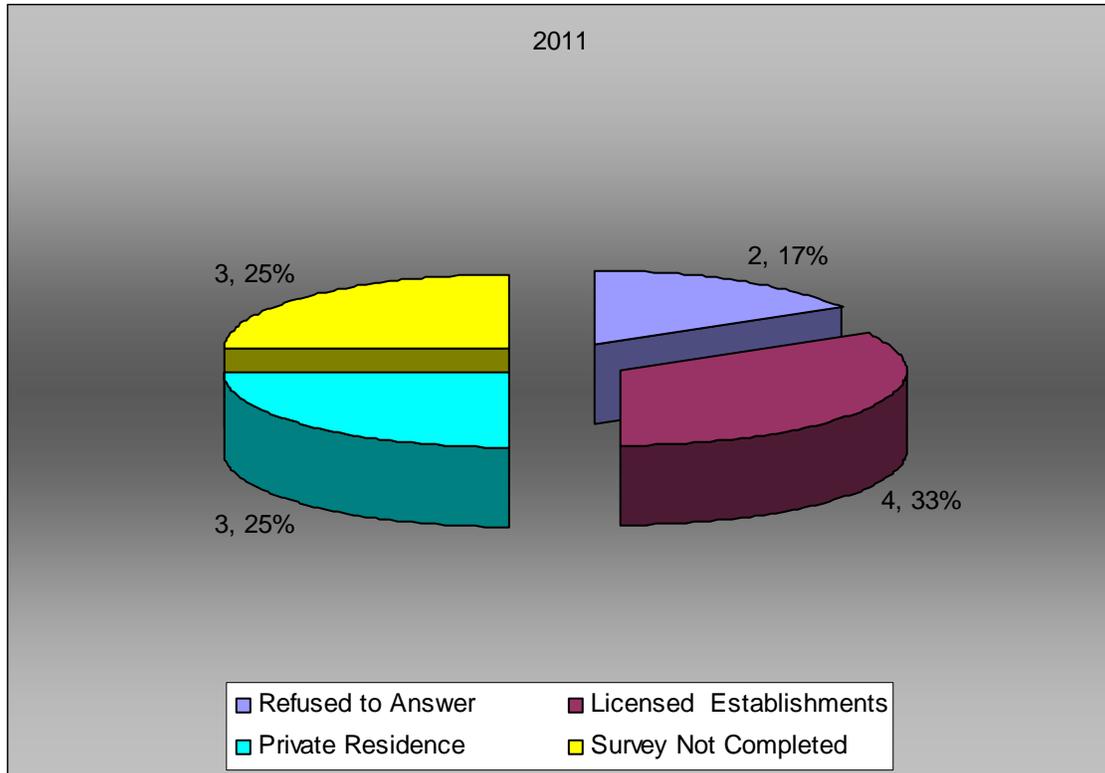
During the survey period of May 24, 2011 to September 30, 2011, the NH Division of Liquor Enforcement conducted a total of 60 Last Drink Surveys at 15 sobriety checkpoints throughout the state. Investigators were assigned to checkpoints in Carroll (1), Cheshire (2), Grafton (1), Hillsborough(1), and Merrimack (10) counties. The illustration on the next page shows the number of checkpoints where Last Drink Surveys were conducted in each county.

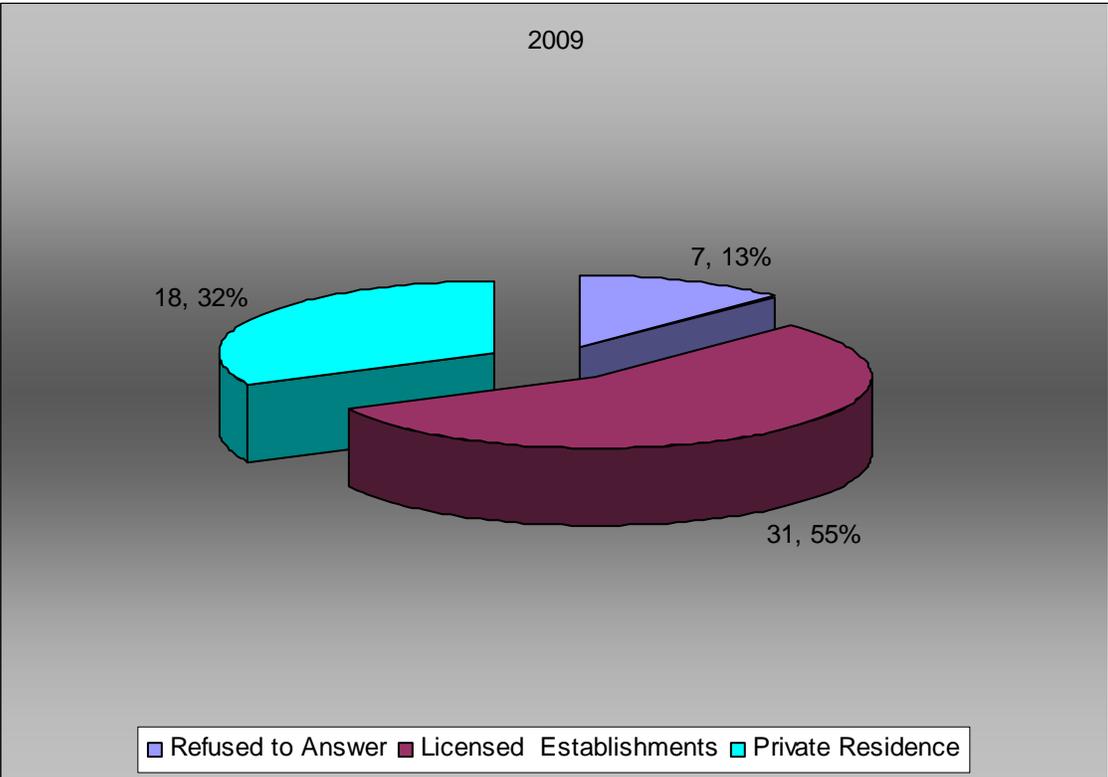
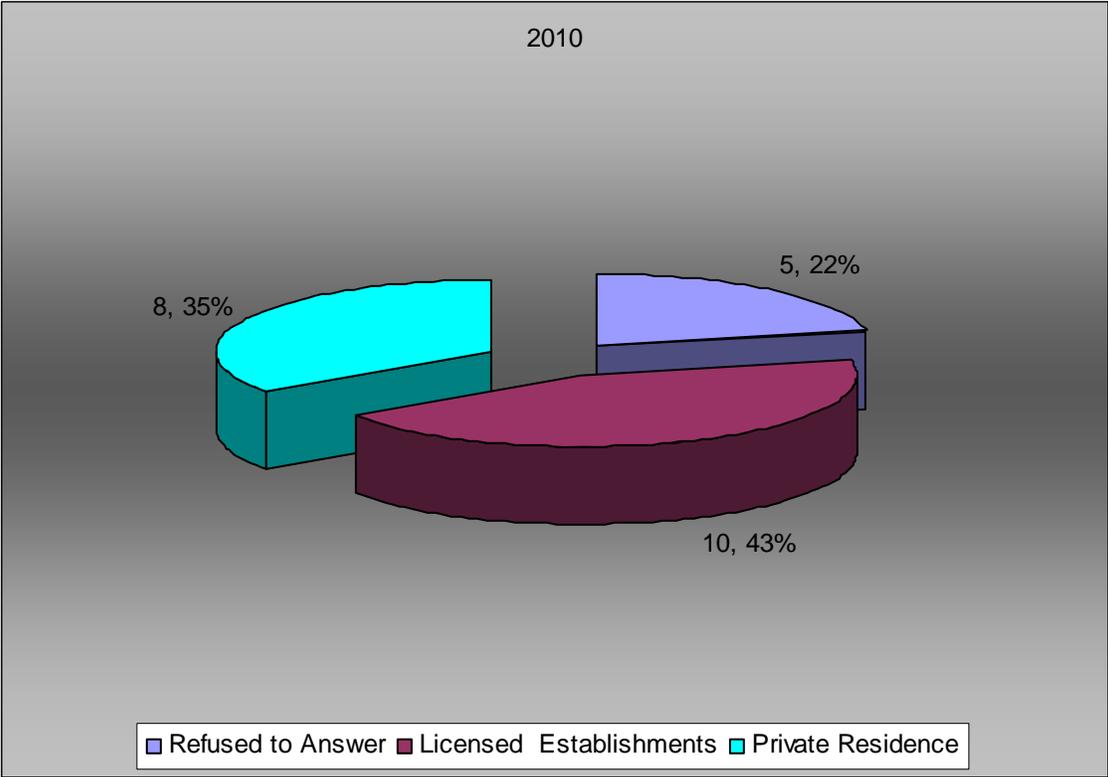


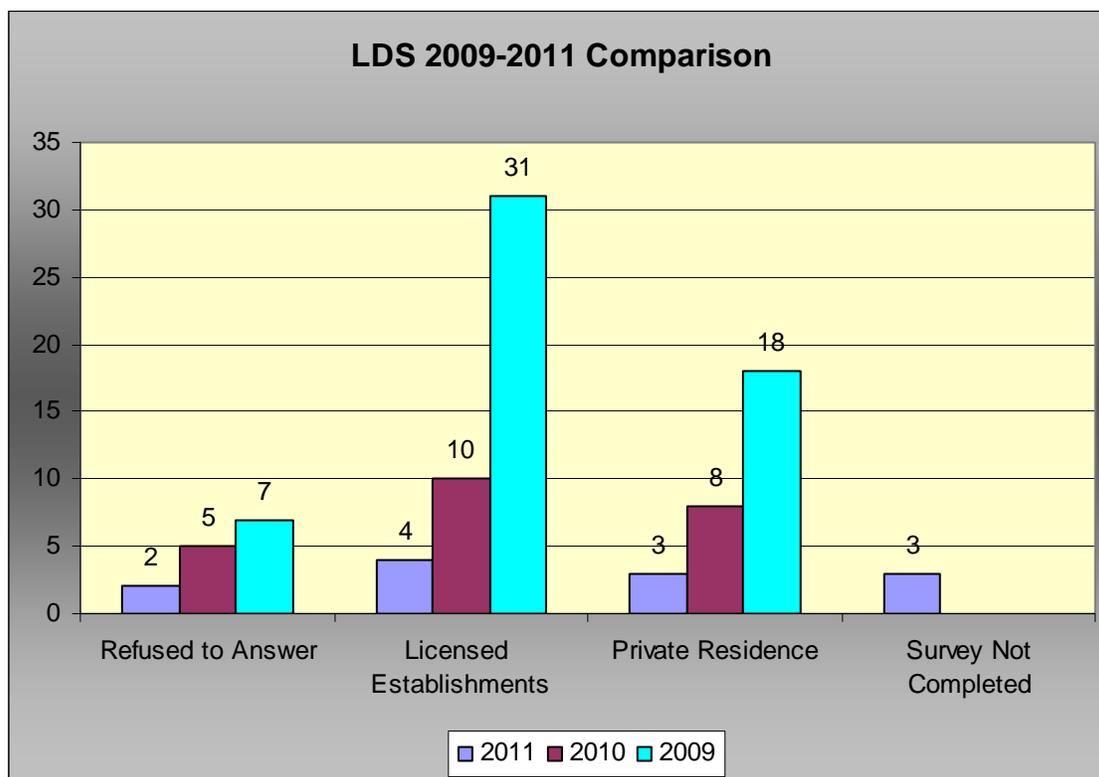
Of the 60 people surveyed; 12 were arrested for DUI. Of the 12 people arrested for DUI; 2 refused to provide the location where they had consumed their last drink; 3 reported they had been drinking at locations such as a private residence or other non licensed public places; 4 reported that they had consumed their last drink at an on-sale liquor

licensed establishment and 3 Last Drink Surveys were not completed for unknown reasons. The average percentage is lower than national studies that show up to 50 percent of people driving under the influence had their last drinks at licensed establishments (O'Donnell, 1985; Anglin, 1997; Gallup, 2000).

Last Drink Surveys of People Arrested for DUI







Data collected has helped to:

- Provide valuable information about the nexus between DUI arrests and licensee serving practices.
- Educate licensees on the proper rate of service of alcohol and the possible results of the reckless service of alcohol

III. Conclusion

Analyzing this data allows the NH Division of Liquor Enforcement and local, county and state law enforcement agencies to provide qualitative analysis. By reducing fundamental mistakes by licensees and their employees we improve quality control and accountability. The information obtained in this report will allow the Division of Liquor Enforcement and local law enforcement to focus our educational and enforcement efforts in a unified manner.

References

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (2005). *Preventing Over-consumption of Alcohol - Sales to the Intoxicated and "Happy Hour" (Drink Special) Laws*. Available on-line: <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/injury/alcohol/PIREWeb/pages/index.html>