**Shoulder Tap**

* What’s in it for them
* More specific examples

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| Source | <http://www.abc.ca.gov/programs/shoulder_tap.html> |
| Information | When the California Supreme Court ruled in 1994 that minor decoys could be used by law enforcement to check whether stores were selling alcohol to minors (persons under age 21), the violation rate was nearly 50 percent. In some cities, almost one out of every two stores failed to check a minor's age and sold them alcohol. In 1997 the violation rate had dropped to less than 10 percent in those cities that used the Minor Decoy Program on a regular basis. Minors then turned to the "shoulder tap" method of getting alcohol by standing outside of a liquor store or market and asking adults to buy them alcohol. A recent survey conducted by the Los Angeles Police Department indicated that as much as 46 percent of all minors who attempt to acquire alcohol use this method.  The Decoy Shoulder Tap Program is a newly-created enforcement program that ABC and local law enforcement agencies use to detect and deter shoulder tap activity. During the program, a minor decoy, under the direct supervision of law enforcement officers, solicits adults outside ABC licensed stores to buy the minor decoy alcohol. Any person seen furnishing alcohol to the minor decoy is arrested (either cited or booked) for furnishing alcohol to a minor (a violation of Section 25658(a) Business and Professions Code).  **Results and Impacts**  Those law enforcement agencies that have used the Decoy Shoulder Tap Program have had significant results.  *Quantitative Measures*  The program's success can be measured quantitatively by the number of persons who furnished over those who did not on the first week versus the last week of the operation.  Further quantitative measures include the number of arrests; the number of suspects booked versus released on misdemeanor notices to appear; and the ages of the arrested suspects.  *Qualitative Measures*  Qualitative measures include declarations of satisfaction from licensees, local law enforcement officers, and community members. The program has also strengthened the working relationship between ABC and local community leaders, law enforcement agencies and alcohol industry members. |

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| Source | <https://azusapd.org/press-releases/operation-shoulder-tap-a-success-in-azusa> |
| Information | On March 14th, 2015, officers from nearly 100 law enforcement agencies, to include the Azusa Police Department and the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control, conducted a decoy operation outside of several different licensed premises within the state of California. The goal of the operation was to test patron’s willingness to furnish alcoholic beverages to underage persons.  During this operation, there were 432 citations and arrests made throughout the state, for violations ranging from furnishing alcoholic beverages to minors to possession of illegal drugs, public drunkenness, parole violation and warrants. |

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| Source | <https://www.tabc.state.tx.us/enforcement/shoulder_tap_stings.asp> |
| Information | Youth indicate that they can easily obtain alcohol from both commercial and social sources. In some cases, a minor may approach an adult outside of a retail establishment and offer them money to purchase alcohol. Research conducted in 2007, showed that eight percent of adults approached by minors agreed to purchase them alcohol.  In an effort to curb this practice, TABC conducts Shoulder Tap Stings. Under direct supervision of TABC Agents working in an undercover capacity, a minor decoy will approach (tap on shoulder) an adult outside a retail establishment and offer money to purchase alcohol. If the adult agrees, the minor will give money to the adult to pay for the alcoholic beverages.  The minor will advise the adult that he or she is not old enough to buy alcoholic beverages and will offer to give the adult money to purchase the alcoholic beverages for him/her. The minor will not represent himself to be 21 years of age or older, nor will he misrepresent his age in any way. Upon successful completion of a transaction, the minor will immediately return to the undercover vehicle and turn the alcoholic beverages over to one of the cover agents.  The adult making the purchase will be approached by TABC agents and cited for making alcohol available to a minor, a class A misdemeanor, punishable by up to a year in jail and/or up to a $4,000 fine. (Section 106.06 of the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Code) |