

**Law Enforcement Officer Reactions to Citation Program:
Semi-Structured Interview Guide
Intervention Evaluation**

Sarasota Youth Tobacco & Alcohol Prevention Project



Staff Introduction Script:

NOTE: *[This script is intended to guide the content of your introduction of the interview to respondents. Do not read the script. It is merely meant to give you an idea of what to say and includes important points that need to be conveyed in the introduction.]*

During the past few years, members of the Sarasota community known as the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) and the Florida Prevention Research Center at the University of South Florida have been collaborating on a project aimed at preventing adolescent tobacco and alcohol use.

After collecting Sarasota-specific data on the determinants of adolescent tobacco and alcohol use, the CAC developed and prioritized a list of evidence-based strategies to reduce these behaviors in Sarasota County. The creation of a tobacco and alcohol citation weekend was one strategy.

You have been selected to participate in this interview because you have been involved in the tobacco and alcohol citation weekend effort as a law enforcement officer responsible for issuing such citations. We would like to ask you a few questions about your involvement in and perceptions of the citation weekend effort.

1. In which citation weekends have you participated? (Check all that apply).

PROBES:	RESPONSES/COMMENTS:
1. Thanksgiving Break 2002	
2. Christmas Break 2003	
3. New Year's Eve	
4. Spring Break 2003	
5. Prom 2003	
6. Fourth of July 2003	
7. Football rivalry weekends	
8. Other	

2. How do you think youth feel when they are arrested or receive notice to appear citations for tobacco or alcohol use during these targeted weekends (i.e. angry, afraid)?

3. Does the reaction depend on the punishment (arrested vs. notice to appear citation)?

4. Is the reaction the same for tobacco and alcohol?

5. How do you think parents feel when contacted about their youth's arrest or notice to appear citation for tobacco or alcohol use during these targeted weekends (i.e. angry, disappointed, nonchalant)?

6. Does the reaction depend on the punishment (arrested vs. notice to appear citation)?

7. Is the reaction the same for tobacco and alcohol?

8. How do you feel the community has responded to the citation weekend?

PROBES:	RESPONSES/COMMENTS:
a. To what extent do you feel the community <u>supports</u> the citation weekend?	

9. Do you perceive any resentment or negativity toward law enforcement officers as a result of these citation weekends? Please explain.

PROBES:	RESPONSES/COMMENTS:
a. From whom do you perceive this resentment/negativity?	
b. What do you think is the source of this resentment/negativity?	
c. Does this resentment/negativity make you less likely to participate in such efforts in the future? Why or why not?	

10. How willing would you be to participate in initiatives like this in the future? Why or why not?

11. What impact have you seen or do you hope to see from the citation weekend?

How effective do you think the citation weekends are at reducing adolescent tobacco and alcohol use?

PROBES:	RESPONSES/COMMENTS:
a. Do you think the effort has or can have a long-lasting impact? Why or why not?	
b. Do you think the effort has reached or can reach a large number of adolescents? Why or why not?	
c. What barriers have you seen that may impinge on the success of the citation weekends?	
d. What do you feel is needed to ensure that the citation weekends have an impact on adolescent alcohol and tobacco use?	

13. What message do you think the citation weekends send in the community?

PROBES:	RESPONSES/COMMENTS:
a. Is the message different for various segments of the population (i.e. youth, parents, school teachers, law enforcement, concerned citizens, etc)?	
b. What are the different messages?	

14. Please take a look at this chart. It depicts the distribution of select tobacco and alcohol citations by month for the Sarasota County Police Department for 2002. Can you help us explain the trends in the chart?

PROBES:	RESPONSES/COMMENTS:
a. Why do you think there are sharp increases in the number of citations for underage tobacco possession in April, August, and November?	

<p>b. Why do you think the number of citations for underage tobacco possession is lowest for May, June and July?</p>	
<p>c. What are your thoughts about the low levels of DUI citations for individuals under 21?</p>	
<p>d. What type of citation does an underage youth caught smoking on school grounds receive? What about an adult?</p>	
<p>e. Do you have any other observations about the chart you would like to share with us?</p>	

15. Do you have any other comments that you would like to share with us today about the citation weekend program?

THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING!