

# HBDRA

## A Public Safety Study of Downtown Huntington Beach

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**Huntington Beach Downtown Residents Association (HBDRA.com)**

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## **PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this report is to provide the City of Huntington Beach, specifically our City Council and City Staff, with detailed information regarding alcohol related public safety issues in the Downtown Neighborhood of Huntington Beach.

The HBDRA believes that the best decisions are made when one has accurate information available to them. We ask our City Council and City Staff to please consider the information in this report when making decisions that affect quality of life and public safety for the Downtown Residents and the City of Huntington Beach.

The HBDRA acknowledges and appreciates the efforts of the Huntington Beach Police Department to ensure the public welfare and public safety under very difficult circumstances.

If there are any questions regarding this report, please contact HBDRA@HBDRA.com.



The following information is from the State of California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) as of January 25, 2011. The website is [www.ots.ca.gov](http://www.ots.ca.gov). Some additional data regarding alcohol licenses was collected from the California Department of Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) as of January 26, 2011. The website is [www.abc.ca.gov](http://www.abc.ca.gov).

### BACKGROUND:

- 1) There are 480 cities in the State of California.
- 2) For the purpose of analyzing Traffic Safety, OTS categorizes cities based on 2009 population:

Group A:	13 cities	population over 250,000
Group B:	56 cities	population 100,001-250,000
Group C:	104 cities	population 50,001-100,000
Group D:	98 cities	population 25,001-50,000

Cities under a population of 25,000 are not included.

- 3) Huntington Beach is included in Group B with a population of 202,857 and it is the 20th largest city in the State.
- 4) OTS incorporates data from the following organizations:
  - California Highway Patrol
  - Caltrans
  - California Department of Finance
  - California Department of Justice
- 5) OTS data is for 2009. Data for 2010 will not be available until November, 2011.

### ANALYSIS:

The purpose of this analysis is to demonstrate that the City of Huntington Beach has a disproportionate number of **Alcohol Related Traffic Safety Issues** as compared to other cities in California.

**Further analysis** will demonstrate that the City of Huntington Beach and specifically the area known as "Downtown" has an undue concentration and over saturation of alcohol licenses that are the major contributing factor to these Alcohol Related Traffic Safety Issues as reported by OTS, as well as other Alcohol Related Crimes and Crimes in General as reported by the Huntington Beach Police Department.

- 1) If we examine the 69 largest cities in California, those with a population of 100,000 or more (Groups A and B combined), here are the results:

### **Alcohol Related Traffic Accidents per Capita\* - Huntington Beach is #1**

That's more Alcohol Related Traffic Accidents per capita in Huntington Beach than the 19 largest cities in California (Huntington Beach is the 20th largest city in the state), including Los Angeles, San Diego, San Francisco, San Jose and 15 other cities larger than Huntington Beach in population.

- 2) In terms of just pure numbers (not per capita) of Alcohol Related Traffic Accidents, Huntington Beach is #8 in the entire state of 480 cities. That's in the top 1.7% of all California cities.

Huntington Beach had 17% more Alcohol Related Traffic Accidents than the nearby city of Long Beach, which has a population 2-1/2 times larger than Huntington Beach and 9% more than Anaheim and Santa Ana each with a population almost twice that of Huntington Beach.

- 3) If we review the 56 cities in Group B, then Huntington Beach ranks as follows:

#7 Population

#2 Number of Alcohol Related Traffic Accidents

#1 Alcohol Related Traffic Accidents per Capita

#1 Number of DUIs

#4 DUIs per Capita

#1 DUIs per DVMT (Daily Vehicle Miles Traveled)

#1 Number of Nighttime Accidents (from 9:00 pm - 2:59 am)\*

\* It is reasonable to surmise that this is a direct result of the Late Night Bar Scene in Downtown Huntington Beach.

\* NOTE: For the purpose of this report, "Alcohol Related Traffic Accidents" is by OTS definition **where victims were either killed or injured.**

## 4) HUNTINGTON BEACH RANKINGS and TRENDS: 2006 - 2009 (Group B)

### Number of Alcohol Related Traffic Accidents:

2006 Ranking	#2
2007 Ranking	#3
2008 Ranking	#2
2009 Ranking	#2

### Alcohol Related Traffic Accidents per Capita:

2006 Ranking	#8
2007 Ranking	#7
2008 Ranking	#4
2009 Ranking	#1

### Number of DUIs:

2006 Ranking	#1
2007 Ranking	#1
2008 Ranking	#1
2009 Ranking	#1

### DUIs per Capita:

2006 Ranking	#3
2007 Ranking	#2
2008 Ranking	#3
2009 Ranking	#4

### DUIs per DVMT (Daily Vehicle Miles Traveled):

2006 Ranking	#3
2007 Ranking	#2
2008 Ranking	#1
2009 Ranking	#1

### Number of Nighttime Accidents (from 9:00 pm - 2:59 am)\*:

2006 Ranking	#2
2007 Ranking	#3
2008 Ranking	#2
2009 Ranking	#1

\* It is reasonable to surmise that this is a direct result of the Late Night Bar Scene in Downtown Huntington Beach.

- 5) Based on the information reported by OTS, a person driving their car in Huntington Beach has a greater chance of getting involved in an Alcohol Related Traffic Accident resulting in injury or death than the 69 largest cities in the entire State of California.

By way of example, that's 7 times greater than Daly City,

4 times greater than Irvine, and

2 times greater than Pomona.

## **CONCLUSION:**

The City of Huntington Beach demonstrates a serious and significant problem with Alcohol Related Traffic Safety Issues and is now ranked #1, 2, 3 or 4 by the State of California Office of Traffic Safety in every category reported.

The data over the last four years illustrates a serious and significant worsening trend and/or a continuing problem that is not showing any meaningful signs of improvement.

The number of alcohol licenses in Huntington Beach, specifically Type 47 (On Sale General for Bona Fide Public Eating Place) is clearly a contributing factor. Of the 56 cities in Group B, Huntington Beach ranks #4 in the total number of active or pending Type 47 licenses. Over 28% of these Huntington Beach licenses are located in the Downtown area of Huntington Beach, which represents only 0.56% (approximately 1/2 of 1%) of the total size of the City in area.

Specifically, there are 92 Type 47 licenses in Huntington Beach of which 28 are located Downtown. If the number of Type 47 licenses Downtown was scaled up to the size of the entire City, then the number of Type 47 alcohol licenses of 92 citywide would actually be . . . . 5,040. The Downtown area of Huntington Beach has 54.8 times more Type 47 alcohol licenses per square mile than the City as a whole.

**Further analysis** will reveal a direct correlation between an undue concentration and over saturation of alcohol licenses in the Downtown area of Huntington Beach and Alcohol Related Traffic Safety Issues as reported by OTS, as well as other Alcohol Related Crimes and Crimes in General as reported by the Huntington Beach Police Department.

The following information is based on crime data reported by the Huntington Beach Police Department (HBPD) for the two year period starting January 1, 2009 and ending December 31, 2010.

### **BACKGROUND:**

- 1) There are three primary alcohol-related crimes. They are:
  - DUIs
  - Assaults
  - Drunk in Public
  
- 2) There are two geographic "Crime Hot Spots" in the Downtown area of Huntington Beach for which the HBPD maintains separate crime data:
  - Hot Spot #1 = DUI Arrests
  - Hot Spot #2 = Assaults and Drunk in Public Arrests

These Hot Spots encompass the entire Downtown area known as the "Downtown Bar Scene" or "Downtown Entertainment District" and are shown on the maps on the next two pages of this report.

Based on the total of 27.0 square miles for the City of Huntington Beach, each Hot Spot is represented statistically as follows:

- Hot Spot #1 = 0.15 sq. miles = 0.56% of the City in area
- Hot Spot #2 = 0.07 sq. miles = 0.26% of the City in area

Each Hot Spot represents approximately 1/2 of 1% and 1/4 of 1% of the City in total area, respectively.

### **ANALYSIS:**

The purpose of this analysis is to demonstrate that the City of Huntington Beach has a disproportionate amount of alcohol consumption in the Downtown area which contributes to an undue concentration and over saturation of Alcohol Related Crimes and Crimes in General.

**Further analysis** will demonstrate that this results from an undue concentration and over saturation of alcohol licenses in the Downtown area of Huntington Beach. This contributes to an atmosphere that fosters over-drinking, reckless behavior and an unsafe environment affecting both residential quality of life and public safety for the Downtown Residents and the City of Huntington Beach in general.



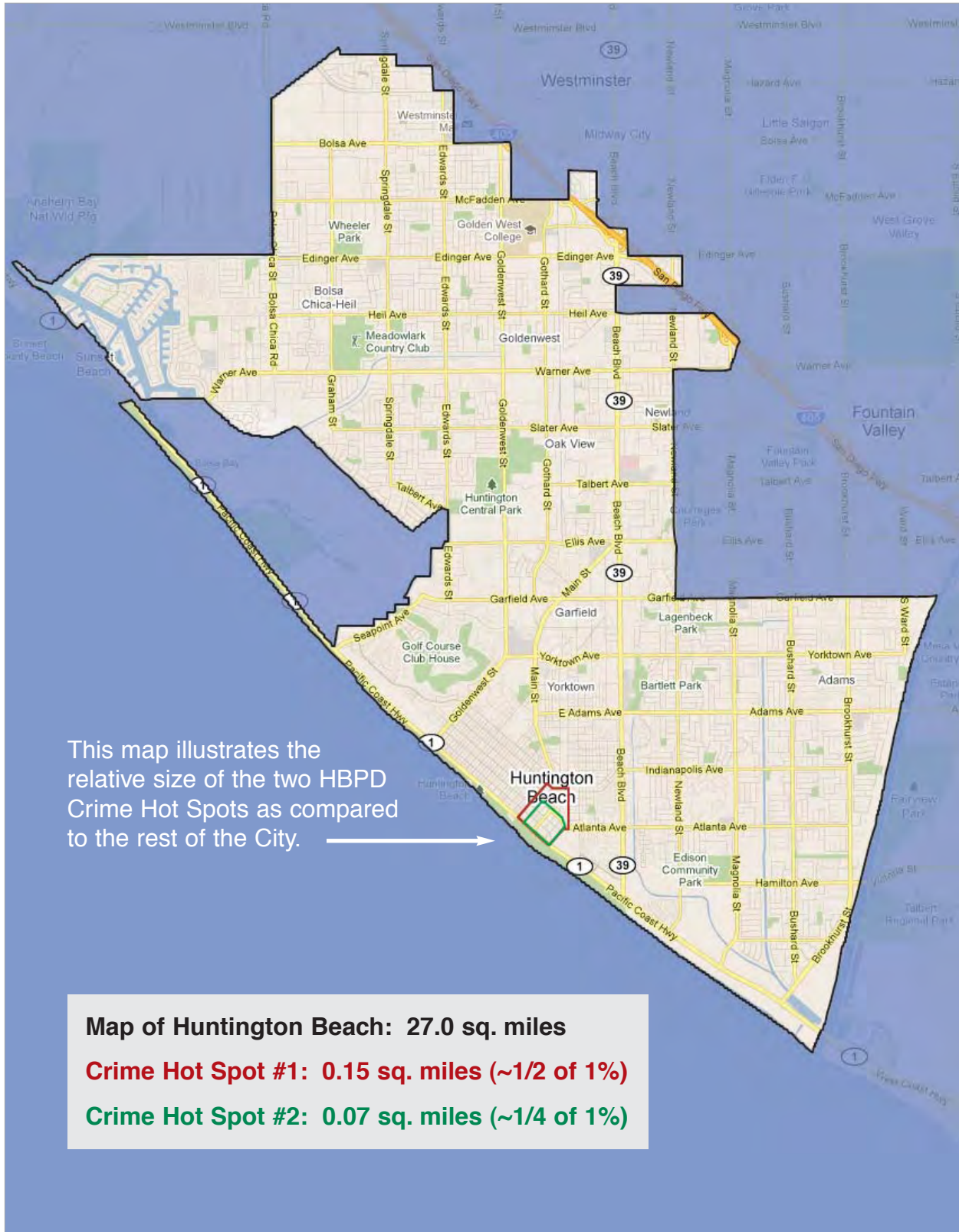
**HBPD CRIME HOT SPOT #1**  
**0.15 sq. miles**  
**0.56% of the City in area**  
**41 Alcohol Licenses**

**HBPD CRIME HOT SPOT #2**  
**0.07 sq. miles**  
**0.26% of the City in area**  
**37 Alcohol Licenses**



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This map illustrates the relative size of the two HBPD Crime Hot Spots as compared to the rest of the City. →

**Map of Huntington Beach: 27.0 sq. miles**  
**Crime Hot Spot #1: 0.15 sq. miles (~1/2 of 1%)**  
**Crime Hot Spot #2: 0.07 sq. miles (~1/4 of 1%)**

## HBPD CRIME HOT SPOT #1: DUI ARRESTS

The data reported by the HBPD is for DUI Arrests made within Hot Spot #1. Currently, the HBPD does not report DUI Arrests made outside of the Hot Spot and attributed to alcohol consumption within the Hot Spot.

For information regarding DUI Arrests Citywide and other Alcohol Related Traffic Issues, please see pages 3 through 6 of this report.

For the two year period ending December 31, 2010 . . .

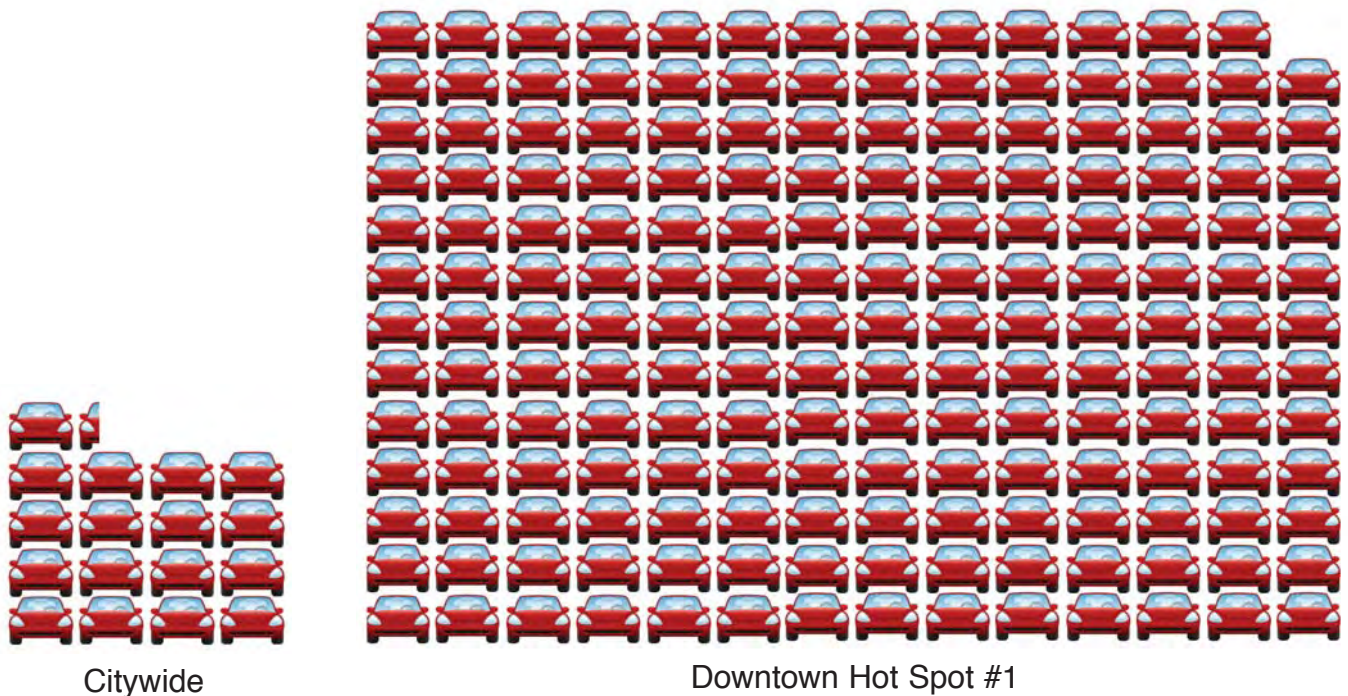
NUMBER OF DUI ARRESTS, CITYWIDE: 3,114

NUMBER OF DUI ARRESTS, HOT SPOT #1: 181

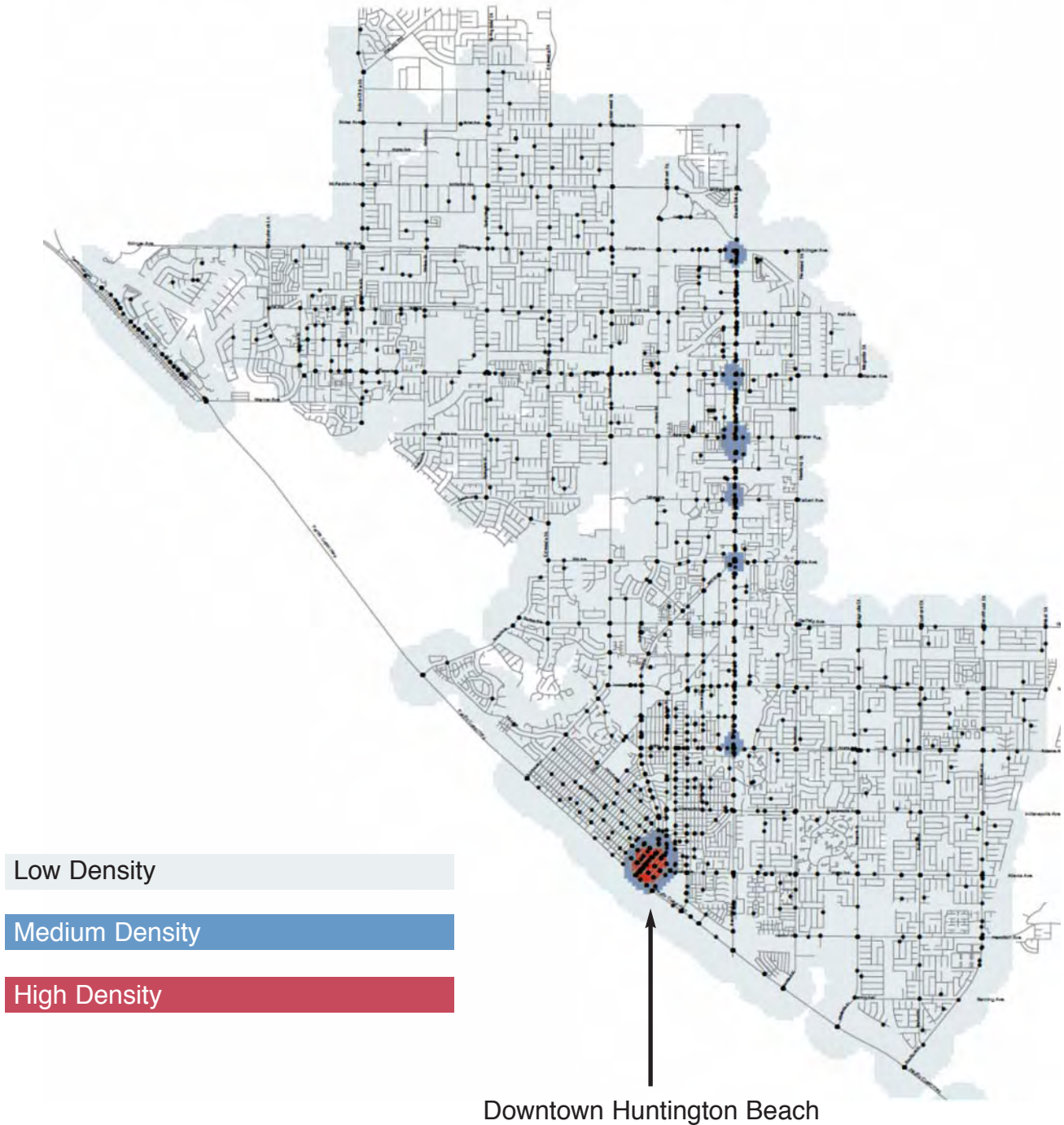
### CONCLUSION:

5.8% of all the DUI Arrests in Huntington Beach were made within Hot Spot #1. If this was scaled up to the size of the entire City, then the number of DUI arrests of 3,114 citywide would actually be . . . 32,580.

The Downtown area of Huntington Beach as represented by Hot Spot #1 has 10.5 times more DUI Arrests per square mile than the City as a whole.



## HBPD Density Map - DUI Crime Data January 1, 2009 - October 31, 2010



Downtown Huntington Beach

## HBPD CRIME HOT SPOT #2: ALCOHOL RELATED ASSAULTS

For the two year period ending December 31, 2010 . . .

NUMBER OF ALCOHOL RELATED ASSAULTS, CITYWIDE:	848
NUMBER OF ALCOHOL RELATED ASSAULTS, HOT SPOT #2:	161

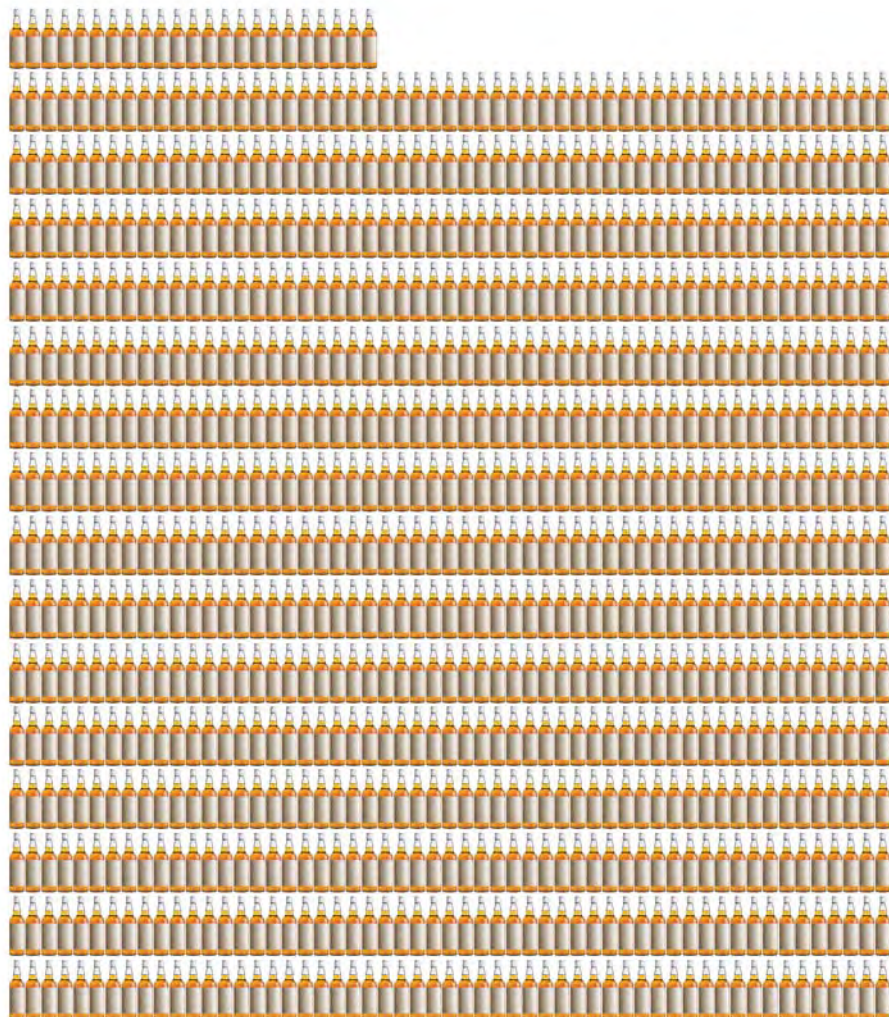
### CONCLUSION:

19.0% of all the Alcohol Related Assaults in Huntington Beach were made within Hot Spot #2. If this was scaled up to the size of the entire City, then the number of Alcohol Related Assaults of 868 citywide would actually be . . . 62,100.

The Downtown area of Huntington Beach as represented by Hot Spot #2 has 73.2 times more Alcohol Related Assaults per square mile than the City as a whole.

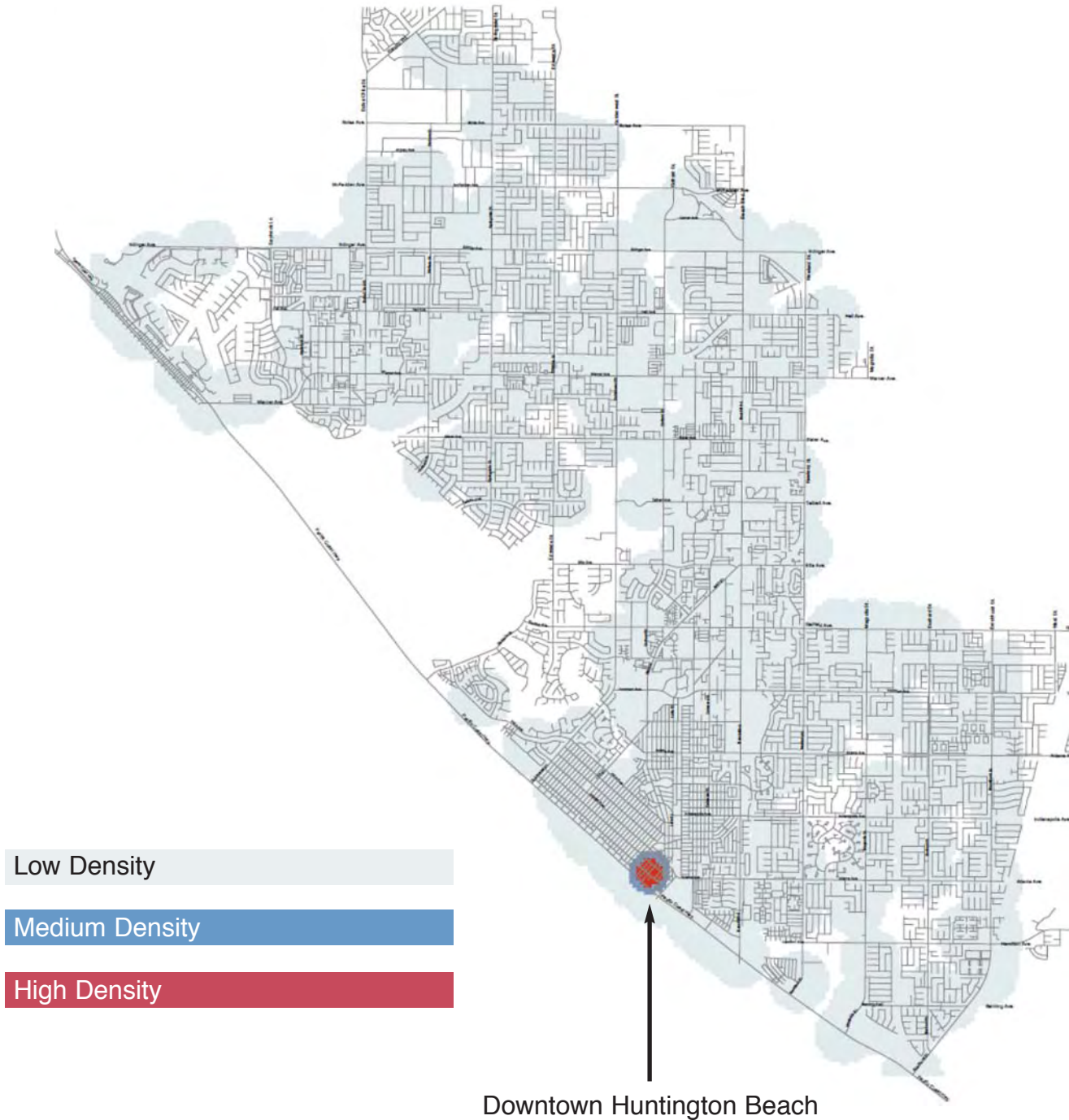


Citywide



Downtown Hot Spot #2

## HBPD Density Map - Alcohol Related Assaults January 1, 2009 - October 31, 2010



## **HBDRA CRIME HOT SPOT #2: DRUNK IN PUBLIC ARRESTS**

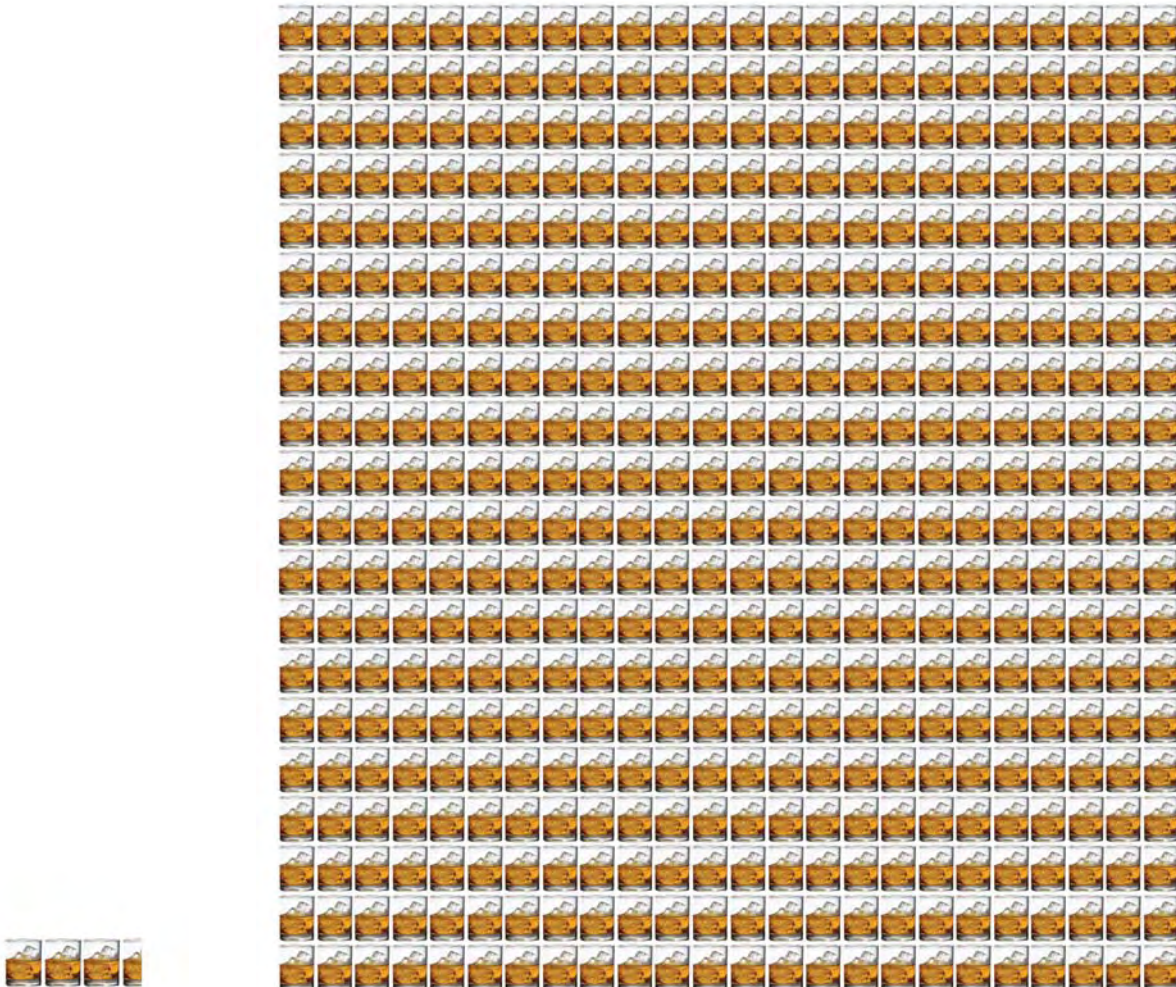
For the two year period ending December 31, 2010 . . .

NUMBER OF DRUNK IN PUBLIC ARRESTS, CITYWIDE:	1,588
NUMBER OF DRUNK IN PUBLIC ARRESTS, HOT SPOT #2:	561

### **CONCLUSION:**

35.3% of all the Drunk in Public Arrests in Huntington Beach were made within Hot Spot #2. If this was scaled up to the size of the entire City, then the number of Drunk in Public Arrests of 1,588 citywide would actually be . . . 216,386, more than the total number of residents in the City.

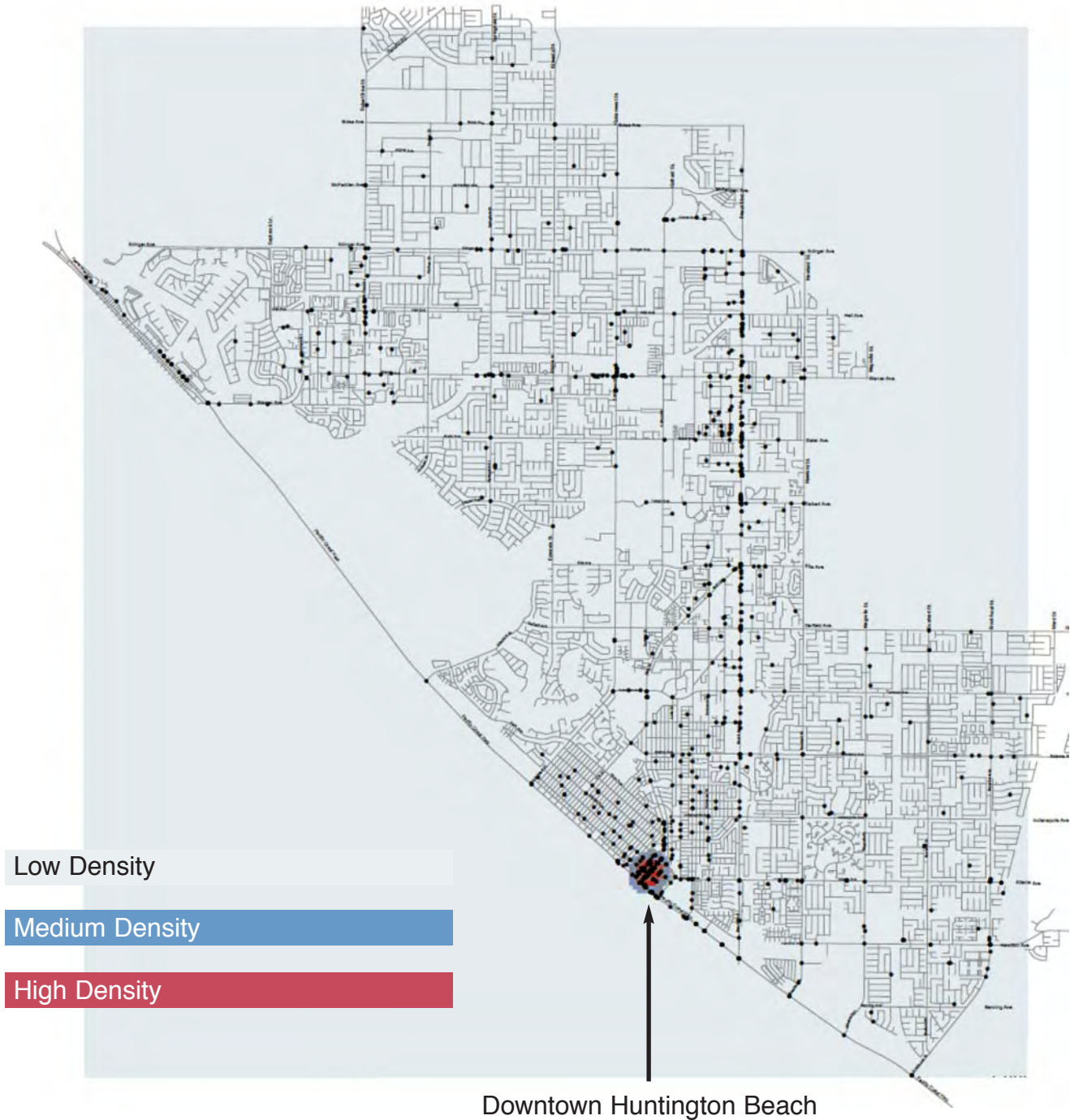
The Downtown area of Huntington Beach as represented by Hot Spot #2 has 136.3 times more Drunk in Public Arrests per square mile than the City as a whole.



Citywide

Downtown Hot Spot #2

## HBPD Density Map - Drunk in Public January 1, 2009 - October 31, 2010



## ALCOHOL LICENSES

The following information is from the California Department of Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) as of January 26, 2011. The website is [www.abc.ca.gov](http://www.abc.ca.gov).

- 1) There are 437 Active or Pending Alcohol Licenses in the City of Huntington Beach.
- 2) There are 42 located in Downtown Huntington Beach as represented by HBDRA Crime Hot Spot #1. See map below.

Red = Type 47 (includes 1 location Type 48 and 1 location Type 75)

Blue = Type 41 (includes 1 location Type 42)

Green = Type 21

### DEFINITIONS:

Type 21: Off-Sale General (ie Liquor Stores)

**Type 41: On-Sale Beer and Wine for Bona Fide Public Eating Place**

Type 42: On-Sale Beer and Wine for Public Premises (Main Street Wine Co.)

**Type 47: On-Sale General for Bona Fide Public Eating Place**

Type 48: On-Sale General for Public Premises (Perq's Nite Club)

Type 75: On-Sale General Brew-Pub (HB Beer Company)



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## HBDRA REPORT

- 3) If we consider just Types 41 and 47 licenses in the City of Huntington Beach . . .
- |              |            |
|--------------|------------|
| Citywide:    | 209        |
| Hot Spot #1: | 35 = 16.7% |

If we include Perq's Nite Club, HB Beer Company and Main Street Wine Company, which are not Type 41 or 47, but still serve alcohol . . .

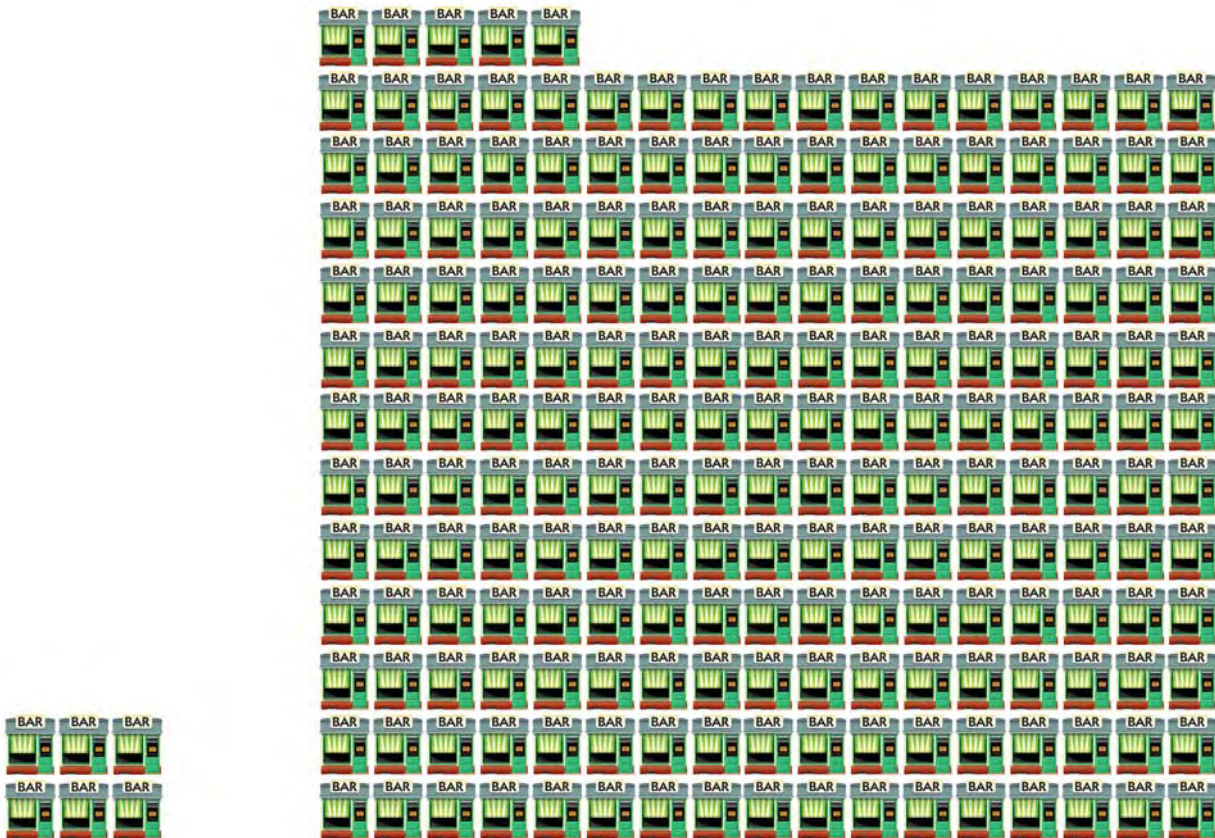
Citywide:	209
Hot Spot #1:	38 = 18.2%

If we include the three (of four) Liquor Stores that are open until midnight or later on the weekends . . .

Citywide:	209
<b>Hot Spot #1:</b>	<b>41 = 19.6%</b>

- 4) If Hot Spot #1 was scaled up to the size of the entire City, then the number of "Type 41 and Type 47" alcohol licenses of 209 citywide would actually be 7,380.

The Downtown area of Huntington Beach as represented by Hot Spot #1 has 35.3 times more "Type 41 and Type 47" alcohol licenses per square mile than the City as a whole.



Citywide

Downtown Hot Spot #1

The California Department of Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) is the regulatory agency that administers the Alcohol Beverage Control Act in the State of California. Their website is [www.abc.ca.gov](http://www.abc.ca.gov).

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control is to administer the provisions of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Act in a manner that fosters and protects the health, safety, welfare, and economic well being of the people of the State.

### **OUR BASIC PRINCIPLE**

In cooperation with local communities, we will meet our licensing, enforcement and regulatory mandates with honesty, impartiality, and the highest degree of concern for the people of the State.

### **OUR VISION**

Through our commitment to serving the people of California and one another, we will become the recognized leader in effective and efficient licensing and law enforcement, and a model of excellence in government.

### **BACKGROUND:**

Under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Act, the ABC has provisions that allow a protest to the issuance of an ABC license (ie alcohol license), as well as other issues within ABC's purview. The protest is based on demonstrating an undue concentration of ABC licenses in a specific geography.

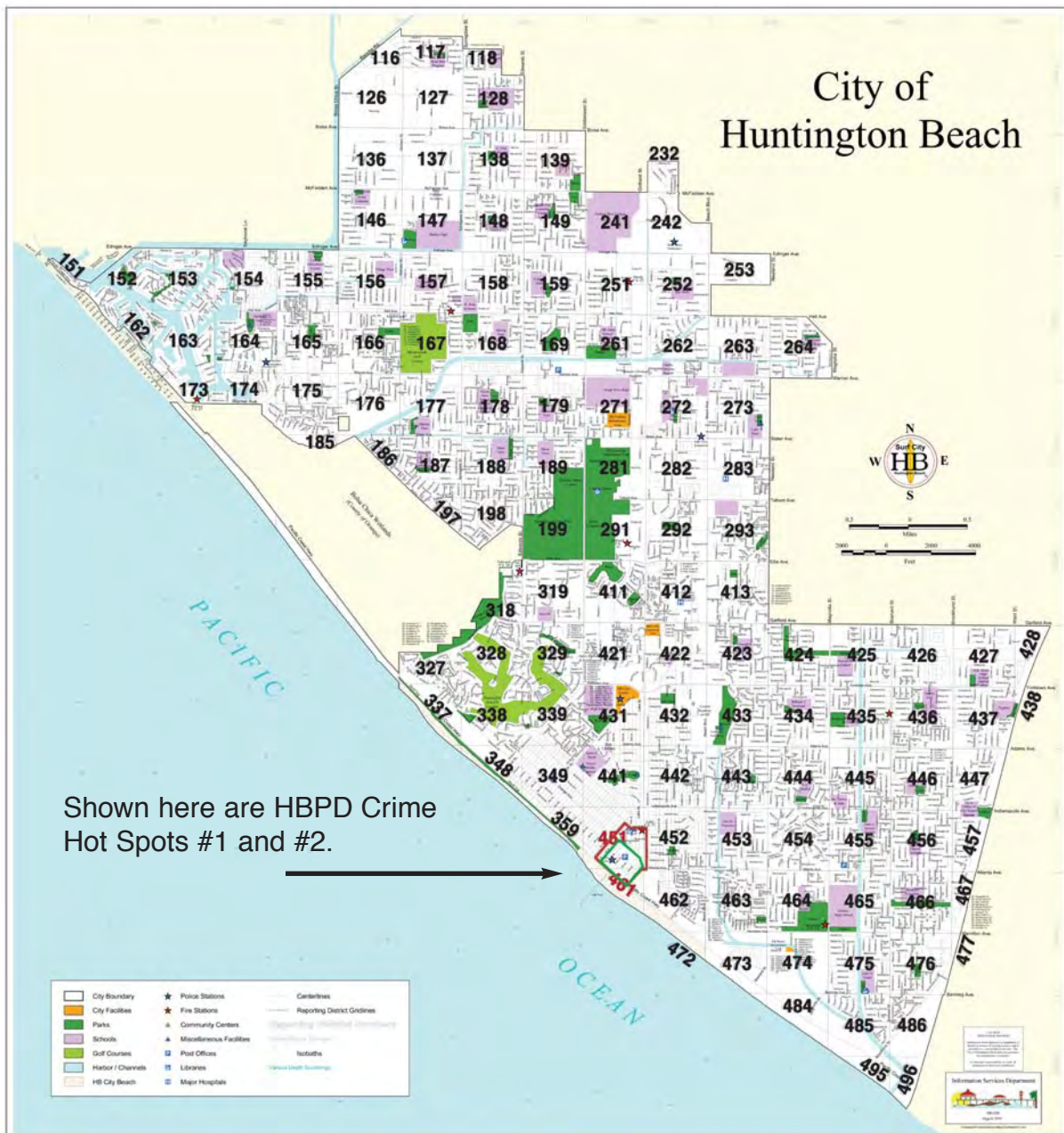
The guidelines established are per the Business and Professional Code (BPC), specifically Section 23958.4, which reads as follows:

*23958.4. (a) For purposes of Section 23958, "undue concentration" means the case in which the applicant premises for an original or premises-to-premises transfer of any retail license are located in an area where any of the following conditions exist:*

*(1) The applicant premises are located in a crime reporting district that has a 20 percent greater number of reported crimes, as defined in subdivision (c), than the average number of reported crimes as determined from all crime reporting districts within the jurisdiction of the local law enforcement agency.*

The City of Huntington Beach is divided into 127 Crime Reporting Districts (CRD) as shown on the map below. The Downtown area, previously described as HBDP Hot Spots #1 and #2, is now defined as Crime Reporting Districts 451 and 461.

## 127 Crime Reporting Districts



## ABC REPORT

As stated in the Business and Professional Code, an ABC protest must establish that an ABC license is, or will be, located in a Crime Reporting District with a crime rate 20% greater than the average of all the other Crime Reporting Districts within the jurisdiction of the City.

The crimes considered for this analysis are called “Part 1” crimes and include the following:

- Criminal Homicide
- Forcible Rape
- Robbery
- Aggravated Assault
- Burglary
- Larceny Theft
- Motor Vehicle Theft

Here is a chart comparing the 2010 CRDs for Downtown Huntington Beach contrasted with the remaining 125 CRDs for the rest of City.

	<u>Downtown Average</u>	<u>Citywide Average</u>	<u>Percent Difference</u>
Criminal Homicide	0.0	0.016	NA
Forcible Rape	1.0	0.240	416.7%
Robbery	4.5	0.800	562.5%
Aggravated Assault	19.5	2.136	912.9%
Burglary	18.0	5.848	307.8%
Larceny Theft	235.0	25.200	932.5%
Motor Vehicle Theft	12.5	2.080	601.0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>290.5</b>	<b>36.320</b>	<b>799.8%</b>

The ABC also provides criteria for on-sale and off-sale alcohol licenses based on census data for cities as contrasted with the county in which they reside.

The Business and Professional Code Section 23958.4 reads as follows:

*23958.4. (a) For purposes of Section 23958, "undue concentration" means the case in which the applicant premises for an original or premises-to-premises transfer of any retail license are located in an area where any of the following conditions exist:*

*(2) As to on-sale retail license applications, the ratio of on-sale retail licenses to population in the census tract or census division in which the applicant premises are located exceeds the ratio of on-sale retail licenses to population in the county in which the applicant premises are located.*

*(3) As to off-sale retail license applications, the ratio of off-sale retail licenses to population in the census tract or census division in which the applicant premises are located exceeds the ratio of off-sale retail licenses to population in the county in which the applicant premises are located.*

For the following statistics, the 2005-2009 ACS data was collected from the American Community Survey at: [http://factfinder.census.gov/home/saff/main.html?\\_lang=en](http://factfinder.census.gov/home/saff/main.html?_lang=en).

The map for tract 0993.11 was collected at:  
<http://www.census.gov/geo/www/tiger/tgrshp2010/tgrshp2010.html>

**NUMBER OF (BPC SPECIFIED) ABC LICENSES FOR ORANGE COUNTY:**

Off-Sale: 1,791  
On-Sale: 3,853  
Population: 2,976,831

**NUMBER OF (BPC SPECIFIED) ABC LICENSES FOR HB CENSUS TRACT 0993.11:**

Off-Sale: 7  
On-Sale: 38  
Population: 3,782

Based on (3) above, Huntington Beach Tract 0993.11 which includes **the Downtown area of Huntington Beach has 307.6% more Off-Sale Alcohol Licenses per capita than Orange County.**

Based on (2) above, Huntington Beach Tract 0993.11 which includes **the Downtown area of Huntington Beach has 776.3% more On-Sale Alcohol Licenses per capita than Orange County.**

## CENSUS TRACT 0993.11



## **CONCLUSION:**

The ABC sets criteria for a Crime Reporting District to be 20% greater than the average of all other Crime Reporting Districts in the City (Part 1 crimes only), in order to consider the issuance or denial of an ABC license in a specific geography.

As shown on the preceding chart, the Downtown area of Huntington Beach, as defined by Crime Reporting Districts 451 and 461, has a rate of Part 1 crimes almost 800% greater than the rest of the City.

This is 40 times greater than that required by the California Department of Alcohol Beverage Control to deny an alcohol license.

Additionally, the City/County ratio for census criteria only calls for an “excess” in the location where the premises are located. Downtown Huntington Beach is in “excess” by over 700% and 300% respectively for on-sale and off-sale licenses.

The criteria considered by the ABC with respect to Part 1 crimes, does not consider all of the crimes perpetrated against the residents of Downtown Huntington Beach. These crimes occur 365 days a year, at all hours of the day and night, and are most prevalent during the summer months from June 1st thru September 30th.

Local residents deal with the Downtown Bar Scene late at night as patrons, exhibiting outrageous drunken behavior, return to their cars at 2:00am parked in the residential neighborhoods. Public acts of human vomit, urination, defecation, sex acts, theft, property damage, assaults, screeching tires, loud boisterous behavior, and drunks at your door at 3am are just some of the issues facing Downtown Residents on a ongoing basis.

In addition, Downtown is not a welcoming and safe place for residents from all over Huntington Beach, not just the Downtown Residents, and this includes the multitude of visitors and tourists to our City.

Huntington Beach has an out-of-control public safety issue as a direct result of the Downtown Entertainment District. Although the majority of these issues relate to nighttime activity, the public safety problems are evident at every hour of the day.

###

END OF REPORT

# HBDRA

The HBDRA was founded in 1994 as the Huntington Beach Downtown Residents Association. Today, we are a city-wide organization supporting residential quality of life issues throughout the City of Huntington Beach.

As a community coalition of residents, business and community leaders, we operate solely by member volunteers and are supported financially by donations.

Issues of concern to HBDRA include, but are not limited to:

- Quality of life for Huntington Beach residents
- Preservation of open space
- Preservation of historic and cultural resources
- Economic development and urban planning
- Quality of visitor (tourist) experiences
- Public safety for residents and visitors

The HBDRA supports economic development and preservation decisions that consider as paramount importance the quality of life for the citizens of Huntington Beach. Residential quality of life and sustainable economic growth and development are not mutually exclusive. The HBDRA believes the existing village concept for Huntington Beach and the future of Huntington Beach as an international tourist destination can co-exist creating a city respectful of its history, its citizens and its needs for economic viability.

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