

For Parents



Parents play a major role in their children's choices about alcohol, tobacco or other drugs. A recent national survey of parents and teens by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University found one-third of teen partygoers have been to parties where teens were drinking alcohol, smoking marijuana, or using cocaine, ecstasy or prescription drugs while a parent was present. By age 17, nearly half (46 percent) of teens have been at such parties where parents were present.

Drug-Free Action Alliance has developed the *Parents Who Host, Lose The Most: Don't be a party to teenage drinking* public awareness campaign to provide you with information about the health risks of underage drinking and the legal consequences of providing alcohol to youth.

As a parent, you cannot give alcohol to your teen's friends under the age of 21 under any circumstance, even in your own home, even with their parent's permission. You also cannot knowingly allow a person under 21, other than your own child, to remain in your home or on your property while consuming or possessing alcohol. There are legal consequences if you do. According to New York law, you can be prosecuted and face up to one year in jail, a \$1,000 fine or both.

Simply taking away the car keys does not solve all of the problems related to underage drinking. Every day, at least six youth under 21 die from non-driving alcohol-related causes, such as drowning and suicide. Delinquent behaviors also increase with underage drinking.

You can protect your children by following these guidelines when hosting teen parties:

- Host safe, alcohol-free activities and events for youth during prom and graduation season
- Refuse to supply alcohol to children or allow drinking in your home or on your property
- Be at home when your teenager has a party
- Make sure your teenager's friends do not bring alcohol into your home
- Talk to other parents about not providing alcohol at youth events
- Report underage drinking

Our youth deserve to live and grow to adulthood in an environment where alcohol is not misused. Let's be unified in our message, and host alcohol-free parties with plenty of fun activities to show our youth that we care about their future.

More information about the *Parents Who Host, Lose the Most* program and Drug-Free Action Alliance is available at www.DrugFreeActionAlliance.org. or contact the Steuben Council on Addictions at 607-776-6441.



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