

PARENTS
WHO HOST
LOSE
THE MOST



Don't be
a party to
teenage
drinking.

It's against
the law.

A program of: **DFAA**
Drug Free Action Alliance

Facts about Underage Drinking



- 32% of parents and 35% of teens know of parents who host teen alcohol parties
- 23% of teens have attended a party where alcohol is served to underage youth, while parents thought the number was closer to 12%
- 68% of parents and 63% of teens believe it is generally easy for underage youth to get alcohol

Source: "Parents Who Host, Lose the Most: Don't be a party to teenage drinking" Evaluation Report, January 2008

Some Parents Think...



I'd rather my kids drink at home than in a car.

I did it when I was their age and I turned out just fine.

I let them drink now and again at home so they won't go crazy when they go off to college.

BUT...

A Unified Message

- Parents play a major role in their children's choices about alcohol, tobacco and other drugs
- Most teenagers appreciate when their parents set boundaries and fairly enforce expectations
- Adults hosting underage drinking parties:
 - Send a mixed message about the acceptability of drinking
 - Show students that they don't have to obey laws
 - Contribute to the misperception that all youth drink



Know the Risks

- Taking away the car keys does not solve all of the problems related to underage drinking
- 6 people under 21 die every day from non-driving, alcohol related accidents, such as drowning, falls and suicide



Know the Risks



- Unwanted sex and delinquent behaviors increase with underage drinking
- Underage alcohol use has been reported to be involved in 36% of homicides, 12% of male suicides and 8% of female suicides
- Young people seem to be aware that using alcohol influences their decisions about sexual behavior: 29% of 15-to-17 year olds and 37% of 18-to-24 year olds said that alcohol or drugs influenced their decision to do something sexual

Know the Risks



If your child drinks alcohol, it is likely that alcohol will affect the development of his brain.

- During adolescence, brain organization and function enters a unique period of flux. It takes about 21 years for the human brain to build the necessary foundation on which all future development will depend.



Know the Risks

If your teenager drinks alcohol, he will be at greater risk of having alcohol problems as an adult.

- Of adults who began drinking before age 15, approximately 40% report signs of alcohol dependence, which is four times higher than for adults who did not drink alcohol until 21.



What Parents Should Know



- Providing Alcohol to Minors: 2C:33-17
 - a. *Anyone who purposely or knowingly offers or serves or makes available an alcoholic beverage to a person under the legal age for consuming alcoholic beverages or entices or encourages that person to drink an alcoholic beverage is a disorderly person.*

What Parents Should Know

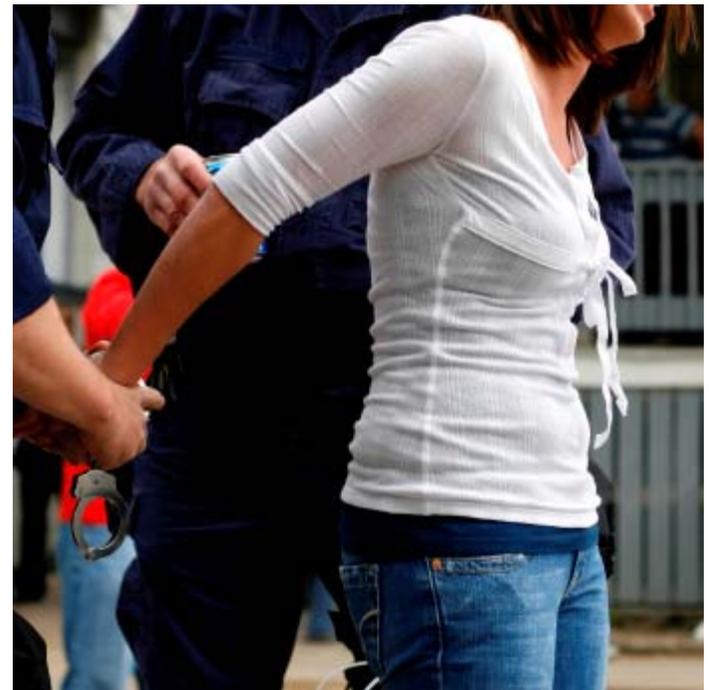


This subsection shall not apply to a parent or guardian of the person under legal age for consuming alcoholic beverages if the parent or guardian is of the legal age to consume alcoholic beverages or to a religious observance, ceremony or rite.

*This subsection shall also not apply to any person in his home who is of the legal age to consume alcoholic beverages who offers or serves or makes available an alcoholic beverage to a person under the legal age for consuming alcoholic beverages or entices that person to drink an alcoholic beverage **in the presence of and with the permission of** the parent or guardian of the person under the legal age for consuming alcoholic beverages if the parent or guardian is of the legal age to consume alcoholic beverages.*

If You Break the Law

- You can face a maximum sentence of six months in jail and a \$1,000 fine
- Others can sue you if you give alcohol to anyone under 21 and they, in turn, hurt someone, hurt themselves or damage property
- A permanent criminal charge on your record if convicted.



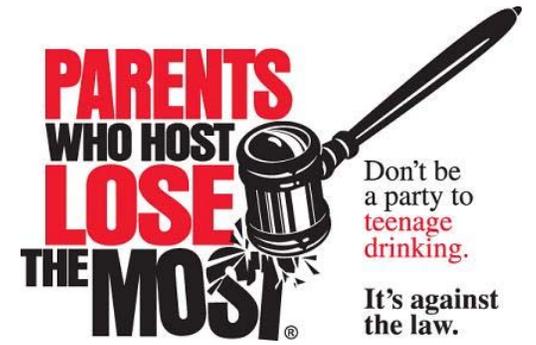
Things Parents Can Do:



- Host safe, alcohol free activities and events
- Refuse to supply alcohol to anyone under 21
- Be at home when your teen has a party
- Make sure that alcohol is not brought into your home or property by your teen's friends
- Talk to other parents about not providing alcohol at other events your child will be attending
- Create alcohol-free opportunities and activities in your home so teens feel welcome
- Report underage drinking to local law enforcement



**For parent resources,
including how to host an
alcohol and other drug-free party visit
www.DrugFreeActionAlliance.org**



Questions

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