

SAFE DRUG-FREE CLAY COUNTY

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UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

- National Inhalants & Poisons Awareness Week~~March 16-20, 2009
- Kick the Habit Day/Children's Health Fair~~April 25, 2009
- April is Alcohol Awareness and Underage Drinking Prevention Month
- Alcohol Free Weekend~~April 3-5, 2009
- Prom Promise~~May 1-31, 2009
- National Day of Prayer~~May 7, 2009
- Teacher Appreciation Day~~May 5, 2009

ARE YOU TALKING TO YOUR KIDS ABOUT ALCOHOL?

An excellent source of alcohol use data is the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's National Household Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH). Some of the most recent survey results are listed below.

- **59.8** The percentage of 12-17 year-olds who reported talking at least once in the past year with their parents about the dangers of drug, tobacco, or alcohol use. Youths who reported having such conversations had lower rates of current drug, tobacco, or alcohol use than those who did not talk with their parents about substance abuse!
- **28.2** The percentage of 12- 20- year-olds who reported drinking alcohol in the past month. 18.8 percent of
- **9.9** The percentage of 12-17- year-olds who have had five or more drinks on the same occasion on at least 1 day in the past 30 days. This is called "binge drinking." To compare, if you just look at the number of high school kids who binge drank in the last month, the percentage increases to 25.5!
- **5.8** The percentage of 12-17- year-olds who needed treatment for an alcohol use problem.

underage drinkers were binge drinkers and 6 percent were heavy drinkers. To compare, if you just look at the number of high school kids who drank in the last month, the percentage increases to 43.3!

- **2.4** The percentage of 12-17- year-olds who have had five or more drinks on the same occasion on each of 5 or more days in the past 30 days. This is called "heavy drinking." Of these kids, 60 percent also reported using illicit drugs.

Talking to your kids about drinking, alcohol, smoking, and other drugs can help keep them away from risky behavior.

HOW TO PREVENT PROM NIGHT DRINKING

Hundreds of teens are killed or injured in alcohol-related accidents connected with their prom night celebrations in the United States each year. Here are some tips for preventing alcohol related accidents:

- Make sure your teen has a plan for the evening and that you know what that plan is.
- Work with the school to

make sure food is served during the prom itself.

- Know all of the "hot spot" destinations, including online ones!
- Take an inventory of the alcohol in your home and secure it if needed.
- Know who is driving. If it's a rented limo, check their policy on allowing alcohol in the vehicle.

- Discuss the school's prom rules with your teen and the consequences for violating them.
- Encourage seatbelt use.
- Do not rent hotel rooms for prom-goers.
- Communicate with other parents and school officials.
- Stay up for prom-goers' return home and let them know you will be waiting.

TEEN BINGE DRINKING

Almost 2 in 3 teen drinkers admit to binge drinking. Binge drinking is five or more drinks on the same occasion (i.e., at the same time or within a couple of hours of each other) on at least 1 day in the past 30 days. Heavy drinking is defined as five or more drinks on the same occasion on each of 5 or more days in the past 30 days.

Studies show that binge drinkers tend to have worse grades. Binge drinking is more commonly reported by boys than by girls, and by older teens than by younger teens.

There are several health risks that come along with binge drinking.

Compared to nondrinkers, teen binge drinkers are:

- 11 times more likely to ride with a driver who has been drinking alcohol in the past 30 days.
- 19 times more likely to be current smokers (smoked on one or more days in the past 30 days).
- Four times more likely to be in a physical fight in the past 12 months.
- Nearly four times more likely to have ever been raped or subjected to dating violence in the past 12 months.

- Four times more likely to have attempted suicide during the past 12 months.
- More than five times more likely to be sexually active with one or more persons during the past three months.



PARENTS PROSECUTED FOR TEEN DRINKING

As the year comes to an end, your teen's calendar is probably packed full of graduation parties, end-of-school celebrations, and summer gatherings. You may even be helping your teen plan a party. You've probably thought about all the things you need for your party, but have you thought about what might happen if you allow drugs or alcohol at your party? Even if you don't buy it for your teen, they may get it from your home or from a sibling who is 21 years or older.

Some parents believe that it is safest for the teens to drink under their supervision. Some adults think that drinking is a rite of passage that when

one graduates it is okay for them to drink.

New social host liability laws are changing the minds of parents as they become the responsible person. Under these laws, adults who serve or supply alcohol to persons under the age of 21 can be held liable if any of those underage persons are killed or injured. Adults also can be held responsible if teens who drink at their homes kill or injure another person. The laws vary from State to State, but parents who break these laws could be charged for medical bills and property damage and could be sued for emotional pain and suffering. In one case, a Pennsylvania parent was sentenced to a

1 to 4.5-year prison term for involuntary manslaughter after three teens died in a drunk-driving accident following a party the parent hosted. Parents may also be held responsible even if you aren't at home. You may even be responsible if it takes place on your property. The laws often extend to parents who fail to take sufficient measures to prevent underage drinking in their homes.

There is good news. School systems, parents, community groups, and faith-based organizations often host events without alcohol that provide parent supervision, food, games, and prizes. High numbers of teens are in attendance.

DUI UNDER 21

Generally, drivers under 21 who are convicted of DUI face the same penalties as adult offenders. Underage offenders may, however, be permitted to serve any prison term imposed on weekends in a county jail. Additionally, any period of community service work imposed must be completed within 60 day of sentencing. Finally, if the minor offender's BAC was under .08, the driver's license suspension period is at least six months. . If the offender's BAC was .08 or greater, the suspension period is at least one year.



CAR CRASH STATISTICS

- Every half hour someone is killed in a car crash involving a drinking driver.
- Last year over thirty percent of drivers killed in traffic crashes had blood alcohol levels over the legal limit.
- Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for U.S. teens.
- In 2005, more than one in four young drivers killed in motor vehicle crashes had been drinking. The severity of crashes increases when alcohol is involved.
- Each year over 5,000 teens ages 16 to 20 die due to fatal injuries caused by car accidents. About 400,000 drivers age 16 to 20 will be seriously injured.
- Of male drivers killed between 15 and 20 years of age 38% were speeding and 24% had been drinking and driving.
- About 23% of drivers ages 15 to 20 who died in car crashes had a Blood Alcohol Count (BAC) of 0.08 or higher.
- About 30% of teens reported that within the previous 30 days, they had been a passenger in a car with a driver who had been drinking alcohol. One in 10 teens said that they personally had driven after drinking alcohol.
- 74% of teen drivers killed in auto crashes after drinking and driving were not wearing a seat belt.