

PARENTS
WHO HOST
LOSE
THE MOST®



Don't be
a party to
teenage
drinking.

It's against
the law.

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

With Support From:
The Prevention Coalition of Mercer County
609-396-5874



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...

Students mixed over parties
Lots of drinking!
TOWNS PROMS

Man charged for underage party

A New Philadelphia man was charged with one count of furnishing alcohol to minors after New Philadelphia police received an anonymous call about a party at his house Friday. Jacques T. Bailey, 32, of 307 Beaver Ave. NE, will have an initial appearance in New Philadelphia Municipal Court on Thursday. Fourteen youths were taken to the police station and released to their parents but were not charged.

Teens also been, a



Laura and William Brunnett were

Multiple get jail for teens' drinking at party

CUYAHOGA FALLS: As part of a Twinsburg couple's sentence for allowing underage party guests to drink at their home - one to the point of unconsciousness - Cuyahoga Falls Municipal Court

Mother of girl who suffered alcohol poisoning helps sway judge's sentence

By Gina Mace
Special to the Beacon Journal

speaking about their experience to community groups.

But that was before Coates read the file on Laura Brunnett, 43, and her husband, William, 44, and before she heard an emotional statement from an anguished mother who nearly lost her daughter to alcohol poisoning.

party on Oct. 12. Police were called to the Rick Road home twice that evening - the first time in response to a complaint of loud music and the second time after a guest reported feeling ill. The girl, 16, was taken to the hospital and diagnosed with alcohol poisoning.

HOME OWNERS CHARGED

RONALD SWIGGETT CATHY SWIGGETT

Beer party ... and another ...
Twenty-six juveniles with underage alcohol were taken into custody following a March 19 party held in two rooms at the ...
The juveniles were released to their parents, ...
The juveniles were released to the delinquency police said with beer. Of Lyndhurst, ...
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Rachel Hutzel
COUNTY PROSECUTOR

Teen parties: Adults must also show responsibility

PARENTS WHO HOST PARTIES for their underage children ...
They think that they are being a "cool" parent to their teens. Or they think they are providing a "safe place" for teens to drink. They could not be more wrong - both legally and socially.
The law clearly prohibits parents from providing beer, wine, or liquor to their children. The law also clearly prohibits parents from allowing underage juveniles, other than their own children, to consume beer, wine, or liquor in their homes. Parents who violate this law face criminal penalties of up to 180 days in jail and a \$1,000 fine for each separate violation. Teenagers caught consuming alcohol also face criminal penalties of up to 60 days in jail or the juvenile detention center.

These laws have been vigorously enforced in the past, and my office will continue to vigorously enforce this law.

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 25 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.



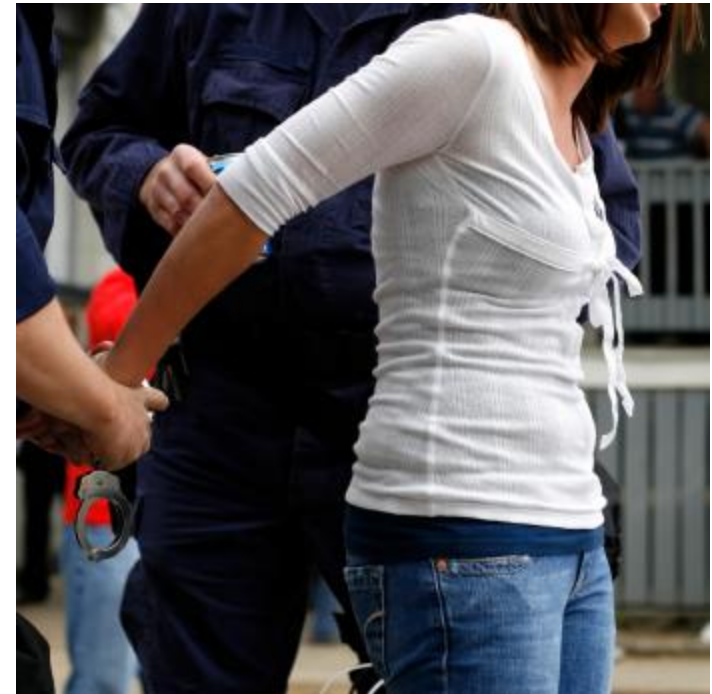
What Parents Should Know



- 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 with their parent's permission
- You cannot allow a person under 21, other than your own child, to remain in your home or on your property while consuming or possessing alcohol

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
- Officers can take any alcohol, money or personal property used in conjunction with the offense



NJ Facts

(for those that like references)



- It is illegal in NJ to serve alcohol to anyone who is under the legal drinking age of 21 (NJSA 2C:33-17a)
- It is illegal to allow your home or property be a place for anyone under the legal drinking age of 21 to consume alcohol (NJSA 2C:33-17b)
- Anyone serving or providing alcohol available to a person under 21 is subject to a \$1,000 fine and up to 180 days in jail **per person** served. Parents can be held civilly liable **even if they are not present** during the time of the party (NJSA 2C:33-17)
- If serving an underage person alcohol results in injury, the adult may be charged with Endangering the Welfare of Children, and may be subject to a fine of up to \$15,000 and up to 5 years in state prison (NJSA 2C:24-4)
- New Jersey Law imposes civil liability on social hosts who serve alcohol to anyone under the legal drinking age of 21 who is subsequently involved in an incident causing injury or death
- A social host may be sued for up to two years after an incident that occurs resulting in injury or death. As the result of a lawsuit, your house, car, and bank accounts may be seized and future wages may be garnished



Know the Risks

- It is **illegal** to host or allow teen drinking parties in your home
- It is **unhealthy** for anyone under 21 to consume alcohol
- It is **unsafe** and illegal for anyone to drink and drive
- Parents can be prosecuted under New Jersey's Social Host Law and local property ordinances



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

Resources



www.DrugFreeActionAlliance.org

www.stopalcoholabuse.gov

www.Niaa.nih.gov

Teens.drugabuse.gov



Questions

A large, 3D red question mark is positioned to the right of the word "Questions". The question mark is rendered with a slight shadow and a reflection on the surface below it.