



Talk of

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If You're Hosting a Party for Your Teen, Keep It Alcohol-Free!

by Al Vita, Chair, Security Committee

Some well-meaning parents think it is their right to provide alcohol to minors in the comfort and privacy of their homes. However, it is illegal; they mistakenly believe it is enough just to take away car keys at their teens' parties so guests cannot drink and drive. These parents allow alcohol to be consumed based on the false belief that underage drinking is a rite of passage at prom and graduation parties.

Raising alcohol-free teenagers in today's world is a challenge. Research shows that parents have a powerful impact on their teens' lives and decisions. Teens who say their parents strongly disapprove of underage drinking are less likely to use alcohol.

Parents are a valuable source of truthful information, specifically with regard to issues of alcohol use. Teens believe the information that parents share with them about alcohol – so continue to share the facts!

Parents of teenagers should feel proud to stand firmly united against underage drinking. However, there are still misperceptions among some parents about what is normal in setting limits for today's teens. Some parents mistakenly believe that the majority of their parenting peers are more permissive in their personal attitudes about underage drinking than is in fact the case. These misperceptions can influence parental decisions regarding underage alcohol consumption.

The good news is that most parents in our community do have firm rules against underage drinking. Research shows that 80% of parents in our communities do not allow their teenagers to drink alcohol. Keep talking to our teens, they are listening. Stand firm and continue to enforce family rules with consistency, knowing other parents are doing the same.

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