

# In The Know

A monthly newsletter to keep you current and In The Know on topics related to the Prevention of Substance Abuse

## What are you willing to lose?

Did you know that 65% of the alcohol that persons under the age of 21 consume is given to them by a family member or close adult friend? Did you also know that it is illegal to host a party for anyone under 21 where alcohol will be involved? April is alcohol awareness month and the time to begin planning for proms, graduations and summer picnics. With this it is important to be reminded of the legal, financial and numerous other consequences that accompany hosting an underage drinking party.

The Drug- Free Alliance has developed the Parents Who

Host, Lose the Most: Don't be a party to teenage drinking public awareness campaign to provide adults with information about the health risks of underage drinking and the legal consequences of providing alcohol to youth. Again this year, Steuben Council on Addictions and the Steuben County Sheriffs Department are combining their efforts to get the information out and to enforce the rules about hosting for those underage.

In order for the campaign to be carried out successfully, implementation and education are the key components. Along with the EUDL (Enforcing Underage Drinking

Laws) grant, through New York State, we will be diligent in spreading awareness throughout the county. The grants help increase collaboration between schools, businesses and the media here in Steuben County to increase the awareness of this issue across the board.

Through displays, press-releases, PSA's, radio interviews and informational booths particularly on highschool and college campuses, information has been provided for parents and adults to become more aware of the consequences of being a party to teenage drinking.

If you allow underage drink-

ing to occur on your property, and are caught, you can face a jail sentence, fines, prosecution and even loss of property.

Our youth deserve to live and strive in a healthy environment where alcohol is not misused. Don't help teens break the law and further endanger themselves by providing them with alcohol. This is an all too common problem right here in our county.

For more information about the Parents Who Host, Lose the Most campaign or alcohol and teens please contact Steuben Council on Addictions at (607) 776-6441.

## Keeping teens alcohol free

It is approaching that time of year when barbeques, family get-togethers, and graduation celebrations occur. It is important to be good role models for youth by not including alcohol in the festivities. The important part of gatherings and celebrations is to spend time with one-another and enjoy it. Limit the number of people that are invited and send invitations to limit uninvited guests. When your teen wants to host a party it is

vital to have clear cut rules ahead of time. Rules should include no tobacco and no alcohol. There should be a specific start time and end time. Let attendees know if they leave they cannot come back. Invite other parents to help chaperone the party.

Keep prom season safe by volunteering to help at an after-prom party. These events are usually held in the school and offer great prizes and activities for students to be a part of. This

prevents teens from going to alcohol based parties after prom. To get students involved hold a poster contest to encourage them to look at the dangers and negative impact that alcohol has on our society.

Parents should have their teens keep them informed of their where-abouts at all times. Ask questions regarding parental supervision and if alcohol will be served. Transport your child to the location in order to check for



safety measures and to make sure there is adequate adult supervision.

Don't blur the lines with your teens regarding alcohol, be firm and follow through on the rules and expectations you have. It might not be easy but their lives may depend on it.

**Do you or someone you care about need help because of Drugs, Alcohol or Gambling call:**

**1-877-8HOPENY (1-877-846-7369)**

**24 hours a day, 7 days a week \* Free & confidential information and referrals.**

# In The Know and By The Numbers

A brief look at current statistics and figures regarding teens and alcohol.

- Alcohol is the leading cause of death among teens.
- According to the 2010 Steuben County Risk and Protective Survey, 19.5% of tenth graders have had more than 5 drinks at one time as least once in the past 30 days.
- As of 2010, 55.2% of tenth graders in Steuben County have tried alcohol (not including those who have as a part of religion).
- About 30% of tenth graders in Steuben County have rode with a drunk driver in the past 30 days.
- Alcohol is the most used and abused drugs among teenagers.
- Excessive alcohol consumption is associated with approximately 75,000 deaths per year.
- Among youth, the use of alcohol and other drugs has been linked to unintentional injuries, physical fights, academic and occupational problems, and illegal behavior.
- Young people who begin drinking before age 15 are four times more likely to develop alcoholism than those who begin drinking at 21.
- More than 1,700 college students in the U.S. are killed each year—about 4.65 a day—as a result of alcohol-related injuries.



**PARENTS WHO LOSE THE MOST**  
Don't be a party to teenage drinking. It's against the law.

**YOU MATTER!**

The **ONLY** thing between alcohol and **YOUR** children is **YOU**.

65% of youth surveyed nationally report they were given the alcohol they drank from family and friends.



**Steuben Underage Party Tip Line**  
**1-877-862-484**

## Steuben Council SCA on Addictions

Information, Assessments & Referrals

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Catholic Charities  
Steuben County

## The Council Corner

A look Steuben Council on Addictions and the projects they are working on

Steuben Council on Addictions has partnered with the Steuben County Sheriffs Department and the BOCES Wildwood Campus to set up a display to show students the impacts of driving under the influence for alcohol awareness month this April. This display depicts the 2007 tragedy in Steuben County where four students were killed in an alcohol related car accident. The stories of two other young adults are also shown and each scenario includes a timeline of the night's activities leading up to the crash and the events after and enclosed glass cases with memorabilia

from a few of the victims giving the display even greater reality.

With the help of the Wildwood Administrators and the producers at WVIN, four Wildwood students have been chosen to travel to the radio station to record public service announcements. These will promote safety and responsibility during these celebratory months. We would like to thank WVINm, Lucas Froelich, Alison Avila, Charlie Smith and Nadia Dwyer for their participation.

The students of Campbell-Savona are going to have an even greater chance at a safe prom

this year. Sherry Sutton, a Bath Area Hope for Youth Prevention Counselor for the Campbell-Savona District, applied for money from the Community Foundation on behalf of the district and was provided with \$500 to help the students in their planning activities and outreach efforts on the importance of promising to make their prom and after prom safe for everyone by not consuming alcohol.



Steuben Council on Addictions is a division of Catholic Charities Steuben. In The Know is a regular monthly update about alcohol, tobacco and other drugs to help in the prevention of substance use and abuse. For more information on In The Know contact Stacey O'Dell, Prevention Educator at (607) 776-6441, x. 205 or sodell@dor.org.