



HIGH SCHOOL PARENTS:



Keep Your Community Safe

Underage drinking hurts more than individual teens and their families. It affects the entire community.

Fortunately, your community can play a vital role in preventing the problem. Traci L. Toomey, Ph.D., an alcohol researcher at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health, suggests the following steps:

Step 1: Support strong laws and legislation

Tell local and state lawmakers that you want to cut off youth access to alcohol. Encourage programs that

- Identify and penalize retailers that illegally sell alcohol to youth.
- Require registration and tracking of beer kegs.
- Support social host laws that penalize adults who enable underage drinking parties.
- Limit new or renewed liquor licenses in your community.

Step 2: Push for strong enforcement

Press law enforcement officials and judicial authorities to actively enforce laws and programs that fight underage drinking. For example

- Any time there is a traffic crash involving an underage drinker, ask officials to find out how the youths got the alcohol, then hold whoever gave or sold it to them accountable.
- Support enforcement actions against youth who use fake IDs to purchase alcohol.

Step 3: Involve educators

Contact your local schools and colleges and ask what they're doing to minimize underage drinking.

Step 4: Hold advertisers accountable

When you see alcohol marketing that targets young people, complain and push to have that advertising be removed.



**Keep our streets safe.
Enforce zero tolerance.**