

Each day, more than 7,000 kids under the age of 16 take their first drink.



YOU ARE INVITED!

Are You Aware of the Risks of Underage Drinking?

Town Hall Meeting

Thursday, March 30, 2006, 6:30-8 PM

Westminster Senior Center, 72nd and Irving

Translation available in Spanish and Hmong



Underage Drinking Laws

What parents should know:

It is against the law to serve alcohol to any person under 21. There are limited exceptions which can be found in Colorado Revised Statutes 12-47-901 and 18-13-22.

If you break the law:

- You can face a maximum sentence of eighteen months in jail or a \$5000 fine or both.
- You can face a suspension of your driver's license for a period of not less than six months.

Things you can do as a parent:

- Refuse to supply alcohol to children.
- 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 events your child will be attending.
- Create alcohol-free opportunities and activities in your home so teens feel welcome.
- Identify and support alcohol-free opportunities in your community.

Resource: Campaign developed by Ohio Parents for Drug Free Youth

Youth Experience a Different Drinking Environment Today

What has changed:

What teens drink (potency of alcohol)

How much teens drink

Frequency of their drinking

Age they begin drinking

Overall availability of alcohol

Definition of a "drink"

Parental/adult supervision

Resource: www.faceproject.org

The average age when youth first try alcohol is 11 years for boys and 13 years for girls. The average age at which Americans begin drinking regularly is 15.9 years old.

Children who begin drinking alcohol before the age of 15 are 5 times more likely than those who start after age 21 to develop alcohol problems.

Among young people, the prevalence of underage drinking increases with age, making it more important than ever to begin teaching youth at an early age about the dangers of alcohol.

Alcohol is the leading factor as the cause of death for 15 to 24-year-olds involved in automobile crashes, homicides and suicides.