



Underage Drinking – What Can Be Done?

Everyone CAN...

- Report illegal commercial alcohol sales
- Report underage drinking parties, in advance
- Refuse to supply alcohol to underage youth in your home or on your property
- Store alcohol (under lock and key) or some place out of reach of youth
- Schedule a speaker for your local group
- Support local law enforcement efforts

Parents CAN...

- Know your child's friends' parents and set up a "parents network"
- Talk with other parents/adults to make sure that alcohol is not available at the events youth will attend
- Talk and listen to your children
- Provide a consistent family policy re: no teen drinking and set consequences you will carry out
- Check your children's ID's, make sure they don't have fake ID's
- Set a good example for responsible adult alcohol use, if you choose to drink

Merchants CAN...

- Hire, train and supervise responsible staff to keep business in compliance with alcohol sales laws
- Attend training for licensees; learn business best practices for responsible alcohol sales & service
- Develop comprehensive written policies and use comprehensive and effective employee training programs
- Use tools for verifying customers age; age calendars, ID signage, etc.
- Supervise and monitor employee compliance with company policies and state and local laws

Law Enforcement CAN...

- Conduct compliance checks in each licensed alcohol establishment.
- Conduct regular walk-through of licensed establishments
- Develop a system to monitor alcohol-related problems associated with community events and specific establishments
- Conduct party dispersal operations as a means to control underage drinking parties, citing adult providers in addition to youth in possession of alcohol
- Consistently enforce laws against adult providers and social hosts
- Ask underage youth who are caught drinking to disclose the source of their alcohol

Government CAN...

- Develop laws, ordinances, policies, etc. to address commercial availability, social/public availability, and youth possession
- Use licensing and regulatory "best practices" to control alcohol landscape and protect public health and safety
- Use land use planning to control retail outlet density
- Assess existing laws and regulations to identify and close gaps and loopholes
- Identify strengths upon which effective enforcement strategies can be built
- Motivate enforcement and regulatory agencies to strengthen enforcement of existing laws and regulations

Youth CAN...

- Help everyone focus on the positive - not all teens drink
- Be an advocate for community change; challenge adult assumptions.
- Ask to see school's written policy, read it, talk about it with others, suggest improvements
- Partner with law enforcement in compliance check operations
- Partner with peers and adults to create alcohol-free events
- Partner with media; write series of articles on alcohol issues/topics that affect youth

Media CAN...

- Use unique position to advance social and public policy goals to reduce underage drinking
- Become informed about the issues, solutions and "best practices"
- Cover stories about what is being done to prevent problems; not just report consequences of underage drinking incidences
- Develop PSA's on dangers of underage drinking to offset one-sided advertising messages that glamorize drinking
- Limit alcohol ad product placements to TV, radio and magazines with majority adult only audiences
- Be an advocate for community change; challenge community assumptions

Faith Community CAN...

- Provide safe and positive youth activities
- Be informed
- Realize all young people are at risk on a daily basis
- Challenge the accepted social norms
- Know other positive community resources for youth
- Partner with community groups

**For more information about programs and resources to reduce
underage drinking in Idaho, contact:
Nancy Lopez, Coordinator
Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws
(208) 390-8590 or nancy@preventionhome.com**