

Talking Points for Nassau County

- 72.7% of teens report not drinking in the past 30 days or not needing to drink in the past 30 days to have a good time.
- Most parents would never provide alcohol to minors; however, a small minority may be responsible for the majority of underage drinking within our community.
- The most common sources of alcohol for teens that choose to drink are: their own refrigerator; older siblings; and friends.
- 78% of parents of middle school students and 56% of parents of high school students are not favorable towards alcohol and drug use by minors. Research has shown that when a parent moderately approves of teen drinking, it increases the risk of early teen use of alcohol and marijuana.
- 67.4% of teens reported in the Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey (FYSAS) that they disapproved of someone their age drinking alcohol regularly.
- While alcohol use is a problem, we should remember that the majority of students who go to school are ready to learn and do not use alcohol.
- If a community is going to control its drug problem, it must first control the gateway by which it begins, and that is underage drinking.
- Compliance checks show that most retailers care about keeping alcohol out of the hands of minors. However, 8% of our retailers are slow to catch on, allowing minors to purchase alcohol. Responsible beverage training provided by local law enforcement is helping by offering education to our retailers.
- While most teens will celebrate their prom and graduation without alcohol, parents should be aware that this is a season when alcohol may be more accessible to their teens.
- In our county, the economic costs of underage drinking are staggering. In 2007, underage drinking cost Nassau County 15.3 million dollars, with the highest percentage of costs resulting from violent crimes and the second highest from motor vehicle crashes.
- Alcohol use can be linked to violent or harmful behavior. Although most youth don't partake in violent behavior, there are some teens who exhibit violent or harmful behavior as a result of drinking.

SOLUTIONS:

- We encourage parents to talk to their teens regularly.
- We encourage parents to communicate clear, consistent messages about not using alcohol.
- We encourage our teens and adults to report parties where teens may be using alcohol.
- Our community provides protection for our youth through community opportunities. These include getting children involved and interacting with positive adult role models in their neighborhoods and having them participate in sports, clubs and other religious and social activities.
- Families who teach conflict resolution in a positive manner will help with risky situations.
- Parents who support and praise their teens can reduce their teens' risky behaviors.