



## Underage Drinking and Memorial Day



There is a direct correlation between underage drinking and trips to the hospital emergency room during Memorial Day weekend. In a report from Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN) shows that hospital emergency room visits related to underage drinking rise by 11 percent over Memorial Day weekend.

The DAWN report also found that people under age 21 who combine alcohol and illegal drugs are 27 percent more likely to visit hospital emergency rooms over the Memorial Day holiday weekend compared to an average day. On an average, there are 199 such visits per day during the holiday weekend vs. 156 visits on other days, the report said.

The DAWN report was developed by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

"Underage drinking poses an enormous public health risk - approximately 5,000 people die each year from alcohol-related injuries connected to underage drinking," SAMHSA administrator Pamela S. Hyde said in an agency news

### About Suffolk County Prevention Resource Center

We are dedicated to strengthening communities and empowering lives.

As a non-profit resource center we are committed to building and supporting healthy drug-free communities through public education, professional training and the provision of effective tools for those working to prevent drug and alcohol abuse.

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release. "Moreover, studies have shown that children who begin drinking before age 15 are six times more likely to develop alcohol problems than people who start drinking after they reach age 21."

The SAMHSA report is based on statistics from 2008.

## "THE 100 DEADLIEST DAYS"



Spings is an exciting time for teens. It is the season for proms and graduations, the school year is ending, and summer vacation is just around the corner.

That's why the period between Memorial Day and Labor Day has been dubbed by AAA and Volvo as "The 100 Deadliest Days" for teen drivers.

On an average day in the USA, more than 11 teens die in crashes. In 2010, the four deadliest months for teen crash deaths, in order, were August, July, May and June, according to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, an insurance trade group.

Parents should not take anything for granted, make no assumptions and expect the unexpected when it comes to their teens' driving behaviors. This is a crucial time for education, awareness, and smart decision making. Allstate Foundation suggests signing a **PARENT-TEEN DRIVING CONTRACT**: an agreement between teens and their parents, stating that they will abide by ten safe driving practices to promote responsible driving and the consequences for not abiding by them:

- Practice as much as possible
- Always wear seatbelts - driver and all passengers
  - Limit number of passengers
  - Never drink and drive
- Obey speed limits and all other posted signs, signals and markings
  - Limit night-time driving
- Do not use cell phone for talking or text messaging
- Avoid distractions - no eating, drinking, adjusting the radio or climate controls
  - Drive a safe vehicle
- Drive with the right attitude



## **PARENTS OF HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS**

The first 6 weeks of freshman year at college is an especially vulnerable time for heavy drinking and alcohol related consequences because of student expectations and social pressures at the start of the academic year

Although the majority of students come to college already having some experience with alcohol, certain aspects of college life, such as unstructured time, the widespread availability of alcohol, inconsistent enforcement of underage drinking laws, and limited interactions with parents and other adults, can intensify the problem. In fact, college students have higher binge-drinking rates and a higher incidence of drunk driving than their non-college peers.

For more information [CLICK HERE](#)

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**Suffolk County Police Department - Public  
Information on Social Host**



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**SUFFOLK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL SERVICE  
OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION**  
P.O. Box 6100  
Building 15B - North County Complex  
Hempstead, New York 11798-0099  
(516) 855-4402

STEVEN BELLONE  
Suffolk County Executive

ALAN SCHNEIDER  
Personnel Director

May 2012

For Your Information from... **SUFFOLK COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
Edward Webber, Acting Commissioner

### SOCIAL HOST LAW

Proms, graduation parties and summer festivities are all on the near horizon. Make these events memorable ones. Take time to review the **Social Host Law** so when you look back on these special occasions, you can smile.

**What is the Social Host Law?** The primary purpose of the Social Host Law is to deter underage drinking parties or gatherings where adults knowingly allow minors to drink alcohol or alcoholic beverages. The law applies to any adult (including parents) who are over the age of 18 and knowingly allow consumption of alcohol by minors (any person under the age of 21).

**Why is this law needed?** This law provides a legal basis for holding adults responsible for knowingly allowing parties for individuals under the age of 21 to occur at a place under their control, **whether or not** they provide the alcohol.

#### Who can be charged?

- Anyone who is over the age of 18; and
- Owns, rents or otherwise controls a private residence; or similar location (e.g., campsites, hotel rooms, yards, etc.); and
- Knowingly allows the consumption of alcohol or alcoholic beverages by any minor on such premises; or
- Fails to take reasonable corrective action upon learning of the consumption of alcohol or alcoholic beverages by any minor on such premises.

#### What is "Reasonable Corrective Action?"

Reasonable corrective actions shall include, but are not limited to:

- Making a prompt demand that the minor(s) stop drinking the alcoholic beverage or leave the premises; and
- If the minor refuses to comply with the request, the adult must promptly report the underage drinking to:
  - o Local law enforcement; or
  - o Any other person with greater degree of authority over the minor (e.g., the minor's parents or guardians, etc.)

#### What are the penalties?

1<sup>st</sup> Offense: \$500

2<sup>nd</sup> Offense: \$1,000 and/or up to a year in jail

For information on other laws regarding underage persons, go to the Suffolk County Police web page, [www.suffolkcountyny.gov/police](http://www.suffolkcountyny.gov/police).

The Suffolk County Health Department's Cancer Awareness Task Force reminds you to protect your skin from the sun's harmful Ultraviolet (UV) rays all year round.



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