

Palo Alto – Working together to keep our children safe

More than 9 out of 10 Palo Alto teenagers* (4,499)

say their parents **do not** permit them and their friends to drink alcohol in their homes.

Unfortunately, 358 students report that their parents **do** permit them and their friends to drink alcohol in their home.*

If this information is a surprise to you,

learn more at a discussion on “Student Attitudes and Experience Regarding Alcohol, Marijuana and Bullying,” on Monday, March 2, at 7 p.m., 25 Churchill Avenue, Palo Alto.

Tips for Parents

- Get to know** the parents of your teenager's friends.
- Contact the parents** of a party giver to confirm that they will be home supervising, and that no alcohol will be served.
- When hosting a party**, let your teen know that it's OK to say no to uninvited guests, especially ones who arrive at the door with alcohol. If they have any difficulty doing so, you will help them. It is also OK to call the Police for assistance with uninvited guests.
- Make time to discuss** alcohol and substance issues with your teen. A majority of Palo Alto teens want improved communication with adults around these issues, yet only half say that they've discussed alcohol and/or drug issues with their parents in the past year.*
 - Use this flyer as a conversation starter about the Social Host ordinance, parties, their experiences and concerns.
 - Listen! Share clearly your concern for their safety as well as your expectations regarding underage drinking.
 - Together, develop practical strategies teens can use at parties to avoid alcohol and get home safely.

* Data is from the Palo Alto Reality Check Survey (PARCS Fall 2008) in which 5,262 PAUSD middle and high school students were surveyed resulting in a total of 4,857 responses; it should be noted that each survey question did not receive the same number of responses.

In 2007, with support from the community, the City of Palo Alto enacted a Social Host Ordinance, PAMC 9.04.040, which makes it illegal to serve alcohol to persons under 21 years old or allow underage youth to drink alcohol on private property. The goal of this ordinance is to reduce underage drinking and send a clear message to parents and other adults that they may be held liable for unlawful gatherings where they are in charge of the location of the gathering and alcoholic beverages are being consumed or possessed by underage persons. For more information about the Social Host Ordinance, Section 9.04.040 of the Palo Alto Municipal Code, visit www.cityofpaloalto.org/police



To learn more about these important issues, visit the Palo Alto Drug Alcohol Community Collaborative (PADACC) website at www.padacc.org



**Police
Department
650-329-2637**



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