

Parent's Power in Preventing Underage Drinking

According to the 2004 Maryland Adolescent Survey for Frederick County Public Schools, 26.5% of ten grade students indicated they had used alcohol in the last 30 days, while 47.9% of twelfth grader reported using alcohol in the same time period.

Parents, **YOU** are the most important influence in your child's decision concerning drug use. Begin a conversation today, so your child is comfortable to discuss information, to share issues concerning friends or situations, and to seek your assistance when necessary.

- ◆ Know what your child is doing – their activities and how they spend their time.
- ◆ Set limits with clear rules and consequences for breaking them.
- ◆ Praise and reward good behavior.
- ◆ Make sure your child understands, he or she can call you for a ride from a dangerous situation.

You have the power to set curfews, restrict activities, or remove the driver license.

Check parties your child is attending.

Are there adults at the home?
More importantly, are they monitoring the party?
Will alcohol be allowed?

Monitor parties in your home.

Lock up or remove any alcoholic beverages you have.
Have other parents help chaperone.
Greet the teens as they arrive at your home, state your rules and consequences.
Look around your property to insure that alcohol has not been planted before the party.
Constantly monitor the activities, walk around and talk to the teens.
Call parents if there is a problem.

You are liable for any and all activity in your home, whether you are there or not. If someone is hurt at or leaving your property because of alcohol or drugs you could lose your home, and future earnings!!!

If your child needs treatment:

Frederick County Health Department
Substance Abuse Division
301-600-3294

To report underage drinking:

301-600-1318