

Consequences... It can be a VERY costly choice!

- ▶ It's a criminal offense in NJ to allow underage drinking in your home, so for starters, you're looking at a disorderly persons charge – that's a record and a fine!
- ▶ And for your teenager and his/her friends, many Bergen County municipalities have local Underage Drinking Ordinances. These local ordinances make it unlawful for a person under the legal age to possess or consume alcoholic beverages on private property in the county. Violations of these ordinances may carry fines, AND the Court may suspend or postpone the driving privilege of the defendant for 6 months, and require community service for up to 30 days. Chances are if you're a parent who allows teens to drink in your house, you're the same parent who doesn't expect your teen to work at a part-time job...so guess who will be paying the fine for underage drinking?
- ▶ Your homeowners insurance may increase. The company may even drop you. Most policies don't cover damage or theft from underage drinking parties.
- ▶ If an underage party-goer drives after drinking, it will cost you. If there is a crash, just add zeros. If your car is damaged or if you submit a claim on your insurance policy, get ready to pay out again – if you're lucky enough to keep your policy.
- ▶ You will be held civilly liable if sued by another parent. Injuries, alcohol poisoning, sexual assault, drowning, or suicide may result in lawsuits.
- ▶ You can't put a price on relationships, but take note – you've just lost the trust of other parents and you've lost the respect of your neighbors and friends.

***It's a
criminal offense
in NJ to allow
underage drinking
in your home.***

County of Bergen New Jersey



Bergen County Executive

KATHLEEN A. DONOVAN

AND THE

BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

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Paramus, NJ 07652-4895

201 634-2600

Fax: 201 986-1068

www.bergenhealth.org
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Health and Safety Information Line:
201 225-7000

Bergen County Municipal Alliance

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Campaign developed by Ohio Parents for Drug Free Youth.

GET THE FACTS. THEY'RE SOBERING.

FACT: It is a criminal offense in the state of New Jersey (2C:33-17a) to serve alcohol to anyone who is under the legal age of 21.

FACT: It is a criminal offense in the state of New Jersey (2C:33-17b) to make your home or property available for the purpose of allowing minors a place to consume alcohol.

FACT: New Jersey's Social Host Liability Law imposes civil penalties on social hosts who serve alcohol to minors who subsequently are involved in incidents causing death or injury.

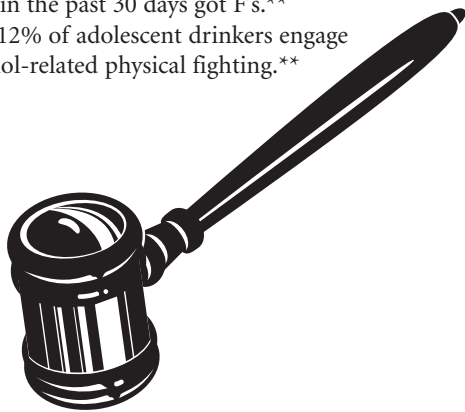
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Alcohol – Youth’s #1 Drug of Choice!

- ▶ National research shows that 57% of minors reported drinking at friends’ homes. Local surveys suggest that 60-80% of 11th and 12th graders obtain alcohol from home or home parties, with 30 percent reporting that they consume alcohol at home with their parent’s permission.*
- ▶ 17.8% of New Jersey’s 8th graders and 10% of New Jersey’s 7th graders have used alcohol in the past 30 days.**
- ▶ About 4 in 5 (78.5 percent) of NJ’s high school students have used alcohol in their lifetime and nearly half (48 percent) used alcohol in the past 30 days.**
- ▶ Nationally, 12% of 8th graders, 22% of 10th graders, and 29% of 12th graders report having consumed five or more drinks in a row in the last two weeks.**

Consequences of Use

- ▶ More than 40% of individuals who begin drinking before age 13 will develop alcohol abuse or dependency at some point in their lives.**
- ▶ Underage drinking is a factor in nearly half of all teen automobile crashes and 50 – 65 percent of youth suicides. Alcohol abuse is linked to as many as two-thirds of all sexual assaults and date rapes of teens and college students.*
- ▶ 27.9% of New Jersey’s 7th and 8th graders who used alcohol in the past 30 days got F’s.**
- ▶ Almost 12% of adolescent drinkers engage in alcohol-related physical fighting.**



Who We Are

The sixty-six **Bergen County Municipal Alliances to Prevent Alcoholism and Drug Abuse** are community coalitions of local organizations, clubs, law enforcement agencies, schools, churches, and the municipal government body, who share in a two-fold, common mission.

1. To employ prevention, intervention, and education strategies to significantly reduce alcohol and drug abuse within our county.
2. To promote overall safety, health, and well-being of Bergen residents through community education programs and initiatives which support all individuals, children, families and the elderly.

The Goal is to involve parents, students, teachers, health care professionals, churches, civic groups, law enforcement, schools, senior citizens, and local government to partner with us in identifying and addressing substance abuse issues that threaten the safety and well-being of the community.

What Can You Do To Be A Winning Parent?

- ▶ Talk to your kids about the consequences of alcohol and drugs, AND don’t be afraid to talk to your kids’ circle of friends. Set and communicate clear rules – be direct about your expectations and the consequences of your child’s actions.
- ▶ Sign the **S.A.F.E.** (Support Alcohol Free Environments) **Homes** pledge – if your town/school have this program.
- ▶ If your teen is attending a party, call the parent host to ensure there will be appropriate supervision and no alcohol. Call your friends’ parents and make sure you’re all on the same page about underage drinking and how your child is getting to and from the party. ALWAYS give your child permission to call you at any hour for any reason for a ride. Help your child identify another adult they trust and can also call at any time for help.
- ▶ Meetings of the Municipal Alliances are open to the public and parents are especially welcome to attend.
- ▶ Be a good role-model for your child.
- ▶ Help your teen to make good choices.
- ▶ Talk to older siblings about the consequences of supplying alcohol to younger brothers and sisters or their friends.

Where Can You Turn for Help?

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Addiction Helpline of Parents Support/NJ Inc. 800 561-4299
- Addiction Hotline of New Jersey 800 238-2333
- Alcoholics Anonymous 800 245-1377
- AlAnon/AlaTeen – families/friends 973 744-8686
- Center for Alcohol and Drug Resources 201 488-8680
- Domestic Violence Hotline – Bergen County 201 336-7575
- Nar-Anon Families & Friends of Addicts 800 484-7385
- Narcotics Anonymous of New Jersey 800 992-0401
- National Hopeline Network – Suicide Prevention 800-SUICIDE
- Hotline 800 784-2433
- National Runaway Switchboard 800 RUNAWAY
- National Youth Crisis Hotline 800 448-4663
- Parents Anonymous/Family Helpline 800 843-5437
- Psychiatric Crisis Intervention Unit 201 262-HELP
- Rape Crisis Hotline – 24 hour hotline 201 487-2227
- Safe Haven for Infants Hotline 877 839-2339
- Shelter Our Sisters (SOS) 201 944-9600
- Statewide Domestic Violence Hotline 800 572-7233
- The Division of Youth & Family Services 800 792-8610
- United Way Community Resource Hot Line 2-1-1
- West Bergen Center for Children & Youth 201 934-1160

USEFUL WEBSITES

- Hero Campaign www.herocampaign.org
- National Council on Alcoholism & Drug Dependence – NJ www.ncaddnj.org
- Parent Helpline & Support Groups www.linkup-parents.com
- Addiction Helpline of Parents Support/NJ Inc. www.hch.org
- Parents – The Anti-Drug www.theantidrug.com
- National Institute on Drug Abuse www.nida.nih.gov
- Alcoholics Anonymous www.alcoholics-anonymous.org
- Parents Anonymous of New Jersey www.pa-of-nj.org
- **For Teenagers... What’s Your Anti-Drug?** www.whatsyourantidrug.com

*Source: Institute for Public Strategies Briefing

**Source: National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence – New Jersey