

It's hot out there!!! Let's Keep Our Community Safe - especially during the summer months!

Underage drinking hurts more than individual teens and their families. It affects the entire community.

Fortunately, our community can play a vital role in preventing the problem. Traci L. Toomey, Ph.D., an alcohol researcher at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health, suggests the following steps:

Step 1: Support strong laws and legislation: Tell local and state lawmakers that you want to cut off youth access to alcohol.

Encourage programs that

Identify and penalize retailers that illegally sell alcohol to youth.

Require registration and tracking of beer kegs.

Support social host laws that penalize adults who enable underage drinking parties.

Limit new or renewed liquor licenses in your community.

Step 2: Push for strong enforcement: Press law enforcement officials and judicial authorities to actively enforce laws and programs that fight underage drinking. For example

Any time there is a traffic crash involving an underage drinker, ask officials to find out how the youths got the alcohol, then hold whoever gave or sold it to them accountable.

Support enforcement actions against youth who use fake IDs to purchase alcohol.

Step 3: Involve educators: Contact your local schools and colleges and ask what they're doing to minimize underage drinking.

Step 4: Hold advertisers accountable: When you see alcohol marketing that targets young people, complain and push to have that advertising be removed.

Keep our streets safe. Enforce zero tolerance.

for more information, please go to www.stopkidsdrinking.com