



Underage Drinking is Unsafe, Unhealthy and Unacceptable

The Chautauqua County Office of the Sheriff is partnering with Chautauqua Alcohol & Substance Abuse Council (CASAC) to promote the Drug Free Action Alliance *Parents Who Host, Lose The Most: Don't be a party to teenage drinking* campaign. This is a national campaign, reminding the community that underage drinking is a real danger to our youth. By increasing parental awareness and understanding the health, safety and legal consequences of allowing underage drinking, this campaign reduces the number of parents who allow underage drinking on their premises and property. Ultimately, this decreases underage access to alcohol.

Each day, approximately 8,000 youth across the nation will take their first drink of alcohol. Alcohol is the leading drug problem among young people. Underage drinking is strongly linked to delinquent behaviors, illicit drug use and problems at home and at school. Youth who begin drinking before age 15 are five times more likely to develop alcohol dependence or abuse alcohol later in life, than those who begin drinking at or after age 21. Additionally, heavy alcohol use by adolescents has long-term effects on brain development. These health and safety risks have real consequences that most parents try to protect their children from. Yet 20% of Chautauqua County youth reported in a 2015-2016 survey that they obtained alcohol from their home **with** their parents' permission. Another 14% say they obtained it from their home **without** their parents' permission.

The Chautauqua County Office of the Sheriff and CASAC hopes this campaign will encourage parents, educators, businesses, community organizations and others to learn more about the health and safety risks, along with the potential legal ramifications of allowing underage drinking to occur. Through this initiative, we call on our community to help address the various factors that contribute to underage drinking, including community norms, access and availability, media messages, policy and enforcement.

Parents Who Host, Lose The Most: Don't be a party to teenage drinking is a proven success. The campaign's message is universal: It is illegal, unsafe and unhealthy for anyone under 21 to drink alcohol.