

UNDERAGE DRINKING

Technical Assistance Packet

Join Together:

A National Resource for Communities Taking Action Against Substance Abuse and Gun Violence

www.jointogether.org

**Updated
June 2002**

Description of the Issue

Findings from the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse (NHSDA) show a substantial decrease in alcohol use by youths age 12 to 17 during the past decade. Since the late 1980's, the rate of past month alcohol use among youths has declined from around 41 percent in 1985 to 19 percent in 1998. The rates for binge alcohol use (drinking 5 or more drinks on at least one occasion in the past month) have also declined from 22 percent in 1985 to 8 percent in 1998. Between 1995 and 1998, the rates of past month alcohol use and binge alcohol use among 12-17 year olds remained relatively stable. Yet despite these trends, it is important to note that in 1998, an estimated one in five teenagers (4.3 million) were current alcohol drinkers and one in thirteen teenagers (1.7 million) were binge alcohol drinkers (SAMHSA, 1999).

What follows is a list of national organizations, publications, and community leaders with an expertise in underage drinking.

National Organizations

National Clearinghouse on Alcohol and Drug Information (NCADI) is the nation's largest repository of alcohol, tobacco and other drug information. They offer a host of information for youth, parents, schools and community leaders on how to prevent and reduce underage drinking. Materials include the results of the latest studies and surveys, helpful guides, videocassettes, pamphlets and brochures. Many of these materials are available in bulk quantities and free of charge.

P.O. Box 2345, Rockville, MD 20847-2345; Tel: 800-729-6686; Email: info@health.org;
www.health.org

Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP)

Teen Drinking Prevention Program; CSAP develops many of the prevention materials disseminated by NCADI. They support community-based initiatives to prevent underage drinking and drug use with funding and technical assistance. The Teen Drinking Prevention Program develops and implements community-based prevention campaigns to promote effective health communications strategies to prevent underage alcohol use in cities across the country. For more information on CSAP Programs and funding, contact the National Clearinghouse on Alcohol and Drug Information at 800-729-6686 or via the web at www.health.org/.

Mothers Against Drunk Driving—MADD

Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) is a non-profit grassroots organization with more than 600 chapters nationwide. Its focus is to look for effective solutions to drunk driving and underage drinking problems, while supporting the victims of these crimes. They offer great resources for legislative advocacy and statistics to communicate the scope of underage drinking and drunk driving. For more information, to locate your local chapter or to start one up, contact MADD at P.O. Box 541688, Dallas, TX 75354-1688 Tel: 800-438-6233 (800-GET-MADD); Email: info@madd.org; www.madd.org.

Students Against Destructive Decisions (Formerly Students Against Driving Drunk)—SADD

SADD provides students with prevention and intervention strategies to help them deal with the issues of underage drinking, impaired driving, substance abuse, and violence. SADD has chapters across the country, which are run by young people. Contact the national program office to learn more about chapters in your community or to start one yourself. Contact SADD National Office, Box 800, Marlboro, MA 01752; Tel: 877-723-3462 (877-SAD-D INC); www.saddonline.com/

AboutHealth.com

AboutHealth.com is a website of Family Health Productions a non-profit production company. They produce and distribute health-related TV programs, videos, guides, training materials and books to help families talk about important topics. “Alcohol: True Stories” is their latest video. Family Health Productions, Inc., PO Box 1799, Gloucester, MA 01931-1799, Tel: (978) 282-9970 Email: info@abouthealth.com; www.abouthealth.com

Board on Children, Youth, and Families (BOCYF)

The BOCYF addresses a variety of policy-relevant issues related to the health and development of children, youth, and families. It does so by convening experts to weigh in on matters from the perspective of the behavioral, social, and health sciences. The Board operates under the National Research Council and the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies. In 2002, the Board is forming a new committee to develop a strategy to prevent and reduce underage drinking. Board on Children, Youth, and Families National Research Council / Institute of Medicine 2101 Constitution Avenue, N.W., HA 156, Washington, D.C. 20418, Tel: (202) 334-1935 Email: bocyf@nas.edu; www.bocyf.org/Underage_Drinking.html

Enforcing the Underage Drinking Laws Program

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. This \$50 million program of block grants, discretionary programs, and training and technical assistance is helping all 50 States and the District of Columbia develop comprehensive and coordinated initiatives to enforce state laws that prohibit the sale of alcoholic beverages to minors and to prevent the purchase or consumption of alcoholic beverages by minors. Publications are also available online.

www.ncjrs.org/html/ojjdp/compendium/2001/intro.html or contact:

Greg Thompson
OJJDP
810 Seventh Street, NW
Washington, DC 20531
Tel: 202-616-3663
Fax: 202-307-2819
Email: thompson@ojp.usdoj.gov

Robert Hubbard
OJJDP
810 Seventh Street, NW
Washington, DC 20531
Tel: 202-616-3567
Fax: 202-353-9095
Email: hubbard@ojp.usdoj.gov

Publications and How to Order Them

The publications listed here are free or of modest cost.

- *Save Lives! A Join Together Public Policy Panel Report*

Recommendations and action steps to help communities reduce underage drinking.

Join Together, One Appleton Street, 4th Floor, Boston, MA 02116; Tel: 617-437-1500;

Email: publications@jointogether.org; www.jointogether.org/publications

- *Community How To Guide On Underage Drinking Prevention*

National Association of Governors' Highway Safety Representatives (NAGHSR) and National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) have published a series of Community 'How To' Guides on Underage Drinking Prevention. These guides were developed as a part of NAGHSR's Underage Drinking Prevention Project (UDPP) that was launched in 1995. The Community Guides incorporate what was learned throughout the UDPP project, and are intended to assist other advocates who want to implement a program in their area.

(Online ordering only) www.naghsr.org/html/publications/guidebooks.html

- *The Zero Tolerance Resource Kit*

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 7th Street, SW, Room 5130 (NTS-21), Washington, DC 20590; Tel: 202-366-1836; www.nhtsa.dot.gov/

- *Underage Drinking Prevention Action Guide and Planner*

This action guide from the National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information (NCADI) is intended to help communities create programs to prevent underage drinking by providing community organizers with ideas and suggestions for accomplishable underage drinking prevention activities that target communities, businesses, social events, media, parents and youth. Providing community organizers with ways to coordinate prevention efforts with government agencies, local groups, and other grassroots organizations. Providing factual information about the issues involved in the underage use of alcohol that can be disseminated through your prevention activities and help inform your audiences. The guide is divided into monthly planners, each of which suggests particular themes or issues to focus on underage drinking prevention. (60 pp.)

Available as a PDF document (See link below. PDF file is 745 KB and requires the free Adobe Acrobat Reader). www.health.org/govpubs/phd858/index.pdf

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