



School/Home Outreach Newsletter

Parents play a major role in their children's choices about alcohol, tobacco or other drugs.

The Manhasset Community Coalition Against Substance Abuse (CASA), working with the Drug-Free Act on Alliance's *Parents Who Host, Lose The Most: Don't be a party to teenage drinking* public awareness campaign, seeks to provide parents with accurate information about the health risks of underage drinking and the legal consequences of providing alcohol to youth. The campaign encourages parents and the community to send a unified message, especially at graduation time, that teen alcohol consumption is not acceptable. **It is illegal, unsafe, and unhealthy for anyone under age 21 to drink alcohol.**

Here are the facts*:

- Alcohol use is the primary contributor to the leading causes of adolescent death (i.e. motor –vehicle crashes, homicide, and suicide) in the U.S.
- Results of recent research have demonstrated that brain development continues well into early adulthood and alcohol consumption interferes with such development;
- For those aged 12 years or younger at first use, the prevalence of lifetime alcohol dependence was 40.6%, whereas those who initiated first use of alcohol at 21 years was 10.6%;
- Early alcohol initiation has been associated with greater sexual risk-taking (unprotected sexual intercourse, multiple partners, being drunk or high during sexual intercourse, and pregnancy);
- Alcohol use by teens is more likely to be in the form of heavy/binge drinking and puts teens at an even higher risk of alcohol overdose or alcohol poisoning;

***American Academy of Pediatrics Policy Statement Alcohol Use by Youth & Adolescents: A Pediatric Concern, April 12, 2010**

