



**Don't be a party to teenage drinking.
It's against the law.**

The Social Host Law: A law which has been adopted by Carlsbad, Oceanside and Vista as well as most cities throughout San Diego County to help reduce the problems associated with underage drinking.

Anyone who hosts a party, gathering or event where minors are consuming alcohol may be...

- Cited/arrested
- Fined up to \$1,000
- Incarcerated for up to six months
- Billed for police services

Hosting a safe party:

- Control quantity and access to alcohol at the gathering.
- Verify the age of persons attending the gathering by inspecting ID.
- Supervise the activities of persons under 21 years of age.

YOU can be part of the solution:

- ✓ Report underage drinking parties before they start.
- ✓ Contact your local law enforcement agency to report parties or gatherings where minors have access to alcohol.

*Carlsbad Police Dept: 760-931-2197
Oceanside Police Dept: 760-435-4900
Vista Sheriff's Non-emergency: 760-940-4300*

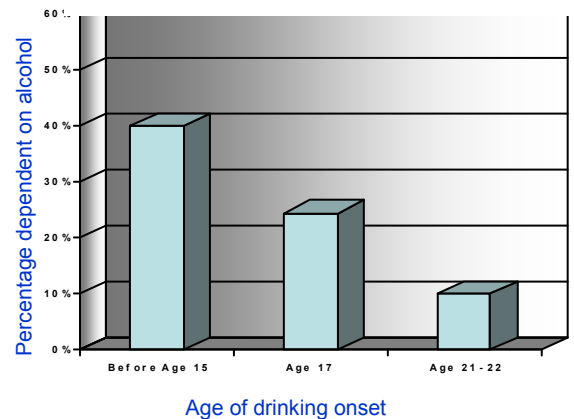
A message from the Tri-City Prevention Collaborative
Call 760-631-5000 x7174 for more information
www.northcoastalpreventioncoalition.org

TCPC is a project of the North Coastal Prevention Coalition, with Vista Community Clinic serving as the fiscal agent. Funds are provided by the County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Alcohol and Drug Services, and by the STOP Act through the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention.

Why is underage drinking a problem?

- Underage drinking is associated with the leading causes of death for teens and young adults, including motor vehicle crashes, unintentional injuries, homicide and suicide.
- According to local school surveys, about 40% of high school juniors report drinking alcohol in the past month.
- Underage drinking parties pose a high risk to young people because of the number of drinkers involved and the large quantities of alcohol consumed. These parties often result in alcohol poisoning, traffic crashes, property damage, sexual assault, and other crime and violence.

Underage drinkers more likely to develop alcohol dependence*



Isn't underage drinking already illegal?

State law prohibits minors under age 21 from purchasing, possessing or consuming alcohol in public. It also prohibits adults from furnishing alcohol to minors in public.

The Social Host ordinance closes the gap in state law since many youth obtain alcohol on private property, through social sources such as older friends, siblings, parents and/or strangers. This law was put in place to prevent underage drinking parties and hold the hosts of such parties accountable.

What is a "social host"?

A social host is a person of any age who hosts or allows a party, gathering or event where minors are consuming alcohol. A "party, gathering or event" means a group of persons who have assembled for a social occasion or a social activity.

Are there any exceptions?

The ordinance does not apply to parents supervising their own children (during private meals and/or religious ceremonies, for example).

*(Grant, B.F. 1998. National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism)