



# ADAMS COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Parents Who Host, Lose The Most: Don't be a party to teenage drinking**

During this season of social gatherings for youth, a reminder from Drug Free Adams County to parents who may want to host a post-prom or post-graduation party and serve alcohol: Parents Who Host, Lose The Most: Don't be a party to teenage drinking.

Now through June, Drug Free Adams County is raising awareness about the health and safety risks of serving alcohol at teen parties.

"Alcohol is the most commonly used and abused drug among youth in Adams County as well as in Wisconsin and the rest of the United States" says Leah Eckstein Health Officer with Adams County Health and Human Services. Eckstein states "we need to encourage healthy choices for the youth of our community as they are our greatest assets."

Youth who drink alcohol are more likely to experience

- School problems, such as higher absence and poor or failing grades.
- Social problems, such as fighting and lack of participation in youth activities.
- Legal problems, such as arrest for driving or physically hurting someone while drunk.
- Physical problems, such as hangovers or illnesses.
- Unwanted, unplanned, and unprotected sexual activity.
- Disruption of normal growth and sexual development.

- Physical and sexual assault.
- Higher risk for suicide and homicide.
- Alcohol-related car crashes and other unintentional injuries, such as burns, falls, and drowning.
- Memory problems.
- Abuse of other drugs.
- Changes in brain development that may have life-long effects.
- Death from alcohol poisoning.

We can all take part in decreasing the risk of underage drinking in our community. Do not buy or sell alcohol for underage youth. If you have alcohol in an unsecure location such as a garage refrigerator you should put a lock on this refrigerator to stop underage youth from taking the alcohol. The first place youth typically get alcohol from is either the refrigerator or liquor cabinet at home, a relative or neighbor. Alcohol locks are available for free at Adams County Health and Human Services. Stop in to pick up a lock to protect the youth in our community!

The “Parents Who Host, Lose The Most: Don’t be a party to teenage drinking” campaign was developed by the Drug Free Action Alliance. The Wisconsin Department of Health Services has partnered with the Drug Free Action Alliance since 2009 to provide this program annually to over 40 local coalitions statewide.

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