

Parents & Graduation: 10 Ways to Keep Your Teen from Drinking

1. Sign a Graduation Pact

Many schools have students sign a graduation pact that forbids drinking or drug use on graduation night. Encourage your teen to sign or get together with other parents and teens to create your own agreement.

2. Create a Reward System

You may punish your teen when they make the wrong decision, but you also have to reward them when they make the right ones. Pressure to drink on graduation night is high, so commend them for staying sober with a reward you both agree on.

3. Host a Post Graduation Party

Your teen doesn't know which post graduation party he/she is planning to attend, but you still want them to be chaperoned and safe. Make your presence known. Offer to host a post graduation party with all of their friends. You'll be able to keep an eye on your teen throughout the party and make sure they don't leave early to attend a random party. Involve other parents to supplement the cost and make it a booze-free party to remember.

4. Get Their Friends Involved

There's strength in numbers, so get your teen's friends involved by having them sign a no-drinking pact. If their friends aren't drinking, there's less of a chance your teen will.

5. Explain the Consequences

Tell your teen that you have a zero-tolerance policy on drinking. Sit down and calmly explain the consequences for breaking the law and your rules. Outline strict punishments and stick to them.

6. Educate Them on the Effects of Drinking

Most schools hold a drinking and driving assembly prior to prom or graduation. Take it a step further and talk to your teen one-on-one, or consider volunteering together at a local MADD or SADD chapter so your teens sees the consequences of drinking firsthand.

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7. No Questions Asked Policy

Try to stick by a “no question asked” policy. No matter where or when, you want your teen to feel comfortable enough to call you in case of an emergency. Whether they’re just tired or being pressured to drink, the important thing is that they feel comfortable enough to ask you for help.

8. Lead by Example

Teens take cues from their parents, so it’s imperative to instill the importance of responsible drinking early on. Try to keep minimal (if any) amounts of alcohol in the house and always keep it locked up.

9. Get to Know Their Friends

Friends are very important to teens, so it’s crucial to get to know their pals. Have them over to your house for movie night, or dinner – you can even extend the invite to the parents. The more parents you have looking out for your teen, the better. If your son or daughter is hanging out with someone you don’t approve of, talk about it with them and explain your concerns in a civil way. You may not be able to prevent them from hanging out together after graduation, but you’ll feel better once you set boundaries for your own teen.

10. Set Some Ground Rules

You may not want to think of yourself as being overprotective, but when it comes to graduation and first week activities, the more questions you ask, the less surprises you’ll have to face. Before graduation, make sure you talk to your son or daughter about drugs, alcohol, sex, and the consequences. It also doesn’t hurt to team up with other parents to keep an eye on each other’s teens, especially if they’re attending a post-graduation party at a friend’s house.

**Adapted from Promspot.com. Website accessed 04/21/08
See addition information on Promspot.com**

Parent Pledge

As a parent concerned about the health and safety of my child, I pledge that I will not provide him/her – and especially someone else’s child – with alcohol, nor will I support underage drinking parties.

Underage drinking can ruin a young life, and I want to be part of a caring community that says “We do not support underage drinking!”

Parent Signature

County of Residence

Please return your signed pledge to:
Pledge, DAODAS, PO Box 8268, Columbia, SC 29202

Have a teen
drinking party.
Go to jail.



A 30-day sentence and \$1,075 in fines and fees. That's what you can get for giving alcohol to your teen's friends. Even if it's in your home. Even with their parents' permission. Don't be a party to teenage drinking.

For more information, go to www.daodas.org

Rent a hotel room
for a teen celebration.

They drink.

You go to jail.



**It's that time of year. Prom.
Graduation. First week at the beach.
"Everybody's" going, and everybody's getting a room.**

Even if you're comfortable renting a room in which underage drinking can occur, the law is not. South Carolina statute 45-2-40 stipulates that a person who rents or leases a room in a lodging establishment in which persons under age 21 consume or possess beer, wine or other alcohol is guilty of a misdemeanor can be fined or imprisoned. Specifically, you may be subject to a fine of up to \$1,075 and 30 days in jail.

**Don't be a party to teenage drinking.
Think twice before you reserve a room.**

For more information, go to www.parentswhohostsc.com

South Carolina
DAODAS

Sponsored by the South Carolina Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services
Parents Who Host, Lose the Most is an original program of the Drug-Free Action Alliance



Give a teen alcohol.
Go to jail.



What you need to know:

- It's illegal to give alcohol to your teen's underage friends under any circumstances — even in your own home, even with their parents' permission.
- You cannot knowingly allow a person under 21, other than your own child, to consume or possess alcohol in your home or on your property.

What can happen if you break the law:

- You face a maximum sentence of 30 days in jail and \$1,075 in fines and fees.
- Your penalties can “stack up,” as you can be ticketed for each underage person you provide with alcohol.
- You can be sued if you give alcohol to anyone under 21 and they, in turn, hurt someone, hurt themselves or damage property.

What you can do to protect yourself:

- Refuse to supply alcohol to anyone under 21
- Be at home when your teen has friends over
- Make sure that alcohol is not brought into your home or property by teen's friends

Don't be a party to teenage drinking.

For more information, go to www.parentswhohostsc.com

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SOUTH CAROLINA UNDERAGE DRINKING DATA

From the 2011 Youth Risk Behavior Survey:

- Past-month drinking: **40%**
- Lifetime drinking: **71%**
- Past-month binge drinking: **22%**
- Past-month drove while drinking: **11%**
- Past-month driving with a drinking driver: **26%**
- % of drinkers who began before age 13: **35%**
- % think there is "great risk" in having 5 or more drinks once or twice each weekend: **36%**

Note: Most of these 2011 figures are more desirable than 2005 but are non-significant undesired changes compared to 2007 and 2009

Source of last drink (for drinkers only) (2011 YRBS):

- Store: **8%**
 - Restaurant/Bar/Club/Public Event: **3%**
 - Gave someone \$ to buy for me: **18%**
 - Someone gave it to me at a party: **36%**
 - Someone gave it to me somewhere else: **10%**
 - Took it from a store or family: **9%**
 - Other: **15%**
- } (total retail: 11%)

Primary Type of Alcohol (of those who stated a preference) (2010 SC Communities That Care Survey)

Type	Overall	Male	Female
Beer	23.8%	28.5%	19.4%
Alcopops	14.3%	10.1%	18.5%
Alcohol Energy Drinks	7.4%	6.9%	7.5%
Wine Coolers	3.1%	2.6%	3.6%
Wine	15.1%	14.7%	16.2%
Liquor	29.7%	31.6%	27.7%
Other	6.6%	5.6%	7.2%

Other:

Local enforcement retail violation rate in compliance checks (FY '12): **14.4%**

Source: South Carolina Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services

Underage Drinking in South Carolina

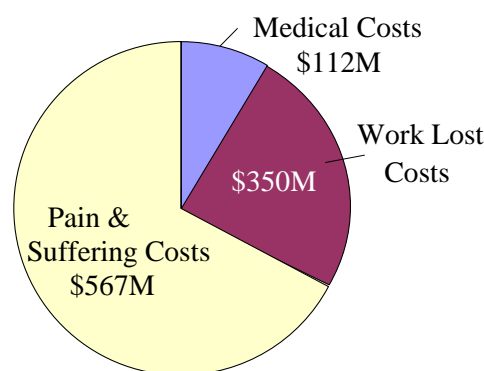
The Facts

Tragic health, social, and economic problems result from the use of alcohol by youth. Underage drinking is a causal factor in a host of serious problems, including homicide, suicide, traumatic injury, drowning, burns, violent and property crime, high risk sex, fetal alcohol syndrome, alcohol poisoning, and need for treatment for alcohol abuse and dependence.

Problems and Costs Associated with Underage Drinking in South Carolina

Underage drinking cost the citizens of South Carolina \$1.0 billion in 2010. These costs include medical care, work loss, and pain and suffering associated with the multiple problems resulting from the use of alcohol by youth.¹ This translates to a cost of \$2,309 per year for each youth in the State or \$4.44 per drink consumed underage. Excluding pain and suffering from these costs, the direct costs of underage drinking incurred through medical care and loss of work cost South Carolina \$462 million each year or \$1.99 per drink. In contrast, a drink in South Carolina retails for \$1.12.

**Costs of Underage Drinking
South Carolina, 2010 \$**



Total: \$1.0 billion

Costs of Underage Drinking by Problem, South Carolina, 2010 \$

Problem	Total Costs (in millions)
Youth Violence	\$569.9
Youth Traffic Crashes	\$196.0
High-Risk Sex, Ages 14-20	\$59.3
Youth Property Crime	\$95.3
Youth Injury	\$39.0
Poisonings and Psychoses	\$6.6
FAS Among Mothers Age 15-20	\$18.3
Youth Alcohol Treatment	\$43.6
Total	\$1,028.1

Youth violence (homicide, suicide, aggravated assault) and traffic crashes attributable to alcohol use by underage youth in South Carolina represent the largest costs for the State. However, a host of other problems contribute substantially to the overall cost. Among teen mothers, fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS) alone costs South Carolina \$18 million.

Young people who begin drinking before age 15 are four times more

likely to develop alcohol dependence and are two and a half times more likely to become abusers of alcohol than those who begin drinking at age 21.² In 2009, 1,158 youth 12- 20 years old were admitted for alcohol treatment in South Carolina, accounting for 7% of all treatment admissions for alcohol abuse in the state.³

Alcohol Consumption by Youth in South Carolina

Underage drinking is widespread in South Carolina. Approximately 169,000 underage customers in South Carolina drink each year. In 2009, South Carolina students in grades 9-12 reported:⁴

- 69.1% had at least one drink of alcohol on one or more days during their life.
- 20.4% had their first drink of alcohol, other than a few sips, before age 13.
- 35.2% had at least one drink of alcohol on one or more occasion in the past 30 days.
- 18.4% had five or more drinks of alcohol in a row (binge drinking) in the past 30 days.
- 3.6% had at least one drink of alcohol on school property in the past 30 days.

In 2009, underage customers consumed 11.9% of all alcohol sold in South Carolina, totaling \$260 million in sales (in 2010 dollars). These sales provided profits of \$127 million to the alcohol industry.¹ Ranking states based on the percentage of alcohol consumed underage, with 1 the highest, South Carolina ranked number 43. This percentage is affected by both adult and youth drinking levels.

Annual sales of alcohol consumed by youth in South Carolina averaged \$1,540 per underage customer. Underage customers were heavier consumers than adults. They drank an average of 3.8 drinks per day; in contrast, legal customers consumed only 1.7.

Harm Associated with Underage Drinking in South Carolina

Underage drinking in South Carolina leads to substantial harm due to traffic crashes, violent crime, property crime, unintentional injury, and risky sex.

- During 2009, an estimated 59 traffic fatalities and 1,285 nonfatal traffic injuries were attributable to driving after underage drinking.
- In 2009, an estimated 35 homicides; 23,700 nonfatal violent crimes such as rape, robbery and assault; and 34,600 property crimes including burglary, larceny, and car theft were attributable to underage drinking.
- In 2007, an estimated 7 alcohol involved fatal burns, drownings, and suicides were attributable to underage drinking.
- In 2009, an estimated 439 teen pregnancies and 15,726 teens having risky sex were attributable to underage drinking.

For comparison with other states, in US rather than state prices, the harm from underage drinking per youth in South Carolina averages \$1,535. Such comparisons require caution. In part, they may reflect differences in crime and crash rates, problem-reporting to police, and co-occurring drug use.

Produced by the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation (PIRE) with funding from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), September 2011.

¹ Levy, D.T., Miller, T.R., & Cox, K.C. (2003). Underage drinking: societal costs and seller profits. Working Paper. Calverton, MD: PIRE.

² Grant, B.F., & Dawson, D.A. (1997). Age at onset of alcohol use and its association with DSM-IV alcohol abuse and dependence: Results from the National Longitudinal Alcohol Epidemiologic Survey. *Journal of Substance Abuse* 9: 103-110.

³ Office of Applied Studies, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Treatment Episode Data Set. (2011). *Substance Abuse Treatment by Primary Substance of Abuse, According to Sex, Age, Race, and Ethnicity, 2009*. Available [On-line]: <http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/SAMHDA/studies/30462>.

⁴ Center for Disease Control (CDC). (2011). Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS). Available [On-line]: <http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/youthonline/App/Default.aspx>.

South Carolina Alive at 25's Hard Facts

“Traffic crashes are the leading cause of teen fatalities, accounting for 44% of teen deaths in the U.S.”

1. Young drivers are involved in fatal crashes at more than twice the rate of all others.
 2. The first year for a newly licensed teenage driver is the most dangerous, with more than 1 in 5 involved in crashes.
 3. Each year, nearly 11,000 teens are killed in vehicular accidents; more than 3,800 are drivers ages 15 to 20.
 4. Annually, more than 326,000 young drivers are seriously injured.
 5. In 2011, 172 young drivers were killed in vehicle collisions in South Carolina.
6. Nearly 50 (or one-fourth) of the fatal accidents involving young drivers were alcohol related. The average Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) was 0.14%; the legal limit is 0.08%.
Under 21 = 0.02%, or zero tolerance.
 7. Exceeding the posted speed limit or driving at an unsafe speed is the most common error in fatal teenage accidents.
 8. More than 1,000 young drivers lose their lives each year in crashes.
9. Young drivers are involved in nearly 28% of all crashes, even though they represent only 14% of the nation's licensed drivers.

“As a young driver or passenger, you can greatly reduce your risk by taking control of the situation.”

Research shows the leading cause of young-driver accidents involved one or a combination of the following factors:

- Lack of awareness to the consequences of the risk-taking behavior
- Inexperience with the complexities of driving
- Peers in vehicle with the youthful driver
- Driving as a social activity
- Impaired driving due to road conditions, including driving at night
- Speeding
- Driving under the influence of alcohol or other drugs

From <http://www.scaliveat25.org/hardfacts.html>