

Chandler Coalition warns of underage drinking dangers

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The Arizona Republic

With many holiday celebrations planned for the coming weeks, the Chandler Coalition on Youth Substance Abuse wants to remind the community of the dangers of underage drinking.

Studies show that for many youths their first exposure to alcohol comes from parties or convincing adults to purchase alcohol for them. The coalition stresses the importance of parents and other adults taking an active role in protecting youth from the dangers of underage drinking.

Following are some tips that adults can use to help curb underage drinking during the holiday season and throughout the year.

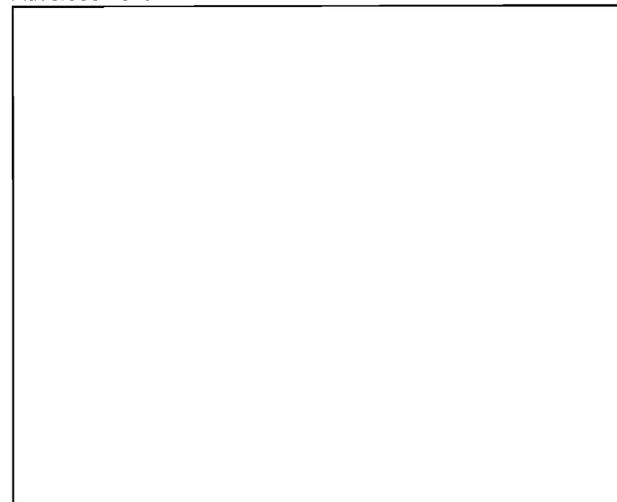
- Guests should know not to let anyone under the age of 21 drink alcohol, even at home.
- Don't leave drinks unattended during family parties where minors might be present.
- Talk to your children about the dangers and consequences of underage drinking.
- Pour out any alcohol that is not consumed.
- Be sure to keep alcohol in a locked and secured cabinet.
- Keep track of the amount of alcohol you have. Consider marking bottles to indicate the amount left.

The coalition came about as a result of a study by Improving Chandler Area Neighborhoods (ICAN) on the most pressing issues facing young people in the area ICAN serves. That study identified underage drinking as one of the biggest concerns.

The Chandler Coalition on Youth Substance Abuse is a group made up of ICAN's Peer Leaders and staff as well as members of the local education and law enforcement communities.

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