



Red Ribbon Celebration

College Initiative to Reduce High Risk Drinking

Ohio Resource Network Clearinghouse

Statewide Prevention Coalition Association

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

Volunteers In Prevention

Know!

Youth Philanthropy Council

Methamphetamine Initiative

www.DrugFreeActionAlliance.org

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Alcohol and Tobacco Experimentation More Likely During Summer

(Columbus, OH) – School is out, and with time on their hands and easy access, youth could be at risk for trying substances that can be harmful to them. June and July are peak months during the year for youth between the ages of 12 and 18 to try alcohol and cigarettes.*

“There are dangers when someone that young drinks alcohol or smokes tobacco,” Drug-Free Action Alliance Executive Director Patricia Harmon said. “Not only are there risks to their health and safety, but the younger the age of first use, the more likely they are to develop an alcohol or tobacco dependency.”

According to a state survey of high school students, nearly a quarter had smoked in the past month and 23% had their first drink before the age of 13.**

Drug-Free Action Alliance and its Know! program has this advice for parents:

- **Keep alcohol and tobacco products locked up** and out of your child’s reach.
- **Take a moment to talk** about your expectations that they won’t drink alcohol or use tobacco products, and discuss the consequences if they do.
- **Monitor youth activities.** Unsupervised time can be a prime time for experimentation.

[Drug-Free Action Alliance](#) is a statewide non-profit that provides leadership to promote safe and drug free communities. The Know! website, www.HelpThemKnow.com, has more information about keeping children substance free.

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* National Survey on Drug Use and Health Report, Seasonality of Youth’s First-Time Use of Marijuana, Cigarettes or Alcohol, 2004.

** 2005 Ohio Youth Risk Behavior Study. Accessed May 29, 2007, from <http://www.odh.ohio.gov/swf/yrbs.html>.