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## **Drug-Free Action Alliance Participates in Alcohol Awareness Month** *Underage drinkers get alcohol at home and from friends most often*

(Columbus, Ohio) April is Alcohol Awareness Month and Drug-Free Action Alliance is stressing the importance of understanding the disease of alcoholism and the harmful health risks associated with problem drinking. The misuse of alcohol affects every demographical and cultural sector of our society, including youth. Many people are surprised to learn where minors are obtaining their alcoholic beverages: they get it from home and from the homes of their friends.

In 2006, the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse reported that one-third of teenagers have attended parties in which parents were present and substance use by teens occurred, including alcohol use and use of illegal drugs. Recent surveys (2006 and 2007) of Ohio parents and their 13 to 18 year old teens found that approximately 30% of both parents and teens know of parents who host parties where alcohol is available and/or served to teens. While this practice has declined somewhat since 2001, it remains a significant public health, safety, and legal problem. Ohio teens continue to have easy access to alcohol through multiple sources, including friends, parents, other adults, or business establishments.

Responding to this situation, Drug Free Action Alliance began a statewide media campaign in the spring of 2000, *Parents Who Host Lose The Most: Don't be a party to teenage drinking*, to reduce one source of underage drinking: parties where parents provide alcohol to teenagers. A major goal of the campaign was to educate parents or guardians about Ohio's underage drinking laws and the legal consequences of violating those laws.

"Underage drinking presents a very real and proven health risk to children in Ohio as well as throughout the nation." noted Patricia Harmon, Executive Director of Drug-Free Action Alliance. "When alcohol is readily available to teens at home, or at the home of friends, parents should be concerned. Studies prove that memory and learning capabilities can be damaged and decision-making and reasoning areas of the brain can be compromised when adolescents use alcohol. We need to send the message that underage drinking is illegal, not safe, unhealthy and unacceptable."

Drug-Free Action Alliance is a statewide non-profit organization providing leadership to promote safe and drug free communities by bringing together individuals, groups and resources to prevent the abuse of alcohol and the use of other drugs. More information, and the analysis of the evaluation data from the *Parents Who Host Lose The Most: Don't be a party to teenage drinking* media campaign, can be obtained from Drug-Free Action Alliance online at [www.DrugFreeActionAlliance.org](http://www.DrugFreeActionAlliance.org).

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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

Ohio Center for  
Coalition Excellence

Know!

Youth Philanthropy  
Council

[www.DrugFreeActionAlliance.org](http://www.DrugFreeActionAlliance.org)