



For Immediate Release:
May 1, 2009

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Residential Location of Little Difference When It Comes To Underage Drinking

Research Data shows little difference between urban and rural communities.

(Columbus, Ohio) Drug-Free Action Alliance is releasing a report highlighting the results of a recent study of the effect of location upon a youth's ability to obtain alcohol.

Data shows that rural youth were more likely than youth from other locations to say it was easy to obtain alcohol while big city youth were most likely to say obtaining alcohol was difficult. In comparison, parents from big cities and their suburbs were relatively more likely to say it was easy for youth to obtain alcohol. While the association between residential location and ease of obtaining alcohol was statistically significant for both parents and youth, the magnitude of the effect was small.

"Youth are obtaining alcoholic beverages from many sources and location does not seem to have a significant effect," said Patricia Harmon, Executive Director of Drug-Free Action Alliance. "Youth get alcohol from a variety of sources like family and friends. We are trying to spread the message that providing alcohol to underage youth is illegal, unhealthy, unsafe and unacceptable."

Ohio law states that underage individuals cannot be given alcohol or be permitted to consume alcohol by anyone other than their parents, who must be present at the time of consumption. It is illegal for parents to give alcohol to their teens' underage friends even if the friends have their parents' permission. Parents and other adults can be sued if they give alcohol to anyone under age 21 who then hurt themselves or someone else and/or damage someone's property. Finally, parents and other adults can face a maximum sentence of six months in jail and/or a \$1,000 fine for breaking these laws.

The past month of April was designated as Alcohol Awareness Month and Drug-Free Action Alliance has been trying to educate parents, students, and entire communities about the perils of underage alcohol abuse. Drug-Free Action Alliance has also suggested ideas for parents to start having conversations with their children about not abusing any substance, hosting safe alcohol-free parties and activities for youth.

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 online at 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