



For Parents

The 2009 Bach Harrison Prevention Needs Assessment Survey Results of Manhasset Public School Students in Grades 6, 8 and 10 indicate that

- 14% of our 6th grade students have used alcohol in their lifetime;
- 29% of our 8th grade students have used alcohol in their lifetime; and
- 70% of our 10th grade students have used alcohol in their lifetime (Note: 10th grade alcohol use is above the national average).

A recent national survey of parents and teens by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University found one-third of teen partygoers have been to parties where teens were drinking alcohol, smoking marijuana, or using cocaine, ecstasy or prescription drugs while a parent was present. By age 17, nearly half (46 percent) of teens have been at such parties where parents were present.

Under Nassau County's Social Host Law, parents should know that

- You and anyone over the age of 18 are breaking the law if you give alcohol to your teen's friends who are under the age of 21, under any circumstance;
- You and anyone over the age of 18 are subject to prosecution by the Nassau County Social Host Law if you knowingly allow a person under 21 to remain in your home or on your property while consuming or possessing alcoholic beverages;
- If you violate the Nassau County Social Host Law, it is a misdemeanor – a criminal conviction and punishable by progressive fines and penalties:
 - 1st Offense is subject to a fine of \$250;
 - 2nd Offense is subject to a fine of \$500;
 - 3rd Offense and future offenses are subject to a fine of \$1000 and/or up to a year in jail.

Parents play a major role in their children's choices about alcohol, tobacco or other drugs.

Simply taking away the car keys does not solve all of the problems related to underage drinking. Everyday, at least six youth under 21 die from non-driving alcohol-related causes, such as drowning and suicide.

Our youth deserve to live and grow to adulthood in an environment where alcohol is not misused. Let's be unified in our message, and host alcohol-free parties with plenty of fun activities to show our youth that we care about their future. More information about the *Parents Who Host, Lose the Most: Don't be a party to teenage drinking* campaign, contact Manhasset CASA at (516)267-7548.

