



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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HOW DO YOU KEEP YOUR CHILDREN FROM DRINKING? TEENS AND PARENTS REVEAL WAYS TO KEEP YOUTH AWAY FROM BOOZE

WHAT: Can underage drinking be prevented? Teens and parents will answer this question at a news event that addresses how and why many youth choose to abstain from alcohol. Teens will reveal how they are able to say “no” to booze in a world that constantly screams “yes.”

Officials will urge parents to keep an eye on their children’s activities during prom and graduation season. *They will also announce the number of young people who had alcohol in their systems when they died during the past two years.*

WHO: **Chairman Greg Cox**, San Diego County Board of Supervisors
Vice-Chairwoman Dianne Jacob, San Diego County Board of Supervisors
Jean Shepard, Director, County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency
Teens and Parents

WHEN: **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9, 2008 AT 3:30 P.M.**

WHERE: **County Administration Center (Bayside)**
1600 Pacific Highway

WHY: The majority of young people do not drink. Of the more than 40 million people between 10 and 20 years of age, 69 percent choose not to drink.

However, alcohol consumption by minors can have deadly consequences. Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death among youth ages 15 to 20. Underage drinking also leads to increased rates of suicide, sexual assaults and high-risk sex.

Young people who begin drinking by age 15 are five times more likely to abuse or become dependent on alcohol than those who begin drinking after age 20.

It is against the law for young people to drink, yet more than 13 million of the nation’s 113 million drinkers are underage.

16 incorporated municipalities and all unincorporated areas of the County of San Diego have “social host” ordinances, making it illegal to host underage drinking parties.

Providing alcohol to minors at parties, gatherings or events on private property is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of \$1,000, six months in jail or both.

VISUALS: Surf and boogie boards, guitars, books, computers, basketball, football, tennis racket and balls, roller skates, bicycle and other items that represent the positive activities and hobbies of teens that choose to avoid alcohol.

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