



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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WHERE DO MINORS GET ALCOHOL? COUNTY OFFICIALS REVEAL SOURCES OF BOOZE; *Warn of Dangers of Underage Drinking During Graduations and Summer; Alcohol Present in 59 Young Deaths in San Diego County*

WHAT: Policy makers, health officials, community members and parents will reveal the most common sources where minors get alcohol.

Group will warn about the dangers of underage drinking and urge parents to keep an eye on their children's activities as consumption of alcohol tends to increase during graduation and summer.

WHO: **Supervisor Dianne Jacob**, Second District
Bill Gore, Undersheriff, San Diego County Sheriff's Department
Susan Bower, Interim Deputy Director, County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency's Alcohol and Drug Services
Beth Sise, Chair, San Diego County Alcohol Policy Panel
John Tryon, father of a teenager who died in an alcohol-related crash

WHEN: **THURSDAY, JUNE 14, 2007 AT 10:30 A.M.**

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

WHY: Alcohol consumption by minors is having deadly consequences. In the last two years, 59 people under 21 in San Diego County had alcohol in their system at the time of death.

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.

According to data from the 2005 Monitoring the Future study, an annual survey of U.S. youth, three-fourths of 12th graders, more than two-thirds of 10th graders, and about two in every five 8th graders have consumed alcohol.

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. Any person who sells or provides an alcoholic beverage to a minor can receive a fine up to \$1,000 and up to 32 hours of community service.

VISUALS: Bottles and cans leading to the sources where minors get booze. Posters of sources of alcohol, the dangers of underage drinking, and penalties for adults who provide alcohol to minors.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
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