PARENTS WHO HOST, LOSE THE MOST SOUTH CAROLINA TALKING POINTS

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* + Research shows parents play a major role in their children’s choices about alcohol, tobacco and other drugs
  + Most teenagers appreciate when their parents set boundaries and fairly enforce expectations
  + More than two-thirds of high school youth who drink in SC report that somebody gave them their alcohol or bought it for them.
    - 63% of those who were given alcohol got it from someone who was over age 21.
    - So adults are definitely part of the problem and can be a big part of the solution.
  + Adults hosting underage drinking parties:
    - Send a mixed message about the acceptability of drinking
    - Show youth they don’t have to obey laws
    - Contribute to the misperception that all youth drink – 6 out of every 10 SC high school students don’t drink
* Taking away the car keys does not solve all of the problems related to underage drinking
  + - * + Less than 4 out of every 10 underage drinking deaths involves car crashes
      * South Carolina survey numbers back up that almost everything we worry about for our teenagers are made much worse when alcohol is involved: bad grades, unwanted sex, teen pregnancy, STDs, involvement in crime and violence, other drug use, and suicide
      * Why are we so reluctant to take alcohol out of the hands of kids? It’s not like they are having a glass of wine with dinner. More than 90% of alcohol consumed by youth is consumed while binge drinking. They drink aggressively with the goal of getting drunk.
      * Many of the alcohol products available today are far stronger and far more appealing to youth than ever before. And liquor is now the preferred drink for youth.
      * Research has shown that drinking with your kids to “teach them to drink responsibility” actually ends up leading to more alcohol consequences for those kids.
        + Who do you think is more likely to be at that keg party Friday night--the kid whose parents let them drink in the house with a wink or the kid whose parents have let him know there are real consequences for drinking alcohol anywhere, anytime?
        + What would you think if someone allowed your kid to break the law without your knowledge? Why would you ever help someone else’s child break the law?

If your child drinks alcohol, it is likely that alcohol will affect the development of his brain:

* + - * + The brain is developing rapidly for a teenager. Brain scans show that alcohol use can begin impairing memory and attention even at young ages. Don’t you think they might need that for school?
        + The parts of the human brain that help us weigh the good and bad of risky decisions don’t fully develop until the mid-20s. That’s why adults need to play a role in helping make that decision for our kids.

If your teenager drinks alcohol, he will be at greater risk of having alcohol problems as an adult:

* Youth who drink before the age of 15 are four times more likely to develop alcohol dependence and 2½ times more likely to become alcohol abusers than those who wait until age 21.
* Think alcohol dependence only comes after a lifetime of drinking? Wrong. 18-20 year olds are more likely to meet the criteria of alcohol dependence than any other age group.

What Parents Should Know:

* + - * + As a parent, it is against the law to provide alcohol to someone else’s child under age 21, even in your own home, even with their parents’ permission

That ticket could run you more than $650 and up to 30 days in jail.

You might even get one ticket for each youth to serve and those fines could really add up

* + - * + Thinking about renting that hotel room or beach house for your kids’ Prom or First Week party? SC has a law against renting a place to allow underage drinking, even if you’re not providing the alcohol. That ticket could be more than $1,000 and up to 30 days in jail.
        + The SC Supreme Court has clearly established that others can sue you if you give alcohol to anyone under 21 and they, in turn, hurt someone, hurt themselves or damage property.

Know the Risks:

It is **illegal** to serve other parent’s children in your home

It is **unhealthy** for anyone under 21 to consume alcohol

It is **unsafe** and illegal for anyone to drink and drive