



Minnesota Crime Prevention Association's Crime Prevention Tips

The MCPA strives to bring current information regarding prevention topics to its members. Please use these prevention tips to promote safety to the citizens of your community. These tips are great for brochures, newsletters, e-mails, etc.

Topic: **Underage Drinking**

The number of impaired driving offenses for 15 to 20-year-olds gradually rose from 1993 through 2000. About two-thirds of offenders are age 19 or 20.

It's everyone's business to end underage drinking. We need effective strategies to reduce underage alcohol include compliance checks, sanctions on violating merchants, educating merchants about laws and responsibilities, and developing community support for enforcement.

Other effective strategies to reduce underage alcohol use include enforcement of impaired driving laws, control or prohibition of alcohol use at community events or park areas, prohibition of alcohol sponsorship of public events, apprehending third-party providers, media campaigns, media advocacy and counter-advertising.

Facts & Talking Points

- In **Minnesota in 2003, 255 people died** in alcohol-related crashes:
- 35 of those were under 21

In Minnesota for 2003 there were a total of 567 deaths and the MN Department of Public Safety estimates that **39% of those will be alcohol related**.

- A teen's driving ability is impaired at a lower level of blood alcohol concentration than older people with the same level of blood alcohol concentration.
- Underage drinking accounts for 20 percent of all alcohol consumed.
- According to the 2004 Minnesota Student Survey, teens say that adults are their primary source of alcohol.
- More youth used alcohol in the past month than used all illicit drugs combined.
- The younger the age of drinking onset, the greater the chance that an individual at some point in life will develop a clinically-defined alcohol disorder.
- Fake identification cards are being reproduced using computer technology.
- Brain development studies show the dangers of alcohol use.
- Other criminal behavior due to alcohol and other drugs.