

# TOGETHER WE CAN



## UNDERAGE DRINKING

### Everyone Can...

- Refuse to supply alcohol to underage youth in your home or on your property
- Support local law enforcement efforts
- Report underage drinking parties
- Store alcohol out of reach of youth
- Schedule a speaker for your local group
- Report illegal commercial alcohol sales
- Join the Underage Drinking Prevention initiatives

### Parents Can...

- Talk with your child about the dangers of alcohol on their developing brain
- Provide a consistent family policy: no teen drinking, set consequences you will carry out
- Know your child's friends' parents and set up a "parent network"
- Talk with other parents/adults to make sure that alcohol is not available at the events your youth attends
- Check your children's ID's, make sure they don't have fake ID's
- Set a good example for responsible adult alcohol use

### Youth Can...

- Help everyone focus on the positive...not all teens drink
- Be an advocate to community change; challenge adult assumptions
- Ask to see your school's written policy, read it, talk about it with others and suggest improvements
- Partner with peers and adults to create alcohol-free events
- Partner with media; write articles on alcohol issues/topics that affect youth

### Faith Community Can...

- Provide safe and positive youth activities
- Realize all young people are at-risk on a daily basis/stay informed
- Know other positive community resources for youth and partner with community groups

### Merchants Can...

- Hire, train and supervise responsible staff to stay in compliance with alcohol sales and service laws
- Attend trainings of licensees; learn business best practices for responsible alcohol sales and service
- Develop comprehensive written policies; use comprehensive and effective employee training programs
- Monitor employee compliance with company policies and laws
- Understand that Michigan vertical ID indicates person is under 21

### Business Can...

- Offer information to employees on the harmful effects of alcohol on children
- Support after school programs
- Provide referral services for families in need of assistance
- Support and encourage youth mentoring programs
- Support programs and organizations keeping kids engaged and promoting healthy choices

### Law Enforcement Can...

- Develop a system to monitor alcohol related problems associated with community events
- Conduct regular walk-through of licensed establishments
- Conduct party dispersal operations as a means to control underage drinking parties, citing adult providers in addition to youth in possession of alcohol
- Consistently enforce laws against adult providers and social hosts
- Ask underage youth who are caught drinking to disclose the source of their alcohol

### Media Can...

- Advance social and public policy to reduce underage drinking
- Stay informed about the issues, solutions and "Best Practices"
- Cover stories about what is being done to prevent problems, not just report consequences of underage drinking
- Limit alcohol ad product placements to TV, radio and magazines with majority adult only audiences
- Be an advocate for community change; challenge community assumptions

### Physicians Can...

- Provide information on brain development for parents
- Identify alcohol use in adolescent patients
- Be familiar with prevention and treatment resources
- Support community efforts responding to underage drinking

### Schools Can...

- Begin lessons on alcohol as early as 3rd and 4th grades
- Establish reporting rules, referrals and services for students and parents in need
- Support after school activities to reduce risk behaviors
- Ban clothing advertising alcohol or related products
- Establish and enforce code of conduct for students engaged in sports and extra curricular activities

### Government Can...

- Develop laws, ordinances, policies, etc. to address commercial availability and youth possession
- Use licensing and regulatory "Best Practices" to control alcohol landscape and protect public health and safety
- Ensure funding for effective prevention strategies
- Motivate enforcement and regulatory agencies to strengthen enforcement of existing laws and regulations

### Alcohol Industry Can...

- Restrict advertising to minors
- Support education on the importance of avoiding alcohol until legal age
- Require posting of visible warning signs and labels regarding health risks, DUI, etc.
- Train industry employees on the importance of preventing underage drinking
- Partner with organizations to prevent youth access to alcohol