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**“PARENTS WHO HOST LOSE THE MOST”
CAMPAIGN IN VILAS COUNTY**

Many local high school students will be celebrating prom and graduation this spring. But alcohol doesn't have to be a part of the fun, and that's why the Positive Alternatives Coalition (PAC), Alliance for Substance Abuse Prevention (ASAP), and the Vilas County Sheriff support the "Parents Who Host Lose the Most" campaign.

"Parents Who Host Lose the Most' is a campaign where we try to inform the public about the dangers of purchasing and providing alcohol to minors," says Vilas County Sheriff John Niebuhr.

More than 50 communities across Wisconsin are participating in the campaign, to make sure parents know it's not okay to let kids drink in their homes.

PAC Program Director, Carol Wright adds "If you allow underage youth to drink at home with their friends, in a way, you are sending the message that it's okay to do it anywhere else as well." And she says underage drinking anywhere can lead to problems later in life. "If they can wait until age 21, they actually reduce their chances of having issues with alcohol use as an adult by 70%," says Wright.

Parents should know they'll be held responsible for anything that happens at or after the party.

"There can be civil and criminal liability for parents if they provide alcohol to somebody underage and then that person leaves the house and gets into a car," says Sheriff Niebuhr.

And with so much at stake, it's clear that parents who host do lose the most.

If you're a parent who may be hosting a party, following are some suggestions:

- Help your teenager plan the party by making a guest list and limiting the number of people.
- Have your youth pass out the invitations to avoid an “open party” situation. Do not send email invitations as you can lose control over who receives the information.
- Put your phone number on the invitation and welcome calls from other parents.
- Set rules ahead of time such as no alcohol, drugs, or tobacco. Set a start and end time for the party.
- Let guests know that if they leave, they cannot come back.
- Have plenty of food and non-alcoholic beverages. Plan activities such as music, games, movies, etc.
- Let your neighbors know that there will be a party and that you will be there to supervise.
- Limit the party access to a certain area of the house/property.
- Have a plan for dealing with vehicles. Include parking information on the invitation.

These ideas will help make the party safe and successful for you and your teen.

For more information about “Parents Who Host Lose the Most”, contact Heidi Nykolayko, ASAP Coordinator, at the Vilas County Public Health Department at 715-479-3786 or visit the website at <http://sites.google.com/site/parentswhohostawi/>.

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