

Question

What are ways you've seen Communities fight back against teen alcohol and drug use?

- ◆ School Communities often work with parents, county and community agencies and law enforcement in providing information, support services and parent education to address underage drinking and drug use.

Question

How do you delay kids experimenting?

- ◆ You delay kids experimenting when parents, schools, community agencies and law enforcement work together to inform and educate kids on the dangers and consequences of underage drinking and drug-use. Open and honest communication between parents and kids is critical.

Question

Is there a correlation between delayed alcohol/drug use and then excessive binge alcohol/drug use in college?

- ◆ The longer youth delay experimentation with alcohol and drugs the less likely those individuals will suffer alcohol and drug abuse problems.

Question

Why do some parents think its ok to allow kids (and their friends) to drink as long as it's done at home?

- ◆ There seems to be a growing number of parents that believe allowing kids and their friends to drink at home will negate the associated problems of teenage drinking. Parents do not have the legal right to serve minors alcohol in their homes and can be held responsible for the resulting consequences of under age drinking.

Question

Please talk about Internet advertisement and communication vehicles such as Myspace.com?

- ◆ Students should be aware of and educated about the potential risks associated with internet use including hidden predators and the inappropriate and/or illegal use of web sites including Myspace.com.

Question

How do you reconcile a parent's direction to not drink when they did their share of drinking in high school?

- ◆ Parents should be open and honest about their alcohol use when they were young. When discussing the topic with their children, parents should make sure their children have factual knowledge about the effects of drugs and alcohol. Parents should express their concern about their child's health and safety and their wish that their child delay any use until they are older.

Question

Do law enforcement officers give presentations to students detailing the legal consequences of underage drinking?

- ◆ All Marin County law enforcement agencies provide officers that will speak to students at local schools on drug, alcohol and violence prevention issues. Topics include effects, consequence of use, potential harm, warning signs of abuse and legal ramifications.

Question

Why aren't there proactive, strong programs for kids to participate in forums like this for kids?

- ◆ Programs like the Teen, Drug, Alcohol and Violence Prevention Community Forum Teleconference are the result of strong "community" collaborations between school districts, law enforcement, county and community agencies and parents. Strong effective programs happen when the "community" steps up and addresses these important health issues effecting our youth.

Question

Are there examples of public schools out there doing a great job with media literacy programs? What does that look like?

- ◆ Media Literacy is just starting to have an impact in Marin. The Marin County Office of Education and the Marin County Department of Health and Human Services are promoting and offering Media Literacy Curriculum to public and private middle and high schools in Marin. Additionally, Media Literacy teacher training is being provided as well.

Question

Why does Marin have such a high rate of teen alcohol use as compared to other areas?

- ◆ One theory of why Marin has a higher rate of teen alcohol use is the amount of money Marin teens can access. Other issues are the relative ease that Marin youth obtain alcohol and the permissible attitude Marin parents seem to exhibit towards teen drinking.