

# Not in Our House

Report Underage Drinking 1-888-THE-TABC

[2young2drink.com](http://2young2drink.com)

## Alcohol & Your Child

Facts about Underage Drinking  
Every Parent Should Know

Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission

[WWW.TABC.STATE.TX.US](http://WWW.TABC.STATE.TX.US)

Texas Department of Transportation

[WWW.DOT.STATE.TX.US](http://WWW.DOT.STATE.TX.US)







# Alcohol & Your Child

Facts about Underage Drinking Every Parent Should Know

## Contents

MESSAGE TO PARENTS.....	1
A STRATEGY FOR PARENTS .....	2
ENFORCEMENT.....	3
LAWS FOR PARENTS.....	4
LAWS FOR MINORS.....	5
ZERO TOLERANCE LAWS.....	6
CONCLUSION & HELPFUL WEBSITES.....	7

Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission  
Education and Prevention  
5806 Mesa Drive  
Austin, Texas 78731  
Phone (512) 206-3290  
Fax: (512) 206-3316  
[www.tabc.state.tx.us](http://www.tabc.state.tx.us)

Texas Department of Transportation  
Traffic Safety  
125 East 11th Street  
Austin, Texas 78701  
[www.dot.state.tx.us](http://www.dot.state.tx.us)  
[www.txdot.gov/services/traffic\\_operations/](http://www.txdot.gov/services/traffic_operations/)

Report Underage Drinking 1-888-THE-TABC

# Message to Parents

This pamphlet has been developed to provide you, the parent, with helpful information that will assist you in understanding your role in protecting your child from problems associated with underage drinking during Spring Break, Prom and Graduation. We also want to inform you about the laws put in place to protect your child. The Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission feels that parents are a key player in helping to enforce underage drinking laws and decrease the consequences of underage drinking during this joyous time in your child's life.

Underage drinking is a serious problem during Spring Break, Prom and Graduation time. Unfortunately, adults play a major role in the consequences of underage drinking when they sell or serve alcohol to youth under 21. Parents who host parties where young people are drinking alcohol are condoning an act associated with the three most common causes of teenage deaths: accidental deaths, homicides, and suicides. Alcohol use is also associated with unplanned or unprotected sexual activities among adolescents, poor grades, higher drop out rates and problems with the law.

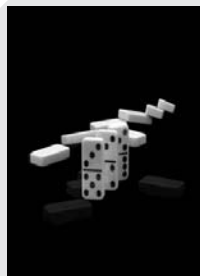
Since 1994, the percentage of past-month alcohol users who always or most of the time got alcohol from stores has dropped by 45 percent, but 39 percent of high school seniors reported that alcohol was always consumed at parties they attended. When past-month users were asked where they always or most of the time got alcohol, a majority said at parties (69%) or from friends (61%).

With alcohol being the most widely used substance and 68 percent of Texas secondary students reporting lifetime use (51% of 7<sup>th</sup> graders and 81% of Seniors), the enforcement of underage drinking laws continues to be a concern in Texas. The health and safety of Texas' future cannot continue to be compromised by the devastating, and often-fatal consequences of underage drinking. Texas must reduce the use of alcohol by youth under 21.

Research has shown that parents are the most influential factor in protecting their children from engaging in high-risk behavior, including underage drinking. We hope this information is helpful and we encourage parents to talk to other parents and their children before prom and graduation parties to promote a clear, consistent no-use message.

# A Strategy for Parents

Start by giving your child a clear no-use message and make sure they know and understand that you do not approve of a youth their age consuming alcohol. Research shows that when parents communicate clearly to their children about their expectations to abstain from drinking until 21, teens and preteens are less likely to drink. A majority of secondary students perceived that their parents strongly disapprove of youths their age drinking beer (64%). However, as students got older, the perceived disapproval of beer use declined (73% of 7<sup>th</sup> graders compared to 51% of seniors). Students who perceived their parents of approving of someone their age drinking were over 2.5 times more likely to drink than students who perceived their parents of disapproving.



As parents, it is important to talk to your child about the dangers of alcohol. Less than 50 percent of secondary students thought alcohol was very dangerous to use. However, more than 21 percent reported experiencing at least one of the following negative consequences related to alcohol:

- Difficulties with friends
- Criticism from a date
- Trouble with teachers
- Trouble with police
- Driving after drinking

Let your child know it is against the law to consume alcohol. Be a good listener, ask open-ended questions,

and most of all focus your attention on the conversation and listen to what your child is saying. To avoid pitfalls have all relevant facts. For some additional information, visit [www.2young2drink.com](http://www.2young2drink.com).

This Spring Break and Prom and Graduation Season, monitor your child's activities:

- Know where they are going before and after events.
- Know who they will be with and where.
  - Talk to other parents about alcohol to ensure that alcohol will not be available to youths under 21.
  - Call ahead to make sure there will be responsible adult supervision.
  - Make sure your child knows how to contact you in case of an emergency.
- Report underage drinking to your local law enforcement agency or by calling 1-888-THE-TABC.

As a parent, it is important that you stay informed. Learn what is happening in your area and about prevention programs being offered at your child's school and in your community. Work with other parents, school officials, community group leaders, local law enforcement, and state and local agencies to prevent underage drinking in your community.

# Enforcement

The Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission (TABC) regularly works to enforce alcohol laws relating to licensed establishments. These enforcement efforts include:

- Minor Stings
- Compliance Stings
- Public Safety Operations
- Cops in Shops
- Shoulder Tap Stings
- Operation Fake-Out

The TABC also works closely with retailers and the community to encourage voluntary compliance with underage drinking laws through education. These programs include:

- Manager's Awareness Program (MAP)
- Project SAVE for Retailers
- Enforcement Operations – Educating the Retailers
- Shattered Dreams
- Parent Workshops
- Project SAVE for Schools

Parents can play an active role in providing a safe environment for their children by contacting the TABC to report bars, restaurants or stores that violate the law. Unfortunately, the TABC and/or other local law enforcement do not generally receive advance notices for private teenage drinking parties. Local law enforcement agencies and the TABC only hear of these parties after an incident, accident, or injury occurs. If

parents contact the TABC or the police immediately when they learn about upcoming drinking parties, we might be able to prevent the party from occurring without the need for arrest or tragedy.

Some parents allow underage drinking parties at their home because without the facts, they feel their children will be safe. Unfortunately, statistics have shown that there is no fail-safe plan and the parents sponsoring the drinking parties are subjecting themselves to criminal and civil liability and the community to potential tragedy.



# Laws for Parents

Underage drinking laws are designed to protect minors and the community from the tragedies and sometimes-deadly consequences of underage drinking.

## Civil Liability

Texas holds parents/adults civilly liable for damages caused by the intoxication of a minor younger than 18 if they knowingly provided alcohol or allowed alcohol to be served on property owned or leased by them and:

- The minor is injured or dies as a result of drinking on the property.
- The underage person gets into a fight, falls and hurts him/herself or is sexually assaulted.
- The minor attending the party damages someone else's property.
- The underage person who is drinking on the property, leaves and is involved in a motor vehicle accident and causes injury to themselves or others.



## Providing/Furnishing Alcohol to Minors

In Texas, a person may provide alcohol to a minor if he/she is the minor's adult parent, guardian, or spouse, and is visibly present when the minor possesses or consumes the alcoholic beverage.

It is against the law to make alcohol available to a person younger than 21 even in your own residence, even with the parent's permission. This law also applies to providers under the age of 21.

If you break the law, you can face:

- A fine up to \$4,000; and/or
- Up to one year in jail; and
- 180 days automatic driver's license suspension upon conviction.

# Laws for Minors

If a minor (anyone under 21):

- Possesses or consumes an alcoholic beverage;
- Purchases or attempts to purchase an alcoholic beverage;
- Misrepresents his/her age to obtain an alcoholic beverage; and/or
- Drives a motor vehicle, or watercraft while having any detectable amount of alcohol in his/her system.

For a third offense, the minor may receive:

- A fine of \$250-\$2000; and/or
- Up to 180 days in jail;
- 20-40 hours community service;
- 180 days loss or denial of his/her driver's license.

He/she can receive:

- A fine up to \$500;
- Required attendance at an Alcohol Awareness Class;
- 8-40 hours community service; and/or
- 30-180 days loss or denial of his/her driver's license.





# Zero Tolerance Laws

While it is illegal for adults over 21 to drive while intoxicated, it is illegal for a minor to drive while having ANY detectable amount of alcohol in the minor's system. This includes motor vehicles and watercraft.

1. The consequences for the minor on the first offense of driving under the influence of alcohol:

- Class C Misdemeanor, punishable by a fine up to \$500;
- Attendance at an alcohol awareness class;
- 20 to 40 hours of mandatory community service;
- 60 days driver's license suspension. The minor would not be eligible for an occupational license for the first 30 days.



2. A second offense increases the consequences to:

- Class C Misdemeanor, punishable by a fine up to \$500;
- Attendance at an alcohol awareness class at the judge's discretion;
- 40 to 60 hours of mandatory community service;

- 120 days driver's license suspension. The minor would not be eligible for an occupational license for the first 90 days.

3. A third offense is not eligible for deferred adjudication. The minor's driver's license is suspended for 180 days and an occupational license may not be obtained for the entire suspension period. If the minor is 17 years of age or older, the fine increases to \$500 to \$2,000, confinement in jail for up to 180 days, or both.

# Conclusion

The purpose of this pamphlet is to provide parents with some additional insight and help parents understand the Facts about Underage Drinking. For additional information, numerous books, informational sources and websites can be accessed for more in-depth knowledge. The Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission is committed to the safety of the citizens of Texas, and we want this Spring Break, Prom, and Graduation Season to be as safe as possible.

## Notes

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



---

---


---

---





HOME | NEW INFO/PRESS RELEASES | RESOURCES | ABOUT US | CONTACT US |



### Who is the E.U.D.L.?

The Enforcing the Underage Drinking Laws (EUDL) Program supports and enhances efforts by states and local jurisdictions to prohibit the sale of alcoholic beverages to minors and the purchase and consumption of alcoholic beverages by minors. The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) helps States address the problem of underage drinking through block grants, discretionary programs, and training and technical assistance. The EUDL program helps all 50 States and the District of Columbia develop comprehensive and coordinated initiatives to enforce State laws that prohibit the sale of alcoholic beverages to minors and to prevent the purchase or consumption of alcoholic beverages by minors (defined as individuals under 21 years of age).


### Texas' Role

Since 2002, TABC has been the designated state administrator for EUDL grant funds for the state of Texas and monitors each project. The U. S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), Enforcement of Underage Drinking Laws (EUDL) block grant, provides funding. Each project addresses underage drinking through a comprehensive program involving various members of the local community. The funding is used to increase enforcement efforts and provide educational programs throughout the state. The educational programs increase awareness of underage drinking laws and the consequences of underage drinking. In the past, TABC has used EUDL grant money to:

- ✓ Increase the number of minor sting law enforcement efforts through out the state.
- ✓ Train law enforcement on how to disperse and underage drinking party safely and effectively.
- ✓ Host college symposiums that brought together law enforcement from colleges and universities, higher education administration and local law enforcement to discuss underage drinking prevention on college campuses.
- ✓ Assist in increased enforcement at college and university sporting events.
- ✓ Provide students with information materials that outline the consequences of underage drinking.
- ✓ Provide funding for some colleges and universities to provide alcohol education programs to incoming freshmen.
- ✓ Provide materials and funding for colleges and universities to host alcohol free events


### Did You Know?

#### Parent power



Research shows that parents have a powerful voice in their children's lives and decisions. Kids who say their parents strongly disapprove of underage drinking are half as likely as their peers to use alcohol, according to a statewide survey of Texas students.

**Have Questions?**  
Click here for answers



service • courtesy • integrity • accountability

PRIVACY POLICY | DISCLAIMER | ACCESSIBILITY | TABC | TRAIL

## Other Helpful Websites:

[www.tabc.state.tx.us](http://www.tabc.state.tx.us)  
[www.dot.state.tx.us](http://www.dot.state.tx.us)  
[www.healthallianceonalcohol.com](http://www.healthallianceonalcohol.com)  
[www.udetc.org](http://www.udetc.org)  
[www.alcoholfreechildren.org](http://www.alcoholfreechildren.org)  
[www.nhtsa.dot.gov](http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov)  
[www.samhsa.gov](http://www.samhsa.gov)  
[www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org](http://www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org)



# Not in Our House

Report Underage Drinking 1-888-THE-TABC

[2young2drink.com](http://2young2drink.com)

