



*Creating a Safer Huntington Beach
by reducing alcohol problems among young people*

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NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Parents Cited for Hosting Underage Drinking Party

Huntington Beach, California – On December 28, 2013 at approximately 11:00 p.m., a citation was given to Huntington Beach parents who hosted a party where minors were drinking. That evening, two separate citizens called to advise the Huntington Beach Police Department that underage drinking was going on and the parents were home. Over 50 minors were at the home, located on the 6500 block of Alexandria Drive in Huntington Beach.

On March 4, 2013, the City Council of Huntington Beach adopted a Social Host Ordinance, a law that prohibits adults from hosting drinking parties for minors. Violators will be cited and may face a \$750 fine. If police are called out a second time within 12 months, violators face an additional \$1,500 fine. The third violation in 12 months carries a fine of up to \$3,000. The Huntington Beach Police Department is employing party-focused patrols to monitor home parties and respond to community concerns regarding underage drinking.

Some parents believe that providing alcohol for teens will keep the situation under control and teach their children to drink responsibly. However, a recent study of over 6,000 youth found that teens who received alcohol from a parent or a friend's parent at a party consumed more drinks, and were twice as likely to drink regularly and binge drink (Foley, et al.). Additionally, teens frequently have harmful experiences at parent-sanctioned drinking parties. Even when parents keep an eye on teens while they drink, young people may still get behind the wheel or get into a car with someone who has been drinking. Huntington Beach is actively enforcing the Social Host Ordinance to help prevent these drinking-related tragedies.

Operation Safe HB aims to curb problems related to binge and underage drinking in Huntington Beach through the use of evidence-based strategies. The initiative is led by an Orange County non-profit organization, Community Service Programs (CSP), Inc. – Project PATH (Positive Action Toward Health) in partnership with the Huntington Beach Police Department. Operation Safe HB urges Huntington Beach residents to call the police if they see a loud party where persons under 21 appear to be drinking.

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