

Social Host Legislation to Protect AR Youth

Social host legislation is an important strategy to protect the health and safety of Arkansas youth

Of the over 85,000 students (grades 6, 8, 10, and 12) who participated in the 2008 Arkansas Prevention Needs Assessment (APNA) survey¹,

- 19.8 percent have used alcohol during the past 30 days
- The average age of first use is 12.6 years old

Private residences are the most popular places where youth drink

Of the approximately 25,000 Arkansas students who report having used alcohol in the past year,¹

- 82 percent drank the alcohol either at their own homes or at others' homes
- 23.6 percent got their alcohol from a relative

Social Host Liability laws hold individuals responsible for knowingly allowing minors to drink alcohol on their property

Social Host Liability laws help keep youth safe.

- Act 976 of 2009 holds individuals responsible for knowingly allowing underage drinking to occur on property they control.
- Individuals who violate this Act are subject to a Class C misdemeanor on the first offense, a Class A misdemeanor on the second offense, and a Class D felony on a third or subsequent offense.
- Social Host Liability laws help parents say NO to teens who want to hold underage drinking parties and give law enforcement the tools they need to keep youth safe.

¹ Arkansas Prevention Needs Assessment (APNA), 2008 - a student survey conducted annually by the AR Department of Human Services

² Monitoring the Future (MTF), 2008 - a project of the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA); Note: MTF does not collect data on 6th graders

