



## **April is Alcohol Awareness Month**

Red Rock Regional Prevention Coordinator (RPC) would like to inform the public that April is the 32nd Annual NCADD Alcohol Awareness Month. Founded and sponsored by the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, Inc. (NCADD). This year's theme is "Changing Attitudes: It's not a 'rite of passage.'" According to the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD), alcohol use by young people is extremely dangerous to themselves and society. It is directly associated with traffic fatalities, violence, suicide, education failure, alcohol overdose, unsafe sex and other problem behaviors, even for those who may never develop a dependence or addiction. Parents may be faced with a unique set of challenges when their child enters adolescence, as alcohol and drugs may enter the picture due to it being a time of heightened risk-taking. Parents can sit back and hope their kids will "get through it," or they can take an active role in learning about alcohol and drugs and helping their kids do the same.

Research has shown that kids who have conversations with their parents and learn a lot about the dangers of alcohol and drug use are 50% less likely to use these substances than those who don't have such conversations.

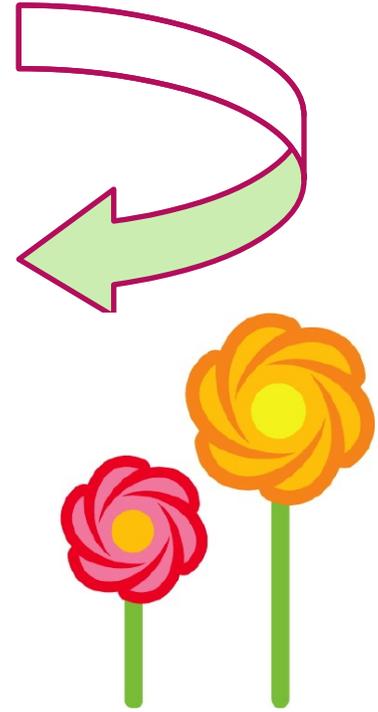
Red Rock RPC's Mission is to encourage individual responsibility, positive behavior, and personal growth; strengthen families and communities; promote a drug-free society through education, training, prevention, research, advocacy, and environmental strategies. For more information on Red Rock RPC please contact 580-323-9783 or visit [www.redrockrpc.com](http://www.redrockrpc.com).

<https://www.ncadd.org/aam>

Prom season is among us and the Regional Prevention Coordinator (RPC) would like to remind parents that there are many ways they can help prevent underage drinking. In Oklahoma, 65% of 12th graders reported using alcohol in 2016\*, and with the increased opportunity for underage drinking during prom season, parents should be talking to their children about the dangers of drinking alcohol so the annual prom doesn't turn into a court appearance, hospital visit, or even worse scenario. Parents can help their children avoid alcohol problems by: Serving as positive role models, not making alcohol or a place to consume alcohol available, getting to know their children's friends, connecting with other parents about sending clear messages about the importance of not drinking alcohol, supervising parties to make sure there is no alcohol, and encouraging their kids to participate in healthy and fun activities that do not involve alcohol. It's also important to remember that in Oklahoma it is illegal for adults to host a place for underage drinking to occur. In 2011, we passed the first Social Host Law, also known as 'Cody's Law', which holds individuals criminally liable if they host a place for minors to engage in alcohol use. If found guilty, one could receive a fine of up to \$2,500 and up to 5 years in prison.

The parents and youth in our communities need to know that underage drinking is not acceptable. We should all do our part to keep our youth safe, especially during the upcoming prom season. For more information please contact the RPC at 580-323-9783.

\*2016 Oklahoma Prevention Needs Assessment results



#### Community Calendar:

- April 6th- CHAT @ 12 @ Veteran's Center in Clinton
- April 11th- CCIC @ 12 @ R.I.S.E. Office in Anadarko
- April 16th- Kiowa Co. Coalition @ 1 @ Health Department in Hobart
- April 19th - A.L.I.T.E. @ 12 in Elk City at City Hall
- April 30th—May 5th: Wellness Week in Beckham County

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