

Red Rock RPC March 2018



Prom & Underage Drinking: Parents should talk to teens

Prom season is approaching quickly and the Regional Prevention Coordinator (RPC) would like to remind parents that 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.

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. Red Rock RPC is funded through the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. For more information please contact the RPC at 580-323-9736.

**2016 Oklahoma Prevention Needs Assessment results*

Regional Prevention Coordinator-Region 12 is funded by the

Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

RPC News Continued...

Did You Know?



Oklahoma's Social Host Law means that if you let underage drinking occur at your house or on your property, you will get fined, up to \$500 for the first offense.



Dispose of unused prescription drugs at your local drop box today! To find a drop box near you visit www.ok.gov/obnnd

What's Happening?

- 3/2: Custer Health Action Team @ 12 @ Veteran's Center in Clinton
- 3/14: Caddo County Interagency Coalition @ 12 @ RISE in Ardmore
- 3/15: ALITE @ 12 @ City Hall in Elk City
- 3/19: Kiowa County Coalition @ 1 @ Health Department in Hobart



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