

## Conway County Underage Drinking Story

- The average age of first use of alcohol for Conway Co. is 12.5 years old.
- Fifty percent of Conway Co. drinking sixth graders report their last drink of alcohol was at home.
- **37%** of 10th Graders & **46%** of 12th Graders drank alcohol in the past 30 days.
- **1 out of 4** 10<sup>th</sup> Graders binge drank in the past two weeks.

Source: Arkansas Prevention Needs Assessment Survey, 2007

The Conway County Hometown Health Coalition wants to thank you for taking valuable time to learn about Underage Drinking and how it negatively affects the health of Conway County residents.

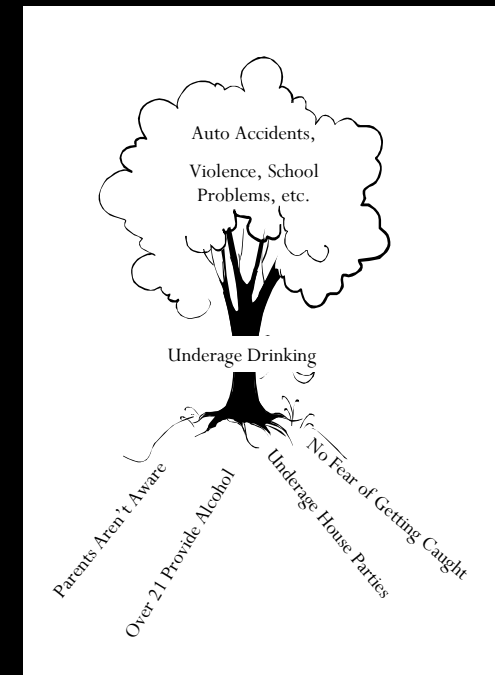
Our Coalition and the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug Prevention Committee understands that addressing the ROOT CAUSES of Underage Drinking will take a community-wide effort. This is why we are asking for your support. The effort to lower Underage Drinking rates in Conway County will take some time. Experts agree that it takes up to six months to change ROOT CAUSES (local conditions), and as long as two years to impact actual Underage Drinking rates on a county level.

Your ideas and wisdom are valuable to us! Please fill out the Evaluation Form before you leave the auditorium. Members of the committee will remain after the presentation to answer questions you may have about our ongoing efforts.

**Thanks again for your time and willingness to foster healthy change in Conway County!**

Conway County Hometown Health Coalition  
ATOD Committee

## Underage Drinking Prevention - Getting to the "Root Causes"



**Date: April 1, 2008**

**Time: 6:00 p.m.**

# Town Hall Meeting Program

## **Welcome**

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Stewart Nelson, Chair, Hometown Health Coalition

## **Getting to the “ROOT CAUSES” of Underage Drinking**

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Jessica Rohlman, Certified Prevention Specialist

Presentation on the problems associated with underage drinking, Conway County underage drinking statistics, root causes of underage drinking, and potential solutions to impact the root causes of underage drinking.

**10 Minute Intermission**

## **Expert Panel Discussion**

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Susan Dumas, Moderator

Community leaders discuss how underage drinking affects community health in Conway County. Audience members may use supplied cards to submit written questions to panel

## **Panel Members**

<b>Mike Smith</b>	Conway County Sheriff
<b>Norbert Gunderman</b>	Morrilton Police Chief
<b>Linda Smith</b>	Department of Human Services
<b>Terrence Love</b>	Director, Prevention Services Community Service, Inc.
<b>Katie Alabach</b>	Conway County 4-H Vice President
<b>Denise Carson</b>	Med Tech

# What Can You Do to Help Prevent Underage Drinking?

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Alcohol is the substance of choice among our youth in Conway County, Arkansas, and nationally. Underage drinking is a serious problem with terrible consequences...vandalism, alcohol dependence, violence, and car crashes, to name a few.

It is important to talk to youth early about the dangers of underage drinking because most try alcohol before age 13.

Teens who drink tend to do so dangerously, drinking five or more drinks at a time (binge drinking). According to recent research, Conway County youth binge drinking rates triple from 8th grade to 10th grade (8% to 25%).

Making your personal home safe for teens with regard to alcohol access is one important step parents and grandparents can take to reduce underage drinking.

Strong support of Law Enforcement and judicial officials to deter underage drinking and adults who provide alcohol to minors will also be critical to a comprehensive effort.

Join our ATOD Committee and be part of the solution! Sign up tonight to receive email notices, mail outs or other information about how you can impact the ROOT CAUSES of underage drinking.

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