

Parents and Parties

Some parents may allow underage drinking parties because they think it keeps their kids safe and prevents them from driving. However, along with the consequences listed on the previous page, studies show that youth who drink at home are more likely to binge drink outside of the home (McMorris et al 2011). Additionally, starting to drink at an early age is linked with a higher risk of alcohol dependency (Hingson, Heeren, & Winter, 2006)

Current Texas Law

Texas has a strong statewide law – the Furnishing Alcohol to a Minor law – which states that giving alcohol to minors is a Class A misdemeanor, just one degree below a felony. Punishment includes up to \$4,000 in

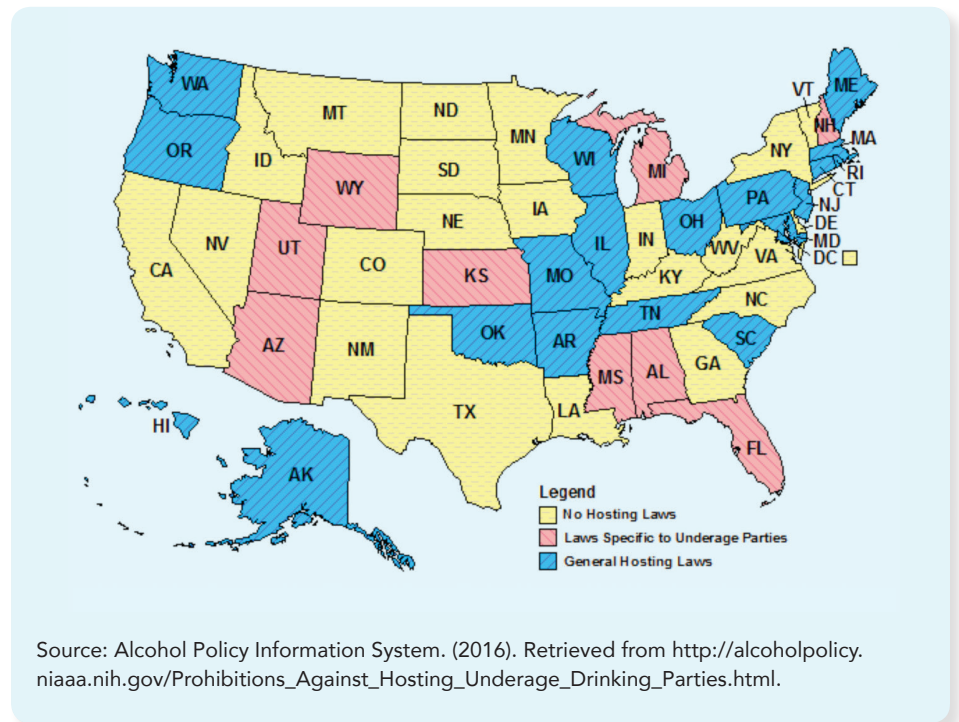
fines, up to one year in jail, and an automatic 180-day suspension of the offender's driver's license. Additionally, an adult can be sued for damages if they knowingly serve, provide, or allow alcohol to be served to a minor on premises they own or lease. These laws are often difficult to enforce. Local civil social host ordinances are more easily enforced and serve as a tool to reduce underage drinking.

Do Social Host Ordinances Work?

- Research indicates that social host laws are among the most effective and recommended ways to reduce underage and risky drinking (Thomas et al, 2012).
- In the first national study of social host liability, such liability was found to reduce self-reported heavy episodic drinking and drinking and driving (Stout et al., 2000).
- Social host ordinances are considered a “promising practice” because existing evidence shows they are effective at reducing underage drinking, although more research is needed to strengthen these findings (Nelson, et al., 2013).
- Communities that implement social host ordinances often describe a positive impact. For example, the San Diego Police Department reported a reduction in home party calls around San Diego State University when their social host ordinance went into effect (An Issue Briefing: The Petaluma Social Host Ordinance).

6 Texas Cities Have Passed Social Host Ordinances

ALTON
EL PASO
ODESSA
PALMVIEW
SAN ANTONIO
WESLACO



Source: Alcohol Policy Information System. (2016). Retrieved from http://alcoholpolicy.niaaa.nih.gov/Prohibitions_Against_Hosting_Underage_Drinking_Parties.html.

References

- 1) Department of State Health Services. Texas Survey of Substance Use among College Students, 2017.
- 2) Department of State Health Services. Texas School Survey of Substance Use among Students, Grades 7-12, 2016.
- 3) Health Community Consortium. An Issue Briefing: The Petaluma Social Host Ordinance. Vol. 1, Issue 2, Summer, 2006.
- 4) Hingson RW, Heeren T, & Winter MR. Age of alcohol-dependence onset: associations with severity of dependence and seeking treatment. *Pediatrics*, 118, 2006.
- 5) McMorris BJ, Catalano RF, Kim MJ, Toumbourou JW, Hemphill SA. Influence of family factors and supervised alcohol use on adolescent alcohol use and harms: similarities between youth in different alcohol policy contexts. *Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs*, 72, 418-428, 2011.
- 6) Nelson TF, Xuan Z, Babor TG, Brewer RD, Chaloupka FJ, Gruenewald PJ, Holder H, Klitzner M, Mosher JF, Ramirez RL, Reynolds R, Toomey TL, Churchill V, Naimi TS. Efficacy and the strength of evidence of U.S. alcohol control policies. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, 45(1), 2013.
- 7) Stout EM, Sloan FA, Liang L, Davies HH. Reducing harmful alcohol-related behaviors: effective regulatory methods. *Journals of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs*, 61(3), 2000.
- 8) Texas Alcoholic Beverage Code § 106.6: Purchase of Alcohol for a Minor; Furnishing Alcohol to a Minor.
- 9) Thomas S, Paschal MJ, Grube JW, Cannon C, Treffers R. Underage alcohol policies across 50 California cities: an assessment of best practices. *Substance Abuse Treatment, Prevention, and Policy*, 7, 2012.