



Keeping youth and young adults safe and drug free

For Immediate Release

April 29, 2014

**UPC Urges County Residents to Report Underage Drinking Parties;
FCPS, Fairfax County Designate May as Parents Who Host, Lose the Most Month**

With prom and graduation season ahead, the Unified Prevention Coalition of Fairfax County (UPC) is asking county parents and residents to report underage drinking parties by calling the county police department's non-emergency number. May has been proclaimed as **Parents Who Host, Lose the Most Month** by the Fairfax County School Board and the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors in support of UPC's efforts to reduce underage drinking.

At the April 24 meeting where the School Board passed a resolution and the April 29 meeting where the Board of Supervisors passed a proclamation supporting the public education campaign, UPC leaders and its Youth Council stressed the "don't be a party to teenage drinking" message by encouraging parents and adults to support alcohol-free events and to report parties with underage drinking to police. Callers to **703-691-2131** can be anonymous.

The Parents Who Host, Lose the Most: Don't Be a Party to Teenage Drinking campaign informs parents and other adults about the legal ramifications and health and safety risks of serving alcohol to teens. This year marks the eighth year Fairfax County officials have supported this campaign.

"Prevention efforts, including parents talking to their teens and modeling appropriate behavior are critical, particularly during prom and graduation season," the school board resolution notes.

In the 2012-2013 Fairfax County Youth Survey, 35 percent of high school seniors said they had consumed alcohol in the last 30 days, and 18.2 percent of seniors had engaged in binge drinking in the last two weeks. The survey also revealed that 19 percent of 10th graders consumed alcohol in the last 30 days. Alcohol is the most commonly used illegal drug by Fairfax County students.

- 65 percent of underage youth say they get alcohol from family and friends, even though it is illegal in Virginia for a person under 21 years of age to consume or possess alcohol, and it is illegal for an adult to provide alcohol to a person under 21
- Underage alcohol use is associated with traffic crashes and fatalities, other drug use, violence and gang involvement, rape, depression and suicide, and educational failure
- Regular alcohol consumption, especially binge or high-risk drinking, impairs learning during critical academic years as the brain continues to develop into the mid-20s

The Unified Prevention Coalition of Fairfax County is a nonprofit organization that partners with more than 60 community organizations to keep youth and young adults safe and drug free. Parents Who Host, Lose the Most is a program of the Drug-Free Action Alliance.

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