

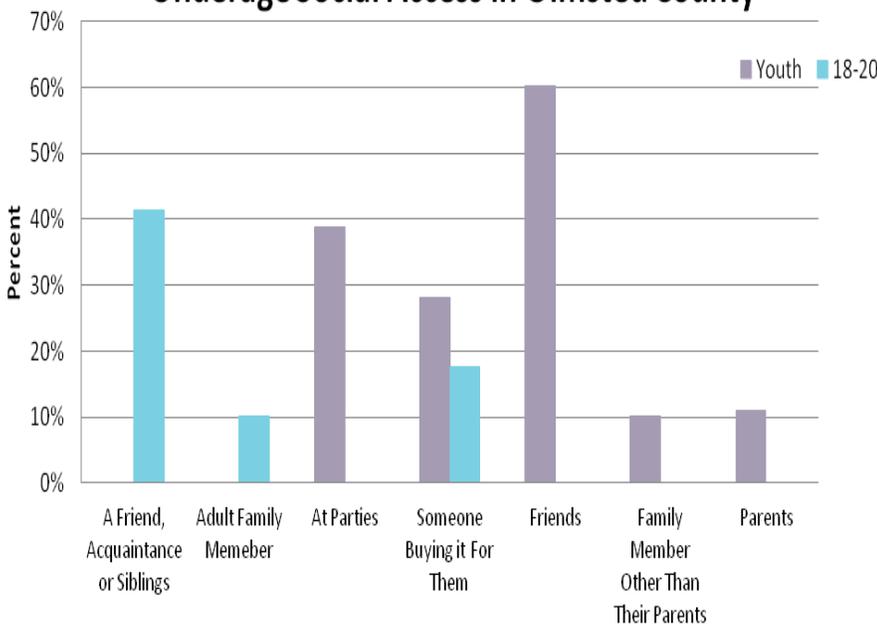
AN ISSUE BRIEFING

Establishing a County-Wide Social Host Ordinance in Olmsted County

This briefing offers information on establishing an Olmsted County Social Host Ordinance

The Olmsted County Board of Commissioners with the support from the Olmsted County Sheriff’s Office will pass a Social Host Ordinance establishing criminal penalties for those who unlawfully provide an environment where underage drinking takes place in order to reduce underage drinking in Olmsted County .

Underage Social Access in Olmsted County



WHERE ARE UNDERAGE DRINKERS GETTING ALCOHOL?

Despite a current social host ordinance in place, underage drinking is still a problem in Olmsted County. The percentage of students reporting any use of alcohol in the past 30 days has been dropping steadily but more work can be done, especially with females who report consuming more alcohol than males. (Minnesota Student Survey)

Social access is the most common way that underage individuals obtain alcohol. This includes getting alcohol from friends, acquaintances, at parties, and family members such as siblings. Friends were the most common provider for youth.

WHAT IS A SOCIAL HOST ORDINANCE?

A Social Host Ordinance holds individuals responsible for underage drinking on property they own, lease or control. It also recognizes that cities and counties require a variety of enforcement strategies to decrease underage drinking parties and that present policy constrains the ability of law enforcement to deter underage drinking parties and other gatherings.

WHAT A SOCIAL HOST ORDINANCE IS NOT?

- A violation of the social host ordinance will not result in the property owner losing his/her property.
- Does not include landlords and property owners while they are away from the property, provided they were unaware that illegal alcohol consumption was going to occur on their property.
- Parents who allow their own child to consume alcohol in their presence and in their residence cannot be charged under a social host ordinance.