



FAYETTE COUNTY'S SOURCE FOR YOUTH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT Facts about Fayette Youth and Alcohol Abuse

The good news...students know not to use alcohol at school.

Of the 3853 Discipline Incident Reports that were recorded and sent to the state in 2010-2011 for the six middle schools in Fayette County, only one incident involved an alcohol violation. In the same time period of the 9,118 Discipline Incident reports recorded for the five high schools and one alternative school, only 15 incidents involved an alcohol violation, which is <.005%.

The bad news

- ³⁵/₁₇ Students in Fayette County significantly exceed the state averages for drinking in the last 30 days (by 23%) and binge drinking (by 19%).
- ³⁵/₁₇ Adults are more disapproving of minor aged students using tobacco than they are of minor students using alcohol.
- ³⁵/₁₇ The availability and ease of access to alcohol is very widespread in Fayette County.
- ³⁵/₁₇ Much of the drinking that takes place among minors happens on the weekends in their homes or in the homes of their friends.
- ³⁵/₁₇ Education about alcohol tobacco and other drugs ends after health class in the 9th grade.
- ³⁵/₁₇ There is a major spike in alcohol use between 8th and 10th grade.
- ³⁵/₁₇ Fayette 12th graders rank #27 in the state of GA for alcohol abuse, meaning that high school seniors in 132 counties in GA drink less than Fayette County High school seniors.

AVPRIDE and our local partners came up with a number of contributing factors that support the above data about Fayette County minors.

Social Norms

- ³⁵/₁₇ Adults don't perceive alcohol as dangerous as other drugs
- ³⁵/₁₇ Parents provide the venue and the alcohol for minor drinking (Attitude: It is better that they drink at home with their friends where they are safe.
- ³⁵/₁₇ Students think they are being responsible if they have a designated driver.
- ³⁵/₁₇ Adults think they are being responsible if they allow minors to drink as long as they take their car keys.
- ³⁵/₁₇ Parents accept that teens will drink
- ³⁵/₁₇ Peers don't disapprove of their peers that drink
- ³⁵/₁₇ Drinking is perceived as a rite of passage
- ³⁵/₁₇ Belief that you can't have fun without alcohol (minors learn this behavior from adults)
- ³⁵/₁₇ Drinking Alcohol is seen as normal through adult attitudes and media messages

Availability and Access

- ³⁵/₁₇ Alcohol is available in the homes

- ³⁵/₁₇ Parents do not monitor alcohol usage in their homes
- ³⁵/₁₇ Students easily and unlawfully can buy alcohol online
- ³⁵/₁₇ Parents travel out of town giving minors access and opportunity
- ³⁵/₁₇ Minors can obtain alcohol easily
- ³⁵/₁₇ Minors don't have to rely on fake ID's and retail sales to get alcohol

Education

- ³⁵/₁₇ Not enough information about social hosting and the consequences to adults whether they are present or not
- ³⁵/₁₇ Not enough information given to students about the still developing brain and the effects to minors
- ³⁵/₁₇ Not enough information about how alcohol and its use and abuse cost families and corporations in health issues, absenteeism from work and death and accidents due to alcohol
- ³⁵/₁₇ Not enough positive peer influence to change social norms
- ³⁵/₁₇ Lack of young people in the community involved as leaders in being change agents around alcohol abuse by minors

Summary

AVPRIDE has received funding from a state contract to support youth leadership training that can engage and mobilize young people to lead and create change around alcohol abuse to improve the health of our community

Fayette FACTOR's Annual Plan addresses alcohol abuse among minors. The FY plan for FACTOR specifically states three things, 1) Develop an Underage Drinking Prevention Plan as a component of the initiative SAVE (Substance Abuse and Violence Education) and 2) start a youth coalition to help address the problems above; and 3) Establish and implement Youth Service Learning Projects to engage youth in the community.

AVPRIDE would like to use the financial resources received from a state contract to partner with the school system, FACTOR and other community stakeholders to provide county wide youth leadership training that can help youth create change around alcohol abuse among minors.

- ³⁵/₁₇ Youth Summit was held on January 28, 2012 where we presented the facts to our local youth and had the youth discuss what they see as issues and potential solutions.
- ³⁵/₁₇ We sent two groups (12 students each) to Georgia Teen Institute Summer 2012 for leadership skill development and how to impact their peers and their county around the issue of underage drinking. This group meets monthly to develop a plan for activities that would educate youth, parents and community on the issue, specifically effects and costs.