



# News Release

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For immediate release: Monday, April 4, 2011

## April is Alcohol Awareness Month

**Portland, OR** – In honor of Alcohol Awareness Month, the Oregon Liquor Control Commission is encouraging families and community leaders to take this time to focus on the serious impacts of underage drinking in their neighborhoods. Alcohol Awareness Month is intended to educate people and communities about the consequences of alcohol-related problems.

According to ECONorthwest & Oregon Health Authority, each year alcohol consumption in Oregon leads to:

- 1,400 alcohol-related deaths
- 243,000 persons with alcohol abuse or dependence disorders
- 5,100 violent crimes due to alcohol use by the perpetrator or victim, and
- 41,000 offenses related to driving under the influence

"April is the perfect time for Alcohol Awareness Month because it is right before Prom and Graduation season. During Alcohol Awareness Month we want to connect with our youth so we can provide resources that can prevent an alcohol-related tragedy," said Rudy Williams, Deputy Director of the Public Safety Services Program. "It's important for parents, friends, teachers and community leaders to have conversations with teens about the very real dangers related to alcohol abuse and underage drinking. The OLCC video, *Wasted* can help initiate those conversations."

According to the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation, underage drinking cost Oregonians \$841.3 Million in 2007.

Youth Violence	\$464.7
Youth Alcohol Treatment	\$127.3
Youth Traffic Crashes	\$84.9
High-Risk Sex	\$57.9
Youth Injury	\$44.0
Youth Property Crime	\$43.6
Fetal Alcohol Syndrome	\$13.3
Poisonings & Psychoses	\$5.6

For more information about underage drinking, visit our website [http://www.oregon.gov/OLCC/alcohol\\_and\\_minors.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/OLCC/alcohol_and_minors.shtml) or visit The Century Council Web site at [www.centurycouncil.org](http://www.centurycouncil.org).

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*"Promoting Responsible Alcohol Sales and Service"*

*Did you know that in the last two years, the OLCC distributed more than \$343 million to Oregon's General Fund, Cities, Counties, and Drug and Alcohol Abuse Programs? [See the distribution of dollars on OLCC's Website.](#)*