



News Release

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Graduation Party Safety

PORTLAND, Ore. – High school graduation season is here for many Oregon schools. The Oregon Liquor Control Commission wants to remind graduates and parents to celebrate the occasion safely.

There are legal, health and social consequences for minors if they drink alcohol and for parents who provide alcohol to underage parties. More information on Oregon's alcohol laws and minors is available on [OLCC's webpage](#).

"Research shows that parents play a large role in whether minors choose to drink or not," said Steven Marks, OLCC Executive Director. "We know that graduation is a milestone worthy of celebration. It's important to remind parents that it's illegal for adults to host underage drinking parties, even in your home. If you're hosting a graduation party where alcohol will be served, please have safeguards in place to make sure minors aren't getting access to it."

Approximately 29 percent of Oregon high school students surveyed admitted to drinking alcohol in the previous 30 days, according to the Oregon Health Authority. According to OHA, sixteen percent of surveyed students said they have had five or more drinks in one setting.

"We can't close our eyes and pretend like underage drinking isn't happening," said OLCC Regional Manager, Shannon Hoffeditz. "But we can start a conversation about negative outcomes. Not only are students likely to get grounded or lose friends due to poor behavior from being intoxicated, there are more serious legal, health, and safety consequences. We hope to spark discussions with parents and friends - and encourage minors to stay sober."

OLCC's video, "[Wasted](#)" can be used a conversation starter to help parents open discussions with their kids about underage drinking. The National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence also has a helpful list of [ten tips](#) for parents.

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*Did you know that in the last two years, the OLCC distributed more than **\$436 million** to Oregon's General Fund, Cities, Counties, and Drug and Alcohol Abuse Programs? [See the distribution of dollars on OLCC's Website.](#)*