



Youth Alcohol & Substance Use Prevention Initiative

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the Youth Alcohol & Substance Use Prevention Initiative?

The initiative is an effort to reduce teen use of alcohol and drugs in Laguna Beach. The initial focus is on decreasing alcohol consumption among underage residents. Addressing this first is based on research that shows underage drinkers are three times more likely to use other harmful substances.

Why is there a need for this initiative in Laguna Beach?

The current rate of teen alcohol and substance use in our community is alarming. For example, the 2010 California Healthy Kids survey reported that 48% of 11th graders in the Laguna Beach School District consumed alcohol within the past 30 days. This is the highest rate in Orange County.

Who is behind the initiative locally?

The initiative is supported by the Laguna Beach Community Coalition. This is a local group representing high school students, parents, civic leaders, school teachers and administrators, law enforcement, health care providers, emergency responders, residents and community members. The coalition is focused on helping keep the youth in our community safe, healthy and happy.

How does the initiative work?

The initiative focuses on three core strategies developed in collaboration with our community's youth, local residents and other community members. These include reducing access to alcohol and drugs, increasing caring relationships at home, and enhancing youth problem-solving skills.

What specific actions are being taken now as part of the initiative?

With an initial focus on reducing youth access to alcohol, the initiative's first significant step is recommending a social host ordinance for Laguna Beach. This ordinance is intended to hold adults responsible for hosting or knowingly providing a place for underage drinking. The Laguna Beach School District has adopted the evidenced-based Botvin's Life Skills curriculum to address problem solving skills. In addition, the Laguna Beach School District is actively working with youth to identify plans where the school can be supportive.

Will there be other actions as part of the initiative?

Yes. The focus now is on reducing underage drinking, but other activities are being developed. These include skill building with teens to increase their problem-solving and refusal skills and parent outreach and engagement to foster stronger relationships with youth to address difficult situations.

How can I learn more about the initiative?

For more information or to ask questions, please visit keepourkidssafer.org.

LAGUNA BEACH COMMUNITY COALITION

A grassroots group representing high school students, parents, civic leaders, school teachers and administrators, law enforcement, health care providers, emergency responders, residents and community members