

Teen Parties: Who Has Parties? What Predicts Whether There is Alcohol? Who Supplies the Alcohol?

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This study explores which teens are more likely to have parties at home, what factors are associated with the presence of alcohol at parties, and who supplies the alcohol. We collected data in 2011 and 2012 through telephone interviews with 1,121 teens, aged 15-19, living in 50 mid-sized California cities.

- 24% of teens had a party at their home in the past year.
- 39% of teens who hosted parties reported that there was alcohol at their last party.
- Most teens (77%) who hosted a party with alcohol reported that the alcohol came from multiple sources:
 - 38% provided alcohol themselves;
 - 84% replied that guests brought alcohol with them; and
 - 9% replied that their parents provided alcohol.
- 72% of teens who had a party reported that at least one of their parents knew about the party, and 64% reported that at least one parent was home at the time.
- 70% of teens who reported having alcohol at their party responded that at least one of their parents definitely knew that there was alcohol at the party, 24% replied that at least one of their parents probably knew, and 5% said that their parents did not know.
- Logistic regression analyses indicated that teens with parents who host parties at home are themselves more likely to host parties at home.
- The greater the number of guests at the party, the greater was the likelihood of there being alcohol.
- Parents knowing about the party was related to a lower likelihood that there was alcohol at the party. However, parents being at home at the time of the party was not related to a lower likelihood of there being alcohol at the party.
- The likelihood of hosting a party at home or having alcohol at the party was no different for teens living in a city with a social host ordinance than it was for teens living in a city without a social host ordinance.

The majority of teens who had parties with alcohol reported that parents knew about the party and the alcohol. Social host ordinances may not be sufficiently enforced to have an impact on parents' or teens' behavior. Alternatively, parents may be unaware of social host ordinances and the possible legal consequences of allowing minors to drink in their home. This highlights the need to better inform parents about their liabilities for allowing minors to drink in their homes. This study was published in the online August issue of *The Journal of Primary Prevention*. <http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10935-014-0361-4>.