



## Brown County Chemical Health Action Team

This action team works throughout Brown County to support educational programs, activities and policies that increase awareness of addiction and misuse of legal substances, and also address the use of illegal substances.

### Priorities and Recent Accomplishments – 2023

#### Social Host Ordinance Planning and Messaging for Parents

- In February, members of the team met with 100 local students in 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade to explain what a social host ordinance is, and discuss how to get involved in helping to create a countywide Social Host Plan and present information at city and township meetings and to Brown County commissioners.
- The team continued to educate the community about a social host ordinance and why it matters, including through an article in the *Health Edition* newspaper section and messaging to parents during prom and graduation season. As of Fall 2023, the team was applying to be a part of the Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Prevention of Underage Drinking (ICCPUD) Alcohol Policy Academy to assist in planning for a social host ordinance.

**Parents ...**

**Thank You**

**for not providing alcohol or other drugs to teens.**

We are counting on you to keep our teens safe by:

- Not allowing teens to drink alcohol in your home
- Locking up and/or monitoring your liquor supply
- Monitoring the space where teens hang out in your home
- Checking up on your teen during and after special events

**High school students report their top sources of alcohol\*:**

- Friend, party, parent WITH permission
- Parent WITHOUT permission
- Adult (other than parent) WITH permission

\*2022 Minnesota Student Survey – Brown County 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> grade students

Four cities in Brown County have social host ordinances: Corniford, New Ulm, Sleepy Eye and Springfield. A social host ordinance makes it unlawful for individuals (social hosts) to knowingly provide a place for underage drinking to occur on a premises under the host's control. The host is held responsible regardless of who provided the alcohol. Studies indicate that social host ordinances are among the most effective and recommended ways to reduce underage drinking.

**PARENTS WHO HOST LOSE THE MOST**

Don't be a party to teenage drinking. It's against the law.

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#### Vaping Messaging

- The team created a vaping flyer for sharing on social media and for schools to share in their newsletters. After reviewing Minnesota Student Survey data and talking with students, it was evident to the team that this is a very prevalent problem for local youth.

**VAPING**

**KNOW THE RISKS**

85% of 8th graders in Brown County who vaped in the past 30 days reported drinking 11 cans or less.

Just water vapor, right? **FALSE**

Nicotine isn't that bad... **FALSE**

Signs your teen is vaping

- Increased thirst
- More frequent or new headaches
- Increased irritability
- New persistent cough

Vaping is actually an aerosol containing brown tar and chemicals, including formaldehyde, diacetyl, and propylene glycol.

Nicotine can harm your brain development, which may affect comprehension, critical thinking, learning, and mood.

A single vape pod often contains more nicotine than 20 regular cigarettes.

85% of males and 72% of females in 8th grade in Brown County reported using food as their chosen vape flavor in the past 30 days.

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#### Red Ribbon Week

- The team promoted Red Ribbon Week Oct. 23-31, 2023, by sponsoring a coloring contest open to all Brown County youth ages 13 and under. Red Ribbon Week is the oldest and largest drug-use prevention campaign in the nation focused on keeping kids drug free.

#### Cannabis Locked Storage Billboard

- The team created a billboard to promote responsible locked storage of cannabis at home, which will go up in November near Essig.

**GUMMY** Can you tell the difference? **CANNABIS GUMMY**

**NEITHER CAN YOUR KIDS! KEEP CANNABIS LOCKED UP!**

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#### Opioid Prevention and Harm Reduction

- The team participated in the Minnesota's State Opioid Response funding meeting and started researching additional prevention and harm reduction ideas to implement locally.