

Those in education and criminal justice have seen the devastation teenage drinking can cause—the tragic aftermath of traffic crashes and traumas such as assaults, rapes and other crimes. If these personal experiences are not enough to indicate the seriousness of underage drinking, statistics also tell a compelling story.



Not paid for with state funds. Funding provided through the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention.



Office of Highway Safety Planning

4000 Collins Road, P.O. Box 30633
Lansing, MI 48909
(517) 336-6477
www.michigan.gov/ohsp

Why Enforce Underage Drinking Laws?





What Can Communities Do to Enforce Underage Drinking Laws?

Many law enforcement agencies in Michigan receive grant funding each year to pay for overtime enforcement of underage drinking laws. These enforcement efforts emphasize education and prevention to discourage minors from consuming and attempting to consume alcohol.

Youth alcohol enforcement focuses on having law enforcement work with retailers, special event organizers and schools in their communities to prevent underage drinking. The goal of the program is to prevent underage drinking before enforcement occurs.

While young drivers are under-represented in drunk driving arrests, they are over-represented in alcohol-related traffic crashes. Even though it can be discouraging to recognize how severe the problem is, we should also recognize that communities have the power to reduce this problem. Consistent, vigorous enforcement reinforces the message that adults and youth must be responsible for their actions and that violating the law is unacceptable. Enforcement also helps to validate the activities of prevention specialists and can help treatment specialists identify youth in need of help.

How Can My Community Receive Funding?

Grants are not funded on a competitive basis, but are selected through problem-analysis and statistics from the U.S. Census, the annual Drunk Driving Audit produced by the Michigan State Police, and Michigan traffic crash statistics. Even if your agency isn't eligible for funding, they are eligible for training and technical assistance at no charge.

How Can My Community Receive Training?

For each of the enforcement programs, training for law enforcement officers, prosecutors, retailers, and community organizers is offered. This ensures a multi-tiered approach to underage drinking enforcement activities and recognition of how serious underage drinking can be.

For more information, contact the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning at (517) 336-6477 or visit www.michigan.gov/ohsp.

