

Underage Alcohol Use in South Dakota

In South Dakota, great strides have been made at decreasing underage alcohol use across the state. Community prevention coalitions have made inroads to embed environmental strategies and provide prevention education to protect youth in towns and cities to lower the use rates.

Still, results of underage alcohol use are detrimental to the health and safety of those under 21. Increased opportunity for injuries, violence, law enforcement/court involvement, sexual activity, drinking and driving, unintended pregnancy, and newly discovered effects on the developing adolescent brain are reasons to follow and enforce the new Social Host Law.



SD Prevention Network

There are 20 community prevention coalitions/programs and three Prevention Resource Centers across South Dakota working to reduce underage drinking and binge drinking through education and environmental change.

Find a prevention provider near you by visiting:
https://dss.sd.gov/formsandpubs/docs/BH/SUD_Prev_flyer.pdf



Social Host Law

South Dakota



The South Dakota Social Host Law, which went into effect on July 1, 2014, keeps South Dakota youth safe and healthy.

What is a Social Host?

A social host is anyone who hosts a social gathering and knowingly condones the illegal consumption of alcohol by underage persons on property the host controls. It is providing a place where young people can consume and/or providing alcohol for them to consume.

What is the Social Host Law?

S.D. Codified Law § 35-9-9 states that no person, acting as a social host, may, knowingly, permit any person under the age of eighteen to illegally consume any alcoholic beverage, regardless of the source of the alcoholic beverage, on or at the premises of the person acting as social host. Any violation of this section is a Class 1 misdemeanor.

S.D. Codified Law § 35-9-20 states no person, acting as a social host, may, knowingly, permit any person aged eighteen, nineteen, or twenty to illegally consume any alcoholic beverage, regardless of the source of the alcoholic beverage, on or at the premises of the person acting as social host. Any violation of this section is a Class 2 misdemeanor.

The social host is still responsible even if not physically present on or at the premises if the social host knew that illegal consumption of alcoholic beverages would occur in his or her absence.



Let SD Data Speak

17.9% of SD High School Students had their first alcoholic drink before the age of 13.

26.3% of SD High School Students drank alcohol in the past 30 days.

14.9% of SD High School Students binge drank in the past 30 days.

15.1% of SD High Students rode in the car with someone who had been drinking.

(2019 SD YRBS)