

DavisPARENTSDO

Yes, there is a substance abuse problem in Davis, and yes, your teen is at risk

You may not want to believe it, but our Davis teens abuse substances, especially alcohol, to a startling degree. It is difficult to get exact statistics because of concerns regarding the need to protect the confidentiality of minors, but school staff and administrators have said that alcohol use by Davis High students is the worst they have seen.

There are many possible explanations for this, ranging from easy access to substances because of affluence and proximity to a university where drugs and alcohol are a constant problem, to teens having an open lunch, to the pressure of a highly academic and competitive environment. Whatever the causes, Davis parents and guardians can make a difference.

A group of parents committed to increasing the awareness of Davis parents of the existence of substance use by our teens, **DavisPARENTSDO** was formed four years ago and is a subcommittee of secondary schools' PTA parent education committees. Our goal is to encourage parents to be responsible for being the first line of defense against drug and alcohol use, and to address it at home.

Throughout the year **DavisPARENTSDO** will be publishing articles in school newsletters and using listservs to publish "alerts" when there is reason to be particularly vigilant (Picnic Day, Halloween, Homecoming, for example). We will also be partnering with local law enforcement, school officials and others to provide parent education opportunities on what you can do to help be part of the solution.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

There are several major events coming up, including the **Homecoming Dance, UCD homecoming, and Halloween**. All of these activities are opportunities for kids to drink or get high. Although there should be security measures in place, these are meaningless if caregivers allow their kids to use before attending. Do what you can to ensure your kid attends and comes home sober. For example, do not let them bring large bags or backpacks. Avoid get-togethers before the event, unless you know it will be supervised. Drop your kid off personally, or make sure the adult who is doing so is as vigilant as you.

Visit our website at davisparentsdo.org for more information about the problem and things you can do, or activities in Davis related to the issue. We urge you to contact your school representative if you have any questions or want to help.

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