



Advocates Calling on 'Tween Stores to Stop Selling Flasks

Advocates for preventing underage drinking are calling on the teen accessory store chain, *Icing by Claire's*, to stop selling girl-friendly flasks. Flasks decorated with charms and designed to hold 5 ounces of liquor are available for \$12.50, and one-shot keychain flasks with room for the individual's initials are available for \$8.50 each. The flasks show disclaimers that the product is not meant for minors, and warns that the flasks are designed to carry alcoholic beverages and should not be used for beverages with acidic contents like fruit juices. Advocates are concerned that *Icing by Claire's* is encouraging underage drinking by selling flasks, while targeting its products to girls as young as 17. *Icing by Claire's* is a subsidiary of *Claire's, Inc.*, which operates approximately 3,000 stores throughout the U.S. and Europe. **To read the full story go to:** <http://www.jointogether.org/news/headlines/inthenews/2009/advocates-call-on-tween.html>



For more information on HCTC, Youth Development and for the latest on upcoming HCTC Meetings and Activities **Go To:** <http://www.gvhp.org/Home/OurProjects/HealthyCommunities/tabid/102/Default.aspx>

Teens Frequently Mention Risky Behaviors on Social Networking Sites

About half of teens reference substance use or other risky behaviors on social networking Web sites, such as MySpace, a recent study found. A related study notes that developing online interventions using these social networking venues may be a cost effective way to reduce risky behaviors. The findings suggest social networking sites may provide a new way to detect teens at risk for engaging in unhealthy behaviors. **To read the full story go to:** <http://www.cadca.org/CoalitionsOnline/article.asp?id=2086>



FOCUS ON ALCOHOL AND RELATIONSHIPS

Remember that interpersonal relationships are typically very important to teens and young adults when you are establishing prevention messages and activities for youth. Many young people drink because they believe it will relieve their feelings of social discomfort and make it easier to approach someone of the opposite sex, go on a date, or enjoy a party. However, drinking alcohol actually presents many new risks in such situations. Alcohol can impair adolescents' ability to make sound judgments, placing them at increased risk for unplanned pregnancy, sexual assault, or contracting sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS. Arguments and misunderstandings between teens can also be fueled by alcohol, leading to fights, injury, dating violence, and even death. Teens need to know the real risks posed by alcohol and learn positive ways to handle their insecurities over personal relationships.

Facts

- Researchers estimate that alcohol use is implicated in one to two-thirds of sexual assault and "date rape" cases among teens and college students
- Half of the girls who have sexual intercourse by the age of 16 are intoxicated at the time and half later regret their action (Sachs, H.C. April 2000)
- Alcohol use in adolescents is a strong predictor of both sexual activity and unprotected sex. Teenage girls who drink are more likely to have sex and have it without a condom than girls who do not drink alcohol (Centers for Disease Control)

What to Do:

- Invite area agencies such as Chances and Changes, Council on Alcohol and Substance Abuse of Livingston County and Livingston County Department of Health into the community to hold a training for youth, parents and community members that addresses alcohol and relationships.

How to Do it: Simple! Just Contact Rachel Pena, HCTC Coordinator: 585-227-0279 to help