



## Study Finds Fewer Parent-Teen Discussions About Drugs

A [Partnership for a Drug-Free America](#) survey finds that fewer parent-teen discussions about the dangers of alcohol and other drugs are taking place. PDFA said that parental awareness of problems like prescription-drug abuse is growing, but that hasn't translated into more family sit-downs to discuss drug issues. PDFA's 19th annual Partnership Attitude Tracking Study (PATS) found that the number of parents who held four or more discussions about alcohol and other drugs declined 12 percent between 2005 and 2006. About half of parent say they have frequent discussions about alcohol and other drugs or have in-depth conversations about use of substances like heroin, cocaine, and crack, while only about one-third said they spoke to their children about prescription-drug or over-the-counter drug abuse.

[Click here for the full story](#)

## ONDCP Launches Parent Chronicles Initiative

The National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign launched a website campaign targeting parents to help them bridge the generation gap with their teen. The Parent Chronicles initiative will help parents gain insight into the pressures and influences their child is exposed to, and offer tips on keeping teens safe from risky situations, including drug use. The website includes a five-minute video about the "gap", action item assignments for parents designed to help them get better connected with their teen, a parent-to parent forum for parents to share what they have learned, an ongoing advice column written by a parenting expert, a pop-culture quiz for parents to test their knowledge, and a monthly Parenting Tips newsletter. [Click here to view the Parent Chronicles website.](#)



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## FOCUS ON ALCOHOL AND BOYS

Although girls are now as likely as boys to drink alcohol, there are important differences in how they drink. Boys are more likely to move on to binge drinking, more likely to drive under the influence of alcohol, and more likely to initiate sex under the influence, often without protection. Drinking and the capacity to drink in quantity, is often viewed as proof of courage or manliness. However, challenges to "hold your liquor like a man" can have devastating short- and long-term results.

### Facts

- Boys are more likely than girls to begin drinking before age 13.
- Overall male high school students are significantly more likely than female high school students to report episodes of heavy drinking
- A survey of high school students found that 18% of females and 39% of males say it is acceptable for a boy to force sex if the girl is stoned or drunk

### What to Do:

- Contact middle school, high school and after-school athletic program directors and coaches and others working with boys to encourage them to educate boys about the serious risks of underage alcohol use, including impact on athletic and academic performance
- Sponsor a club for boys that includes community service projects such as planting trees or cleaning up the town
- Promote the HOPE Youth Mentoring program through Catholic Charities of Livingston County (658-4466) —they are always looking for male mentors and often have boys in need of mentoring