

## Lake County Underage Drinking Prevention Task Force August 2008 Resources

Since the recent news has ‘exploded’ with debate of changing the legal drinking age from 21 to 18, we have provided some web resources for you to use/pass along. These sites also have links to additional resources.

1. To understand where the spark started, here is the website for the [Amethyst Initiative](#). From their website, “The Amethyst Initiative supports informed and unimpeded debate on the 21 year-old drinking age. Amethyst Initiative presidents and chancellors call upon elected officials to weigh all the consequences of current alcohol policies and to invite new ideas on how best to prepare young adults to make responsible decisions about alcohol use.”
2. [CollegeDrinkingPrevention](#) is your one-stop resource for comprehensive research-based information on issues related to alcohol abuse and binge drinking among college students.
3. Each week, the [Higher Education Center](#) showcases recent developments in the field of AOD abuse and violence prevention in higher education that may include new data and resources, upcoming events and programs, funding opportunities, and learning opportunities. A higher drinking age really does save lives, according to a new study. In what is considered one of the most comprehensive studies on the minimum legal drinking age, research reveals an 11 percent drop in alcohol-related traffic deaths among those under age 21.  
In 1984, the federal government passed legislation to make the minimum legal drinking age 21 throughout the United States, and by 1988, every state had enforced the new age 21 law. "There has been evidence since the 1980s that an increase in drinking age to 21 was having an impact on traffic deaths," said James Fell, the study's corresponding author. "But this is the first time we've been able to tease out the real effect, free of the variables that had been used to question the validity of the evidence."
4. [Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America \(CADCA\) Joins MADD in Opposing Initiative to Lower Drinking Age](#) Despite evidence showing that the 21 minimum drinking age law saves lives, more than 100 college and university presidents have signed on to an initiative that aims to lower the drinking age. CADCA has joined Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) in opposing the initiative and is urging community coalitions across the country to engage college presidents in their prevention efforts, and to write to university presidents and local newspapers.
5. A member of the Office of National Drug Control Policy listserv has created a ‘knol’ to compile drinking age law debate info. Please visit here for additional information. You can get to it at <http://knol.google.com/k/larry-langdon/drinking-age-law-debate/31zorn2ofcpqa/10> or go to Google’s “knol” home page at <http://knol.google.com/> and search for "drinking age"
6. Additionally, a fact sheet compiled by the Illinois Alcoholism and Drug Dependence Association is attached. It was also distributed at the August task force meeting.