

# The Huntsville Times

## Teen drug use is focus of town forum

Event aims to alert parents to dangers in other homes

By **WENDY REEVES**  
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A teen study completed this year revealed one-third of teens and nearly half of all 17-year-olds attend house parties in which parents are present and teens are drinking, smoking marijuana or using cocaine, ecstasy or prescription drugs.

The nationwide school survey by the National Center of Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University and its results were the catalyst for the Partnership for a Drug Free Community to host a town forum next week, said

### If you go

**What:** Town Forum on Teen Open House Parties: What Really Goes On  
**Where:** Huntsville City Council Chambers, 308 Fountain Circle, First Floor of City Hall  
**When:** Tuesday, Oct. 17 from 6:30 to 9 p.m.  
**Admission:** Free

Deborah Soule, executive director for the partnership.

"What is really frightening is that local surveys indicate that even sixth- and seventh-graders have already tried some of these drugs," Soule said.

Partnership's Law Enforcement Coalition meets several times throughout the year to

discuss the latest drug trends and evaluate how they are affecting our community.

"We have laws in place to protect our children from consuming alcohol within public places, but when it comes to the privacy of a neighbor's home, we drop our safeguards," said Huntsville Police Chief Rex Reynolds. "And, even worse, often times prescription medications within our medicine cabinet contribute to the delinquency of those minors attending house parties."

Soule said the coalition strongly recommended the program to alert parents about the dangers of prescription drug and alcohol abuse.

Speakers will include teens, parents, police, ministers,

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Partnership for a Drug Free  
Community

attorneys, pharmacists, doctors and nurses.

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