

Should alcohol be served at community events?

Some feel that moderate consumption of alcohol at community events is acceptable. The problem is that no universally accepted definition of “moderation” currently exists. “0-0-1-3” is a policy that is gaining national support within the military and has been endorsed by the Marquette County Board of Health.

0-0-1-3 MEANS:

0 NO UNDERAGE DRINKING

0 NO DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE

1 ONE ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE PER HOUR (1 beverage = 12 oz. of beer, 8 oz. of wine, or 1 ½ oz. of liquor)

3 NO MORE THAN THREE ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES PER EVENT

“0-0-1-3” is not prohibition. It does not prevent Marquette County organizations and municipalities from using alcohol sales to raise funds at community events. It gives the public a tool to *define* what moderate drinking is. It also is intended to reduce impaired driving following community events.

“0-0-1-3” offers guidance and takes the pressure off of:

- **Beverage servers** (many of whom are volunteers) who don’t currently have a guideline to follow
- **Families** that want to attend community events safely
- **Law enforcement officers** who provide security in busy surroundings
- **Youth** who look to adults as role models of public behavior

In Marquette County, \$11 million dollars per year is spent to address alcohol-related injuries, crime, and health care problems.

“Alcohol is the leading contributor to causes of death for persons under age 21.” (source: www.family.samhsa.gov) Alcohol causes six times more youth deaths than all other illicit drugs combined. Family-oriented events where alcohol consumption is not monitored set a poor example for our youth and raise the potential for alcohol to be illegally provided to young people.

Add 0-0-1-3 to your alcoholic beverage policy. Alcohol sales training is available FREE for beverage servers. Call Jim Harrington at 315-2614 or Sue Girard Jackson at 225-8473 for more information.

For more information on youth substance use and positive alternatives, please call Paul Olson at the Great Lakes Center for Youth Development, 228-8919 x.29.

For more information about the *Marquette County Coalition for Substance Abuse and Violence Prevention*, see www.upprevent.org.

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