

Press Release  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **SAFE Glen Cove Coalition, Glen Cove Police Department and Glen Cove Schools Partner to Keep Teens Safe**

On March 4th, Glen Cove High School students received a presentation by Deputy Chief Chris Ortiz regarding underage drinking. With prom a few days away, SAFE, the Glen Cove Police Department and the School District teamed up to further the mission of SAFE, to eliminate alcohol and substance abuse in the Glen Cove community by providing alcohol and substance abuse prevention, intervention and education.

Deputy Chief Ortiz presented a power-point to students that showed pictures of results of binge drinking and drunk driving. He expressed how important it is to have fun at prom but to also be safe and make good decisions. There are increased risks and a range of negative consequences related to underage drinking. On average, alcohol plays a role in the deaths of approximately 4,400 young people under age 21 every year- a third of those fatalities are from car crashes. Young people under age 21 who drink are more likely to carry out or be the victim of a physical or sexual assault after drinking than others their age who do not drink.

Drinking can cause teens to have trouble in school or with the law- Teens who drink are more likely to use other drugs than teens who don't. Additionally, underage drinking can lead to developing alcohol use disorder (AUD), a chronic relapsing brain disease characterized by compulsive alcohol use, loss of control over alcohol intake, and a negative emotional state when not using.

An estimated 15 million people in the United States have AUD. Approximately 5.8 percent or 14.4 million adults in the United States ages 18 and older had AUD in 2018. This includes 9.2 million men and 5.3 million women. Adolescents can be diagnosed with AUD as well, and in 2018, an estimated 401,000 adolescents ages 12–17 had AUD.

The SAFE Glen Cove Coalition is composed of twelve sectors of the community that include police, youth, youth serving organizations, business, government, media, religious and civic organizations, prevention agency, school personnel, treatment agency and the business community. To learn more about the Coalition please follow us on [www.facebook.com/safeglencovecoalition](https://www.facebook.com/safeglencovecoalition) or visit SAFE's website at [www.safeglencove.org](http://www.safeglencove.org)