

# Minnesota Social Host Ordinances

*Protecting Youth from Alcohol and Other Drugs through Legislative Prevention*

## What is a social host ordinance?

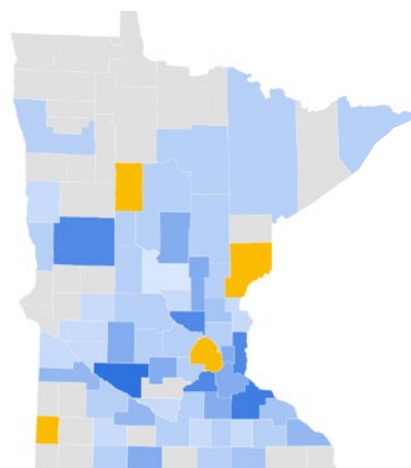
A social host ordinance makes it unlawful for individuals (social hosts) to knowingly provide a place for underage drinking to occur on a premises under the host's control. The host is held responsible regardless of who provided the alcohol. An ordinance violation is a misdemeanor offense with a maximum penalty of 90 days in jail and/or a \$1,000 fine.

## Why do these policies exist?

Underage drinking often takes place in social settings (at home or parties). Social host ordinances help reduce underage access to alcohol. These policies provide another tool for law enforcement to use in keeping our neighborhoods and youth safe. Ordinances encourage a consistent message to young people, from all caring adults in the community, about the importance of choosing not to drink alcohol before age 21.

## Who is responsible for infractions?

You do not have to be present at the event to be held responsible. If you knew or had reason to know that underage drinking would occur and did nothing to prevent the event from continuing, nor prevented the consumption/possession, then you are responsible. Parents unaware of consumption by youth while away are not held responsible. The intent of this ordinance is to achieve compliance.



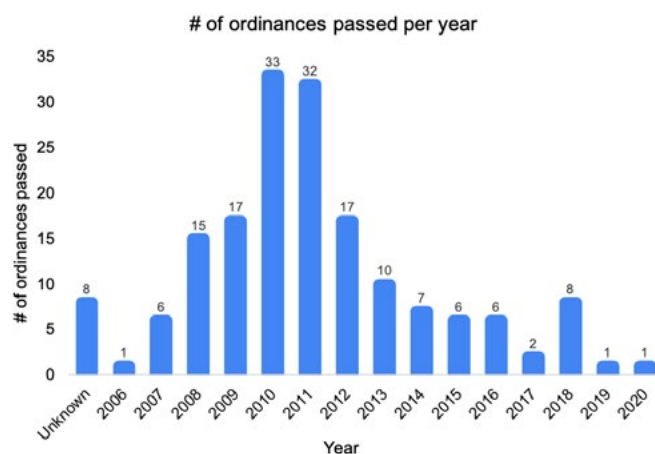
0 12  
# city & county ordinances

**48% of Minnesotans**  
are in jurisdictions with  
social host ordinances:

**147 city ordinances**  
**37 county ordinances**  
**3 expanded ordinances**

■ = social host ordinance for alcohol  
■ = expanded ordinance to include marijuana

## MN Social Host Ordinances Passed, 2006–2020



## Where can I learn more?

There are organizations working to establish social host ordinances across Minnesota. To learn more about how to engage this work on your local level, contact your **Regional Prevention Coordinator (RPC)**. RPCs are the prevention point people in Minnesota, who will help give you a direction.

**Find your RPC: [rpcmn.org](http://rpcmn.org)**

updated 1/27/21