

**ZERO**  
**TOLERANCE**  
**PEER TRAINING**

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# **Introduction**

## **What is Zero Tolerance?**

All fifty states and the District of Columbia have laws which both establish “21” as the minimum legal drinking age, and make it illegal for anyone under the age of 21 to drink any measurable amount of alcohol and drive. These laws were passed because they prevent alcohol-related injuries and deaths. But to be effective, these laws must be enforced, and young people must know the laws and their consequences. In 1999, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration created *Zero Tolerance Means Zero Chances*, which provides tools and resources to engage youth peer leaders and their adult advisors in promoting awareness of Zero Tolerance laws.

## **What is this peer training program about?**

Research has shown that peer education is an effective way to influence choices young people make about drinking and driving. This education kit provides all the materials high school student leaders need to conduct an educational session for younger students about Zero Tolerance laws and underage drinking and driving. The materials are designed to encourage high school students to work closely with local law enforcement officers to prepare and present these educational sessions.

## **What are the outcomes?**

The goal of this program is to make sure that young people know about Zero Tolerance Laws and the consequences of drinking and driving. After this session, students will be able to:

- state why Zero Tolerance laws have been enacted.
- correctly report what the law means for underage drivers who drink..
- describe their state’s limits of Blood Alcohol Concentrations for drivers under age 21 and for those age 21 and over.
- list several reasons why drinking and driving is risky.
- make a commitment not to drink and drive and to help family and friends make the same decision

## **Where will the program be conducted?**

In most communities, high school student leaders will present this program in a classroom setting. The materials will use the words “classroom”, “teacher” and “high school student leader”. However, the program could be easily adapted to be used in a community center, as part of a driver’s education class, in a workshop or retreat, or in other settings where young people are together.

## **How long will the program take?**

The materials are designed for a 50 minute session. However, there are many activities included that can be used to expand the program if time is available.

## **What's in this guide?**

Included in this guide are:

- 1) materials you will be using during your educational session
- 2) information to help you prepare for your educational session and to follow up after you've been in the classroom.
- 3) An outline of a 50 minute educational session which includes:
  - an overview which includes the purpose, objectives, and key messages
  - an action plan for preparing to conduct the session
  - a detailed outline (with suggested scripts) to lead you through the session, and
  - a thumbnail sketch of the session.
- 4) ideas and materials for expanding the session if you have more time
- 5) a list of resources and resource organizations which can help you prepare for this program or answer specific questions about Zero Tolerance
- 6) a video of a national Zero Tolerance teleconference. This video is meant to give you background information about Zero Tolerance and is not to be used in the classroom.