

## **Youth Health Advisory Council Key Stakeholder Recommendations June 2003**

Based on the research the Youth Health Advisory Council (YHAC) conducted through the Alcohol Tobacco and Drug Access Survey, several areas of concern emerged. In order to support the health and well being of Marin youth, YHAC challenges Marin County Leaders to implement the following recommendations:

1. **Tobacco Access-** 47.1% of youth identify gas stations as the place where they most often buy tobacco. Increase Efforts of Enforcement:
  - **continued enforcement efforts that include gas stations.**
  - **developing tobacco license ordinances throughout the county.**
  
2. **Alcohol Access-** It's easy to purchase alcohol from supermarkets and liquor stores. In order to restrict access:
  - **stores must reconfigure their layout to minimize alcohol access and theft. Move alcohol away from the entrance in supermarkets and away from the candy section in convenience stores.**
  - **stores selling alcohol in Marin county must implement required staff trainings on requiring ID for alcohol purchases.**
  
3. **Families-** Marin youth identified their families as an important source for messages supporting alcohol tobacco and drug use as well as a significant point of access for these substances. Changing this environment for young people can occur through:
  - **developing prevention programs and campaigns that focus on family use and adult role modeling of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs.**
  - **creating social host campaigns- educating parents and other adults on the importance of not providing alcohol for young people, especially during such events as graduation and after proms.**
  
4. **Stress-** Young people identified the need to relax and coping with stress as the main reasons they use alcohol, tobacco, and drugs. In order to promote healthier coping schools should:
  - **Support existing programs in the schools that assist young people to handle stress and provide more positive supports and opportunities**
  
5. **Schools-** Schools campuses were identified as a significant place where young people use alcohol, tobacco, and drugs. Efforts to minimize this use can occurs through:
  - **continued efforts to enforce Alcohol Tobacco and Drug use on school campuses and provide youth with appropriate referrals.**
  - **implementation of campaigns to shift the accepted peer norms in schools that promote alcohol tobacco and drug use among youth .**

