

## News Release

### Michigan Coalition to Reduce Underage Drinking

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## MCRUD Disappointed They Can't Attend Critical Liquor Control Meeting!

August 25, 2011 (Lansing) – Yesterday, the Michigan Coalition to Reduce Underage Drinking (MCRUD) and their \*\*supporters were not allowed to attend the Liquor Control Rules Advisory Committee meeting. MCRUD Coordinator, Mike Tobias, was disappointed that the group was not allowed access to the meeting and that so few people on the committee represent children, families, and public health. “All of us were very disappointed we couldn't attend the meeting and it's a real concern that more people representing public health and safety were not selected to serve on the committee.”

The explanation given to the group of why the meeting was closed to the public was that if the meeting were open to the public, committee members would not speak openly and candidly. MCRUD tried to make the case that since the committee will be discussing statutes, rules, and policies that affect their communities they have a right to know what issues are being discussed. “Michigan's alcohol laws and regulations, along with law enforcement and the efforts of community coalitions have made a significant difference,” noted Tobias.

Since 1997, underage drinking has declined significantly (as measured by the Michigan Youth Risk Behavior Survey) and is better than the national average.

- Lifetime use: Michigan average 68.8% in 2009, down from 81.9% in 1997. (National average: 72.5% in 2009)
- Alcohol use before age 13: Michigan average 18.8% in 2009, down from 34.9% in 1997. (National average: 21.1% in 2009)
- Use in the past 30 days: Michigan average 37% in 2009, down from 50.5% in 1997. (National average: 41.8% in 2009)
- Binge drinking: Michigan average 23.2% in 2009, down from 32.4% in 1997. (National average: 24.2% in 2009)

MCRUD has contacted LARA and requested a meeting to discuss the importance of alcohol regulations.

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For information about MCRUD, please visit [www.mcrud.org](http://www.mcrud.org) and “Like” us on [www.Facebook.com/MCRUD96](http://www.Facebook.com/MCRUD96).

\*\*\*MCRUD supporters included people from the Ingham Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition, volunteers from Cass, Ingham, Kalamazoo and Van Buren Counties, the Michigan Council on Alcohol Problems, Michigan Alcohol Policy Promoting Health and Safety, and Prevention Network.

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