Safe Party Strategies

When you host an event, there are four tips for reducing the potential for personal harm and legal liability:

1. **Follow the law**
   - The legal age to drink is 21 years or older. Allowing underage consumption at your events increases the likelihood of problems, including legal liability for the behavior of guests.
   - Make sure you understand all other local and state laws concerning the sale, distribution, possession and consumption of alcohol.
   - Understand and follow policies regarding hosting events with alcohol on campus.
   - Know local laws and ordinances with regard to noise and trash.
   - Do not allow illegal drugs or the misuse of prescription medications. Discourage your guests from mixing alcohol and other drugs.

2. **Know your guests**
   - Most students report that issues such as vandalism, violence, and theft are perpetrated by uninvited guests.
   - Create a guest list, send specific invitations, and monitor the access to the event.
   - Having someone at the door, someone to check IDs or a guest list can help identify underage and unwanted guests.
   - Encourage guests to walk or have a designated driver to get home safely

3. **Don’t provide the alcohol**
   - You can be held responsible if you provide alcohol to a guest and they leave your event and hurt themselves or hurt someone else.
   - Avoid providing kegs, party juice (PJ), and large open coolers.
   - BYOB at all times, and set limits on quantity of alcohol your guests can bring.
   - Do not sell alcohol or charge admission?. This includes selling cups or other containers to use for a common container like a keg. It is against the law to sell alcohol in North Carolina without an ABC permit.

4. **Make the event about something other than alcohol**
The less the event revolves around alcohol, the less likely your guests are to focus solely on drinking.
Discourage drinking games, as these only enhance the speed and quantity of consumption, leading to increased risk.
Post party rules on the Facebook event, on the front door or in another visible place.
Keep music at a reasonable level so people can communicate verbally.
Have seating available for conversation.

Source URL: https://campushealth.unc.edu/health-topics/alcohol-and-other-drugs/safe-party-strategies