



News Alert

Northeast Community Challenge Coalition

New Grand Theft Auto video game lets players drive drunk

The newest version of the video game Grand Theft Auto allows players to experience driving drunk. Substance abuse prevention advocates and organizations say the game normalizes a behavior that costs thousands of lives and injuries each year.

The game, produced by Rockstar North, was released April 29, and is the ninth title in the series. Previous versions allowed gamers to earn points by killing police officers. The newest version includes a module in which players drive drunk.

Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America members say the game glamorizes drunk driving and could have a particularly dangerous impact on younger teens.

“It’s unconscionable that something that has devastated so many lives is being made into entertainment,” said Pamela White, Executive Director of Community Anti-Drug Coalitions Across Tennessee (CADCAT). “Allowing drunk driving in a video game normalizes a behavior that is not only illegal, but threatens lives.”

Cheryl Guthier, executive director of Community Prevention Partnership of Berks County, said, “I have young grandkids and I know that if they play this game, they’re going to see it as funny and cool, and something that people do.”

While the game is currently rated as mature, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) is calling on the Entertainment Software Ratings Board to reclassify Grand Theft Auto IV as an Adults Only game. MADD also is requesting that the manufacturer consider a stop in distribution.

To express your concern about the game, please contact the following retailers that carry Grand Theft Auto IV:

Amazon.com
206-266-1000

Circuit City
804-527-4000

Wal-Mart
479-273-4000

Best Buy
612-291-1000

EB Games and GameStop
817-424-2000

Information provided by CADCA Online

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