

Drinking and Driving

Although alcohol-related youth motor vehicle fatalities have decreased substantially over the past decade, youth are still over represented in alcohol-related fatal crashes compared with the older population. (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 2000)

According to a 2005 report by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, every day three teens die from drinking and driving. Young people under the influence of alcohol are also less likely to wear a safety belt and more likely to get in the car with an intoxicated driver.

Teens and Education

High schoolers who regularly use alcohol perform more poorly on exams than non-users.

Studies show students who consume alcohol on a regular basis perform worse in school than those who do not use alcohol regularly. High schoolers who consume alcohol regularly are also at a greater risk of dropping out of school.

Underage college students are at risk too.

Roughly 25 percent of college students report that drinking has a negative effect on their academic performance. (National Advisory Council on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, 2002)

Under 21 – Alcohol and the Law

PARENTS can be held legally liable if they host a party in their home and serve alcohol. For example:

- If someone gets drunk and gets hurt or hurts someone else or gets into a fight
- If someone drinks and drives home and gets into a motor vehicle crash

KIDS can be held liable for providing alcohol to others who are underage.

KIDS can be held liable for sale of alcohol without an appropriate ID. (This law applies when a person charges a fee to attend a gathering and provides alcohol, i.e. keg parties, fraternity parties or similar events).

False or Fraudulent ID Cards

If you use a fake ID, you can be charged as follows:

- Forgery in the 2nd Degree (Class D Felony)
- Possession of a Forged Instrument in the 2nd Degree (Class D Felony)
- Criminal Impersonation in the 2nd Degree (Class "A" Misdemeanor)
- False impersonation (Class "B" Misdemeanor)

Your Kids & Alcohol

Why should I Care?

The consequences of underage drinking

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Alcohol use among young people under 21 is the leading drug problem in the United States

(Center on Alcohol Marketing and Youth, 2006).

- More youth in the U.S. drink alcohol than smoke tobacco or marijuana;
- Every day, 5,400 young people under 16 take their first drink of alcohol;
- Studies show that the consequences of underage drinking can have a long term negative effect on the health of youth.

Teens and Alcoholism

Teens who start drinking at an early age are more likely to develop poor drinking habits when they become adults.

The New York Times recently posted the results of a national survey of more than 40,000 adults - 47% of those who began drinking alcohol before the age of 14 became alcohol dependent at some point in their lives compared with 9% of those who waited at least until age 21. The correlation is even greater when genetic risks for alcoholism are taken into account.

Alcohol Abuse

Alcohol abuse is defined as any drink that harms or endangers the drinker or other people. This includes all use of alcohol by anyone under 21.

Other Health Issues

A teenager's brain is still developing and alcohol can negatively impact this growth.

Numerous studies show that heavy exposure of the adolescent brain to alcohol may interfere with brain development, causing loss of memory and attention span as well as a decrease in ability to plan, make decisions and perform responsibly.

Additionally, underage drinkers are at risk of experiencing increased symptoms common to alcohol abuse, such as liver damage and high cholesterol.

Other Harmful Effects of Alcohol

- Brain damage/mental health problems
- Heart disease
- Cancer
- Ulcers and other stomach problems

