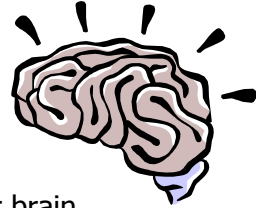


6 Good Reasons Why Teens and Alcohol Are a *BAD* Combination

1. **Your teen's brain is still developing.**

The teen brain is a "work in progress". Research by the NIDA (the National Institute of Drug Abuse) found that the brain's frontal lobes, a critical area for the development of judgment and acquiring information, is not fully developed until someone is in his/her 20's. Considerable research tells us that regular use of alcohol by adolescents can have life-long negative effects on their brain chemistry and the structural organization of the brain.



2. **Teens do not always make good decisions.**

Alcohol use decreases impulse control and increases risky decisions that can lead to injury, dangerous sexual behavior, sexual assault or other kinds of violence, alcohol poisoning, and even death.

3. **Teen use of alcohol is illegal.**

Teens who drink are breaking the law. It is illegal for adults, even a teen's parent, to allow a teen to drink. It is important for you, as a parent, to send a CLEAR message to your son or daughter that underage drinking is illegal; unacceptable to you; and will result in family consequences.

4. **Research tells us that postponing alcohol use beyond the teen years SIGNIFICANTLY decreases your teen's likelihood of addiction as an adult.**

In a recent study, drinking to get drunk was the main reason for drinking cited by nearly half the youth. Another survey found that most teen drinkers binge.

5. **Teen use of alcohol and other drugs, like marijuana, is a primary issue in youth traffic accidents and fatalities.**

Did you know that the leading cause of death for youth, ages 15 to 20, is a car crash and that alcohol is a factor in 1/3 of the crashes involving teens?



6. **If your teen drinks alcohol, s/he can face *SERIOUS* legal and other consequences.**

These consequences can include driver's license suspension or restriction, substance abuse screening and treatment at YOUR expense, fines up to \$500, court costs, and community service. In addition, insurance coverage rises significantly or can be cancelled for conviction of alcohol-related offences. *Teens found guilty of an alcohol offence may not be admitted to the college of their choice and can be ineligible for college scholarships.*

THERE ARE MANY GOOD REASONS THAT THE LEGAL DRINKING AGE IS 21 YEARS.

Share this information with your teen today!

TEENS AND ALCOHOL ARE A BAD COMBINATION!

**A message from the Chippewa Valley Coalition for Youth and Families,
whose mission is promoting safe and drug-free youth and supporting families.**