

Underage Drinking

National and Regional Resources

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration



The Consequences of Underage Drinking

Over the last several decades, scientific understanding and knowledge of the dangers of underage drinking have increased substantially. Underage drinking is associated with various negative consequences for children and can affect and endanger the lives of those around them.

Children who drink alcohol are more likely to:

- **Use drugs:** Frequent binge drinkers (nearly 1 million high school students nationwide) are more likely to engage in risky behaviors, including using other drugs such as marijuana and cocaine.
- **Get bad grades:** Children who use alcohol have higher rates of academic problems and poor school performance compared with nondrinkers.
- **Suffer injury/death:** In 2009, an estimated 1,844 homicides; 949,400 nonfatal violent crimes such as rape, robbery, and assault; and 1,811,300 property crimes, including burglary, larceny, and car theft were attributed to underage drinking.
- **Engage in risky sexual activity:** Young people who use alcohol are more likely to be sexually active at earlier ages, to have sexual intercourse more often, and to have unprotected sex.
- **Make bad decisions:** Drinking lowers inhibitions and increases the chances that children will engage in risky behavior or do something that they will regret when they are sober.
- **Have health problems:** Young people who drink are more likely to have health issues such as depression and anxiety disorders.

Talk. They Hear You

The "Talk. They Hear You." campaign aims to reduce underage drinking among youth ages 9 to 15 by providing parents and caregivers with information and resources they need to start addressing the issue of alcohol with their children early.



Start the Talk

Start the Talk is like a video game that helps you learn the do's and don'ts of talking to kids about underage drinking. Using avatars, you'll practice bringing up the topic of alcohol; learn the questions to ask; and get ideas for keeping the conversation going.



Parent Resources

Parents and caregivers: You are the leading influence in your child's decision not to drink. Check out these [resources to help you](#) start and continue talking with them about the dangers of drinking alcohol at a young age. Available in English and Spanish



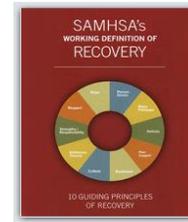
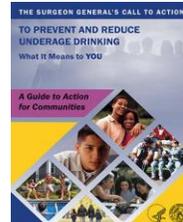
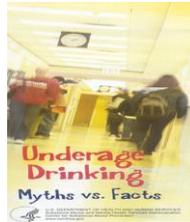
SAMHSA Funding Opportunities

www.grants.gov

- Cooperative Agreements for Tribal Behavioral Health (Native Connections)
- Drug-Free Communities (DFC) Support Program
- Drug-Free Communities Mentoring Program
- Strategic Prevention Framework Partnerships for Success State and Tribal Initiative (SPF-PFS)
- Grants to Expand Substance Abuse Treatment Capacity in Adult Tribal Healing to Wellness Courts and Juvenile Drug Courts (SAMHSA Treatment Drug Courts)

SAMHSA: Publications

www.samhsa.gov



- Report to Congress on the Prevention and Reduction of Underage Drinking 2013
- Underage Drinking: Myths vs. Facts: Pre-Teen Alcohol Prevention Brochure
- Surgeon General's Call to Action to Prevent and Reduce Underage Drinking (2007)
- SAMHSA Working Definition of Recovery. 10 Guiding Principles of Recovery

Additional Resources

[Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Prevention of Underage Drinking](#) is a standing committee to provide ongoing leadership and to serve as a mechanism for coordinating Federal efforts aimed at preventing and reducing underage drinking. www.StopAlcoholAbuse.gov is the Web portal for the Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Prevention of Underage Drinking (ICCPUD)



Office of National Drug Control Policy

SAMHSA: Technical Assistance Centers

- Center for the Application of Prevention Technologies Support (CAPT) www.captus.samhsa.gov
- Addiction Technology Transfer Center (ATTC)
 - *National American Indian/Alaska Native ATTC:* www.attcnetwork.org
americanindianalaskanative@attcnetwork.org
- Tribal Technical Assistance Center (TTAC) www.samhsa.gov
 - Provides culturally appropriate and sensitive technical assistance to Native communities who seek to address mental and substance use disorders and suicide

SAMHSA Regional Contacts:

<http://beta.samhsa.gov/about-us/who-we-are/regional-administrators>