

**DID YOU KNOW.....
YOUR TEENAGER WILL MOST
LIKELY GET HIS FIRST DRINK
OF ALCOHOL FROM AN
ADULT**

FACT #1

Researchers find the cells of young developing brains to be especially vulnerable to damage from alcohol. Most at risk is the hippocampus, an area of the brain responsible for memory, learning, and motivation. (NIAAA)

FACT #2

Alcohol is the #1 Youth Drug Problem. Underage drinking is a leading contributor to death from injuries, which is the main cause of death for people under age 21. (NIH.gov)

FACT #3

One of the first drugs your teenager is most likely to try is alcohol. Yes, alcohol is a drug – not just a harmless substance. (SAMHSA)

FACT #4

More than 80% of current underage drinkers reported drinking while in a group. (SAMHSA 2017)

**DID YOU KNOW.....
UNDERAGE DRINKING IS
ILLEGAL BECAUSE IT IS
DANGEROUS - NO EXCUSES**

FACT #5 Underage drinking is NOT inevitable, and research indicates that 49% of all high school students don't drink. However, for those that do drink, many don't grow out of it. People who begin drinking before age 15 are five times as likely to become alcoholics as those that begin after age 21.

Many engage in dangerous binge drinking, which is drinking five or more drinks within a few hours. And, while we wait for them to "grow out of it," they're:

- getting hurt in accidents such as falls, burns, and drowning;
- dying in car crashes (youth who start drinking young are 7 times more likely to be in an alcohol-related crash);
- contracting sexually-transmitted diseases;
- becoming teenage parents;
- committing crimes (physical assault, sexual assault, vandalism, robbery, theft, homicide);
- becoming victims of physical and sexual assault;

FACT #6 Just taking the keys away does NOT protect someone. Binge drinking puts your people at high risk for alcohol poisoning and they may not wake up at all.