



Parents—Talk With Your Grads About Celebrating Safely

Graduation...

Graduation is a time to celebrate. But before your graduates party, take the time to talk with them about alcohol—it just may save a life.

It's About Your Teen...

A teenager's brain is still developing and it is very sensitive to alcohol's effects on judgment and decision-making.

Alcohol Can Be Tricky...

If your graduates drink, they may temporarily feel elated and happy, but they should not be fooled. Ask them to consider these risks:

- Their inhibitions and memory soon become affected—so they may say and do things that they will regret and possibly will not remember doing at all.
- Their decision-making skills are also affected. They may become restless and aggressive. They may be more at risk for having an alcohol-related traffic crash, getting into fights, trashing a house, or making unwise decisions about sex.

Then there is what happens to their physical control—loss of balance, slurred speech, and blurred vision. Even normal activities—like crossing a busy intersection—can become more dangerous.

Too Much Alcohol Becomes a Deadly Poison...

If your partygoers drink enough, they will eventually get sleepy and pass out. Reflexes like gagging and breathing can be suppressed. That means they could vomit and choke to death or just stop breathing. They may even be at risk for alcohol poisoning.



3,360,000
 **YOUNG PEOPLE AGE 18–24 DRIVE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL¹**

1,700,000
 **YOUNG PEOPLE AGE 12–20 ENGAGE IN HEAVY DRINKING²**

1,000,000
 **YOUNG PEOPLE AGE 12–17 EXPERIENCE ALCOHOL ABUSE/DEPENDENCE³**

¹ 3.36 million students between the ages of 18 and 24 drove under the influence of alcohol. (Source: Hingson, Zha, & Weitzman, 2009)

² 1.7 million youth ages 12 through 20 drank 5 or more drinks on an occasion, 5 or more times a month (Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2012)

³ 1 million youth ages 12 through 17 experienced alcohol abuse or dependence in the last year (Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2012)



Think About It!

Drinking too much can mean trips to the emergency room, arrests, and sexual assaults. They could put themselves and their friends in real danger. Ask them to consider this: Is that any way to celebrate?

Talking With Your Graduate...

Research shows that parents do make a difference. Talking with your graduate about alcohol now could help prevent a life-changing mistake.

Remember...

Tell your graduate to play it safe and party right at graduation.

For more information, visit:
www.collegedrinkingprevention.gov

A Word About Alcohol Poisoning

Thousands of students are transported to the ER each year for alcohol poisoning, which occurs when high levels of alcohol suppress the nervous and respiratory systems, and the body struggles to rid itself of toxins produced from the breakdown of alcohol. Signs of this dangerous condition can include:

- Mental confusion, stupor, coma, or the person cannot be roused
- Vomiting
- Slow or irregular breathing
- Hypothermia or low body temperature, bluish or pale skin

Alcohol poisoning can lead to permanent brain damage or death, so a person showing any of these signs requires immediate medical attention. Don't wait. Call 911 if you suspect alcohol poisoning.



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