



The Coalition Newsletter

January 2013

Our vision is to prevent and reduce youth substance use & abuse in the Pequannock Twp. Community through collaboration, education and community-wide change.

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An Initiative of:



Consequences of Underage Drinking & Driving

In New Jersey, you must be at least 21 years of age to purchase, possess or consume alcoholic beverages. Underage drinking is illegal and can have severe consequences for young people who drink and for adults who provide alcoholic beverages to those under 21.

If you are under 21 and buy or drink alcohol in a place with an alcohol beverage license, you may be fined \$500 and lose your driver license for 6 months. If you do not have your driver license, the suspension starts when you are first eligible to receive a license. Also you may be required to participate in an alcohol education or treatment program.

If you are under 21, drive with any detectable amount of alcohol in your system (.01 BAC or above), and are convicted for violating New Jersey's zero tolerance law, the penalties are:

- Loss or postponement of driving privileges for 30 to 90 days
- 15 to 30 days of community service
- Participation in an alcohol and traffic safety education program

www.nj.gov

Underage Drinking Has Serious Consequences

Over the last several decades our 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 or 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.

www.samhsa.gov

Studies now show that parental disapproval of underage drinking is the number one reason that children choose not to drink alcohol.

Can't parents teach their teens how to drink alcohol responsibly by giving them small amounts—under supervision—before they reach 21?

Some states permit parents to do this with their own child (rarely, if ever, with someone else's child), but there's no evidence that this approach actually works. As matter of fact, there is evidence to contrary. When teens feel they have their parents' approval to drink, they do it more and more often when they are not with their parents. When parents have concrete, enforced rules about alcohol, young people binge drink less.

www.madd.org

Binge Drinking Is High Risk Drinking

Binge drinking is defined as a pattern of alcohol consumption that brings the blood alcohol concentration (BAC) level to 0.08% or more in a short period of time. This pattern of drinking alcohol usually in less than 2 hours, corresponds to:

- 5 or more drinks for men or
- 4 or more drinks for women

Helpful Links

NJ Parent Link: www.njparentlink.nj.gov

Parents — The Anti Drug: www.theantidrug.com

Pequannock Township: www.peqtwp.org

Pequannock Township Public Schools: www.pequannock.org

Students Against Destructive Decisions: www.sadd.org

A Taskforce of:

