

## **UNDERAGE DRINKING ~ *The Straight Story About Alcohol***

### **Here's What Alcohol Can Do To You.**

*Alcohol can make you throw-up.  
Alcohol can give you a hangover.*

*Alcohol can make you go to the bathroom.  
Alcohol can make you pass out.*

### **And if that's not enough...**

#### **Alcohol can screw up your head.**

*Being drunk is a condition in which a person has overdosed on a drug.*

*Alcohol is an anesthetic drug. It puts the brain to sleep just like a shot of Novocaine makes gums numb.*

*Brain damage begins with the first drink and becomes severe in the case of an alcoholic.*

*It should come as no surprise that people who drink start experiencing problems at school.*

#### **Alcohol can cause a drug addiction.**

*Alcohol is a drug. It's also an addicting drug; 3.3 million young men and women under the age of 20 are problem drinkers.*

*Alcoholism in adolescents develops rapidly, with some teens becoming alcoholics within six months after taking their first drink.*

*Nineteen out of 100 young people 12 to 17 years old are defined as having a serious drinking problem.*

*There is no cure for alcoholism.*

#### **Alcohol can destroy your liver.**

*About 85 % of the deaths due to cirrhosis are associated with alcohol.*

*Damage to the liver due to cirrhosis cannot be reversed.*

*Liver cancer is also related to alcohol use.*

## **Alcohol can get you into trouble.**

*Alcohol can get you into trouble with your parents, with the police, and with your school.*

*Like it or not, alcohol is an illegal drug for teens--just like marijuana, cocaine and heroin. If you're going to play, you're going to pay!*

## **Alcohol can damage your heart.**

*Alcohol is a poison to all parts of the body -- including the heart.*

*Even moderate amounts of alcohol can adversely affect heart function.*

## **Alcohol can interfere with your reproductive system.**

### **In males...**

*Use of alcohol can reduce the amount of testosterone in a man's body. Testosterone is the principle male sex hormone responsible for development of male secondary sex characteristics.*

*Atrophy of the testicles is a direct result of alcohol consumption.*

*Excessive drinking is an anesthetic drug. It can interfere with your adult sex life and ability to reproduce.*

### **In females...**

*Birth defects found in children whose mothers drink are called Fetal Alcohol Syndrome.*

*Fetal Alcohol Syndrome is the third leading cause of mental retardation and the only preventable cause of birth defects.*

## **Alcohol can wreck your car.**

*Every five seconds, a teenager has a drug or alcohol-related traffic crash.*

*One drink can impair the ability to drive -- especially when the person is inexperienced as a driver.*

*More than 25 cents of every dollar you pay for automobile insurance goes to pay for damage done by drunk drivers.*

## Alcohol can kill your friends.

*Drinking and driving crashes are the #1 cause of death among teenagers.*

*More than 12,000 young Americans are killed each year in crashes involving young people and alcohol.*

*Forty thousand Americans are disfigured each year in crashes involving young people and alcohol.*

## Alcohol can make you act like an idiot.

***That's the bottom line!** People drink because they think acting like an idiot is the same as acting cool. People drink alcohol because they like the feeling of being "high"--which is actually just the feeling of having damage to the central nervous system. Who needs it?*

## Alcohol can kill you.

*Alcohol is a killer! It is responsible for drunk driving crashes.*

*It is responsible for cirrhosis of the liver.*

*It causes drowning and other fatal trauma.*

*It is responsible for homicides and suicides.*

*All by itself, alcohol is a lethal drug. Very large amounts of alcohol can cause death by putting to sleep the part of the brain which directs the respiratory system.*

*Three people die every day in the United States from alcohol overdoses.*

So...

***The next time you are face to face with alcohol...  
don't get plastered or bombed, ripped or blitzed, sloshed or wasted.***

***...Refuse it!***

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