

Fact Sheet



A Few Facts about Underage Use of Alcohol

- 63.5% of high school students surveyed indicated that they had used Alcohol in their Lifetime and 35.8% had used Alcohol in the Past 30 Days. (Source: *Orange County Youth Substance Abuse Survey, 2010*)
- 17.9% of High School students reported Binge Drinking in the Past 30 Days. Binge Drinking is consuming 5 or more drinks at one setting. (Source: *Orange County Youth Substance Abuse Survey, 2010*)
- 68% of parent's surveyed and 61% of teens surveyed said that it is generally easy for underage youth to get alcohol. (Source: "Parents Who Host, Lose The Most: Don't be a party to teenage drinking" Evaluation Report, December 2006)
- Every day, 5,400 young people under 16 have their first drink of alcohol. 27.5% of Orange County High School students have their first drink of alcohol at age 13 or younger. (Source: Center on Alcohol Marketing and Youth with calculations from Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 2004 National Survey on Drug Use and Health & Orange County Youth Substance Abuse Survey, 2010)
- 570 young drivers in Florida were involved in fatal crashes. (Source: *Join Together*)
- 1600 persons under the age of 21 die from alcohol-related unintentional injuries (not related to motor vehicles crashes)
- Studies reveal that alcohol consumption by adolescents results in brain damage - possibly permanent - and impairs intellectual development. (Source: *Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research (Volume 24, Number 2 National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, February 2000)*)
- Underage drinking cost Floridians **\$3.1 Billion** each year. **Total Underage Drinking Sales** in Florida equal **\$657 Million** and Total Alcohol Industry Profits from Underage Drinking equal \$332 Million. Underage drinking costs **Orange County \$230 Million**. (Source: *Join Together & University of Miami*)
- Adolescents drink less and have fewer alcohol-related problems when their parents discipline them consistently and set clear expectations. (Source: *Hawkins JD, Graham JW, Maguin E, et al. 1997 Exploring the effects of age of alcohol use initiation and psychosocial risk factors on subsequent alcohol misuse. Journal of Studies on Alcohol. 58(3): 280-290*)
- If drinking is delayed until age 21, a child's risk of serious alcohol problems is decreased by 70 percent. (Source: *Calculated from information contained in: Grant BF, Dawson DA. 1997, Age at onset of alcohol use and its association with DSM-IV alcohol abuse and dependence. Results from the National Longitudinal Alcohol Epidemiologic Survey. Journal of Substance Abuse 9:103-110.*)



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