

## *Youth and Alcohol, A Bad Mix.....*

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- About 10 million Americans under age 21 had a least one drink last month.
- Approximately 2/3 of teenagers who drink report that they can buy their own alcoholic beverages.
- Use of alcohol and other drugs is associated with the leading cause of death and injury among teenagers and young adults.
- Alcohol and other drug use at an early age is an indicator of future drug or alcohol problems.
- First use of alcohol typically begins around the age of 13.
- Teenagers drink 35% of all wine coolers sold in the United States; they also consume 1.1 billion cans of beer.
- Drivers under the age of 25 are more likely than older drivers to be intoxicated in a fatal crash.
- Researchers estimate that alcohol use is implicated in one-to two-thirds of sexual assault and acquaintance or "date" rape cases among teens and college students.
- 80% of teenagers don't know that a can of beer has the same amount of alcohol as a shot of whiskey or a glass of wine.
- 56% of students in grades 5—12 say that alcohol advertising encourages them to drink.
- 30% of children in grades 4—6 report that their classmates have pressured them "a lot" to drink beer.

 A survey of high school students found that 18% of females and 39% of males say it is acceptable for a boy to force sex if the girl is stoned or drunk.

Source: National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, Inc.