

UNDERAGE DRINKING



CONSEQUENCES OF UNDERAGE DRINKING

- The adolescent brain does not fully develop until the mid 20's to late 30's
- Drinking kills brain cells in the prefrontal cortex (CEO of the brain) and affects the hippocampus (responsible for memory and learning).
- Teens are more affected by short-term (*feel good moods*) and moderate drinking (*decision-making abilities*) than adults, making any alcohol consumption a risk.
- Youth who drink are more likely to be victims of violent crimes.

STUDIES SHOW THAT PEOPLE WHO BEGIN DRINKING BEFORE THE AGE OF 15 ARE FOUR TIMES MORE LIKELY TO DEVELOP ALCOHOLISM THAN THOSE WHO WAIT UNTIL 21.

Early use and exposure to alcohol and tobacco is significantly related to:

- The use of illicit drugs and substance abuse
- Long-term health consequences
- Frequency of marijuana use

EFFECTS OF ALCOHOL USE

Short-Term

Alcohol blocks the messages going to the brain and alters perceptions and emotions, vision, hearing, and coordination.

Long-Term

- Sexual problems
- Memory loss
- Loss of appetite
- Skin problems
- Stomach ailments
- Vitamin deficiencies
- Liver damage
- Heart damage
- Central nervous system damage



ALCOPOPS

Alcopop is a term used to describe flavored alcoholic drinks resembling sodas or other sweetened drinks.

“Alcopops serve as a transition or bridge from soft drinks to alcohol, especially for young girls.”



Which contain alcohol?

ALCOHOL IS A FACTOR IN THE THREE LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH FOR 15 - 24 YEAR OLDS.

UNDERAGE DRINKING IN HAWAII

- 19.2% of teens drank alcohol for the first time before the age of 13 (other than a few sips)¹
This number decreased from 21% in 2007
- 29.1% Teens had at least one drink of alcohol on at least 1 day in the past 30 days¹
- 41.4% Usually obtained the alcohol they drank by someone giving it to them¹
- Alcohol was the secondary drug (32.1%) of youth 17 years and younger upon treatment admission in 2010³
- Underage drinking cost the citizens of Hawaii \$303 million in 2010. These costs include medical care, work loss, and pain and suffering associated with the multiple problems resulting from the use of alcohol by youth.²

¹ Hawaii Youth Risk Behaviors (YRBS) Hawaii School Health Survey Results, 2011

² <http://www.udetc.org/factsheets/HL.pdf>, 2011

³ Alcohol and Drug Treatment Services Report Hawaii 2006, 2008, 2010



HAWAII UNDERAGE DRINKING LAWS

It is illegal to buy, possess, or consume alcohol under the age of 21

Social Host

- It is a misdemeanor for an adult to provide alcohol to anyone under 21, and to knowingly permit someone under 21 to possess alcohol while on property under their control.
- A property (household) owner who knows alcohol is being consumed by anyone under 21, and could have reasonably stopped or prevented that consumption will be liable for all injuries or damages caused by the intoxicated person under 21.

Use & Lose

- Anyone under 21 found to have consumed, purchased or possessed alcohol will have their driver's license/provisional license/learner's permit revoked for 180 days. If unlicensed, eligibility to get a learner's permit will be suspended until age 17 or for 180 days.
- 75 hours of community service is required, along with 8-12 hours of alcohol education & counseling.

Zero Tolerance

- It is illegal for those under 21 to drive after consuming any measurable amount of alcohol.
- The driver's license of a violator will be revoked for 180 days.

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Prevention Resource Center
(808) 545-3228 ext. 34
(800) 845-1946
www.drugfreehawaii.org

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Sources: Center For Substance Abuse Prevention Tips For Teens on Alcohol; The 2003 Hawaii Student Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug Use Study; Hawaii State Legislature Website, and Be Aware of Zero Tolerance.