

You and the Law on **UNDERAGE DRINKING**

- Under state law (California State Penal Code 272), any adult who furnishes alcohol to a minor under 21 years old will be charged with a misdemeanor, which is punishable by a fine of up to \$2,500 and/or up to a year in county jail.

31% of juveniles in the justice system were under the influence of alcohol at the time of their arrest.

- A new Assembly Bill (AB 454) will penalize the same offense as a felony. *For more information, log on to www.leginfo.ca.gov*

WARNING SIGNS

While the following behaviors may indicate an alcohol or other drug problems some also reflect normal teenage growing pains.

- **MOOD CHANGES:** flare-ups of temper, irritability, and defensiveness.
- **SCHOOL PROBLEMS:** poor attendance, low grades, and/or recent disciplinary action.
- **REBELLING** against family rules.
- **SWITCHING FRIENDS**, along with a reluctance to have you get to know the new friends.
- **A “NOTHING MATTERS” ATTITUDE:** sloppy appearance, a lack of involvement in former interests, and general low energy.
- **FINDING ALCOHOL** in your child’s room or backpack, or smelling alcohol on his or her breath.
- **PHYSICAL OR MENTAL PROBLEMS:** memory lapses, poor concentration, bloodshot eyes, lack of coordination, or slurred speech.

First use of alcohol typically begins at age 13.

A CALL TO ACTION

Taking Action:
Prevention Strategies for Parents

- **MONITOR** alcohol use in your home, keep track of the supply
- **MAKE CLEAR** to your child that you don’t allow unsupervised parties
- **CONNECT** with other parents
- **KEEP TRACK** of your child’s activities
- **DEVELOP** family rules about teen drinking and set a good example
- **DON’T** support teen drinking
- **TALK** to your local store about NOT selling to minors

If you believe your child may have a problem with alcohol, call our Alcohol and Other Drugs Information Line at 800-846-1652 or 925-313-6300 or visit cchealth.org.

PARENTS:

**UNDERAGE
DRINKING IS**

ILLEGAL!



Alcohol and Other Drugs Services Division
Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities Grant



Alcohol is the most widely used drug in the United States. Alcohol is the most commonly used drug among young people.

About 10.4 million Americans between the ages of 12-20 had at least 1 alcoholic drink in the last 30 days.

Junior High and Senior High school students drink 35% of all wine coolers sold in the United States.

56% of students in grades 5-12 say that alcohol advertising encourages them to drink.

Teenagers whose parents talk to them about the dangers of drugs are 42% less likely to use drugs, yet only 1 in 4 teens report having these conversations.

75% of young teens say that alcohol is easy to get. Approximately 65% of the youth surveyed said that they got the alcohol they drink from family and friends.

— Sources: National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependency (NCADD)