

## FACTS ABOUT ALCOHOL

### WHAT ARE OUR KIDS DOING?

- « They are drinking in record numbers.
- « The average age they begin is only 12 years old.
- « 70% of youth drinking are bingeing (5 or more drinks).
- « 91% of parents of bingeing kids don't suspect.
- « Some middle schoolers drink and then engage in group sex.

### WHAT IS ALCOHOL DOING TO OUR KIDS?

- « Alcohol is killing six times as many of our kids as are all other drugs combined.
- « Of all 10-24 year old deaths, 73.6% are alcohol related.
- « 90% of all college campus rapes are alcohol related.
- « 95% of all campus violence is alcohol related.
- « 85% of all college students surveyed report having established their drinking patterns before entering college.
- « Significantly reducing school performance.
- « Disrupting family cohesion.
- « Generating disruptive, dangerous and unlawful behaviors.

### IS ALCOHOL DAMAGING KIDS' BRAINS?

- « Kids brains tend to react to alcohol with addiction, while adult brains tend not to:
  - 96% of all alcoholics began underage.
  - Virtually all drug addicts began with underage drinking.
- « Regular alcohol use is permanently damaging kids brains, causing cognitive impairments.
- « Alcohol used by kids obstructs part of the functional development of the frontal lobe of their brains.
- « Bingeing is more likely to cause death by over-dosing a kids brain than an adult's brain.

### SOURCES:

Chautauqua Alcohol and Substance Abuse Council (CASAC)  
National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependency (NCADD)  
Department of Health and Human Services  
*Loosening the Grip: A Handbook of Alcohol Information* by Jean Kinney  
(McGraw-Hill, 2003)  
American Medical Association (AMA)  
Institute of Medicine—National Research Council  
Certified Alcohol and Substance Abuse Treatment Professionals  
Fredonia State University  
Local Chautauqua County Police  
Duke University research

## WHAT CAN PARENTS OR GUARDIANS DO?

- « Understand that underage drinking is a tradition, one which is illegal and must be stopped.
- « Understand that it *is* a "right of passage"; a passage to a devastating quality of life, brain damage and death.
- « Understand that drinking alcohol under the age of 21 is prohibited by law, with extremely limited exceptions.
- « See to it your kids don't drink—you have the power.
- « Do not tolerate unsupervised parties.
- « In the event of a supervised party, ensure it is responsibly supervised with alcohol effectively prohibited.
- « See to it that your kids realize that drinking is not a choice for them and that they understand why it is prohibited.
- « Always know where your kids are.
- « Prevent your kids from attending a function, activity or facility where alcohol may be available to them.
- « Know the typical behaviors of those with whom your kids hang out.
- « Consider the powerful influence of your own behavior on your kids.

## WHAT CAN THE COMMUNITY DO?

- « Support your police.
- « If underage drinking may be in progress, call 9-1-1.
- « Anyone aware of a planned party should call the NYS Underage Drinking Hotline (you can remain anonymous): **1-866-UNDER 21** (1-866-863-3721).
- « Develop and encourage supervised teen activities.

### Endorsed by the following law enforcement agencies:

Silver Creek Police Dept.  
Dunkirk Police Dept.  
Fredonia Police Dept.  
SUNY Fredonia Campus Police Dept.  
Westfield Police Dept.  
Jamestown Police Dept.  
Lakewood/Busti Police Dept.  
Ellicott Police Dept.  
Chautauqua County Sheriff's Office  
New York State Police  
NY State Liquor Authority Enforcement Bureau

UNDERAGE DRINKING  
Not a minor problem

# Underage Drinking Prevention

**New York State Underage Drinking Hotline**  
**1-866-UNDER21**  
**1-866-863-3721**

## CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY UNDERAGE DRINKING TASK FORCE

**Chautauqua Alcoholism & Substance Abuse Council (CASAC)**  
[www.casacweb.org](http://www.casacweb.org)

314 Central Ave., Rm. 308  
Dunkirk, NY 14048  
(716) 366-4623

2-6 E. Second Street  
Suite 405, Fenton Building  
Jamestown, NY 14701  
(716) 664-3608

**UNDERAGE  
DRINKING**

**Not a *minor* problem**

## **UNDERAGE DRINKING HAS BECOME A MAJOR CONCERN IN OUR COMMUNITY!**

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

- « If alcoholic beverages are given to a person under the age of 21 in your home or on your property you may be charged with a **crime**.
- « If your child permits underage drinking he/she may be charged with a **crime**.
- « If there is unreasonable noise or disorderly conduct in your home or on your property you may be charged with a **crime**.
- « If there is any personal injury, damage to property or crime committed anywhere and it is found to be related to underage drinking in your home or on your property you may be charged with a **crime**.

### **THE TASK FORCE**

Every drop of alcohol consumed by someone underage comes somewhere along the line from an adult, whether by intent or by negligence. The **Chautauqua County Underage Drinking Task Force**, with the talents of local, county and state law enforcement, is working to protect our kids and their futures by preventing

underage drinking. Every adult determined to have facilitated underage drinking is subject to arrest and criminal prosecution.

### **CIVIL LIABILITY**

You may be sued for any injuries and/or damages caused to anyone, anything, anywhere, at any time, if such injuries and/or damages are determined to be related to any underage drinking which may have taken place in your home or on your property.

Most homeowner's insurance policies do not pay for losses incurred during the commission of a crime. Given that underage drinking in your home or on your property may be determined to be the result of you having committed a crime, you are at the risk of losing everything you own and having your wages garnished.

### **CRIMINAL LIABILITY**

In addition to the devastation of being sued, a homeowner and a property owner may also face criminal charges resulting from the facilitation of underage drinking. Upon conviction, an adult will be a **convicted**

**criminal** for life along with whatever penalty the court may impose. The New York State Penal Code states:

- « Section 260.10: Endangering the welfare of a child is a crime punishable by up to one year in jail and/or a fine up to \$1,000.
- « Section 260.20: Unlawfully dealing with a child in the first degree is a crime punishable by up to one year in jail and/or a fine up to \$1,000.
- « Section 260.45: Criminal nuisance in the second degree is a crime punishable by up to three months in jail and/or fine up to \$500.

**Stop  
Underage  
Drinking**

**Report Underage Drinking  
1-866-UNDER21  
1-866-863-3721**