

Shocking Facts about Underage Drinking:

*Children who begin drinking alcohol before the age of 15 are 5 times more likely than those who start after age 21 to develop alcohol problems

*More than 67% of young people who start drinking before the age of 15 will try an illicit drug.

*A survey found one-third of teens attend parties where illegal drugs and alcohol are on hand despite parents being present, according to an article by The Associated Press. However, 80% of the parents interviewed did not believe illegal drugs or alcohol were present at teen gatherings.

*Traffic crashes are the number one killer of teens and over one-third of teen traffic deaths are alcohol-related.

*National studies show that the average age when a child first tries alcohol is 11; for marijuana, it's 12.

*Alcohol is a strong predictor of sexual activity, unprotected sex, date rape, and violent behaviors.

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