

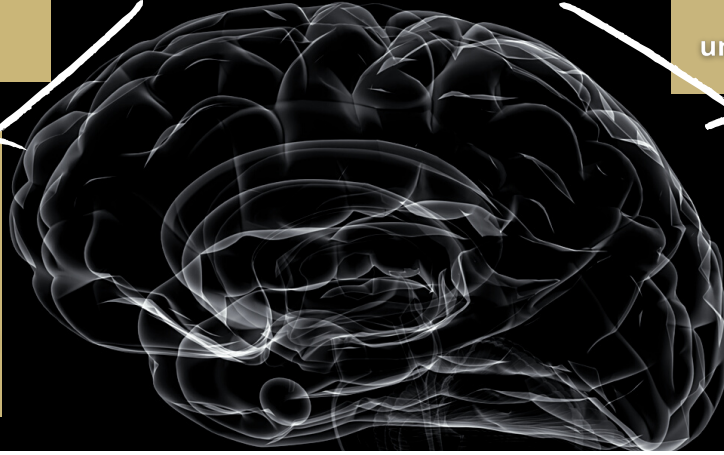
Latest Studies Show That Alcohol Damages The Teenage Brain

A human brain takes about 23-25 years to fully develop.

The brain hippocampus (responsible for learning and memory) can be 10% smaller in underage drinkers.

Alcohol use interrupts normal brain "wiring" by slowing down brain activity and development.

Alcohol interferes with storing new information as memories.



When adults provide alcohol or allow underage drinking it actually results in:

- more drinking outside the home
- more alcohol related problems
- more involvement in other high risk behaviors

Most alcoholics in America began drinking before age 18.

11% of all alcohol is consumed by 12-20 year olds in the U.S.

A majority of sexual assaults are alcohol-related

The MYTH and REALITIES of UNDERAGE DRINKING

Myth

"Teens are going to drink anyways... it's their right of passage."

Reality

Most teens do NOT drink. 70% of high school students said that they do not drink alcoholic beverages.

Misperceptions that "everybody's doing it" actually make youth more likely to drink. On the other hand, when these misperceptions are corrected, and teens realize that "NOT everybody's doing it", they are less likely to drink alcohol,

Myth

"It's safer for teens to drink at my home than elsewhere."

Reality

Adult supervised drinking actually results in more overall drinking in places other than home. Also, serving alcohol to anyone under 21 is illegal, putting you at risk for criminal charges and civil lawsuits, especially if someone is injured or property is damaged.



525 Foundation exists to educate teens and families and raise awareness about the dangers of alcohol and prescription drug misuse and abuse.