

Data on Drugs and Alcohol



- ◆ Most of us know our parents don't want us to drink alcohol. Among Rocky Point High School Students in 2010 almost 90% report that their parents feel it is "wrong" or "very wrong" for them to drink alcohol.
- ◆ Most of us don't want to binge drink. Among Rocky Point High School students in 2010, 85% reported no recent binge drinking (having five or more drinks on one occasion) and 82% report no recent drinking at all.
- ◆ Most of us (61%) at Rocky Point High School believe trying any alcohol is harmful; even more (85%) believe that regular use is very risky.
- ◆ Most of us (just more than half) didn't drink before the ninth grade. Among Rocky Point High School students in 2010 almost 46% report no lifetime alcohol use and 56% report never regularly using alcohol in their lifetime.
- ◆ Most of us (85%) feel that there is little or no chance of being cool by drinking alcohol regularly.
- ◆ 11 million American adolescents and young adults ages 12-29 need help with drug and alcohol problems; 9 million of these are between the ages of 12-25. (2009 National Study on Drugs and Health)
- ◆ 90% of the nearly 2 million adolescents who need help with drug and alcohol problems are not getting the help they need. (2008 National Study on Drugs and Health)
- ◆ The related public health, social services, public safety, and lost productivity costs of drug and alcohol abuse to society is \$465 billion a year. (\$280 billion drugs, \$185 billion alcohol; Harwood 2004, 2000)
- ◆ Parents consider drugs and alcohol as one of the most important issues facing teens, young adults, and parents today. (Horowitz Associates 2010)
- ◆ Kids who learn a lot about the risks of drugs from their parents are up to 50% less likely to use drugs, yet only 37% report getting that benefit. (Partnership Attitude Tracking Study 2008)
- ◆ Parents who intervene early with their child's drug or alcohol use can help significantly reduce the likelihood that they will become addicted, or suffer long-term negative consequences. (Dennis 2008)
- ◆ 90% of all adults with drug or alcohol problems started using before the age of 18, and half before 15. (Dennis 2007)
- ◆ There is a clear association between adolescent drug and alcohol use and unhealthy, risky behavior, including: unprotected, unplanned, unwanted sexual activity; impaired motor vehicle driving/passenger; involvement with juvenile justice system; poor academic performance and dropping out. (numerous sources)
- ◆ Some adolescents and young adults have special vulnerability to drug and alcohol problems, including: drug or alcohol use at an early age; family history of drug or alcohol problems; existing mental health problems; having friends who use drugs and alcohol. (National Institute on Drug Abuse)
- ◆ African American adolescents have consistently shown lower drug and alcohol usage rates than Caucasian adolescents. (Johnson/Monitoring the Future 2008)
- ◆ Coerced (non voluntary) treatment for adolescent drug and alcohol problems can be just as effective as treatment after "hitting bottom." (National Institute on Drug Abuse, Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration)
- ◆ The adolescent brain is not fully developed until ages 22-24, and can be more vulnerable to the effects of drugs and alcohol; the part of the brain to develop last is the prefrontal cortex, responsible for decision making and moderating social behavior. (Winters 2008)
- ◆ Effective treatment for adolescent drug and alcohol problems has been shown to be different than treatment for adults. (National Institute on Drug Abuse)
- ◆ On an average day, 7,540 adolescents 12-17 drank alcohol for the first time, 4,365 used an illicit drug, 2,466 abused a prescription pain medication (without a prescription) and 263 were admitted to treatment for marijuana dependence, more than any other drug. (2008 OAS/ SAMHSA)
- ◆ Most kids who consume alcohol do so in their own home or in the home of a friend. www.Talk2prevent.com
- ◆ One out of three 13-year-olds in New York State has tried alcohol. www.Talk2prevent.com
- ◆ Forty-nine percent of high school seniors in NYS have consumed alcohol in the past 30 days - that's more than 100,000 seniors. www.Talk2prevent.com
- ◆ Nearly 52 percent of NYS students in grades 7-12 reported their parents had never talked to them about the dangers of underage drinking. www.Talk2prevent.com
- ◆ Research indicates the brain continues to develop into the mid-twenties. Alcohol use can have a detrimental effect on the developing brain. www.Talk2prevent.com
- ◆ A teenager who begins drinking before the age of 15 is seven times more likely to have an alcohol abuse or dependence issue later in life than someone who waits until age 21 to drink alcohol. www.Talk2prevent.com