

Alcohol

- Alcohol is a drug, classified as a depressant, meaning that it slows down vital functions of the body.
- This results in slurred speech, unsteady movements, disturbed perceptions, and an inability to react quickly.
- Drinking more alcohol than the body can handle will result in inability to feel pain, toxicity where the body vomits the poison, and finally unconsciousness, or worse, death from severe toxic overdose.
- When the amount of alcohol in the blood exceeds a certain level, the respiratory (breathing) system slows down markedly, and can cause a coma or death, because oxygen no longer reaches the brain.
- There are different kinds of alcohol:
 - Ethyl alcohol, used in alcoholic beverages
 - Isopropyl alcohol, used for rubbing alcohol, as a disinfectant. Drinking this alcohol can cause headache, dizziness, nausea, vomiting, central nervous system depression, organ damage and potentially coma or death.
- On average in the United States there are nearly 4 teen deaths PER DAY caused by drinking and driving.
- Motor vehicle accidents are the #1 cause of death among teenagers in the United States.
- The risk of a driver under the influence of alcohol being killed in a vehicle accident is at least 11 times that of drivers without alcohol in their system.
- Binge drinking is the practice of consuming alcohol in large quantities in a single session, usually defined as five or more drinks at one time for a man, and four or more drinks at one time for a woman.
- About 90% of the alcohol consumed by youth under the age of 21 in the United States is in the form of binge drinks.
- Alcohol dependency (alcoholism) consists of 4 symptoms:
 1. Craving alcohol
 2. Loss of control; inability to limit drinking
 3. Physical dependence; withdrawal symptoms which include nausea, sweating, shakiness, and anxiety
 4. Tolerance - the need to drink greater amounts in order to get high or feel intoxicated.

SHORT TERM EFFECTS	LONG TERM EFFECTS
Slurred speech	Unintentional injuries such as car crash, falls, burns, drowning
Drowsiness	Intentional injuries such as firearm injuries, sexual assault, domestic violence
Vomiting	Increased on-the-job injuries and loss of productivity
Diarrhea	Increased family problems, broken relationships
Upset stomach	Alcohol poisoning
Headaches	High blood pressure, stroke, and other heart-related diseases
Breathing difficulties	Liver disease
Impaired judgment	Nerve damage
Decreases perception and coordination	Permanent damage to the brain
Unconsciousness	Ulcers, cancer of the mouth and throat
Coma	Vitamin B deficiency which can lead to a disorder characterized by amnesia, apathy and disorientation
Blackouts-memory lapses where you cannot remember what occurred	

LAW

- An individual younger than **21** possessing, consuming, accepting or purchasing an alcoholic product.
- First offense: Punishable by up to a \$500.00 fine, 8-12 community service hours and a State mandated alcohol awareness class lasting 6 hours at a cost of \$60.00-\$75.00 along with a 30 day driver's license suspension.
- Second offense: Punishable by up to a \$500.00 fine, 20-40 community service hours and a State mandated alcohol awareness class lasting 6 hours at a cost of \$60.00-\$75.00 along with a 90 day driver's license suspension.
- Third offense: Class B misdemeanor punishable by fine ranging from \$250.00-\$2000.00 and or up to 180 days in jail, your driver's license will be suspended for 180 days after serving time in jail.

- Driving while license invalid class B misdemeanor (up to \$2000.00 fine and or 180 days in jail)
- Upon serving your jail time, your driver's license will have State mandated surcharges in order to keep your driver's license in good standing.