



**MCSAAC**  
*Creating Partnerships, Building Healthy  
Communities, Enriching Lives.*

## **P**arents **R**esponsibility **O**ver **M**inors

### Startling Statistics

#### **National and Connecticut**

- 4.6 million teenagers have a drinking problem
- It has become clear over recent years that alcohol impacts both behavior and brain function differently in adolescents and adults. Adolescents are more vulnerable than adults to the effects of alcohol on learning and memory. (White, 2001)
- 68% of traffic fatalities in the month of June (Prom season) were Alcohol-Related. (MADD, 2000)
- Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for children from two to 14 years of age. (NHTSA, 2003)
- One study showed that students diagnosed with alcohol abuse were four times more likely to experience major depression than those without an alcohol problem.

#### **Health Implications**

- ▶ Adolescents who use alcohol are more likely to become sexually active, which places them at greater risk of HIV infection and other sexually transmitted diseases.
- ▶ People who begin drinking before the age of 15 are four times more likely to develop alcohol dependence than those who wait until age 21.
- ▶ Each additional year of delayed drinking onset reduces the probability of alcohol dependence by 14 percent.

**58.9% of young people reported having talked with at least one of their parents during the past year about the dangers of tobacco, alcohol, or drug use.**

**Youths who had talked with a parent were less likely to report past month alcohol use, binge alcohol use, or illicit drug use than youths who had not. (NSDUH, 2003)**

**Talk with your child about staying safe - they're listening.**

For More Information or how to get involved: ENTER YOUR SCHOOL/GROUP CONTACT INFO.

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