

MYTHS... about Teen Drinking

EVERYBODY DRINKS

- **FACT**–70% of teens in Harrisonburg and Rockingham Community have **not used alcohol** in the past year or ever.
- **FACT**–43% of adults in Harrisonburg and Rockingham County **do NOT drink**.
(Healthy Community Assessment 2006)

TEENS DRINK TO HAVE A GOOD TIME

According to a recent national survey of junior and senior high school students who drink:

- **FACT**–More than 30% drink alone
- **FACT**–Boredom and emotional distress are among the reasons why they say they drink.

ALCOHOL IS LESS DANGEROUS THAN OTHER DRUGS

- **FACT**–Car crashes, suicides, homicides and drowning associated with alcohol use make it the **#1 drug problem** for young people.
- **FACT**–most likely cause of death for a 16-year-old is alcohol-related.



www.uwhr.org/strongfamilies

TEEN DRINKING A True or False Test For Parents

- T or F** If I let my child drink at home, he or she will be less likely to get in trouble with alcohol elsewhere.
- False – Research shows teenagers whose parents allow them to drink at home are **MORE** likely to drink outside the home **AND** to use other drugs.
 - They also have a much greater chance of developing a serious problem.
- T or F** Alcohol affects teens the same way as adults.
- False – Teens are more likely to binge drink and engage in risky behaviors when drunk.
 - Teens' brains are still developing; damage from alcohol can be long-term and irreversible.
 - Adolescents only need to drink half as much to suffer the same negative effects.
- T or F** Parents can go to jail for allowing minors to drink alcohol in their home.
- True – This is punishable by up to one year in jail and/or a \$2,500 fine.
- T or F** Everybody drinks.
- False - 70% of teens in Harrisonburg and Rockingham Community have not used alcohol in the past year or ever.

Your Kids Need To Hear From You.



RMHOnline.com

What Happens When You Break Virginia Alcohol Laws?



Everyone knows it is illegal for a minor to buy or possess any alcoholic beverage. But, do you know the consequences of breaking this law?

If convicted, consequences may include:

- ✓ 12 months in jail
- ✓ fine up to \$2500
- ✓ suspension of driver's license up to a year.

Using a **FAKE ID** to purchase an alcoholic beverage can result in:

- ✓ a fine up to \$2500
- ✓ one year jail term and a minimum \$500 fine or 50 hours of community service.

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