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NASSAU COUNTY
SPiN
A Crime Prevention Partnership
SECURITY / POLICE INFORMATION NETWORK



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DWI TEEN / SAFETY

The number one killer of teenagers is drunk driving. More than 3,500 teens are killed and another 85,000 are injured each year in car crashes involving alcohol. Not all have been drinking; some are passengers or innocent victims of people who drink and drive. Someone in the United States is killed in an alcohol-related traffic accident every 23 minutes. That someone could be your best friend. It could be you.

ILLEGAL DRUGS AND DRIVING

Alcohol is a drug. It is the most widely abused drug in our nation. A number of drugs that are illegal for everyone, such as marijuana and cocaine, severely impair a driver's skills. Don't use illegal drugs; don't ride with a driver who has used them.

TEENS CAN HELP EACH OTHER

Be smarter and safer by organizing buses, carpools, or limousines for prom nights and other school parties.

If you are out with a group of friends, be sure to have a designated driver, someone who pledges not to drink at all. If you or someone else makes one mistake -- illegal drinking, don't compound it with a second mistake -- driving under the influence.

Get parents to sign pledges that they will not serve beer or alcohol to teens in their homes.

Ask a student who has been involved in an alcohol-related accident to speak to your club or even a school assembly about its consequences.

Suggest that parents and teachers run a hotline on prom night. If students have trouble getting to or from the dance or are riding with someone who's been drinking, they can call for a safe ride with no questions asked.

WHAT IS BEING DONE?

Many groups like **SADD** (Students Against Destructive Decisions) and **MADD** (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) have organized to fight drunk driving. They lobby Congress and state legislatures for stiffer penalties for drunk drivers and organize alcohol- and drug-free prom and graduation parties. They also operate hotlines to help teens and young adults who think they may have a drinking problem.

Many schools, in cooperation with law enforcement agencies, have started programs to make students aware of the dangers of drunk driving. They often get the message across with slides showing accidents and with speakers who have been hurt in drunk driving accidents. Some schools have programs that allow any student who feels he or she shouldn't be driving to call for a ride, with no questions asked. These local and national efforts have played significant roles in raising teens' awareness of the drunk driving issue and in decreasing the number of traffic accidents involving teenagers.

WWW.SADD.ORG

WWW.MADD.ORG

WWW.DEDICATEDD.ORG

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SOURCE: ARLINGTON VIRGINIA POLICE DEPARTMENT