

Did you know?



- ? Alcohol is implicated in the three top causes of teen deaths: traffic fatalities and other unintentional deaths, homicide and suicide.
- ? Over 80 percent of high school students have tried alcohol - more than have smoked cigarettes!
- ? Underage drinking in the United States costs nearly \$53 billion per year in crashes, drowning, burns, violent crimes, suicide attempts, fetal alcohol syndrome, alcohol poisoning and emergency medical care.
- ? The brain goes through changes during adolescence and alcohol can seriously damage growth. Damage from alcohol can be long-term and irreversible.
- ? Underage drinkers are more than twice as likely to develop alcohol-related problems later in life.



Pieces of the Puzzle



A Comprehensive Alcohol Curriculum For Middle Schoolers

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Pieces of the Puzzle



Underage drinking is a **BIG** problem. The age at which students take their first drink is getting lower and lower. The gap between boys and girls has closed. A 2002 survey found that 8th and 10th grade girls are actually **more** likely to drink than boys in the same age groups!

The American Trauma Society, PA Division, with a grant from the National Recreation Foundation, has developed *Pieces of the Puzzle* - a series of programs to educate middle school age students about alcohol. The sessions contain solid information about various aspects of alcohol use and abuse. At the heart of each session is an activity to reinforce the information. The idea is to give the students the facts and guide them to reach the right conclusions. They are much more likely to adhere to a decision they've reached on their own.

The program manual contains eight sessions for students, a session for parents, background information and resources. It is available on a CD which also includes PowerPoint® presentations for most of the sessions. The package also includes a videotape for use with one of the sessions.

The American Trauma Society, PA Division is aware that underage drinking is a serious problem. Working together, we **CAN** make a difference.

Program Sessions

Pieces of the Puzzle

Introductory session uses a game show format to explore myths and misconceptions about alcohol. This provides students with facts upon which to base their decisions.



Riding with Alcohol

Students use Fatal Vision® goggles in different activities to show how alcohol affects vision and the ability to drive.

Dating Under the Influence

Students look at dating scenarios that include alcohol and consider possible negative outcomes and how to prevent them.



Adventures in Advertising

Students learn how alcohol companies target youth. In the activity, they redesign alcohol ads to make them tell the truth.

Dealing With It

Students will role-play to learn methods to deal with a friend or relative who has a drinking problem.



Way To No

This video on refusal skills aids students in developing their own ways of saying no to alcohol. (Also available as a stand-alone lesson.)

Binge!

Students learn about the special dangers of high-risk drinking through a board game. Players try to "stay alive" while navigating the board, avoiding drinking and other risky behaviors.



Completing the Puzzle

This session again uses a game show format to review information from all previous sessions.

Parents and the Puzzle

Parents are given the information they need about the serious problem and consequences of underage alcohol use. Included are hints on how to encourage parents to attend.



**ATS will give you the pieces.
Can YOU put the puzzle together?**