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#10688 FATAL DECISION

AIMS MULTIMEDIA, 200 Grade Level: Minutes

CAPTIONED MEDIA PROGRAM RELATED RESOURCES

#3165 THE QUIETEST ROOM #10684 FRIENDS DON'T LET FRIENDS DRIVE DRUNK #10690 SAFE DRIVING FOR TEENS







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Discussion Guide

Fatal Decision

Objectives

- To show that drunk driving affects innocent people, not just the person drinking and driving.
- To demonstrate to viewers what steps are involved when a drunk driving accident occurs
- To emphasize that even when people have "just a few" drinks, they should not drive



Forty years of quality media

Fatal Decision

Synopsis

Fatal Decision is a compelling portrayal of what happens when Bob, an average man, drinks a few beers at a party before driving home, resulting in an auto crash that leaves a young girl dead, his wife paralyzed, and himself in jail.

Fatal Decision documents the graphic and disturbing elements of what a drunk-driving crash entails, from fire fighters having to tear a car apart to rescue Bob's wife, Carol, to Bob's humiliating phone call to tell a neighbor he's in jail. Viewers look on as the young girl killed in the crash is summarily identified and brought to the morgue; the audience also witnesses the girls' parents being notified of their daughter's death.

With a clear and unwavering eye, this program shows how quickly and dramatically lives can be permanently altered when an average person makes a choice to drive after drinking. As a result, *Fatal Decision* is a factual and effective antidrunk-driving statement for many types of audiences.

Questions to ask before viewing

- 1. What do viewers think happens when a drunk driving accident occurs?
- 2. Do the viewers think beer can get someone drunk enough to cause a drunk driving accident?
- 3. Discuss with the viewers if any of them have been in or know anyone who was involved in a drunk driving accident. Encourage them to talk about their feelings and impressions.

Questions to ask after viewing

- 1. Why did Bob drive after the party? (He told Carol he was fine. She then let him drive.)
- 2. Who was affected by the accident? (Bob, Carol, their friends and family, and the girl who was killed and her family.)
- 3. How did the paramedics get Carol out of the car? (They had to take the car apart to get her out.)
- 4. Was Bob able to go to the hospital with Carol? Why or why not? (He was in jail and could not therefore go to the hospital. He called a neighbor to go see Carol.)
- 5. How did the accident affect Carol? (She is now paralyzed, and her husband Bob is in jail.)
- 6. How did the dead victim's family find out about their daughter's death? (A paramedic and a chaplain went in the middle of the night to tell them.)
- 7. What were the paramedics' attitudes about the accident? Why do the viewers suppose they act this way? (They were very matter-of-

fact as they went about their business; this is probably because they deal with many of these accidents.)

8. Which part of the video did the viewers find most effective? Why? (Answers will vary, but encourage the each person to verbalize their impressions.)

True/False

- 1. Bob intended to get into an accident when he got behind the wheel. (False.)
- 2. Beer cannot make a person too drunk to drive. (False.)
- 3. If a person has a few drinks and insists that they're OK to drive, you should let him/her. (False.)
- 4. Many people are affected by drunk driving, not just the person driving. (True.)
- 5. Bob was not given harsh punishment for driving drunk and killing someone. (False.)

Additional Activities

Organize a "Drunk Driving Awareness Day". Arrange for speakers to come and talk to students about their experiences with drunk driving, and have students present information about drunk driving statistics in their city.

Have students visit a local Mothers Against Drunk Driving (M.A.D.D.) or Students Against Drunk Driving (S.A.D.D.) chapter. They should interview various members, finding out how they got involved. Ask students to make a report for class so they can share what they learned with other students.

Length

20 Minutes

Subject areas Health and Guidance

Audience levels Grades Jr. High - Adult

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