



#8934

THE TRUTH ABOUT DRINKING

Grade Levels: 6-12

30 minutes

AIMS MULTIMEDIA 1998

DESCRIPTION

A group of teens who drink see firsthand the hard-hitting realities of potential consequences of alcohol use: how it affects coordination, vision and reaction time; how organs suffer damage; and time in a rehab center. A realistic simulation of three "deaths" in a drunk-driving accident include a visit to the morgue, one "arrest," parental notification, and a burial. A sobering look at teen alcohol use hosted by Leeza Gibbons.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Subject Area: Health

- ◆ Standard: Understands aspects of substance use and abuse
 - Benchmark: Knows how the abuse of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs often plays a role in dangerous behavior and can have adverse consequences on the community (e.g., house fires, motor vehicle crashes, domestic violence, date rape, transmission of diseases through needle sharing or sexual activity)



INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

1. To relate that anyone who drinks, no matter how old, is in danger of abusing alcohol and suffering one of many life-altering consequences.
2. To explain how vision, coordination and reaction time are impaired by alcohol, even when a person isn't fully intoxicated.
3. To demonstrate that alcohol use causes a "shriveling" of the brain, the beginnings of which are apparent even in the brain scan of a sober teen who drinks socially.
4. To relate how binge drinking can lead to alcohol poisoning and death before others realize what has happened to the victim.
5. To emphasize why it is never safe to get into a car being driven by someone who is intoxicated by alcohol or is under the influence of any other drug.

BEFORE SHOWING

1. What is the number one drug of choice for today's teenagers?
2. Why do you think drinking alcohol is so popular among teenagers?
3. What experiences have you had or heard about involving drinking too much at one time?

4. At what point in a person's life do you think frequent consumption of alcohol has a physical effect on the brain or other organs?
5. When is it safe to drive after you have been drinking, or to get into a car driven by someone who has been drinking?
6. Since the legal drinking age is 21, where do teens get their alcohol?

AFTER SHOWING

Discussion Items and Questions

1. Manny talked about what would have to happen to make him stop drinking. What did he say?
2. What was demonstrated about the driving of a drunk person when Chris attempted to drive the specially altered car?
3. What do drunk drivers think about their ability behind the wheel?
4. What did Manny and Mary Ellen learn about how the liver is affected by alcohol?
5. Larry Ruten died from alcohol poisoning. How did his friends contribute to his death?
6. Alcohol kills more than how many times the number of people killed by cocaine, heroin, and every other illegal drug combined?
7. What did Tara and Nathan learn about how and when alcohol affects the brain?
8. Do you think Nathan and Tara will stop drinking now they have seen what is happening to their brains? Would you?
9. Is it true that only alcoholics are likely to abuse alcohol?
10. What caused Jolene to finally realize she needed help overcoming her alcohol problem?
11. In your opinion, what kind of future might Jolene have? Why?
12. Discuss Kelly's statement: "If you really honestly think that it's all right for you to drink and drive, then by all means it's all right for you to drink and drive because all you can do is take care of your own self."

Applications and Activities

1. How did you feel about the scenario played out involving the four teens in which one was "driving drunk" and the other three "died" in the crash? What part of the simulation do you think made the greatest impact on the group? Why?
2. Try to imagine that your parents receive the news you have died in an alcohol-related situation. How do you think your parents and other family members would react? Write a letter to your parents expressing what you feel or want to say to them now that you have died so tragically.



3. Many of the teens in the program said that they would not stop drinking unless something bad happened to themselves or someone close to them. Do you agree or disagree with this attitude? Why? Form small groups and discuss your opinions.
4. If you wanted to prevent a friend from abusing alcohol, how might you do it? In teams or pairs, make a list of the strategies you could use.

SUMMARY

For today's teenagers, alcohol is the number one drug of choice. It is considered "cool" by many teens to drink as much as they can in social situations involving their peers. Few, if any, of these young people think about the consequences.

In this program, teens who are current drinkers see firsthand what the future may hold for them if they continue to drink. They experience the potential consequences of alcohol use from every perspective, including: how drinking impairs a person's coordination, vision, and reaction time; how the brain and other organs suffer lasting damage from alcohol use; how a drunk person really drives; and how drinking can lead to spending months in a rehabilitation center.

The program culminates in a realistic simulation of the "deaths" of three participants who got into a car with a fourth who was driving drunk. The teens watch a videotape of their parents' reaction to the news. The driver is then "booked" and sent to prison. The three victims visit the coroner's office to learn of the fatal injuries each suffered in the crash. Finally, they all attend the funerals of the three who "died" and listen as their parents read farewell tributes to their children.

By the close of the program, all of the young participants are moved to stop their reckless drinking behavior.

RELATED RESOURCES



Captioned Media Program

- Fast Forward: An Alcoholic's Story #3461
- The Quietest Room #3165
- Shatter #3514
- Thinking About Drinking #3187



World Wide Web



The following Web sites complement the contents of this guide; they were selected by professionals who have experience in teaching deaf and hard of hearing students. Every effort was made to select accurate, educationally relevant, and "kid-safe" sites. However, teachers should preview them before use. The U.S. Department of Education, the National Association of the Deaf, and the Captioned Media Program do not endorse the sites and are not responsible for their content.

- **THE NATIONAL CLEARINGHOUSE FOR ALCOHOL AND DRUG INFORMATION**

<http://www.health.org/>

Numerous topics on various kinds of illegal drugs. Explains alcohol, drug abuse, fact sheets, links to "Teens," "Tips for Teens," and many other areas of interest. Click on <http://www.health.org/govpubs/phd688/> for an informative site on "A Guide for Teens."

- **JUST ONE NIGHT**

<http://www.pbs.org/justone/>

Know the facts about drinking and driving and how you can help others. Find out alcohol laws in your state. Read on other topics about alcohol from this PBS site.

- **MADD**

<http://www.madd.org/>

Not only for Mothers Against Drunk Driving, this organization is also for people of different ages and other concerned individuals. Click on the "Under 21" banner to find facts and information related to teen drinking, print a "Prom Promise," find your chapter, and much more.

