

Parents:

- **Surgeon General's Call to Action to Prevention and Reduce Underage Drinking, Start Talking Before They Start Drinking**

http://www.stopalcoholabuse.gov/media/Underage_Brochure_508final.pdf

The negative consequences of underage drinking are more widespread and serious than previously known. A growing body of research shows that alcohol can change the way the brain works and the way it's wired, and may have consequences reaching far beyond adolescence. Many more dangers of underage drinking are immediate, including alcohol poisoning, sexual and physical assault, and motor vehicle crashes. Underage drinking is a serious problem, with roots deep in our culture. You can help protect your children from the risks associated with drinking by maintaining open communication and expressing a clear, consistent message that underage alcohol use is unacceptable. Building a close relationship with your children will increase the likelihood they come to you for help in making decisions that impact their health and well-being.