

Clarice Neitzel

Alcoholism

Has anyone ever come up to you with a beer saying, "Come on, it's okay, we won't get caught?" What was your answer? Many kids think that one time won't hurt. Well, that one time will hurt. Did you know if you started drinking, ever one beer at a time, at the age of 14 or younger, you are four times more likely to become and alcoholic than if you started at the age of 20 or older?

People say the government should rise the legal drinking age, but studies show the higher they go with the age; the younger kids start their alcohol abuse. There are more secretive parties going on and more designated drivers needed. There are even designated driver ads going on around the internet!

Say you live in Canada where the legal drinking age is 19 instead of 21. Do you think you would still drink at such a young age? Scientists did a test and it showed that only 36% of Canadian kids drink underage, while 58% of American kids drink underage.

There percentages increase the rates for drunk driving. Would you want to pass away knowing you wrecked your vehicle due to minor alcohol abuse? I wouldn't. In 2002, these rates of drunk driving increased to 40%. So next time you get invited to go out to a party, think how you want to live your adult years.