



Wendy Natalone
Health and Wellness Chair
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1. November 1 – January 1, 2017: Tie One On For Safety Campaign

With the holiday season just around the corner, it is no surprise that some of the most dangerous days of the year on our nation's roadways are between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day. That is why every holiday season MADD asks people to display MADD red ribbons in visible locations on their vehicles to remind others to always designate a non-drinking driver.

The campaign's name was derived from the phrase "tie one on," which is slang for drinking alcohol. MADD, however, uses the phrase to remind everyone that drinking and driving do not mix.

"HOW CAN YOU PARTICIPATE IN TIE ONE ON FOR SAFETY?"

This holiday season, show your commitment to eliminating drunk driving by:

- Putting safety before the party and always designate a non-drinking driver BEFORE the celebration begins to ensure everyone arrives home safely.
- Display a MADD red ribbon in a visible location on your vehicles. Red ribbons, magnets and window decals are available through [local MADD affiliates](#).
- Hosting parties responsibly by offering 'mocktails' and other non-alcoholic beverages, and by providing alternate transportation or accommodations for guests who have been drinking. Get more safe party tips at madd.org/safeparty."
- Tie One On For Safety "virtually" by sharing one of MADD's buttons on Facebook (See link for details) <http://www.madd.org/drunken-driving/how-you-can-help/tie-one-on-for-safety.html?referrer=http://www.nyspta.org/Advocacy/ANewsbriefs-1016.cfm>

http://www.madd.org/drunken-driving/safe-party/Safe-Party-Tips_Web_2015_UBER.jpg

Health Dangers to Teens: Drinking fogs thinking and erodes judgment. When you combine alcohol with teenagers' natural risk-taking and desire to impress their friends, dangerous things happen. Each year, underage drinking contributes to the death of approximately 4,700 young people.

"By waiting until the legal age of 21 to start drinking, your teen protects his or her health and reduces risk of the following dangers:

- **Physical injuries**
Teens who drink do crazy things, like jump off the roof, drag race, and climb into a car with a stranger. They may fall and hurt themselves or fight with fists, knives, or guns. Underage drinking leads to 1,600 homicides each year.
- **Drunk driving**
Teens are less capable than adults of knowing when they've had too much to drink, and

rationalize that it's okay to drive after drinking. Underage drinking kills 1,900 people in fatal car crashes each year.

- **Assault and sexual abuse**
Intoxicated teens are not able to run or defend themselves and are at the mercy of muggers, rapists, and other attackers.
- **Sexual promiscuity**
Under the influence of alcohol, your child is more likely to have unprotected sex with multiple partners, pick up sexually transmitted diseases, or get pregnant.
- **Brain damage**
When consumed in large quantities, alcohol can cause lasting brain damage. Kids who binge drink—boys who consume five or more drinks at a time, and girls who have four or more—are at greatest risk.
- **Addiction and substance abuse**
Early drinking increases the odds that your child will get hooked on alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs. Kids who drink before the age of 15 are four times more likely to become alcoholics.
- **Suicide**
Kids who abuse alcohol think about killing themselves and act on that impulse more.”

<http://www.madd.org/underage-drinking/the-power-of-parents/high-school-parents/why-should-you-care/highschool-why2.html>

“AlcoholFX” App for Younger Children:

Alcohol's Effects on the Brain (AlcoholFX) is a free, science-based app for tablets that teaches students ages 10–12 how alcohol can harm their brains if they drink. Based on lesson plans from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)'s [Reach Out Now initiative](#), the app can easily integrate with instruction in fifth- and sixth-grade classrooms. *AlcoholFX* helps increase students' knowledge of alcohol's negative consequences before they reach the average age of first use.

With AlcoholFX:

- **Students** engage in research-based, interactive games that explore brain science while practicing their responses to difficult social situations involving alcohol.
- **Educators** use science-based lessons plans, resources, and recorded scenarios to help students and parents learn about the dangers of alcohol to the developing brain.
- **Parents** learn how alcohol affects their child's brain and can put their child's education and health at risk.

Why talk about alcohol early?

According to SAMHSA's "[Talk. They Hear You.](#)" Campaign, around age 9, children begin thinking alcohol may not be just for adults. By age 15, many young people are drinking. Young people who start drinking before age 15 are five times more likely to develop alcohol problems as adults than those who begin drinking at age 21 or older. Kids who drink alcohol also are more likely to use drugs, not do as well in school, hurt themselves or someone else, engage in risky sexual behavior, and experience health problems.

Download [AlcoholFX](#) to your tablet today — free from [Google Play](#) and [Apple iTunes](#).

<http://www.samhsa.gov/underage-drinking>
<http://www.toosmartostart.samhsa.gov/educators/alcoholfx.aspx>

Social Host:

Social host refers to adults who host parties where alcohol is served on property they control. Through social host liability laws, adults can be held responsible for these parties if underage people are served, regardless of who furnishes the alcohol. Teen parties are a primary setting for underage drinking for high school and college students and high consumption of alcohol and binge drinking.

<http://www.madd.org/underage-drinking/the-power-of-parents/high-school-parents/social-host/>

2. December is National Impaired Driving Prevention Month

“[Impaired driving](#) includes [distracted driving](#), [drugged driving](#), and [drunk driving](#).”

Why do we recognize National Impaired Driving Prevention Month?

In an average year, 30 million Americans drive drunk, and 10 million Americans drive impaired by illicit drugs.

A 2010 survey by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) revealed that 13.2 percent of all people aged 16 or older drove under the influence of alcohol and 4.3 percent drove under the influence of illicit drugs during the past year.

Furthermore, rates of impaired driving differed dramatically by age.

- While 11.8 percent of people aged 26 and older drove drunk, 19.5 percent of people aged 16 to 25 drove drunk.
- And, 2.8 percent of the older group drove drugged, while 11.4 percent of younger drivers did so.

December seems particularly suited to this observation because traffic fatalities that involve impaired drivers increase significantly during the Christmas and New Year’s holiday periods.

- On average, 25 people were killed in alcohol-impaired driving crashes per day during December 2010.
- Young adults are among those at greatest risk for driving impaired. During December 2010, drivers 21 to 34 years old were alcohol impaired and involved in fatal crashes at a higher percentage than any other age group.

• All 50 States and the District of Columbia enforce the minimum legal drinking age of 21 years. NHTSA asks minors to avoid alcohol, and encourages parents and other caregivers to make a new or renewed commitment to never cater a party to underage drinking. If someone you know is drinking, do not let that person get behind the wheel. If you see an impaired driver on the road, contact law enforcement. Your actions may save someone's life, and inaction could cost a life. Families play an essential part in stopping impaired driving. By talking about the risks and setting clear expectations, parents and other caregivers can help their children stay safe, sober, and focused on the road.”

<http://youth.gov/feature-article/december-national-impaired-driving-prevention-month>

