

Red Rock RPC February 2017

Alcohol is Risky Business

Young Teens and Alcohol-Risks

For young people, alcohol is the drug of choice. In fact, alcohol is used by more young people than tobacco or illicit drugs. Although most children under age 14 have not yet begun to drink, early adolescence is a time of special risk for beginning to experiment with alcohol.

While some parents and guardians may feel relieved that their teen is “only” drinking, it is important to remember that alcohol is a powerful, mood-altering drug. Not only does alcohol affect the mind and body in often unpredictable ways, but teens lack the judgment and coping skills to handle alcohol wisely. As a result:

- Alcohol-related traffic crashes are a major cause of death among young people. Alcohol use also is linked with teen deaths by drowning, suicide, and homicide.
- Teens who use alcohol are more likely to be sexually active at earlier ages, to have sexual intercourse more often, and to have unprotected sex than teens who do not drink.
- Young people who drink are more likely than others to be victims of violent crime, including rape, aggravated assault, and robbery.
- Teens who drink are more likely to have problems with school work and school conduct.
- The majority of boys and girls who drink tend to binge (5 or more drinks on an occasion for boys and 4 or more on an occasion for girls) when they drink.
- A person who begins drinking as a young teen is four times more likely to develop alcohol dependence than someone who waits until adulthood to use alcohol.

The message is clear: Alcohol use is very risky business for young people. And the longer children delay alcohol use, the less likely they are to develop any problems associated with it. That’s why it is so important to help your child avoid any alcohol use.

Taken from http://pubs.niaaa.nih.gov/publications/MakeADiff_HTML/makediff.htm

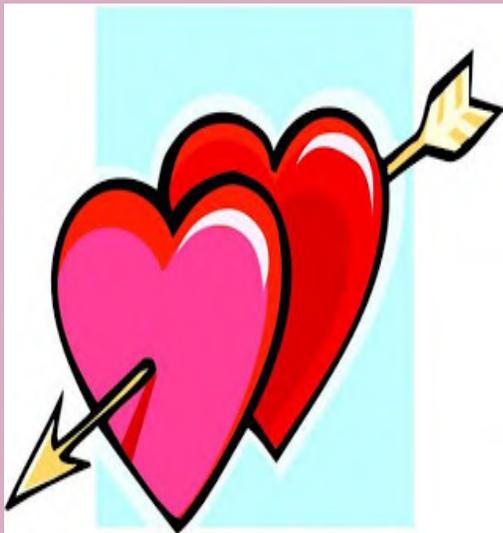
What's Happening?

Feb. 3rd: CHAT @ 12 @ the Weatherford Food & Resource Center

Feb. 8th: CCIC @ 12 @ Wichita and Affiliated Tribes Suicide Prevention Office in Anadarko

Feb. 16th: ALITE @ 12 @ City Hall in Elk City

Feb 27th: Kiowa Co. Coalition @ 1 @ the Health Department in Hobart



Social Host Reminder-Don't be a Party to Underage Drinking

Red Rock Regional Prevention Coordinator (RPC) would like to remind community members about "Cody's Law," also known as the Statewide Social Host Law. Social Host provides stronger penalties for individuals who knowingly allow underage drinking in their homes or on their property. With the statewide social host law, all youth across the state of Oklahoma are better protected against the dangers of underage drinking.

The social host law provides a misdemeanor and fine of up to \$500 for the first violation and a fine of up to \$1,000 for a second. Further violations can result in up to five years in prison and a fine of \$2,500. If a violation of Cody's Law results in bodily injury or death, a social host will face a fine of between \$2,500 and \$5,000 and up to five years of incarceration,

House Bill 1211 is named after Cody Greenhaw, a Tulsa teenager who died from a drug and alcohol overdose. Both chambers of the Legislature passed House Bill 1211 unanimously. The legislation took effect Nov. 1, 2011.

For more information on the Social Host Law or the RPC please contact Red Rock RPC at (580)323-9736 or visit the RPC website at www.redrockrpc.com.

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