

## DIAGNOSIS: TEEN ALCOHOLIC

Alcohol is the most widely used drug in the world. Alcohol abuse among teenagers is of epidemic proportions in the Commonwealth and United States. Law enforcement officers and others interested in educating young people about alcohol are faced with a difficult task.

Sixty-five percent of teenagers age 12 to 17 have used alcohol and at least 26 percent are regular alcohol consumers. Teenage alcohol consumption accounts for thousands of deaths in automobile accidents — the number one killer of young people. Forty percent of teenage suicides involve alcohol consumption. Alcohol has been identified along with cigarette smoking as the most common substance leading to later use of illegal drugs such as marijuana and cocaine by young people.

Alcoholism is a drug dependency and a progressive physical and psychological disorder requiring direct medical intervention. Over three million teenagers have been treated for alcoholism in chemical dependency treatment facilities.

The most effective approach by law enforcement officers or other educators in combatting teenage alcohol abuse is to reach parents, teachers, and community leaders in order to demolish the myth that use by teenagers is normal. Underage drinking is illegal, and alcohol abuse during these critical maturational years impairs the young person's ability to learn vital coping skills necessary for an increasingly complex world.



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**Suggested Uses:**

To serve as a graphic warning against the use of alcohol. To educate the audience about the physical, psychological and legal aspects of alcohol use. To de-glamorize this drug by portraying the reality of alcoholic abuse.

**Recommended For:**

Community and corporate drug prevention and rehabilitation programs. Substance abuse prevention programs and health classes, in schools, colleges, and universities.  
4-H youth programs.

**Producers:**

Syndistar, Inc.  
648 Hickory Avenue  
New Orleans, LA 70123  
Phone: 1-800-841-9532



**CONCLUSION**

The Community Resource Development Program of the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service, as part of its crime preventing programming effort, purchased from Syndistar, Inc., and is making available **DIAGNOSIS: TEEN ALCOHOLIC**. Alcohol use is a major abuse problem cutting across the entire spectrum of age and society. It is hoped that by informing the public of the reality, rather than the myths, of alcohol abuse, potential users will be deterred and habitual users will seek rehabilitation.

Detailed questions concerning any form of crime prevention should be directed to your local police or sheriff's department. Consult your local Extension office for additional crime prevention resources made available by the CRD program.



Community Resource  
Development

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