



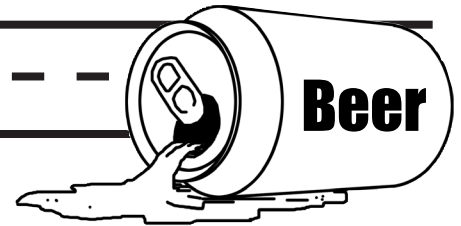
Avoid Riding With Drivers Who Have Been Drinking Alcohol

Mixing alcohol and driving is deadly. Today your child learned how alcohol impairs safe driving. He or she also learned how to avoid riding with someone who has been drinking.

THINK ABOUT THE FACTS

- Roughly two-thirds of the children who die in alcohol-related accidents are riding with a drinking driver.
- Alcohol is the number one drug of choice for teenagers.
- Traffic crashes are the number one killer of teens in the United States. Over one-third of these deaths are alcohol-related.
- Every few seconds, at least one teenager is killed or injured in a drunk driving accident.

WHAT CAN FAMILIES DO?



- Talk to your child about the dangers of drinking and driving. Set clear expectations and rules for your family.
- Teach your child that he or she should *never* get in a car with someone who has been drinking.
- Tell your child that he or she should *always* call you for a ride if a driver has been drinking or using drugs.
- Establish a “secret” phrase to use with your child. If your child calls and uses this phrase, you will know he or she needs help.
- In case you can’t be reached, make sure your child has the names and phone numbers of two other adults.
- Make sure your child always has money for a phone call. If appropriate, give your child money for an emergency cab ride or have a family cell phone he or she can use in case of emergency.
- Form a group of parents and families you can depend on for safe driving.
- It’s the law! Be a good example and always wear your seat belt. Enforce the use of seat belts, even if you’re driving a short distance.
- Be especially careful if your child is riding with a teenage driver. Teen drivers are more likely to be involved in fatal accidents.
- If your child rides with a teenage driver, make sure there aren’t too many passengers in the car. When three or more passengers ride in a car driven by a young driver, an accident is much more likely.
- If you are talking to a teenager about drinking and driving, emphasize safety. He or she may be more receptive to safety issues than lectures about the legality of drinking and driving.
- Report suspected drunk drivers by calling 9-1-1.
- Remember that a person doesn’t have to be “drunk” for his or her driving skills to be impaired.

Where Can I Find More Information?

Visit the websites of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) or Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD). Both organizations work to prevent underage drinking and driving.

Go to www.madd.org or www.sadd.org.