



Put In Your 2¢ Worth...

About 2¢ a drink yields \$44 million annually to reduce the impact of alcohol problems in Missouri.

Question:

During a workshop prior to the May 4, 2005 MYAA Youth Rally at the Capitol, teens were asked to put in writing their answer to the question: "Why do you want to stop underage drinking?" What were their responses?

Answer:

Responses ranged widely and many of them showed thoughtful consideration of the issues. Some of the most common responses are recorded below.

MISSOURI ALCOHOL IMPACT FACT #67

- "It is harmful and addicting, and does not only affect the people doing it but the people around them. Underage drinkers are forced to 'grow up' faster than they need to."
- "Underage drinking should be stopped because youth are the future. Too many kids don't accomplish their dreams and goals."
- "I feel that underage drinking should be stopped because it is harmful to the undeveloped body, and a lot of accidents and deaths occur because of it."
- "Alcohol is not worth all the risks these kids are taking just to 'be cool.'"
- "It can cause alcoholism to occur quicker and I would also like to show kids at my age level that you don't need to drink to be cool or fit in."
- "It ruins people's lives and many teens die after events like prom parties."
- "It is a serious problem that endangers the students doing it and many other students."
- "Stopping underage drinking will save lives and families."
- "It would also stop a lot of other societal and family problems."
- "I want to show others that you don't have to drink to be cool."
- "Underage drinking is against the law, it can ruin you, and it's not worth risking your life to 'be with the popular kids.'"
- "It will decrease the number of accidents we have and I just think it would make our community a better place to live."
- "If you start drinking at an early age it seems like more times than not it will lead to an addiction that can ruin that person's future."
- "It's dangerous. Most young people aren't responsible enough to make good decisions while under the influence of alcohol."

For more information call one of the Missouri's Alcohol Impact Coalition members below:

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