Drinking under 21?

The legal drinking age in the United States is 21. If you consume or have in your possession any form of an alcoholic beverage and you are under 21 you are breaking the law and putting yourself at risk of much more than a hangover the next day.

Each year persons under the age of 21 drink 11% of all alcohol consumed in the United States, and each year more than 5,000 of them die as a result of underage drinking.

In 2014 UGA Police arrested 180 persons for underage drinking. Underage drinking can lead to the following results: injury or death, steep fines, jail time, school sanctions, loss of trust, humiliation and stress. IS IT WORTH IT?
Each year approximately 700,000 students are assaulted, 600,000 students are unintentionally injured, 400,000 students have unprotected sex, 150,000 students develop an alcohol-related health problem, 100,000 students are victims of sexual assault or rape, and 1,900 students lose their lives as a result of alcohol consumption. Countless others pay the price as VICTIMS during these events!

**What are the Risks?**

Whatever it is that leads young people to begin drinking, once they start they face a number of potential health and safety risks. Young people who drink are more likely to be sexually active which leads to unprotected sex; are more likely to be involved in a fight, drink and drive, commit violent crimes, fail at school, use other drugs, and experience verbal, physical, or sexual violence.

**Binge Drinking** has become a silent killer on college campuses nationwide. This pattern of having 4 to 5 alcoholic beverages within a couple of hours to increase one’s intoxication is in-fact increasing the number of **Alcohol Poisoning Deaths** nationwide. Plain and simple: **“DRINKING TO MUCH TOO FAST CAN KILL YOU AND THAT’S NOT A LAUGHING MATTER!”**

3,360,000 students between the ages of 18 and 24 drive under the influence of alcohol nationwide each year.

**Drinking and Driving vs. War**

Soldiers killed in WW I + WW II + Vietnam: 594,161
DUI Related Deaths Since WW I: 1.7 Million

“**It’s an unfortunate fact that alcohol consumption is closely associated with the college experience. Many young people do not recognize the dangers of drinking alcohol to excess and some will make the life threatening mistake of driving while impaired.”**

Sgt. Lance Tipton, UGA Police Department Traffic Unit