

Safety Tips

UNDERAGE DRINKING

Alcohol abuse and alcohol dependence are not only adult problems, they also affect a significant number of adolescents and young adults between the ages of 12 and 20, even though drinking under the age of 21 is illegal.

The average age when youth first try alcohol is 11 years for boys and 13 years for girls. Adolescents who begin drinking before age 15 are four times more likely to develop alcohol dependence than those who begin drinking at age 21.

It has been estimated that over three million teenagers are out-and-out alcoholics. Several million more have a serious drinking problem that they cannot manage on their own. The three leading causes of death for 15 - to 24-year olds are:

- motor vehicle crashes
- homicides
- Suicides

Alcohol is the leading factor in all three. According to a report by the National Academy of Science, underage drinking costs the nation an estimated \$53 billion each year in alcohol-related crashes, violent crimes and other behaviors.

As police officers, it is our responsibility to enforce the underage drinking laws to protect our community from tragedies related to underage drinking.



Mishawaka Police Department

200 N. Church St.
Mishawaka, IN 46544

Phone: 574-258-1678
Fax: 574-258-1690
www.MishawakaCity.com