

WHEREAS, by the time they reach eighth grade, nearly 50% of adolescents have had at least one alcoholic drink, and over 20% report having been “drunk”;¹

WHEREAS, among 12th graders, almost 30% report drinking alcohol on 3 or more occasions per month;¹

WHEREAS, 43% of adolescents report consuming at least one alcoholic drink within the past 30 days;²

WHEREAS, 28.5% of high school students nationwide had ridden in a car or other vehicle with a driver who had been drinking alcohol and 10% had driven a car or other vehicle after drinking alcohol within the immediately preceding 30 days;²

WHEREAS, children who consume alcohol before age 15 are four times more likely to develop alcohol dependence at some point in their lives compared to children who abstain from alcohol until they are 21, and over 40% of those who began drinking alcohol before age 14 become alcohol dependent;³

WHEREAS, alcohol is implicated in at least one-third of sexual assault and acquaintance or “date” rape cases among teens and college students;⁴ and

WHEREAS, among youth, the use of alcohol and other drugs is linked to unintentional injuries, physical fights, illegal behavior, and academic and occupational problems.⁵

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT: the American School Health Association recommends that schools implement evidence-based, youth-oriented interventions to prevent underage drinking within the context of coordinated school health programs, including training and policy development.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: the American School Health Association urges schools to educate faculty, staff, and parents about the legal responsibility and liability of providing alcoholic beverages to minors.

References

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Year Adopted: 2006

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