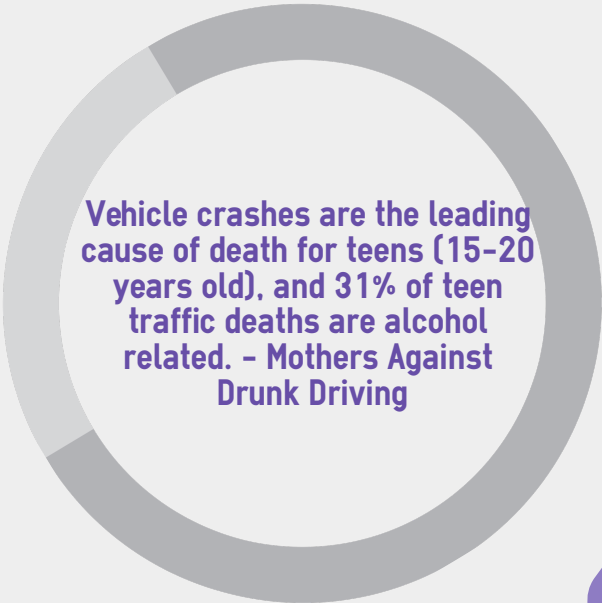


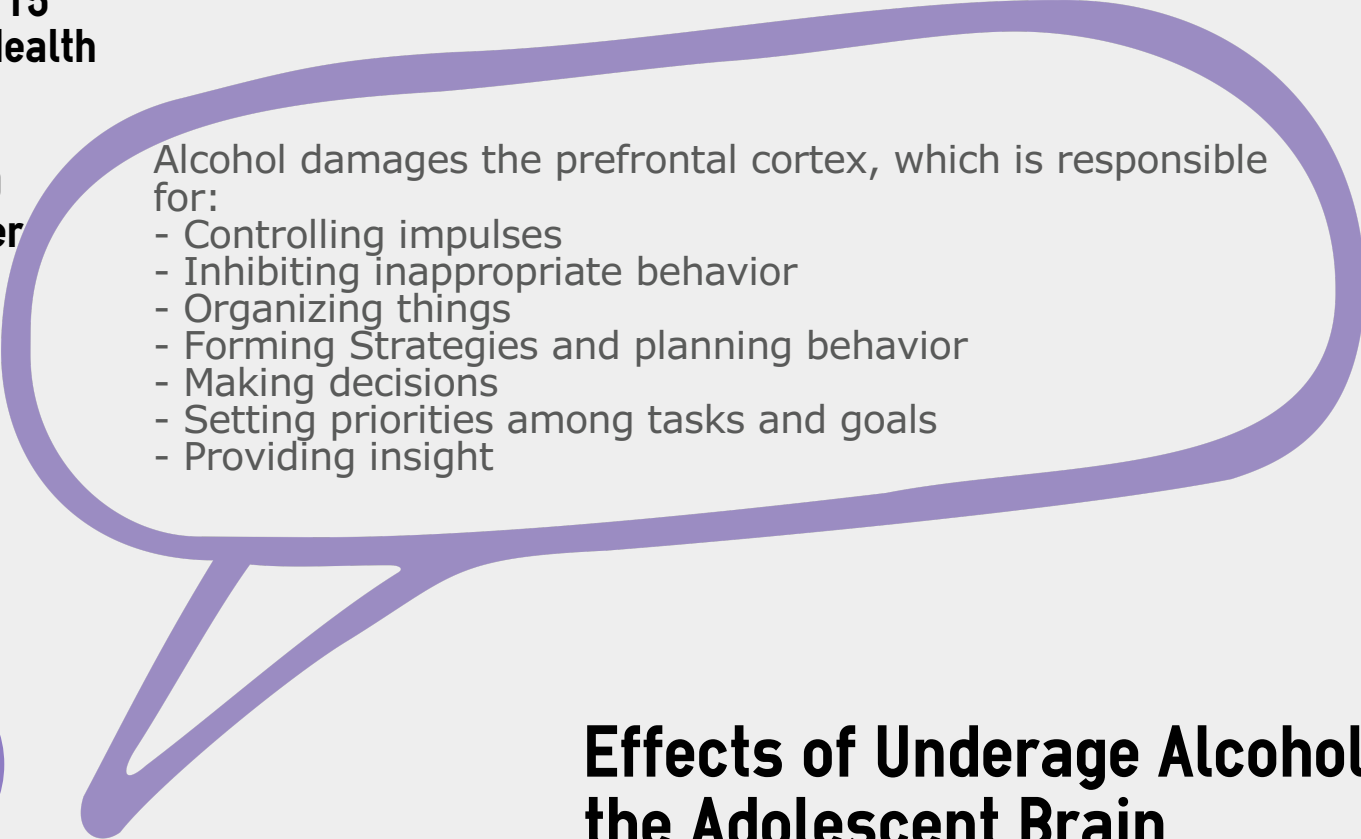
Alcohol & the Adolescent Brain

About 4 in 10 people who begin drinking before age 15 eventually become alcoholics. - US Department of Health and Human Services

In 2014, in the United States, an estimated 679,000 adolescents ages 12-17 had an Alcohol Use Disorder (AUD). - National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism



Vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for teens (15-20 years old), and 31% of teen traffic deaths are alcohol related. - Mothers Against Drunk Driving



Alcohol damages the prefrontal cortex, which is responsible for:

- Controlling impulses
- Inhibiting inappropriate behavior
- Organizing things
- Forming Strategies and planning behavior
- Making decisions
- Setting priorities among tasks and goals
- Providing insight



Effects of Underage Alcohol Use on the Adolescent Brain

Short-Term Consequences

- An intoxicated person has a harder time making good decisions.
- A person is less aware that his/her behavior may be inappropriate or risky.
- A person may be more likely to engage in risky behavior, including drinking and driving, sexual activity (like unprotected sex) and aggressive or violent behavior.
- A person is less likely to recognize potential danger. (NIDA)

Long Term Consequences

Research shows that drinking during the teen years could interfere with normal brain development and change the brain in ways that:

- Have negative effects on information processing and learning.
- Increase the risk of developing an alcohol use disorder later in life. (NIDA)

For more information, email info@lradac.org, call (803) 726-9411, or visit www.lradac.org.