

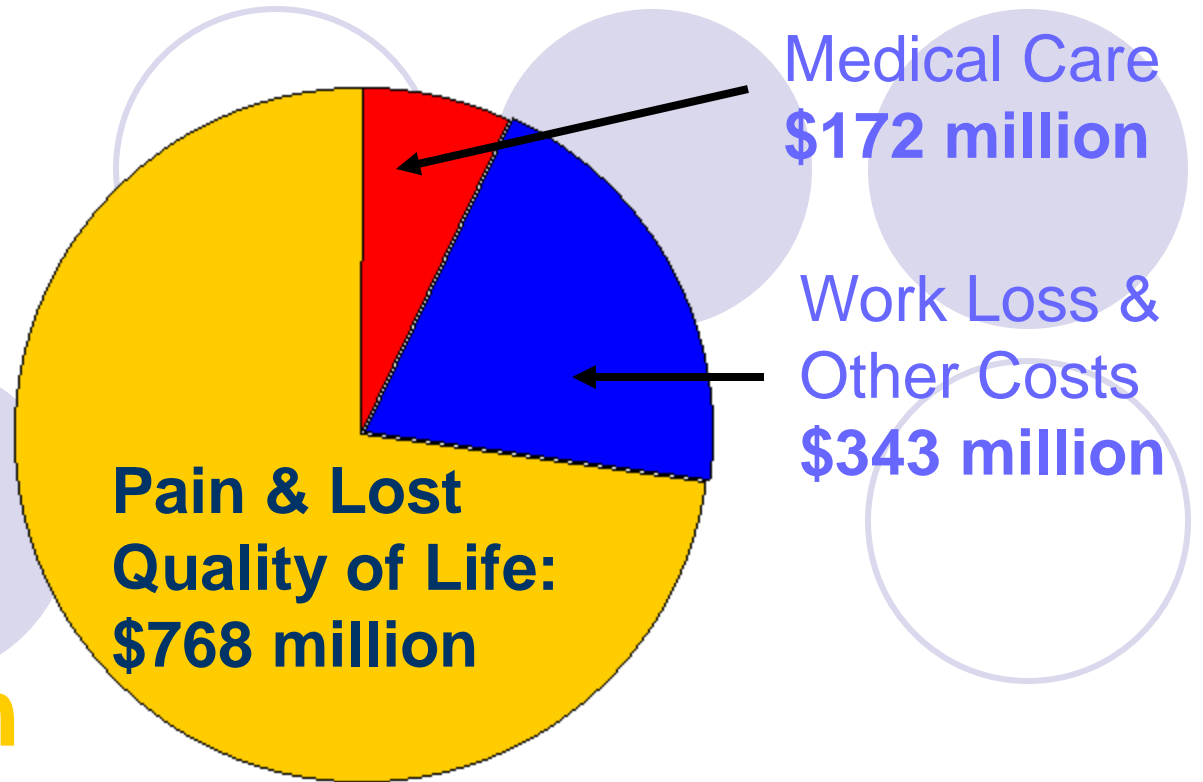


# **Underage Drinking is a Major Problem In Washington State**

Raul Almeida  
[Ac-training@hotmail.com](mailto:Ac-training@hotmail.com)

# Underage drinking is a \$1.3 billion a year problem in Washington State

Total Cost  
of Underage  
Alcohol Use  
in the  
Washington State  
**\$1.3 Billion**



## Problem

## Cost (in millions)

● Youth Violence	\$555.2
● Youth Traffic Crashes	\$392.8
● High-Risk Sex, age 14-20	\$81.6
● Youth Property Crime	\$92.3
● Youth Injury	\$42.2
● Poisonings	\$8.9
● FAS Among Mothers Age 15-20	\$19.6
● Youth Alcohol Treatment	\$90.2

**Total Cost**

**\$1,282.9**

# Underage Drinking is Widespread in Washington

Approximately 231,000 underage youth in Washington drink each year. In **self-reporting** by WA students **grades 9-12:**

- 73% had **at least one drink** of alcohol.
- 17% had their first drink other than a sip, **before age 13.**
- 43% had **at least one drink** in the **past 30 days.**
- 26% had **five or more drinks in a row** in the past 2 weeks.

# Facts on Youth and Alcohol

- In the United State alone, **alcohol kills** more kids than **all illegal drugs combined**.
- Each day, more than **7000 kids** in the United States under the age of 16 take **their first drink**.
- **Girls** are now drinking at the same rate as boys.
- Teen girls who binge drink are **up to 63% more** likely to become **teen mothers**.

# Why Do Kids Drink?



- Peer pressure
- To be cool
- To escape
- Because “everyone” does it!
- Because of family influence
- Television/Movies
- It is the “safe” drug
- It is cheap and “easy” to get
- It lowers their inhibitions
- They believe it raises their self-confidence
- It is a “rite of passage”

# The Modern Day Underage Drinking Party

## Past

Pooled Money

Piled in One Car

Modified Paper

6 Pack of Beer

Drink in Field or

School

## Present

Everyone Has \$20.00

Meet at the Beer Store

Computerized Fake ID License

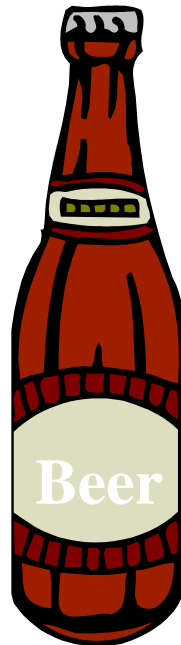
Keg or Several Cases or Wine

Somebody's Home, Hotel,

Remote location

# Defining the Problem

- **How many 12 oz bottles of beer are in a standard keg?**






# Defining the Problem

1651

# Enablers of Underage Drinking Parties



- Attitudes of parents
- Attitudes of community at-large
- Attitudes of some law enforcement / Courts
- Traditional method of enforcement
- Sales to minors
- Third party transactions
- Beer Distributors

# Why Focus Enforcement Efforts on Underage Drinking? Top 10 Reasons

**#10 Reason:** Underage drinking is a crime

**#9 Reason:** Underage drinking is a nuisance

**#8 Reason:** Underage drinking is bad business

**#7 Reason:** Underage drinking is epidemic

**#6 Reason:** Enforcement of underage drinking laws may deter youth from committing more serious crimes as an adult and even as a youthful offender

# Why Focus Enforcement Efforts on Underage Drinking? Top 10 Reasons

- #5 Reason:** Underage drinking has tragic results [i.e. alcohol poisoning, sexual assault, assault, unintentional injuries, etc.]
- #4 Reason:** Underage drinking costs lives...an average of **13 youth per day**
- #3 Reason:** Underage drinking costs YOU resources! [i.e. manpower, money, etc.]
- #2 Reason:** Underage drinking impacts the community. Did you know that 80% of the costs of underage drinking is due to crime? Of particular interest is that 40% of violent crimes by youth and 24% of property crimes by **youth involve alcohol use**

# Why Focus Enforcement Efforts on Underage Drinking? Top 10 Reasons

**#1 Reason:** Active enforcement of underage drinking laws will ultimately reduce calls to service and reduce crime and tragedies in your community.

# So What's The Answer?



- A “Champion” is necessary
- Youth need to request enforcement of UAD and support their efforts
- Youth coalitions need to work in partnership with enforcement agencies
- Community resources are plentiful
- Cooperative action is needed to improve and enforce alcohol related laws.

# Why Get Involved?

(I have too much to do as it is!)

- It is “Pro-Active”
- Underage drinking is against the LAW!
- It can prevent tragedy
- It provides variety to law enforcement duty
- Overtime opportunities for enforcement (grants)
- You can make a difference!
- Increased police-community cooperation
- Opportunity to work with the Media in a positive manner

# Enforcement Operations



- ✓ Compliance Check/Surveillance Operations
- ✓ Fake I.D./**Shoulder Taps Operations**
- ✓ Keg Registration/Follow the Keg
- ✓ Party Prevention and Controlled Dispersal Operations
- ✓ Third Party Transactions
- ✓ Enforcement of Impaired Driving Laws
- ✓ Zero Tolerance Approach
- ✓ Source Investigations





# Law Enforcement Involvement

- YOU can make a difference!
- Opportunity to work with community groups
- You are expected to do something
- You are a leader of your community
- It is the right thing to do!