

# Town Hall Meeting

Underage  
Drinking

**In the past 10 years  
250,000 people have  
died in alcohol-related  
accidents. Each victim  
leaves behind loved  
ones whose lives are  
forever changed.**

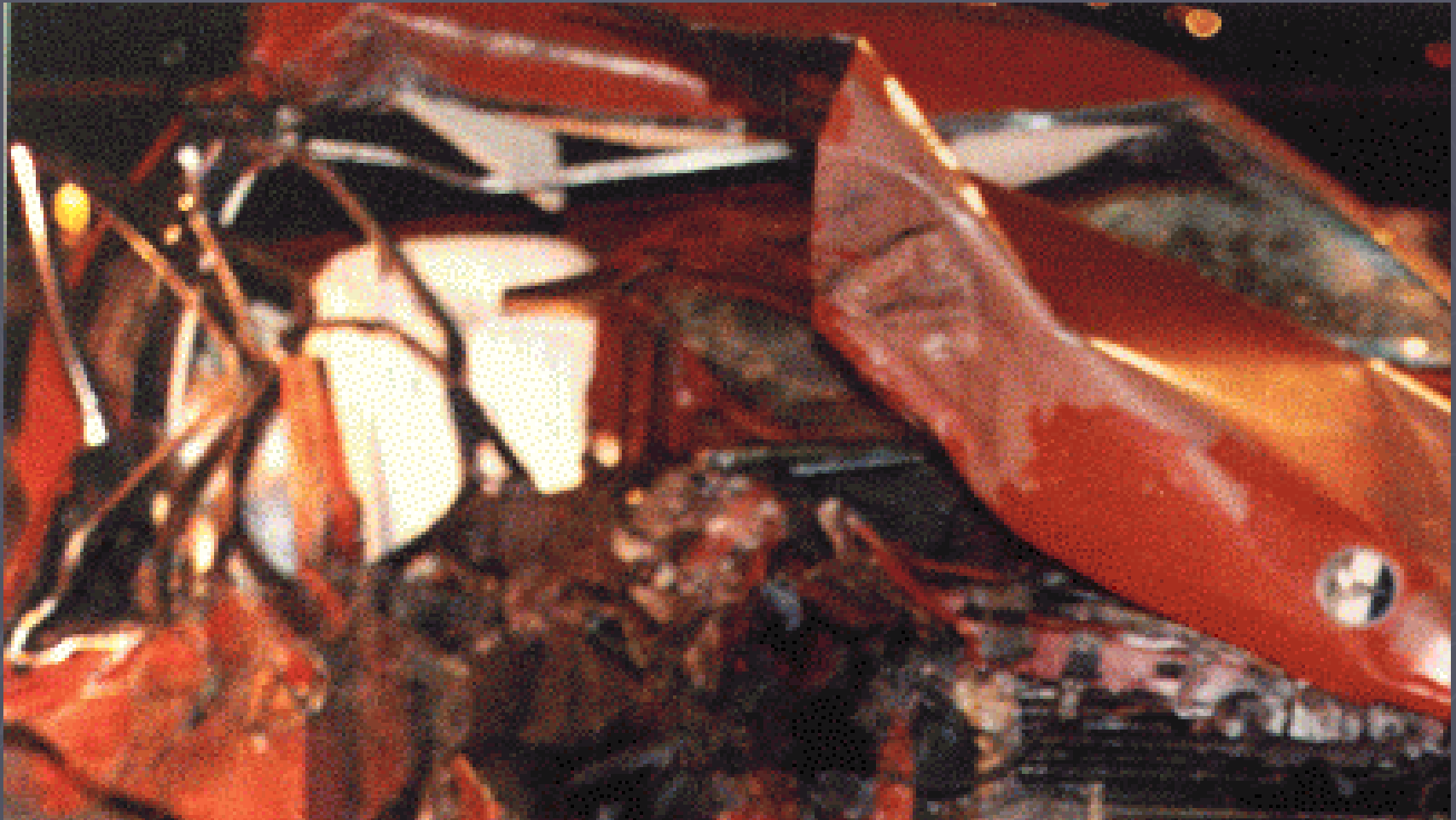
How would you like to be **burned alive** like  
Chris was?  
Think it couldn't happen? Think again.



Young drivers are less likely than adults to drive after drinking alcohol, but their crash risks are substantially higher when they do. This is especially true at low and moderate blood alcohol concentrations (BACs) and is thought to result from teenagers' relative inexperience with drinking and driving and with combining these activities.



Imagine being **hit by a drunk driver**, hurled 106 feet in the air and your body smashing on the hard pavement and you are pronounced dead on arrival at the hospital?



# Victims of Drunk Driving

How would you like your face **disfigured** in a  
DUI crash?

Think it couldn't happen? Think again.



Missouri school children tell researchers that their attitudes toward drinking are shaped more by what they see at home than from what they hear and see among their peers. A majority of them said their first experience with alcohol was at home in the presence of their parents.

*Sources: Status Report on Missouri's Alcohol and Drug Abuse Problems, January 1998;  
Missouri Youth Risk Behavior Survey, February, 1998*

# Police on the Scene of Fatal Drunk Driving crash





Drinking and driving really kills.

There was a get-together, so to speak, at another friend of mine's house, there was some drinking involved but no one was going to drive after that. Two girls said later on that they were leaving and assured us that they would not be driving, a friend was coming to pick them up. Their friend indeed came by and they left, little did they know, that the driver was already heavily intoxicated and should not have been driving.





"I don't know the speeds involved but I do know that my friend was driving in the wrong lane at the time of the accident. Needless to say the speed was above legal limit as well as the alcohol volume of my friend."



Underage alcohol use is more likely to kill young people than all illegal drugs combined.

- ▶ Grunbaum, J.A., et al. "Youth risk behavior surveillance: United States, 2001." *MMWR: Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* 51(SS0 4):1-62, 2002.
- ▶ Young, S.E., et al. "Substance Use, Abuse and Dependence in Adolescence: Prevalence, Symptom Profiles and Correlates". *Drug and Alcohol Dependence* 68(3):309-322, 2002.





25% of all alcohol  
consumed in the US  
is done so by youths  
under 21!

Source: Columbia University's National Center on  
Addiction and Substance Abuse

<http://www.udetc.org/>



- ▶ Myth: Alcohol isn't as harmful as other drugs.
  - ▶ **FACT: Alcohol increases your risk for many deadly diseases, such as cancer. Drinking too much alcohol too quickly can lead to alcohol poisoning, which can kill you.**
- 
- ▶ Myth: Drinking is a good way to loosen up at parties.
  - ▶ **FACT: Drinking is a dumb way to loosen up. It can make you act silly, say things you shouldn't say, and do things you wouldn't normally do (like get into fights or have sex).**





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- ▶ Myth: Drinking alcohol will make me cool.
- ▶ **FACT: There's nothing cool about stumbling around, passing out, or puking on yourself. Drinking alcohol also can cause bad breath and weight gain.**
  
- ▶ Myth: All of the other kids drink alcohol. I need to drink to fit in.
- ▶ **FACT: If you really want to fit in, stay sober. Most young people don't drink alcohol. Research shows that more than 70 percent of youth aged 12 to 20 haven't had a drink in the past month.**
  
- ▶ Myth: I can sober up quickly by taking a cold shower or drinking coffee.
- ▶ **FACT: On average, it takes 2 to 3 hours for a single drink to leave the body. Nothing can speed up the process, including drinking coffee, taking a cold shower, or "walking it off."**



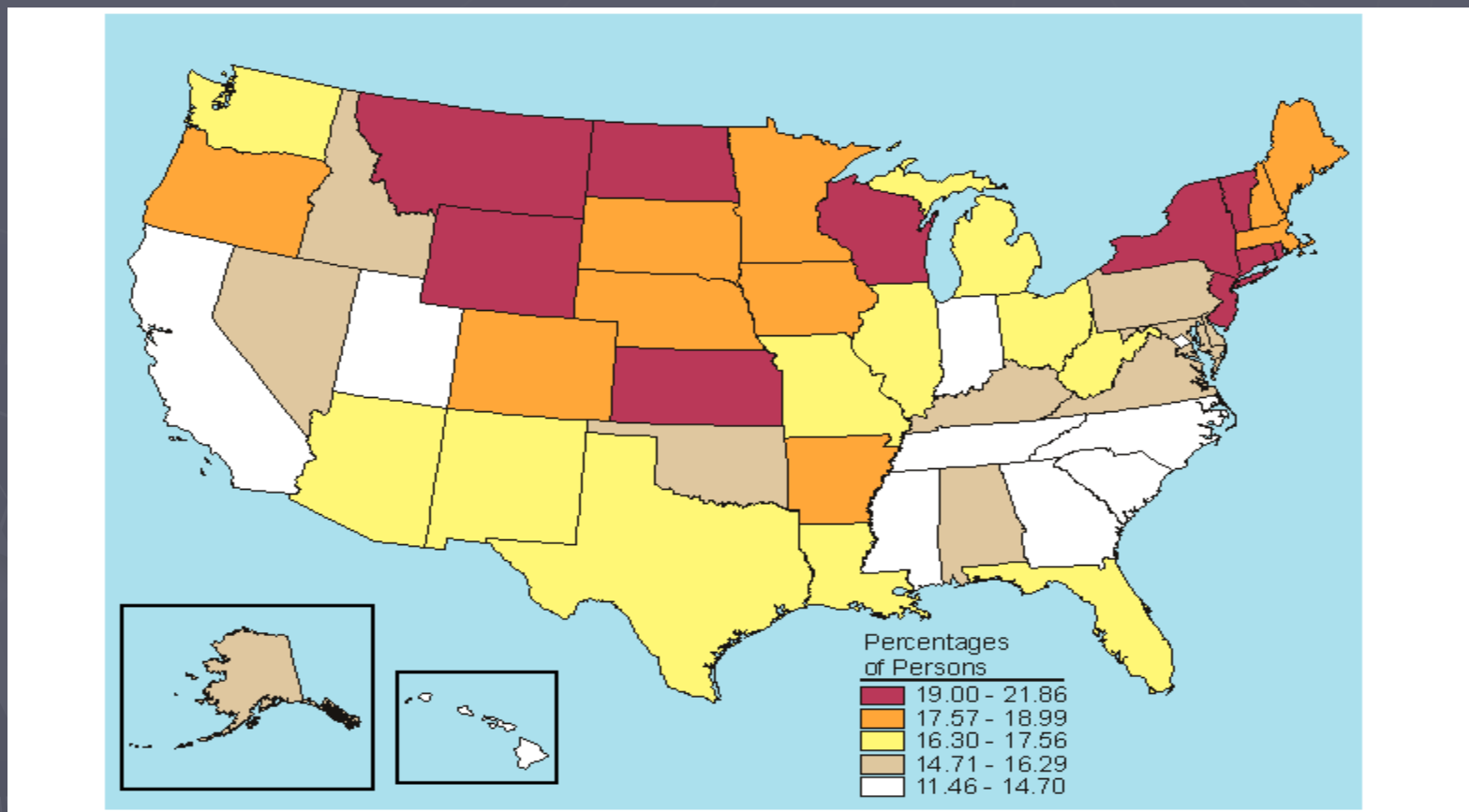
- ▶ Myth: Adults drink, so kids should be able to drink too.
- ▶ **FACT: A young person's brain and body are still growing. Drinking alcohol can cause learning problems or lead to adult alcoholism. People who begin drinking by age 15 are five times more likely to abuse or become dependent on alcohol than those who begin drinking after age 20.<sup>2</sup>**
- ▶ Myth: Beer and wine are safer than liquor.
- ▶ **FACT: Alcohol is alcohol...it can cause you problems no matter how you consume it. One 12-ounce bottle of beer or a 5-ounce glass of wine (about a half-cup) has as much alcohol as a 1.5- ounce shot of liquor. Alcopops—sweet drinks laced with malt liquor—often contain more alcohol than beer!**
- ▶ Myth: I can drink alcohol and not have any problems.
- ▶ **FACT: If you're under 21, drinking alcohol is a big problem: It's illegal. If caught, you may have to pay a fine, perform community service, or take alcohol awareness classes. Kids who drink also are more likely to get poor grades in school, and are at higher risk for being a crime victim.**





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*Alcohol Use in Past Month among  
Youths Aged 12 to 17, by State:  
Percentages, Annual Averages Based on 2005 and  
2006 NSDUHs*



Source: SAMHSA, Office of Applied Studies, National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2005 and 2006.



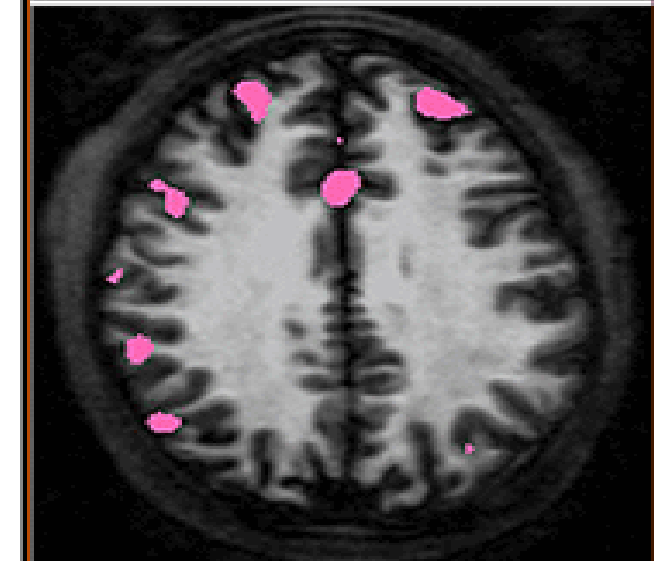
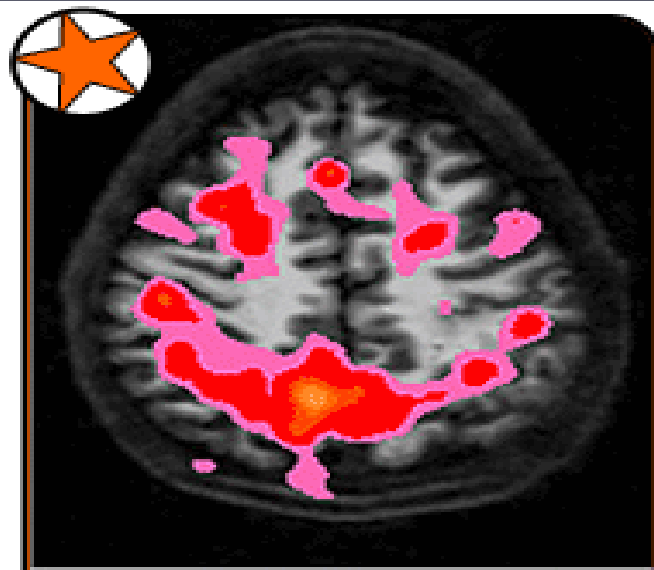
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In 2006, about 10.8 million persons aged 12 to 20 (28.3 percent of this age group) reported drinking alcohol in the past month. Approximately 7.2 million (19.0 percent) were binge drinkers, and 2.4 million (6.2 percent) were heavy drinkers. These figures have remained essentially the same since the 2002 survey.





Each year, approximately 5,000 young people under the age of 21 die as a result of underage drinking. This figure includes about 1,900 deaths from motor vehicle crashes; 1,600 as a result of homicides; 300 from suicide; and hundreds from other injuries such as falls, burns, and drownings.



The images above show how much more active a 15-year-old nondrinker's brain is (top) than a drinker's brain (bottom).

Image courtesy of Susan Tapert, University of California

Alcohol can cause alterations in the structure and function of the developing brain, which continues to mature into a person's twenties, and may have consequences reaching far beyond adolescence.



- ▶ 8.5% of the population drinks abusively
- ▶ 1/3 of the population doesn't drink
- ▶ 18% of ages 12 – 17 drink, and half of them are binge drinking
- ▶ 10% of the population drinks 70% of the alcohol
- ▶ 12 – 20 year olds account for 17.5% of all alcohol consumed
- ▶ For all adults over 21, the average amount of pure alcohol consumed annually is 2.5 gallons: That translates to 50 gallons of beer a year!





Alisha García, 17, was killed; Arissa García, 15, was seriously hurt, and four other family members were killed on 11 November 2006 near Santa Fe, New Mexico. They were struck by a pickup truck whose driver was 44 and ***already had three DWI convictions***. He was driving drunk, 0.32%, and going the wrong way on Interstate 25.



## ■ Liquor Control Law Chapter 311, Section 311-310.2

- ▶ Any owner, occupant, or other person or legal entity with a lawful right to the exclusive use and enjoyment of any property who knowingly allows a person under the age of twenty-one to drink or possess intoxicating liquor or knowingly fails to stop a person under the age of twenty-one from drinking or possessing intoxicating liquor on such property, unless such person allowing the person under the age of twenty-one to drink or possess intoxicating liquor is his or her parent or guardian, is guilty of a class B misdemeanor. Any second or subsequent violation of this subsection is a class A misdemeanor.

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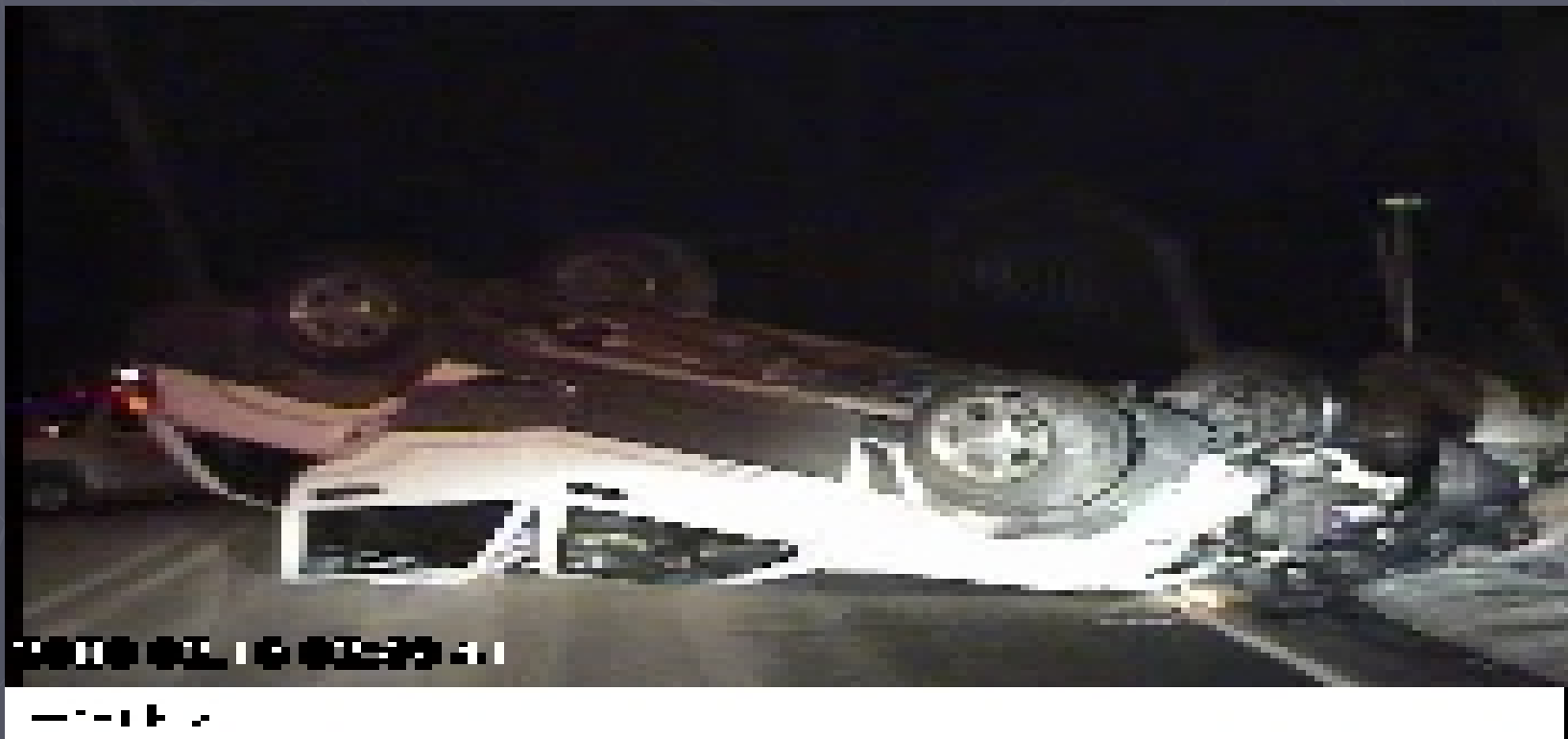


'Well I don't care if your combined age is  
around 50...I'm not selling you alcohol.'

# Youth & Young Adult Behaviors Survey

- ▶ 87% of respondents thought “parents taking responsibility for their children’s behavior” was useful in addressing alcohol problems: the number one rated choice.
- ▶ Denial of the issue and availability of alcohol were rated as the top 2 reasons that we have problems with alcohol and drugs.

CHARGES AGAINST THE ACCUSED: *DWI, Underage DWI, Reckless Driving, Leaving the Scene, Failure to Report, Borough Ordinance for Consumption of Alcohol, Uninsured Motorist and Assault By Auto*







QUESTIONS?

Need Help?

Call NCADA

314-962-3456

314-664-7550

[www.ncada-stl.org](http://www.ncada-stl.org)

**NCADA**

National Council on Alcoholism & Drug Abuse · St. Louis Area

*The place to turn*