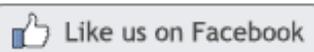




*Building a safe and healthy environment  
by effectively educating the community  
on positive life choices.*

## "PREVENTION WORKS"



**CASAC Offices  
are located at:**

501 W. Third Street  
Suites 3 & 4 Sprinchorn Building  
Jamestown, NY 14701  
(716) 664-3608  
Fax (716) 664-3661

and

51 E. Third Street  
Suite 2  
Dunkirk, NY 14048  
(716) 366-4623  
Fax (716) 366-4624

**Visit our website.**

Greetings!

April is Alcohol Awareness Month! Preventing underage drinking can be especially tricky because alcohol is an easily accessible, highly available, socially acceptable drug. Somehow, this makes it seem less dangerous, yet research proves otherwise.

Alcohol does impact the developing adolescent brain. The human brain continues to develop into the mid-twenties. If alcohol is heavily consumed in adolescence, the part of the brain responsible for learning and memory can shrink by about ten percent.

When it comes to behavior and brain function, while alcohol has a sedative effect on adults, it acts as a stimulant to adolescents. Due to this stimulant effect, youth are more likely to drink past the point where adults would typically end up passing out.

The more alcohol consumed, the more likely youth are to engage in risky behaviors. Like drinking and driving, or choosing to get in a car with someone who has been drinking:

- \* Nearly half of all traffic deaths among 16 to 20-year-olds are alcohol-related.

- \* Kids who drink are more likely to become sexually active (putting them at greater risk of HIV infection and other sexually transmitted diseases).

- \* Teen girls who binge drink are more likely to get pregnant in their teen years.

- \* Students who use alcohol are five times more likely to drop out of school or to believe that earning good grades is not important.

The earlier the onset of drinking begins, the greater the risk of becoming addicted later in life. Forty percent of children who start drinking before the age of 15 will become alcoholics at some point in their lives. If the onset of drinking is delayed by five years, a child's risk of serious alcohol problems is cut in half.

Alcohol is extremely hazardous to the health and safety of our youth, carrying dangerous and even deadly consequences. Underage drinking is also illegal, and by law, carries specific consequences.

CASAC urges every parent in Chautauqua County to work hard to prevent underage drinking. It can make a tremendous difference in our community as we reach out to those who are most vulnerable and help our next

generation avoid the many problems that underage alcohol and drug use can bring.

## About Us

Since 1974, Chautauqua Alcohol & Substance Abuse Council (CASAC), a United Way partner agency, has provided prevention education and community awareness regarding alcohol and other drugs. CASAC is the only New York State Office of Alcoholism & Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) approved and supported alcohol and other drug prevention agency in Chautauqua County. For further information about CASAC's programs and services, call the Jamestown office at 664-3608, the Dunkirk office at 366-4623, or go to CASAC's website, [www.casacweb.org](http://www.casacweb.org).

