

Alcohol is the oldest and most widely used drug in the world. In the United States, more than 100,000 deaths each year are attributed to alcohol. Alcohol-related accidents, crime, violence, and disturbances consume more resources than any other aspect of police operations. The health consequences of alcohol abuse add enormously to national health care costs.

Beer, Wine and Liquor are the three basic forms of alcoholic drinks.

A 12-ounce glass of beer, a 5-ounce glass of wine, and a 1.5-ounce shot of liquor all contain the same amount of alcohol and, therefore, have an equal effect on the drinker. All three forms of alcohol have the same potential for intoxication and addiction.

When a person consumes alcohol, the drug acts on nerve cells deep in the brain. Consumption of two or three drinks in an hour can impair judgment, lower inhibitions, and induce mild euphoria. Five drinks consumed in two hours may raise the blood alcohol level to 0.10 percent, high enough to be considered legally intoxicated in every state.

Signs and symptoms of alcohol use and intoxication:

- Loss of physical coordination
- Inappropriate or violent behavior
- Loss of balance
- Slurred and/or incoherent speech
- Loss of consciousness
- Slowed thinking
- Depression
- Impaired short-term memory
- Blackouts

What are the Dangers of Alcohol Abuse?

In addition to risk of injury or death as a result of accident or violence, alcohol abuse poses a broad range of physiological and psychological dangers.

Neurological dangers include impaired vision and impaired motor coordination, memory defects, hallucinations, blackouts, and seizures. Long-term consumption can result in permanent damage to the brain.

Cardio logical problems include elevated blood pressure and heart rate, risk of stroke and heart failure.

Respiratory dangers include respiratory depression and failure, pneumonia, tuberculosis, and lung abscesses. Additionally, alcohol abuse increases the risk of mouth and throat cancer.

Liver disease caused by chronic alcohol abuse, including alcoholic fatty liver, hepatitis, and cirrhosis, kills 25,000 Americans each year.

Money – The alcohol industry earns over 200 billion dollars each year.



Consequences and Risks of Alcohol

Do not wish to be anything but what you are, and try to be that perfectly -
St. Francis De Sales

Student name _____

Please review the facts on the back and answer the questions below

List four of the signs/symptoms of alcohol intoxication:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

List the three forms of alcohol listed on the fact sheet:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Complete the following sentences

In the United States, more than _____ deaths each year are attributed to alcohol.

Alcohol-related accidents, _____, _____, and _____ consume more resources than any other aspect of police operations.

The alcohol industry earns over _____ dollars each year.

_____ disease kills over 25,000 Americans each year.

Consumption of two or three drinks in an hour can _____, _____ and includes mild euphoria.

_____ problems include elevated blood pressure and heart rate, risk of stroke and heart failure.

Parent signature _____