



6 Reasons Why Pre-teens and Teens Try Drugs or Alcohol

Parents of teens know this stage of development is a complex one. Teens are trying to balance many aspects of their young lives. When it comes to the decision of whether to drink or use drugs, it's also complex. Here are some of the top reasons why pre-teens and teens try drugs or alcohol.



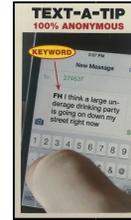
1. Other People- The American Academy of Pediatrics says this is the biggest predictor of a youth using drugs or alcohol. If your child has friends/close friends who drink or use drugs the likelihood your child will use doubles. They see drug use as a part of the normal teen experience.
2. Popular Media - Research has recently revealed that advertising may actually be responsible for up to 30% of adolescent tobacco and alcohol use. Alcohol remains the number one drug portrayed on television: one drinking scene is shown every 22 minutes, compared with one smoking scene every 57 minutes and one illegal drug use scene every 112 minutes. More than one third of the drinking scenes are funny and negative consequences are shown only 23% of the time. Social media also plays a huge part. 12-17 year olds who spend time on social media sites were 5 times more likely to have used tobacco, 3 times more likely to have used alcohol and twice as likely to have used marijuana.
3. Escape- When teens are not happy and can't find a healthy outlet for their frustration, they may turn to drugs and alcohol as a way to cope.
4. Boredom- Kids who can't tolerate being alone or those who crave excitement are prime candidates for substance abuse. Drugs and alcohol give them something to do and they help fill internal voids they feel. It also provides them with a way to bond with like-minded kids.
5. Lack of Confidence- Shy teenagers who lack confidence report they'll do things under the influence that they would not do otherwise. You have the courage to dance if you're a bad dancer, you will kiss the girl you're attracted to. Alcohol and drugs lower inhibitions and gets rid of their social anxiety.
6. Misinformation- Kids who learn a lot about the risks of drugs and alcohol from their parents are 50% less likely to use drugs or alcohol. The only problem, is that about one third of our kids say their parents are regularly talking with them about drugs and alcohol. Make sure your kids know your stance on underage drinking, smoking, marijuana, illegal and Rx drug use. Talk to them about the risks to their developing brain and how it can impact their future. *Download the Parent Talk Kit [HERE](#) to get grade by grade conversation starters.*

A Friendly Reminder During These Summer Months.....



If you know a family that is not yet a member of the Safe Homes Network, tell them about it! It gives parents peace of mind when their teen is at a friend's home or at a party- and it's so easy to do! Click [HERE](#) for the pledge.

TEXT-A-TIP is 100% anonymous and allows residents to communicate with our local MCSO if you see something in your neighborhood that doesn't look 'quite right'. For more information on the Text-A-Tip program [CLICK HERE](#).



Some Fun, Free Events For The Kids!



FOURTH AT THE FOUNTAIN

Fun, food and fireworks!
Golden Eagle Park 6-10PM

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB

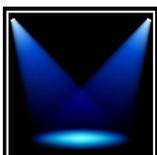
For summer camp and activities hosted by the Fountain Hills Branch of the Boys and Girls Club [CLICK HERE](#)

PARTY IN THE PARK

The Town of Fountain Hills Community Services department and MCSO would like to invite teens to participate in our Summer Party in the Park Series. Join us for a variety of games, music, and fun! These events are FREE for teens to participate.

Location: Golden Eagle Park Grades: 6th-8th
FREE! Thursday July 12 and August 2nd 6-9PM

SAVE THE DATE: Back 2 School Bash August 24th
Four Peaks Park 5-8:30PM



THANK YOU! SPOTLIGHT

Thank you! to Señor Taco for treating the entire Class of 2018 to their delicious, homemade churros! Thanks to Mr. Juan Gonzalez's generosity, every member of the senior class can enjoy a free churro for a job well

done!

**With FHHS senior class coupon*

