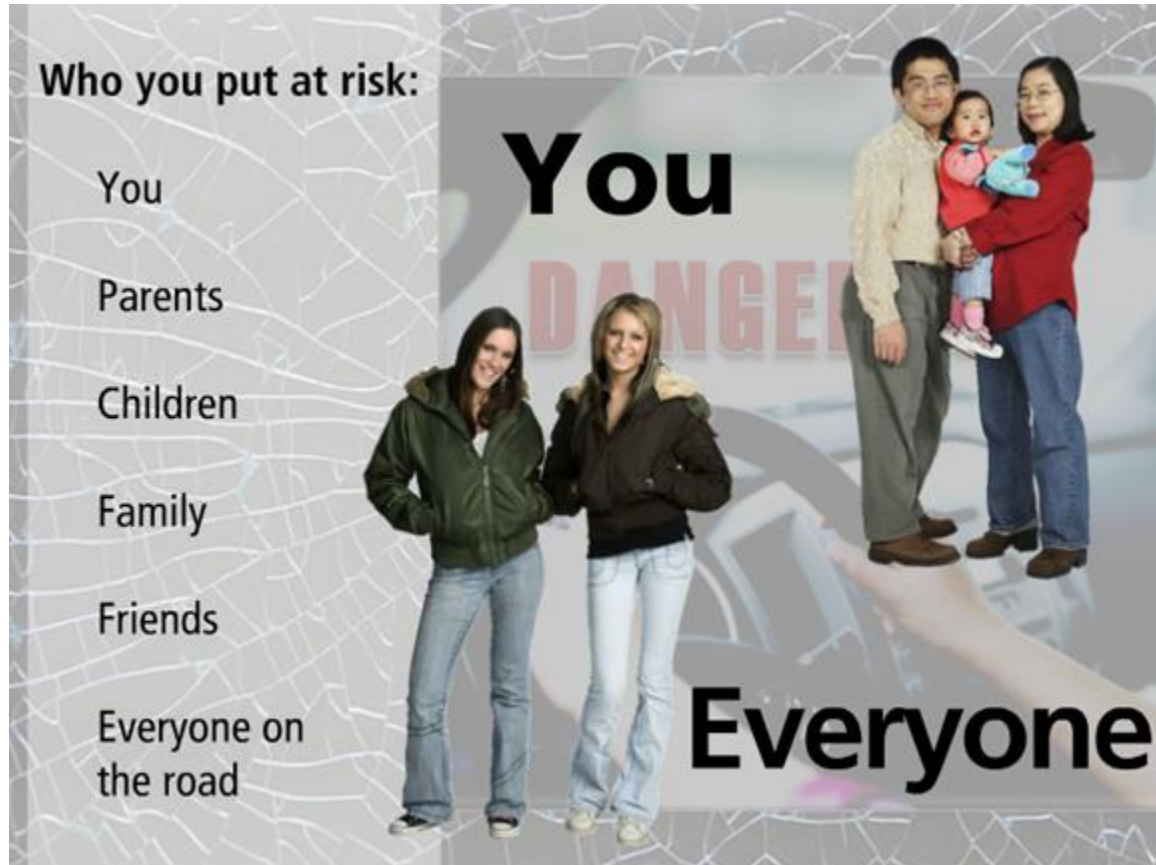


Module 4: Do Not End Up in the Junkyard
Avoiding Harmful Substances
Topic 2 Content: Drinking and Driving Don't Mix

Risks



You should already know that drinking alcohol and driving is extremely dangerous. Alcohol slows down all of the bodily functions you need to drive safely. Sometimes, you are not the only person in your car and you are not the only person on the road, so if you decide to get behind the wheel after drinking, you are putting other people at risk.

Those people could be parents, children, your family, or your friends.

Drinking and driving is illegal because it is so life threatening. It's important to know the laws and legal consequences concerning drinking and driving.

Module 4: Do Not End Up in the Junkyard
Avoiding Harmful Substances
Topic 2 Content: Drinking and Driving Don't Mix

Blood Alcohol Test



If you are suspected of driving while intoxicated, you may be asked to submit to a breathalyzer or some other test to determine if there is alcohol in your system. If you refuse to submit to the test, your license can automatically be taken away and you may also go to jail.

Module 4: Do Not End Up in the Junkyard
Avoiding Harmful Substances
Topic 2 Content: Drinking and Driving Don't Mix

Legal BAC Limits



In Virginia, the legal standard for drunkenness of someone twenty-one or older is a blood alcohol content of .08.

If someone has been drinking and their BAC is less than .08, he or she can still be considered to be driving under the influence if that person cannot operate a motor vehicle properly and safely.

The legal standard for drunkenness of a person who is less than twenty-one years old is a measured BAC of .01. This is called zero tolerance. A person who is not legally allowed to drink can be arrested for DUI, driving under the influence, with any alcohol in his or her system.

Module 4: Do Not End Up in the Junkyard
Avoiding Harmful Substances
Topic 2 Content: Drinking and Driving Don't Mix

DUI Consequences



In all states, driving while intoxicated is against the law. If you are arrested with a DUI, you face possible jail time and hefty fines. The consequences of drinking and driving can weigh heavily on people and their families.

Module 4: Do Not End Up in the Junkyard
Avoiding Harmful Substances
Topic 2 Content: Drinking and Driving Don't Mix

Convictions and Punishments



In Virginia, a person pays a minimum of two hundred and fifty dollars and loses his or her license for one year if convicted of a DUI.

After a second conviction for DUI, the person must pay at least five hundred dollars, has his or her driver's license revoked for three years, and serves possible jail time up to one year. If the second DUI conviction is within five years of the first, then the person must stay in jail at least twenty days.

Upon a third conviction for DUI, the person loses his or her license indefinitely. That means the person may never get it back. That is on top of increased jail time and fines. With a third conviction, the person arrested can be charged with a felony.

Module 4: Do Not End Up in the Junkyard
Avoiding Harmful Substances
Topic 2 Content: Drinking and Driving Don't Mix

Life Consequences



A DUI conviction can also prevent you from getting into the college you want to attend or getting hired for a job. Many people look down on individuals who have a DUI conviction because they know how unsafe, irresponsible, and illogical it is to drive when drunk. Not only did you put yourself in danger, but you risked the lives of others on the road who did not choose to be in a life-threatening situation.

Module 4: Do Not End Up in the Junkyard
Avoiding Harmful Substances
Topic 2 Content: Drinking and Driving Don't Mix

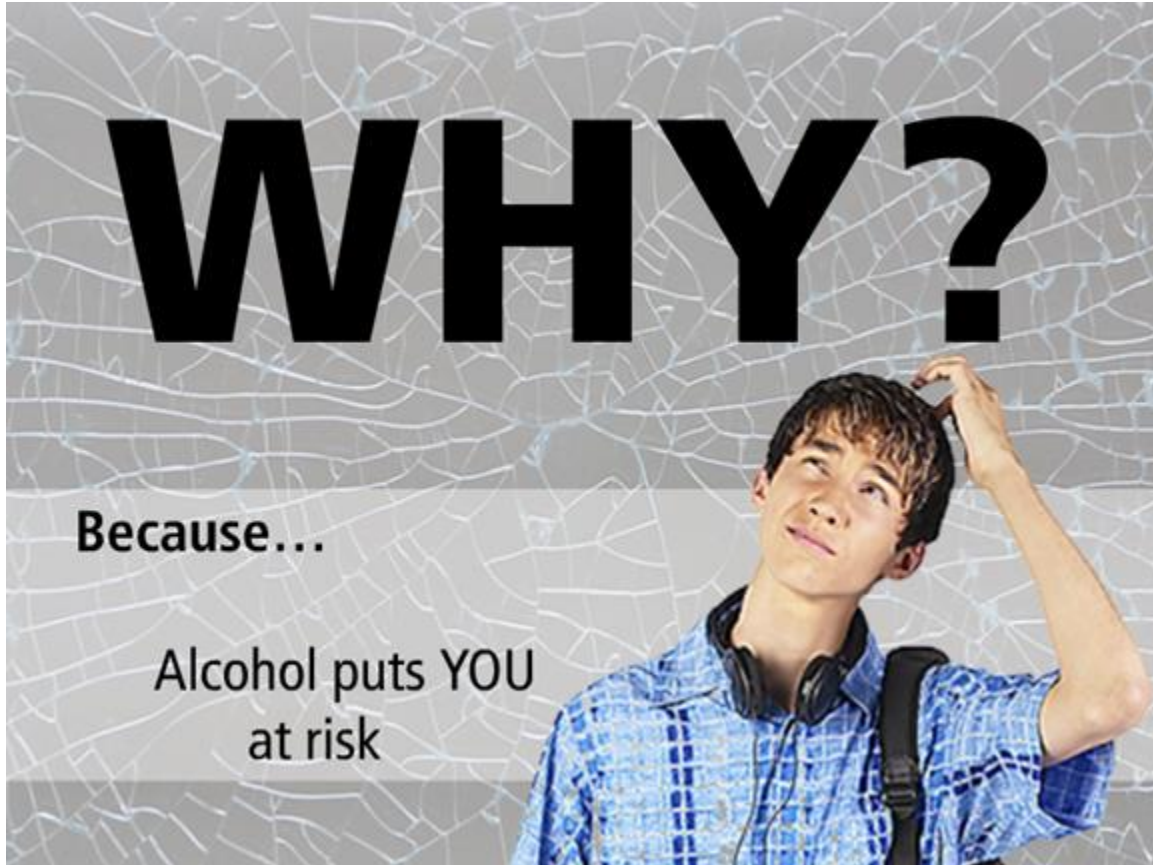
Is It Worth It?



Looking at all these punishments, is it really worth it?

Module 4: Do Not End Up in the Junkyard
Avoiding Harmful Substances
Topic 2 Content: Drinking and Driving Don't Mix

MADD



A question that is often asked by teenagers is, "Why do I have to wait until I'm 21 to drink alcohol?" Some people argue that the law is rarely followed, so why have it? Some also do not believe that the law does any good.

Others believe that teens' bodies and minds react differently to alcohol than those of adults. While it is never okay to drink and drive, it is especially dangerous for teens, who are less experienced drivers.

Module 4: Do Not End Up in the Junkyard
Avoiding Harmful Substances
Topic 2 Content: Drinking and Driving Don't Mix

Virginia Laws



If you are curious about the laws concerning drinking and driving, and drinking illegally, visit the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles by clicking on the Virginia laws icon on the screen.