



*Do you know....
the impact of substance abuse on youth?*

- ✓ Underage drinking costs the citizens of Florida \$3.7 billion in 2005. These costs include medical care, work loss, and pain and suffering associated with the multiple problems resulting from the use of alcohol by youth. This translates to a cost of \$2,383 per year for each youth in Florida.¹
- ✓ 35% of all youth in Florida's juvenile justice commitment programs have been diagnosed with substance-related disorders and an additional 30% demonstrated behaviors that suggested substance abuse.²
- ✓ Preventing an arrested substance-involved juvenile from entering a correctional facility avoids an average \$43,000 in incarceration costs, assuming the average stay is one year.³
- ✓ Each year, approximately 5,000 young people under the age of 21 die as a result of underage drinking; this includes about 1,900 deaths from motor vehicle crashes, 1,600 as a result of homicides, 300 from suicide as well as hundreds from other injuries such as falls, burns, and drowning.⁴

Funding of Substance Abuse Treatment and Prevention Saves Lives and Saves Money.

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¹ *Societal Costs of Underage Drinking, Journal of Studies on Alcohol, 67(4) 519-528, 2006*

² *Florida Substance Abuse and Mental Health Corporation-Community Care Not Crisis Care, 2006 Annual Report*

³ *Criminal Neglect: Substance Abuse, Juvenile Justice and the Children Left Behind, CASA, October 2004*

⁴ *Alcohol Alert, US Department of Health and Human Services, January, 2006*

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