

Nassau County
District Attorney
Anne Donnelly

Automobile collisions are the leading cause of death of young people between the ages of 15 and 24. Each year in Nassau County alone there are more than 100 fatal crashes and many other collisions that cause serious physical injury.

As a result, the Nassau County District Attorney's Office introduced CHOICES & CONSEQUENCES to Nassau County schools to teach our young people about the dangers of driving while under the influence of drugs or alcohol, reckless driving, and distracted driving.

"Always remember to be safe and sober. Think twice when it is your turn to drive."

-Anne T. Donnelly

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Drugs, alcohol and driving never mix. Traffic deaths are caused by excessive speeding, passing red lights and stop signs, as well as other reckless behavior. Every time a driver decides to disobey the law and take those risks, that driver is gambling with his or her life and the innocent lives of everyone around them. We cannot tolerate that behavior.

One solution is education. That requires the active participation of teachers, parents and young adults. Teachers can continue to teach civic responsibility. Parents can set good examples and talk to their children about safe driving habits, for example, finding alternative transportation if they find themselves in a dangerous situation. Finally, each person has the power to choose to make the right decision.

ARE YOU AWARE

Each of the following drinks contain an equal amount of alcohol



Beer
12 oz. at 5%



Wine
5 oz. at 12%



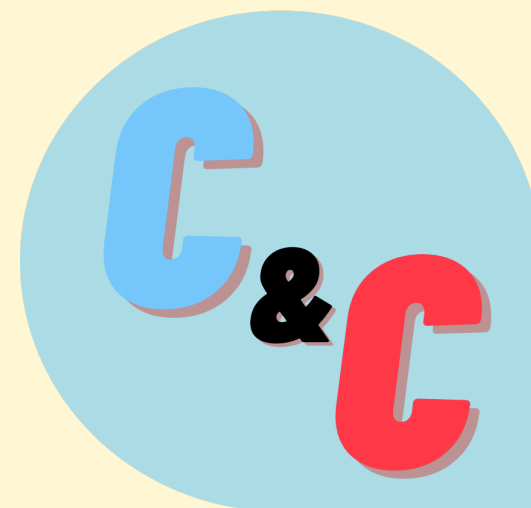
Liquor
1.5 oz. at 40%



Wine Cooler
12 oz. at 5%


Alcohol content between products will vary considerably depending on container size and percentage of alcohol.


Always be aware of what you drink!




**CHOICES &
CONSEQUENCES**


**OFFICE OF THE
NASSAU COUNTY
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
VEHICULAR CRIMES BUREAU**


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PART ONE: LAW, FACTS & CASES

An Assistant District Attorney presents the facts about traffic crashes using actual cases. Traffic crashes are the number one cause of death for people between the ages of 15 and 24. They can happen to anyone, but they are almost always preventable.

"I'm here to scare you. I'm not here to scare you to death. I'm here to scare you to save your own life."

Toxicology, criminal law, collision reconstruction and the social host law are addressed through the cases that are presented. The message is simple: You are not the one who is going to beat the odds. Jail or no jail, could you handle the consequences if you hurt or killed someone else?

Need more information?
Go to NassauDA.org or call
(516) 571-7755

To scheduled a presentation, contact
the Office of CORE Services
at (516) 571-4052 or
CORE@NassauDA.org

PART TWO: SKIT & THE HEROES

The second segment consists of a skit where student volunteers re-enact a driving situation, based on a real case, in which passengers encourage the driver to drink and engage in other reckless driving. A Nassau County Police Officer responds to the scene of the "crash" and explains the police procedures and the tests conducted, including standardized field sobriety tests. The student "driver" attempts to perform coordination tests wearing "Fatal Vision" goggles which simulate the effects of intoxication. At the conclusion, students are informed that in the real case on which their simulation was based, the driver's cousin was killed in the crash because he had not been wearing a seat belt.



PART THREE: THE SPEAKERS

The final portion of the program is the most powerful. Young DWI and driving crime defendants are sentenced to speak at the programs as part of their community service and discuss how their lives have been changed. The defendants face the reality of what they have done each time they share their stories and hopefully, help the audience realize how easily they could make these mistakes.

MAKE A PLAN

No one anticipates that they will be in an unsafe situation. Whether your friend is a reckless driver or they were drinking at a party and plan to drive home, here are some examples for how you can prepare for an unsafe or dangerous situation:

- Keep emergency money with you to call a cab. Don't mix it with your other cash. Apps such as Uber and Lyft can provide good alternatives to taking a cab.
- Make a deal with your family for a ride home, no questions asked.
- Come up with a "line" now -what will you say to remove yourself from a dangerous situation?