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Alcohol Alert - October 17, 2017

Alcohol was the culprit in tragic death of 19 year old



Kenneka Jenkins died of hypothermia, the result of a horrific alcohol-related accident.

...

No one is talking about the real culprit that has now been revealed - **underage drinking**.

Kenneka was at a party at the hotel where liquor was available. She was **too young to purchase liquor herself**. And she was **too young to legally consume it**. **Someone broke the law by providing it to her**.

... Alcohol led to Kenneka's death, as it does with **some 5,000 other young people each year**. According to the National Institutes of Health, **alcohol is the most widely used substance of abuse among America's youth**. Of the deaths attributed to alcohol, about 1,900 are 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, the NIH said.

Though the numbers have declined since 2002, the statistics remain startling. In 2015, **7.7 million people in the 12-20 age group reported that they drank alcohol** beyond "just a few sips" in the past month, according to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health.

Documents released last week by Rosemont police show that Kenneka had **drunk heavily at the party before she wandered away from a hallway and ended up in an unused kitchen** on another floor. Her friends told police they saw Kenneka drink cognac. The Cook County medical examiner's office said **her blood-alcohol content was 0.112**, above the legal limit for driving.

... We did not want to accept that a beautiful young woman, with so much life yet ahead of her, could have **stumbled into a cooler and opened the door to the walk-in freezer** herself. It seemed inconceivable that the freezer door would then slam shut on its own and that Kenneka **was so impaired** that she could not push the white, circular handle inside to release the latch.

This should be a wake-up call for adults. [Read more](#)

Alcohol is the most used and abused drug in America. One of the reasons so many people use and abuse alcohol is because it is legal, acceptable, and so easily accessible. Each year the cost of underage drinking is \$2.8 Billion in Illinois.

[Growing up Drug-Free - A Parent's Guide to Prevention](#)

[Resources for parents and educators](#)

For Immediate Action

1. Share this Alert with your [State Representative](#) and [Senator](#). Ask them to oppose bills that weaken liquor laws, make alcohol more accessible, and SB 316 and HB 2353 to tax and regulate marijuana like alcohol. **Veto Session begins Oct. 24-26.**

Support youth prevention efforts in your community - **Oct. 23 - 29 is Red Ribbon Week.**

Share this Alert with your faith community and ask them to PRAY.

Forward to 10 others.

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