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It ends the lives of many people across the world. It ruins even more lives than it takes away. It is one of the most preventable causes of death and destruction in the world. Laws try to stop it, but all they can do is try. So, what is it? The answer, is drunk driving.

Everyone has seen the commercials. Everyone has heard the ads on the radio. There is currently a war going on in the world against drunk driving. Everybody knows that they shouldn't, but that is not enough to stop everyone from doing it. There's always parties happening at people's houses. Someone brings a keg to the party or whatever it may be, and all of a sudden you stop thinking logical thoughts. All you are thinking about is having fun. So you go and grab a bottle, or a shot, or whatever. It's good. It's a light drink. So you grab another one. Then another one. This keeps happening the whole time you're at the party. All of a sudden, the party's over and it's time for everyone to head

home. Some people might be smart and have a designated driver. But not you. You think you're ok to drive. So you get behind the wheel.

It's late out, you're completely out of it at the moment. You have friends in the car because you thought you'd be nice and offer to give them a lift home. It's about midnight. All of a sudden you see an intersection coming up. It's still green and you don't see anyone coming from a different direction. Therefore, you don't slow down. You're about one hundred feet from it, and all of a sudden, there a motorcycle coming from the right. You see him, and you slam on your brakes. You realize that you're going to hit him anyway, so you swerve and you go off the side of the road into a ditch. You hit a tree, and you black out.

You wake to the sound of ambulances and the Jaws of Life cutting the doors open. You look to your right and your friend is still unconscious. You're in too much pain to turn your head to check your friends in the backseat. The paramedics get you out and onto a gurney. They load you into the ambulance, and you're rushed off to the hospital. The doctor checks you out and tells you that you'll be alright, just a few broken bones. A policeman comes in and tells you that

your friend in the passenger seat is hurt too bad and will probably never walk again. That's not even the worst news. The two friends in the back, they were killed almost instantaneously.

This story is harsh, but it happens all too much in the world that we live in. Back in 2013, a study said that there was a death caused by drunk driving every 52 minutes. That's insane. In that same year, about 10,076 people died from drunk driving all together. That 10,076 deaths averaged about 33% of all traffic deaths in that year. Every day, there were about 28 deaths from drunk driving each day. So, how do you know if you are legally drunk? You are legally drunk if your blood alcohol concentration (BAC) is over 0.08.

So, is there any efficient way to prevent drunk driving? Of course there is. Drunk Driving is one of the most preventable causes of death in the world. However, it can be hard though when you're at a party and everyone's drinking. You might feel like the odd one out in a group if you are the only one not doing what everyone else is doing. Now, I'm not talking about something like pregnancy here where you could just use medication or something, because this is

something where it's mostly education that prevents drunk driving. Teens and adults need to be taught about how much alcohol can ruin your life, even though it may seem like it makes it better.

In order to help people understand the dangers of drinking and driving, the education needs to start at a younger age. I'm not saying fifth grade, but defiantly middle school. There are things that people need to learn. Maybe you don't want to drink at a party, and you choose not to. You see your friend, who's absolutely drunk, start getting into their car. You want to try to stop them. However, what you don't want to do is start an argument. This is because someone who is drunk can have rapid mood swings, and you may end up making things worse rather than better. What you want to do is calmly talk to them and try to persuade them to get out of the car. The next thing you want to do is try to get the person's keys if you can. This will make it so that he cannot drive, even if he wanted to. If you are not able to persuade him, or get his keys, the next thing you would need to consider is to call the police. Now, most people would say that they would never call the police on their friends. However, while I completely understand, it is

better to have your friend in jail rather than have him get killed or kill somebody else while on the road.

If more people did these things, then we might not have such an epidemic on our hands. People need to be informed on these things. If they don't then they will never truly understand the dangers and horrors of drinking and driving. There are organizations out there that specialize in helping people understand the dangers of drunk driving. These organizations include MADD, (Mothers against drunk driving), IDDDPA (International drunk driving prevention association), SADD (Students against drunk driving), and many more. But if you had to, you could always consult your school counselor.

Citations

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