Consequences

Alcohol abuse can lead to:

- Financial, legal, work, school, and relationship problems
- Violence (e.g., child/spouse abuse, homicide)
- Accidents (e.g., vehicle crashes, falls, drowning, burns and firearm injuries)
- Alcoholism
- Liver disease; cardiovascular disease; gastrointestinal problems; cancers
- Depression, anxiety, and suicide
- Dementia, disability, and death

(NCADD)

Child Maltreatment

- 1 in 4 children younger than age 18 is exposed to family alcohol abuse or dependence. (NIAAA)
- Substance abuse is the primary reason children are removed from their home and provided shelter in Manatee County. (DCF)

Underage Drinking

*Underage drinking cost the nation an estimated $53 billion annually (IOM). It costs the citizens of Florida $4.5 billion and Manatee County $62 million (DCF).*

- Alcohol can cause good kids to make really bad decisions resulting in car crashes, suicide, homicide, rape, unwanted pregnancy, vandalism, academic failure, or alcohol poisoning.
- Alcohol can interfere with normal brain development. (NIAAA) Exposing the brain to alcohol during adolescence may interrupt key processes of brain development, possibly leading to mild cognitive impairment as well as to further escalation of drinking. (NIAAA)
- Binge drinking: Full-time college students 18 to 22 years old are among the heaviest drinkers, with 42.2 percent engaging in binge-drinking. (SAMHSA)

Alcohol and Pregnancy

*Women who are pregnant or may become pregnant are advised to abstain from alcohol.*
• Alcohol use during pregnancy may cause physical, behavioral, and learning problems in babies.
• Babies most severely affected have fetal alcohol syndrome.

Read more: Drinking and Pregnancy