

NIH produces online course for teen alcohol screening

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Noting that about 190,000 people under age 21 visit emergency rooms for alcohol-related injuries and about 5,000 die as a result of underage drinking each year, the NIAAA has produced a new online training course designed to help [health care professionals](#) conduct rapid, evidence-based [alcohol screening](#) and brief intervention with youth.

The course presents three scenarios for youth at different levels of risk for alcohol-related harm, and illustrates a four-step clinical screening process. The course uses a quick two-question screening tool, which asks about the drinking habits of an adolescent's friends and their own drinking. The course also provides a risk estimator and lessons on how to conduct an intervention according to a patient's risk. In addition, the course gives an overview of brief [motivational interviewing](#), which is considered to have the best potential effectiveness among teens.

"Some may see underage drinking as a harmless rite of passage, but when you look at the risks, it is a big deal," coauthor of the course Vivian B. Faden, Ph.D., director of the Office of Science Policy and Communications at NIAAA, said in a statement. "We developed the guide and the continuing medical education course to help health care professionals reduce underage drinking and its risks in a way that fits easily into their practice."

More information: [More Information](#)

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