

Web-based program may help address underage drinking

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A new study supports the use of a brief, web-based program alone and in combination with a parent campaign for preventing alcohol consumption among adolescents transitioning from middle school to high school.

The *Journal of Addictions & Offender Counseling* study found that brief,

web-based personalized feedback alone or in combination with a brief parent brochure is more effective than traditional educational lectures in delaying drinking initiation among female ninth-grade students. Prevalence rates for alcohol use were 18.8%, 29.4%, and 66.3% in the web-based, combined, and traditional education groups, respectively.

For male ninth-grade students, prevalence rates for alcohol use were 21.6%, 21.1%, and 33.3% in the respective groups. Although investigators did not find favorable effects for the web-based or combined program compared with traditional education for male students, examination of drinking rates suggests that all three types of programs may be effective for male teens.

More information: *Journal of Addictions & Offender Counseling*, DOI: [10.1002/jaoc.12038](https://doi.org/10.1002/jaoc.12038)

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