

Teens

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The 16 year old estimates that 70 percent of the students in her school drink, without specifying how often. Twice she has taken keys away from a friend who was going to drive under the influence of alcohol. She has never driven under the influence herself.

She did think it might be okay for a person to drive a short distance if they had a high tolerance to alcohol and only one or two drinks.

Her friend, also a junior, said it is never acceptable to drink any amount and drive. "It's not right at all," she said. She has never had to stop someone from drinking and driving or been a passenger in a car where the driver was intoxicated. She said a lot of students abuse alcohol.

Dallas students Marcus Sowick and Erika Turner said they have also taken car keys away from a friend who was drunk but wanted to drive.

Larry Schuler, chair of the wellness department at Dallas High School, agrees that students are fairly responsible when it comes to driving while under the influence, but said there room for improvement.

"I think there are a lot of kids drinking, but not driving. Many have designated drivers. But, that doesn't take away from the problems with drinking alcohol," said Schuler, who has taught for 29 years.

"The bottom line is that kids shouldn't be drinking period. There are a lot of responsibilities to teach them beyond not drinking and driving," he said.

Schuler said most of the prevention education concerning drinking is happening in the middle school, where the D.A.R.E. program is used along with other programs.

Members of Lake-Lehman's Students Against Drunk Driving (S.A.D.D.) say there are many good kids out there, but sometimes they make the wrong decisions. That is why S.A.D.D. is broadening its focus. A name change is in the works as the group not only works against driving drunk, but dangerous decisions in general.

S.A.D.D. members know teenagers can have a good time with-

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Larry Schuler
Dallas teacher

out alcohol and do not condone its use in any way. "I think it's a good idea to take a strong stand against this issue," said junior Joanne Shoemaker. "Basically in high school there a lot of kids who think drinking is a cool thing to do. You can have a good time without drinking."

Tina Baigis, S.A.D.D. president, said she knows there are teens who drink and drive, but feels there are also many who take a stand against it.

"It happens, I'm positive. From what I know it's not constant, it usually happens with parties or around prom," said Baigis. "But, this year there are a lot of kids in S.A.D.D. If they are signing up then I take it they're going to stand up for this and not drink and drive."

Baigis said she has always been very much against drinking and driving. "Our schools have been good about teaching us about it," she said.

Michelle Medura, S.A.D.D. coordinator and Spanish teacher, said she is very proud of her students in the organization. "They are wonderful role models," she said.

At Lake-Lehman, S.A.D.D. sponsors a Christmas program and an annual candlelight vigil. Also, students are urged to sign a contract around prom time promising not to drink and drive.

Alison Piatt, S.A.D.D. vice-president, said the organization shows the community that there are students who care and want to help prevent drinking and driving. "S.A.D.D. shows the community that teenagers are responsible and doing what they can to get involved in helping others not make dangerous decisions," she said.



Racin' fun

Scouts competed in the Pinewood Derby last week. In photos, clockwise from below: Jim Jackson, Dallas, with his entry; Joshua Anderson, Marty Moore and Brian Goeringer, left to right, horsing around; Chris Smith carefully set his car in place, watched by Scoutmaster Dr. Bob Glicini; cars race down the track.



Pinewood Derby winners

Scouts from Pack 281, Dallas United Methodist Church, who placed highest in the Pinewood Derby:

Overall winners:

1st, Chris Box; 2n, Jason Jolley; 3rd, Devon Kornak; 4th, Kyle Hazletine; 5th, Jim Jackson; 6th, Jonathan Kopcho

Wolf winners:

1st, Tommy Oswalt; 2nd, Shamus Field; 3rd, Kyle Arnaud

Bear winners:

1st, Daniel Anderson; 2nd, Wesley Evans; 3rd, Anthony Macri

Webelos 4 winners:

1st, Alex Harding; 2nd, Matthew Buckman; 3rd, Marty Moore.

Webelos 5 winners:

1st, Andrew VanLoon; 2nd, Chris Smith; 3rd, Matthew Daube

*Alcohol-related accidents in Luzerne Cty .compared to state and nation in 1996

	Luzerne Co.	State	Nation
Accidents	447	13,343	1.4 million
Rate per 1000 pop.	1.36	1.12	5.19
Persons injured	448	12,760	321,000
Persons killed	16	503	17,126 (1/3 under 25 yrs. old)
D.U.I. arrests	206	39,165 (no Phila. Co.)	n/a
Rate per 1000 pop.	.63	3.3	n/a

* statistics provided by Nat'l. Safety Council

Who gets D.U.I.'s?

Luzerne County D.U.I. Offender Profile 1995 - of 876 evaluated

SEX: Male 85%
Female 15%

AGE: 18-20 4%
21-24 14%
25-29 17%
30-34 19%
35-44 28%
45-54 12%
55-up 6%

MARITAL STATUS:
Single 42%
Married 25%
Widowed 2%
Divorced 17%
Separated 8%
Live-in relationship 6%

EDUCATION:
Graduate degree 2%
Undergrad degree 9%
Technical degree 23%
High school 48%
Prt. high school 2%
Junior high 6%

INCOME LEVEL:
Less than \$6,999 16%
\$7,000-\$11,999 13%
\$12,000-\$15,999 15%
\$16,000-\$19,999 9%
\$20,000-\$24,999 13%
\$25,000 and up 29%
(avg. income \$19,252)

Prison break

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Chesnovitch said.

Chesnovitch concluded that the confusion and lack of communication could easily be resolved if the public aired their concerns with the prison and state officials.

A recurring concern was an old structure located at Bulford and Stonybrook roads. The structure was brought to the supervisors' attention last month when a neighbor wrote the township board about the potential hazards for children in the area. Since last month, two corners of the structure have crumbled in high winds.

Board member John Wilkes made a brief assessment of the property and recommended that a report be issued by the fire chief and building inspector. An attempt will be made to reach the property owner before any other action would be taken.

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