



PROMOTING EARLY DETECTION AND SCREENING FOR UNDERAGE ALCOHOL USE

Alcohol is the most commonly used drug among underage youths in the United States. Studies reviewed by The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) revealed that underage alcohol use is responsible for 189,000 emergency rooms visits and more than 4,300 deaths annually. Youths who start drinking before age 15 are six times more likely to develop alcohol use disorders later in life than those who begin drinking at or after age 21 [CDC Fact Sheets - Underage Drinking](#).

Beacon Health Options (Beacon) is partnering with health plans on an initiative to promote early detection of underage alcohol use by promoting early screenings and prevention in primary care. Beacon's toll-free PCP Consultation Line for Pediatricians and Family Practices is staffed by board certified psychiatrists who provide consultations regarding substance use assessment and treatment. The PCP Consultation Line is available from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET at 877-241-5575.

Beacon is also promoting the use of the downloadable CRAFFT questionnaire. The CRAFFT is a highly recognized behavioral health screening tool recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics' Committee on Substance Abuse for identifying youth at risk. To access and other Alcohol and Adolescents resources please visit <https://www.beaconhealthoptions.com/providers/beacon/network/ncoc-state-government-and-healthplans>

A major clinical challenge is identifying youths who need treatment and those who are at risk of developing chronic substance use disorders. Beacon is committed in supporting our provider partners, clients, and members in order to promote early detection.