



The P.A.R.T.Y. (Prevent Alcohol and Risk Related Trauma in Youth) Program is a dynamic, interactive injury prevention program for teenagers. The program was developed in 1986 at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre in Toronto, Ontario, through a request from a group of youth. As of June 2012, there are over 100 sites around the world, seventy-two of which are operating in Canada, and the remainder of the sites are in the United States, Australia, Brazil, Japan and Germany. In Canada, the greatest incidence of trauma injury and death occurs in the fifteen to twenty-four year age group. The P.A.R.T.Y. Program was created to educate teens to the perils of risk-taking behaviour and the tragic consequences that may occur. This program is a vital component in the growing community effort to reduce death and injury in alcohol and risk-related incidents and it wouldn't be possible without the support of the community and generous sponsors.

Island Health brings the P.A.R.T.Y. Program to communities across Vancouver Island where it is delivered by an array of volunteers, some from health care related professions (including the BCAS, RCMP and Police Agencies) and others from the community. The program is designed to give grade 10 students reality based information on the causes and consequences of youth trauma by taking them through a variety of interactive stations that illustrate the path of a trauma patient through the hospital to possible rehabilitation. Hopefully this information will enable them to make smart choices when it comes to taking risks.

The students start together with an introductory session delivered by an Emergency Room Physician who talks about his/her job, various risk taking behaviors, smart decision making and shows some very graphic pictures of some real crashes and trauma victims. We emphasize making smart choices, wearing the gear, driving sober, getting trained and buckling up. We don't tell them what not to do but try to provide them realistic information about the potential consequences of their decisions, recognizing that they are starting to make their own decisions as young adults. We also introduce the idea of those injuries that can be fixed and those that are permanent, particularly brain and spinal cord injuries.

The students are then divided into small groups which rotate through the following interactive stations, where they follow the path of a trauma patient.

**Crash Scene**

The students are shown an actual crashed car and paramedics or first responders lead them through a description of what happened by looking at the damage. They then demonstrate some of the equipment used on scene and show the students what would happen at the scene and on route to the hospital.

**Trauma Room**

The students see a moulaged casualty (their age) connected to all the equipment that would be used in a trauma resuscitation when they arrive at the hospital. A trauma nurse works through the scenario, describing what it would look and feel like to be a trauma patient. Often we use the same story that was discussed in the first station.

**Disability/Rehabilitation Station**

This station simulates what it might be like to be left with a permanent brain or spinal cord injury. Students listen to a tape of a brain-injured teen to understand how hard it can be to communicate. They then fill in a simple form while looking in a mirror to simulate the disconnection between brain and hands in a brain injury. Finally, they try to button up a shirt with a specialized device while wearing mittens that simulates a loss of motor control of their hands. In some communities, they will also listen to volunteers from the Brain Injury Society share their story.

**Consequences Station**

An RCMP officer or municipal Police Officer (most often their school liaison officer) engages the students in a conversation around some of the other implications of their decisions. He/she may demonstrate a roadside screening with goggles that simulate different levels of intoxication, discuss N and L licenses, talk about crash scenes that he/she has been to and their impact and his/her role in the notification of Next of Kin.

If you have any questions about the P.A.R.T.Y. Program please contact:

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