Federal law requires states to enforce laws that prohibit persons under 21 from drinking alcohol, yet counterfeit IDs in the college environment have been largely treated by society as a minor juvenile offense. However, they are still illegal, and have serious ramifications. Being caught using or possessing a counterfeit ID can lead to jail time and serious fines, and result in a permanent criminal record.

The primary risk in using a fake ID is being arrested and charged. The other risk in using a fake ID is to have your identity stolen by the person who made your fake ID, or by the person you gave your own legitimate ID to.

Fake IDs aren't worth the risks, and the college community needs to understand that.

"We have no choice as a society but to try and deter crimes that lead to other collateral consequences."

- Ed Book, Chief of Police, Santa Fe College Police Department

The cost of using a counterfeit ID:
- Criminal Record
- Stolen Identity
- Serious Fines
- Expulsion from College
- Loss of Job/Potential Job
- Alcoholism/Health Complications
- Damage/Destruction of Reputation
Getting Arrested With A Fake ID

For students who use fake IDs, there's one big consequence to fear: Getting arrested by police.

“Methods of 'Fake ID' Obtainment and Use in Underage College Students,” a 2010 study by The University of Missouri and the Midwest Alcoholism Research Center (MARC), shows about 29 percent of those who use fake IDs have reported being caught.

Furthermore, police say that students, who are often confident that they won’t get caught with a fake ID, have only a partial understanding of laws regarding fake ID use. “Students don’t realize the gravity of a conviction for fictitious identification, they just know they’re going to get an ID so they can go up and drink trashcans at Brick Street and they don’t realize that having a conviction for a fake ID. How is that going to look to a future employer?” said Officer Greg Moore of the Oxford Police Department (OPD). “It shows dishonesty.”

Moore says that there could be heavy fines for fake ID use, depending on the intent.

“We don’t always catch all the fake IDs,” Moore said. “But if we get six underage arrests in one night, we’ll probably come away with four or five IDs.”


The Different Types of Fake IDs

- **Counterfeit driver's licenses**
  A facsimile of a driver's license manufactured by someone in the U.S. or abroad.

- **Borrowed or stolen licenses**
  A license that has been used even though it was issued to someone else.

- **Valid, fraudulently obtained licenses**
  The person using it could have used a fictitious name or birth certificate, and obtained the ID from the DMV.

- **Expertly altered IDs**
  A valid ID with altered content.
Continued: Fake IDs Fuel The Human Cost Of Underage Drinking

Possession of a Fake ID directly influences the availability of alcohol to underage persons. If the fake ID was removed from the equation, that underage person's access to alcohol would be significantly reduced. This is a problem that few are looking at.

A study, "demonstrated that false ID use led to increases in drinking frequency and quantity," said A.M. Arria, director of the Center on Young Adult Health and Development at the University of Maryland School of Public Health. Two-thirds of underage students who drink use fake IDs to purchase alcohol. While underage students tend to drink less frequently than older students, the use of fake IDs allows them to drink more frequently.

The study, which was published online in an upcoming print issue of Alcoholism: Clinical & Experimental Research, included 529 females and 486 males. All had consumed alcohol at least once by their first year of college.

About 66 percent of the underage students used fake IDs and used them about one-fourth of the time they drank alcohol.

Alcohol use can create academic problems for college students. A report by the Center on Young Adult Health and Development, University of Maryland School of Public Health, covers the toll alcohol use takes during college.

“To remain globally competitive in today’s knowledge-based economy, colleges are placing a high priority on improving their graduation rates. While many factors are in play, this report sharpens the focus on how substance use and mental health problems might contribute to what we call a ‘cascade of academic problems’, starting with missing class, through failing grades, to dropping out.”

Another related issue is that even among college students who graduate, finding a job after college is not always easy. Many graduates report getting jobs after college that don’t require a college degree, and they are beginning to wonder whether the time and money they spent on college was even worth it. Colleges and parents should promote the message that excessive drinking and substance use can interfere with acquisition of skills and experiences needed to be competitive in today’s job market.”

The report concludes that the idea of partying through school is not overly productive.

“Substance use has an insidious way of interfering with a student’s ability to take advantage of all that college has to offer. The time has come to shift our thinking away from the normalcy of partying during college toward finding solutions to reduce rates of substance use to promote students’ long-term success and well-being.”

Substance abuse can hurt cognitive development with young people.

“Exposure to alcohol and drugs, especially during the vulnerable period of adolescent development, can lead to acute cognitive problems such as difficulty concentrating and sleep disturbances. These cognitive problems no doubt make it more difficult to function academically. Recent research has identified areas of the brain involved in learning and memory that are adversely affected by alcohol consumption. Heavy alcohol consumption during adolescence has been shown to be associated with structural and functional changes during brain development that can manifest as poor planning, impaired executive functioning, and spatial and attention deficits.

Texas A&M football star hurts his school's reputation due to fake ID charge

Heisman Trophy honoree Johnny Manziel pleaded guilty and paid $2,232 in fines as the penalty for his “failure to identify,” pursuant to a June 2012 arrest for a street corner brawl in College Station, Texas.

Manziel is one of several notable college quarterbacks indicted for possession of counterfeit IDs. Others include Connor Brewer of the University of Texas, Ryan Perrilloux of LSU, and, recently, Tanner McEvoy of the University of Wisconsin.

His school, Texas A&M, has subsequently had to contend with negative headlines about underage drinking, fighting, and possession of a fake ID.

Loaning Your ID to Another Person is a Crime in All States

"Passback" IDs are IDs that have been legitimately issued, but are given to an underage friend, either temporarily or permanently, in order to use as false identification.

Often, they are similar looking persons, as to not raise suspicion to the ID. The underage person uses that ID to purchase alcohol or enter bars.

As the ID the imposter is using is legitimate, he or she is often are able to obtain alcohol, unless someone recognizes the difference between the picture and the person presenting it (often they are similar looking, and when presenting an ID in a bar or club there is not sufficient lighting to make an accurate comparison).

A more concerning fact is that after the person uses the passback ID, he or she sometimes keeps it for illicit purposes other than what the original license holder had intended. The passback holder can use the ID to apply for credit cards or to present it to law enforcement to escape charges or a previous criminal record, among other things.
Fake IDs Aren't Worth the Risks Program at Safe Santa Fe Days

Last August, the Santa Fe College Police Department in Gainesville, FL hosted "Safe Santa Fe Days", promoting safety around the Santa Fe College Campus. Part of the program included distributing educational materials to students and community members, including our Keeping IDentities Safe brochure, "Fake IDs Aren't Worth the Risks."

The Santa Fe College Police Department and Keeping IDentities Safe discovered their shared goals after meeting at a conference and proceeded to partner together to stem the flow of counterfeit IDs into collegiate life.

"We have no choice as a society and as a police force but to try and deter crimes that lead to other collateral consequences," said Ed Book, Chief of Police, Santa Fe College Police Department.

Many college students do not understand the risks they incur when they purchase or manufacture a counterfeit ID or use a friend's or relative's "passback." Often, due to the high number of college students who use other students' IDs or counterfeits, students perceive the risk of being caught to be low, or if caught, that the penalty will be insignificant.

However, possessing a counterfeit ID in the State of Florida can have serious consequences. If convicted, offenders could face up to five years in prison and up to a $5,000 fine. While the maximum would most likely only be used in extreme cases, this does not discount the fact that possessing a counterfeit ID in Florida is a third degree felony, which could remain on your permanent record and hamper you from getting many jobs (a serious concern for college students' futures).

As the Santa Fe College Police Department recognizes the risks the students unwittingly put themselves in, it hosts Santa Fe Safety Days to inform students of the various dangers and risks in collegiate and campus life.

Well aware of the significant problem of identity theft in Florida, Santa Fe Safety Days particularly focusses on the counterfeiting issue and warns unknowing students that ordering one will jeopardize a person's identity.

Please see the Santa Fe College Police Department website for more:

http://www.sfcollege.edu/pd.
Raising Awareness with the Students at Florida State University

Students caught with a counterfeit ID are hurting their futures. In fact, they can be hurting their future in a big way.

In today’s world, most employers look at criminal records before making the decision to hire. If you have a criminal charge on your record, you could lose the job.

That’s an issue CSDL has worked to alert students at Florida State University to. We have joined campus police at FSU to provide literature to students on the risks they incur when they use a counterfeit ID, or an ID other than their own, to purchase alcohol. While most college students assume that the penalties for using a counterfeit ID are miniscule, in the State of Florida, they are not.

All persons in Florida can face misdemeanor charges, and even a 3rd degree felony charge, if caught using a counterfeit ID. From those charges, they could lose their driver’s license, pay fines, and even be sentenced to jail time.

The main focus of the “Fake IDs Aren’t Worth the Risks” and the partnership with FSU police is that most college students are uneducated about the risks. By informing them on how severe the penalties could be, we could help deter them from purchasing a counterfeit ID.

Going forward, there is hope that when FSU students are presented with such risks to their future, they will make the right choice and not obtain a counterfeit ID or another person’s valid ID to purchase alcohol.

Fall 2013 was the first time CSDL and the FSU police, along with Florida Alcohol Beverage and Tobacco police, have worked together on this program. We hope that in our partnership we can combat the overwhelming problem of counterfeit IDs.
Legal Consequences of Underage Drinking and Sexual Assualt

Crimes often related to underage drinking, such as forcible sex offenses or aggravated assault, are common on college campuses. The University of Missouri police had eight aggravated assault cases and six forcible sex offenses in 2012. Florida State University law enforcement reported 14 aggravated assault cases and seven forcible sex offenses in 2009. In 2010, Tufts University in Medford/Somerville, MA had one reported murder, 36 forcible rapes and 119 aggravated assaults.¹ At least 1 in 4 college women will be the victim of a sexual assault during her academic career.²

Research suggests that alcohol consumption by the perpetrator and/or the victim increases the likelihood of acquaintance sexual assault. Alcohol’s psychological, cognitive, and motor effects contribute to sexual assault and fake ID use leads to underage binge drinking.

This presents a whole new set of potential harm the use of fake IDs, in addition to legal trouble.

In Florida, it is illegal to possess any driver’s license or identification card not produced by the state of Florida and is a felony punishable by 5 years in prison and a $5,000 fine.

Massachusetts law considers using a fake ID a criminal offense, punishable by a maximum sentence of three months in jail, a $200 fine, and a one-year suspension of your license. In Missouri, it is a misdemeanor punishable by up to a $500 fine for a person under 21 to represent by virtue of displaying a fake ID that he or she is over 21 for the purposes of purchasing or possessing alcohol. Additionally, it constitutes a separate misdemeanor under the Liquor Control Law if the minor reproduced or altered the ID himself, punishable by up to one year in prison and/or a fine of up to $1,000. A number of other states are tough on fake IDs use as well.

The use of a fake ID by a minor to drink alcohol may present both legal problems and potential victimization.

2. http://www.jsad.com/jsad/article/AlcoholRelated_Sexual_Assault_A_Common_Problem_among_College_Students/1470.html
3. Abbey, Antonia"Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs."
An Important Message from Santa Fe College Police Department:

Use a Fake ID to Drink - You May Lose More than you Think

Counterfeit IDs, and “pass back” driver’s licenses borrowed from others, can be hazardous to your future.

Both are against Florida law!

Law enforcement is cracking down on fake IDs. There are severe penalties for using or even possessing a fake ID and when you’re caught, you may face misdemeanor or felony charges, lose your driver’s license, and have a permanent criminal record.

A Fake ID is Not Worth the Risks!

© Keeping IDentities Safe 2013
People who possess or present a fake ID should be prepared to pay the price!

Besides the criminal penalties, providing your personal information to counterfeit ID vendors has all sorts of consequences. Counterfeiters often sell your information to other criminals who will take out loans, open back accounts, and commit crimes under your name. Ordering a fake ID online can hurt your credit score, your job market, and can land you a criminal record.

Fake IDs: Not Worth the Risks is in partnership with:

The Coalition for a Secure Driver’s License (CSDL), www.secure-license.org, is a 501 (c) (3) not for profit, crime prevention, educational charity incorporated in Washington, DC. CSDL essential research identifies best practices for DMVs, fraud detection and prosecution and related identity management topics. CSDL provides educational briefings and programs for communities and organizations throughout the United States. It is a national organization with over 10,000 members. CSDL is 100% funded by individual donor contributions and foundation grants. Fake IDs: Not Worth the Risks is property of CSDL. ©2013 All rights reserved. Duplication or use of program is prohibited without written permission from CSDL.

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Alcohol Abuse: Health Consequences For Young People

If you use a fake ID and get caught, you run the risk of serious legal problems. On top of that, substance abuse can do great damage to your body. The most commonly know fact about alcoholism is that it does damage to the liver. While this is true, it damages other parts of the body as well. Alcohol use can lead to something known as Cardiomyopathy, the stretching and drooping of the heart muscle. It can also cause other problems with the heart such as Arrhythmias, an irregular heartbeat.

Alcohol is also known to increase the risk of a stroke. As we know, a stroke can kill someone or leave them unable to use parts of their body for the rest of their lives. Alcohol has also been linked to high blood pressure and it can affect the pancreas and immune system as well.

Concerning the effects on the liver, drinking creates a greater risk of steatosis, or fatty liver. Alcoholism can also damage the liver by leading to Alcoholic hepatitis, Fibrosis, or even Cirrhosis. Those who have suffered from liver problems due to alcohol report it to be an extremely painful experience.

So, we know that drinking can hurt the liver, the heart, and other parts of our body. On top of it all, there is more evidence today that it can cause problems with the brain.

Drinkers experience difficulty walking, blurred vision, slurred speech, slowed reaction times, and impaired memory while under the influence.

Researchers are finding that some of these problems can persist even when a person is not inebriated. A person who drinks heavily over a long period of time may have brain deficits that persist well after he or she returns to sobriety.

Heavy drinking is believed to have extensive and far-reaching effects on the brain, ranging from simple “slips” in memory to permanent and debilitating conditions that may require lifetime custodial care. Even moderate drinking leads to short-term impairment, as shown by extensive research on the impact of drinking on driving. Exactly how alcohol affects the brain and the likelihood of reversing the impact of heavy drinking on the brain remain hot topics in alcohol research today.

Alcohol consumption can also increase the risk of cancer. Researchers have found that drinking too much alcohol can increase the risk of developing mouth, esophagus, throat, liver, and breast cancer.

Another health problem that comes from drinking is risky sexual behavior. Using alcohol or other drugs can impair judgment, leading a person to engage in dangerous sexual activity. Heavy drinkers are also more likely to delay getting tested for HIV and, if they do test positive, they may postpone seeking treatment.

This leads to more of the spread of HIV and other dangerous sexually transmitted diseases.

Binge Drinking Often Leads To Violent Crimes

Study after study supports the strong correlation between alcohol use and physical assault. A 1999 study from the Alcohol Research Group of the Public Health Institute in California found that approximately 11.5% of its sample of drinkers reported having committed a physical assault, and 16.6% of the respondents reported having been the victim of a physical assault, since the age of 12 years.\(^1\)

Several studies have shown that alcohol and sexual assault have a correlation as well. A State University of New York report published research showing that 30 percent of all sexual assaults occur when the perpetrator is under the influence of alcohol.

In some cases, the victim is also intoxicated. Drinking makes it easy for the perpetrator to ignore sexual boundaries, while the victim's intoxication makes it more difficult for her to guard against an attack.

Alcohol abuse/dependence also appears to have a strong association with the use of a weapon, theft, property damage, and fraud.

In fact, significant associations have been found between substance use disorders and making threats against others with a firearm.

There are statistics to show that alcohol use leads to an increased risk of violent death, including by firearms.

Among a studied population of homicide victims in Sao Paulo, alcohol consumption was positively correlated with homicide victimization, with firearms causing 78.6% of the deaths examined overall.

Often drinkers enter the night out with friends at the local bar thinking that it will be a fun time. Sometimes the fun doesn't last and by the end of the night, they find themselves in an undesirable situation.

While many people conduct themselves appropriately when drinking alcohol, an increase in the amount of underage drinkers, could lead to an increase of violent crimes in those who choose to do so as alcohol has been proven to impair judgement.

\(^1\) Scott KD, Schafer J, Greenfield TK. “The role of alcohol in physical assault perpetration and victimization.” Alcohol Research Group, Public Health Institute, Berkeley, California. 1999.
So What Can Be Done to Prevent Fake ID Use for Underage Drinking or Underage Access to Adult Only Entertainment?

Law enforcement needs to enforce the already existing laws at both the state and federal levels that restrict the use of counterfeit IDs, or the use of another person's ID for any purpose, including underage drinking.

There is a growing trend of binge drinking at colleges in the United States, and the use of fake IDs allows easier access to alcohol for underage drinkers. Local law enforcement decide the severity in which they enforce laws against underage drinking and fake IDs.

The level of enforcement has an impact on the level of fake ID use and the areas that choose to enforce the law more strictly have less fake ID use.

If law enforcement was to be more strict on charging underage persons caught with fake IDs, it would send a message to other underage drinkers that possessing a counterfeit ID or someone else's ID is a crime that has possible life-long consequences.