

# Closure

Ask: “How does the body deal with alcohol and how does alcohol affect the body, brain and behavior?”

Review the following main points:

- Alcohol is ingested and absorbed into the blood stream where it is distributed throughout the body, including the brain.
- The blood also brings alcohol to the liver, where ADH breaks it down into acetaldehyde.
- As the concentration of alcohol increases, ADH reaches a maximum rate resulting in an excess accumulation of alcohol in the body.
- As the concentration of alcohol in the body increases, the toxic effects of alcohol become more severe.
- Alcohol affects the brain by interfering with neurotransmission between neural synapses.
- Brain functions associated with different regions become noticeably more impaired as blood alcohol concentration increases, beginning with the cerebral cortex, and progressing to the hippocampus, cerebellum, hypothalamus/pituitary, and medulla oblongata.

Alcohol has a profound impact on the brain. You have learned a little about how alcohol impairs brain function. Do you think alcohol affects adolescent brains differently and if so, why?

Have the students view CBS news July 2006 <http://www.cbsnews.com/video/watch/?id=1777088n> and discuss the Dr. Aaron White’s comments about the effects of alcohol on the adolescent brain.