YOUTH ALCOHOL INTOXICATION HAPPENS TOO OFTEN AND IS A SERIOUS MEDICAL EMERGENCY

ER consultations for 12-24 year olds were analysed in a Canadian city between 2012 and 2017.

A hospital visit for an alcohol-related medical emergency (12-24 years old) happened every 2 days.

Average age was 20 years old for males and females.

75% had consumed high alcohol content drinks (liquor or mixed drinks with liquor).

WE DON’T TAKE YOUTH ALCOHOL INTOXICATION SERIOUSLY ENOUGH

25% were admitted with a triage code 1 or 2, meaning their lives were in danger.

57% had complications such as coma, head injuries, or hypothermia.

Parents and friends were contacted only 59% of the time.

Only 40% were offered a follow up, and only 52% were offered counselling in the ER.

57% had complications such as coma, head injuries, or hypothermia.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

Educate young people about the risk of severe alcohol intoxication from consuming higher alcohol content spirits and mixed drinks.

Use alcohol-related ER consultations as an opportunity for parents/guardians and health professionals to intervene with youth.