

Question 2: *How does heavy drinking affect learning in adolescents?*

“What we have found is that heavy drinking by the age of 15 produces identifiable problems for adolescents in several different ways. First, adolescents use fewer strategies when they are learning new materials and learning new information, and that’s almost regardless of what kind of information it is. And that even after they’ve learned something, they are quicker to forget that information. It’s more difficult for them to remember that information. And we also know that if heavy drinking continues over the course of adolescence, that by late adolescence and young adulthood, there is an additional problem that emerges and that is that there is a deterioration in their attentional abilities.”

-Sandra Brown, Ph.D. Chief of Psychology Service, VA Medical Center
Psychology Service