

What's Your Age Again?



Why should I get a fake ID?

Every year, students ranging in age from 14 to 18 are responsible for purchasing and consuming one fifth of the alcohol sold nationwide. Access to alcohol, as well as other items illegal to underage teens, is made possible by the increasingly popular trend of having fake IDs. Although fake IDs are most prevalent on college campuses, there are a significant amount of fakes used by high school students.

A fake ID is any ID that a person uses for identification purposes that is not theirs. In other words, if a person were to borrow a friend's ID it is just as illegal as having a fake made.

An ACHS senior said, "I got my fake ID when I was sixteen, and I made it myself. I also made IDs for three of my friends." Alcohol is the primary reason that many teens feel the need to get a fake ID. A survey was given to 71 ACHS students asking them if they owned a fake ID and what they used it for. 31% of the upper class students that were surveyed said they owned one. Of the 31%, almost half, 47%, of those students said they used the ID to buy alcohol.

22% of ACHS students use their IDs for admission to bars, 9% to get into strip clubs, 9% to purchase porn, 9% to purchase cigarettes, and 3% to be able to vote along

with purchasing beer and tobacco. Other than using an ID for illegal substances such as cigarettes and alcohol, a senior at ACHS reported otherwise.

"I use my ID for line dancing and getting into the restaurants at Casinos. It's convenient to have one because I cannot go to certain places that I want to."

The thing that non-owning students question is why they can't wait until they are 18 or 21 to purchase illegal substances or receive admission to places.

"I can't wait until I'm that old," said an ACHS senior. "I'm very impatient and I don't like being restricted."

Out of the 69% reported they did not own an ID, more than half of them said they could get one if they desired to.

"I don't have an ID, but I know people who can make a pretty convincing fake by using Microsoft word and a scanner," said an ACHS senior.

He went on to say that although a majority of the student body doesn't have their own fake ID, many just use their friends.

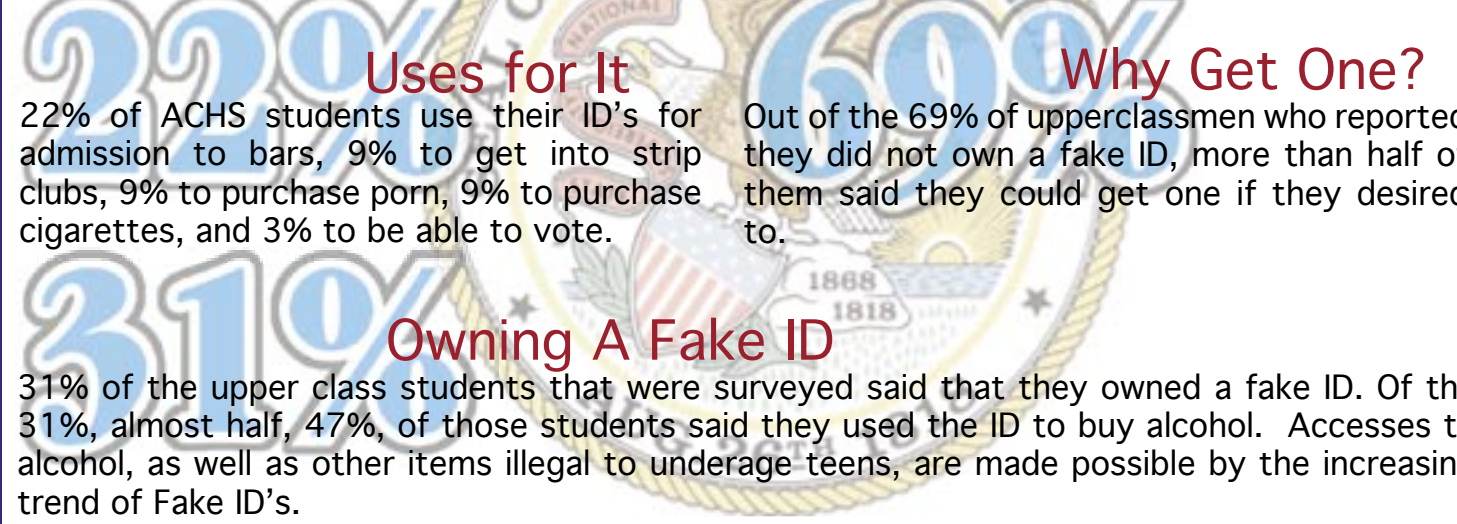
"Whenever I need to use a fake, like if I wanted to buy some beer, I just ask my friend who has one to get it for me," said an ACHS junior.

Whatever the intended use of a fake ID is even possessing one or attempting to use one can result in serious consequences.

"I got my fake ID when I was sixteen, an ACHS senior said, "I made it myself. I also made ID's for three of my friends. We wanted it so we would be able to get beer every weekend, and sometimes on weekdays. So far, it's worked every time." Alcohol is the primary reason that many teens feel the need to get a fake ID.

71...Survey Says

Seventy-one ACHS students, of various ages, were surveyed as to whether or not they had fake IDs, how and why they used them, and if they knew where they could get one.



And if I get caught...

"Can I see your ID please?" The middle-aged man standing behind the register asks you after he sees the case of beer, the pack of cigarettes, and the stack of porn that you just placed on the counter.

"Sure thing," you reply with a sly smile on your face as you whip out your freshly printed fake ID. "What a deal," you remember. "I only had to pay \$100 bucks for this little plastic card and now I can get all the beer, smokes and porn I want!"

"I'll be right back," says the man behind the counter. "Alright," you say, nonchalantly smiling at your friend who is next to you, hoping that you'll get away with all this.

All of the sudden, before you even realize what's going on, you hear a c o p

car and see the lights. "Oh no," your friend replies as they look over at you with a panic stricken expression across their face and suddenly breaks out in a sweat.

It's too late. The next thing you know your being read your rights as you're arrested and your butt is dragged off to jail.

Sound too drastic? Think this will never happen to you? Do you know the consequences of having a fake ID? And even worse, do realize what the consequences are if your actually caught using that fake ID? The realization is that if you have a fake ID, whether or not you use it, you're committing a very costly crime.

As costly as the crime is, some teens feel that a fake ID is a necessity of life.

As a juvenile, the possession of a fake ID alone is a crime. Although the punishment is not as severe as if you were actually caught using the fake ID, there are still consequences.

When caught, the perpetrator is brought to the police station, detained separate from the adults, and has to meet with a juvenile officer. That officer then decides the steps that are needed to be taken to ensure that this was just a single incident that won't repeat itself.

The officer also decides whether or not parents should be called, if the juvenile should be charged, and if a court appearance is necessary. A fine might also be in order.

According to Officer XXX Tippit of the Lake Villa Police Department, the maximum sentence for possession of a fake ID is a three to seven year prison sentence. It's a class four felony.

Students who either have a fake ID, or plan to obtain one don't care about getting caught.

An ACHS junior said, "Even though I now know what the consequences for using/having a fake are, I don't think that it really changes my mind about them. I still plan on getting one. Besides, if you get caught with it, it's your own fault. If no one knows that you have it, how are you going to get you in trouble?"

Some ACHS students who don't already have fake IDs, plan to obtain them online, or even through a friend.

"I'm getting mine through a friend because I can get it a lot cheaper," said an ACHS junior. Although many students obtain fake IDs from outside resources, there are some that like the creative outlet of making their own.

One ACHS junior said, "I just get bored, so I like to make them to be creative. I use computers to design and draft them as well as rubber cement photos. Although I never used them, I have made insurance cards, drivers licenses, as well as some other types of fake IDs."



hallways, do on their free time. Some kids do not wish to take the risk with fake IDs and similar non-essentials. ACHS senior Jennie Dewar said, "I think most people use fake IDs to buy alcohol or to get into clubs. I see no reason to have a fake ID. I don't want to take the risk of being caught with one."

One student, who wishes to remain anonymous, said that she did not have a fake ID, but wouldn't mind getting her hands on one.

"I could use a fake ID to get into places that I'm not old enough to get into, like clubs. Maybe I would even go to the bars," she said. "Kids get into trouble at an early age, that's why there's an age limit."

Another anonymous student said that she would not mind obtaining a fake ID.

"I definitely would never smoke, but I would end up getting alcohol sooner or later," she said.

The student was also afraid that afraid of being caught with a fake ID.

An anonymous senior actually has a fake ID in his possession.

"A fake ID can give you unlimited access to anything an adult can buy, see, or do. It can be little things like buying tickets to a rated R movie, or big things such as documentation to get on an airplane."

He went on to explain, when asked about underage drinking with fake IDs, "My theory is that it is probably better to reach the drinking age while you are still under the supervision of your parents than

when you are on your own in college...Until the drinking age law is changed, it just applies to people who aren't creative enough to get around the law," he said. "The truth is that I don't drink, I don't smoke, and I am not a terrorist. In truth, I'm just a kid, so it's not like I do a whole lot with it. I think that my mom would be a little suspicious if I took the family car to a strip club."

A fake ID can cost as little as 25 dollars and as much as 400.

Many young people who have fake IDs usually go and get more.

An anonymous student said: "I will probably get others for myself, because in all honesty it's just a fun thing to have."

He goes on to warn, "If someone wants a fake ID, they should do the research and hunt one down. I know I'm rationalizing, but I think the relative difficulty in finding one weeds out all of the people who would do really dumb stuff with it."



Some students rebel against age restrictions requiring them to be 18 to 21 years of age in order to purchase restricted substances or gain admission to otherwise prohibited places. "I can't wait until I'm that old," said an ACHS senior. "I'm very impatient and I don't like being restricted."

Every year, students ranging in age from 14 to 18 are responsible for purchasing and consuming one fifth of the alcohol sold in the U.S. Although fake IDs are most prevalent on college campuses, a Tom Tom survey showed a significant number of fakes used by high school students.

Most underaged individuals use fake IDs to purchase age restricted substances such as cigarettes and alcohol. However, one ACHS senior said, "I use my ID for line dancing and getting into the restaurants at casinos. It's convenient to have one because I cannot go to certain places that I want to."

