Should we raise the drinking age?

When I read on the internet that parliament wants to raise the drinking age, I didn't think it would change the problem of young teens drinking. Reading about this made me wonder if it would actually stop teens binge drinking. My hypothesis is there are more advantages in raising the drinking age then there is not. Questions I am including are what are the advantages of rising the drinking age? Also what are the disadvantages of raising the drinking ages?

What are the advantages in rising the drinking age?

The first benefit would be that it would stop a certain amount of teen drinkers going into clubs to binge drink. This is according to a New Zealand Politics website. They say that they think in the long run that raising the drinking age will prevent younger teenagers e.g. 15 year olds getting into clubs as they are doing now. It is possible for a 15 year old to get away with being an 18 year old because they use fake IDs. The government is hoping that by raising the drinking age it will be harder for younger people to look 20. I had already known that young people could sneak under aged teens into clubs, and that people use fake IDs. If that is the case then that would be a good reason for raising the drinking age.

The second advantage of raising the drinking age is that too many young drinkers are clogging up hospitals. The article I got this information was the press, titled Teen's crimes linked to booze. It states that young drinkers will clog up 90% of hospitals due to alcohol related incidents through the weekend nights. Some of the problems from alcohol are car accidents, alcohol poisoning, sexual assaults and fights. I think that all the attention that drunken people get in hospital is a bad thing as other patients deserve care delivered to them first. They don't want irresponsible teenagers getting care before them.

What are the disadvantages in rising the drinking age?

On a Potsdam website it states that the (NZMA) New Zealand Medical Association disagrees with raising the drinking age from 18 to 20. It talks about how there is no proof that raising the age would actually stop the problem of drinking. Also that raising the age would only disregard the sensible 18 and 19 year olds. I think that this is fair comment as I know it would be hard to prove that the drinking problem is linked to an actual age.

In another website, the daisy website, it talks about some of the rights you have when you turn eighteen, but you can't even sit back and have a nice drink if the law drinking is raised to 20. It states that when you are eighteen you can go buy cigarettes, buy adult movies, go to the army, travel, get a loan, have children, buy a house and even get married without your parent's permission, but you can't even have a drink at your reception or after a hard day's work. I think that what they are saying is fair enough because it seems that from these laws eighteen is the age when we turn into an adult and are allowed to choose a lot more things for ourselves.

In conclusion though I believe that my hypothesis is correct. That there are more positive aspects in raising the drinking age then there are not raising it. One disadvantage of raising the drinking age would be not being able to back up that there is clinical evidence to support a change. The second is the fact that it's unfair that if you're allowed the right to be an adult at eighteen but not the right to buy a drink. However I think that the impact is not just on 18 year olds but everyone else that would choose to raise the age. Because not all eighteen year olds are responsible and older people have a different view on the change than an eighteen year old therefore it would be better to raise the drinking age. It is a problem for all people in the community to solve, so I'm prepared to take the advice of the community.