

Age of responsibility:
arbitrarily set rule or
limit based on
human's brain study...

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Ignorance

The most violent element in society is ignorance. Whether addressing the economic bubble's normative judgements or the the age of responsibility, human nature seems to glaze over facts and rely on opinionated arguments to embolden the ludicrous defense against raising the age of responsibility to age 25. Because of this unseemly phenomenon, the age of responsibility became a debate instead of a straightforward conversation on what the age of responsibility - or rather the age of the greatest societal safety should be. Upon the basis of neurological research, societal culture, and average overall safety of the citizens of the United States of America.

The functions and the inner workings of human brain has been studied for over six thousand years. Yet only in the last 15 years have we been able to truly delve into the impulse and developmental delays of the prefrontal cortex and dopamine release centers - only to find that the adolescent brain is not fully developed until age 25. Ironically, the last Federal Act that addressed the drinking age was passed in 1984 - over 30 years ago (The 1984). This is the equivalent of allowing an 11 year old child, to drive themselves to school daily, unattended.

One critical theory that is often overlooked when analyzing the age of responsibility is the concept of flow. This psychological doctrine references a state in which people feel they are the greatest amount of productivity and success. When flow increases, more energy is invested into making faster decisions rather than heightened attention and awareness. Therefore, at peak flow in teenagers, or what is more commercially known as a 'runner's

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high,' the result is that "[of] liberation. We act without hesitation. Creativity becomes more free-flowing, risk taking becomes less frightening, and the combination lets us flow at a far faster clip" (Kotler). Since flow is often greatest in exhilarating taboo activities - namely drinking, driving, or even doing drugs - it is only logical to infer that this may lead to the abnormal, impulsive behaviors we find in teens. Moreover, the vast majority of the general public is ignorant of the truth of the matter, only enabling more fatalities with each second of compliance.

In today's culture, the very quintessence of public opinion wholeheartedly agrees with placing safety before convenience. Even the foundations of economics agree - our actions each weigh an opportunity cost and require a trade-off. To prioritize the lives of the citizens, we have passed dozens of laws and regulations - even though the opportunity cost may be high. Then knowing this, is it not a moral obligation for us to provide the best possible future for those that have been scientifically proven to be, in comparison, holistically, intellectually diminished as a cohort? By promoting this culture of leisure, the trade-off is watching six children die at your hands each and every day. (CDC). Therefore, raising the age of responsibility will save lives - our only dispute remains if we are able to save enough.

Though there are those that will claim otherwise, the average maturity of adolescents is always far below that of adults. There may in fact be a small percentage of reversible cases, there is no dispute that the mean is logically oriented. For instance, the driving accidents provide a startling viewpoint as, " Compared with other age groups, teens have the lowest rate of seatbelt

use. In 2013, only 55% of high school students reported they always wear seat belts when riding with someone else" (CDC). If we cannot even stand assured in the fact that teens will follow a law that has been ingrained throughout civilization for centuries - can we stand firm in the lowering the age of responsibility? To reiterate, this statistic does not single out any one outlier of high teen maturity or in retrospect, low adult maturity - allowing us to conclude that increasing the age of responsibility to the age of highest overall safety will only produce a positive correlation. The age of responsibility and maturity are often synonymously engaged. In the case of marriage, teen naivete is only further exposed, " Teen marriages are twice as likely to fail compared with those between older couples" (NY Times). Considering that adult divorce rates in the US are currently at 50% of all union, what does that mean for teen marriages? The abnormally high intelligence of a few should never represent the behavior of a whole - it is simply unjustifiable.

Ultimately, it is made evident that the overall sensibility and impulse control of the teen cohort is significantly diminished, only further championing raising the age of responsibility and of societal safety to the 25 years old. To save the lives and maintain our inborn moral compasses, as a human being, it is mandatory we enact the age of responsibility according to neurological evidence, and societal factors pertaining to the safety and highest quality of life for all present and future generations. Yet we must note: it is not simply a national matter; it is a global epidemic. Especially in places such as Ireland, where the age of responsibility has been firmly set at 10 years old, we have an obligation to give our full devotion to crushing this pandemic of underage

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responsibility. (Kershaw). Though we may have a duty to our country, our pledge to all humanity is just as prevalent. Perhaps our society is not the only one to ignore the consequences in the deception of luxury. And perhaps, we shall never earn the title of ignorance again.