Development in Adolescence (HDFS 3316), Alan Reifman, Texas Tech University

Teen Employment Lecture

• **Age Requirements** for Working in the U.S.

• U.S. Teen Employment Becoming **Less Common Over the Past 40 Years** (see where it says, “Researchers have advanced multiple explanations...”)

• **Injury Dangers** from Teen Employment

• Correlation appears strong between high-intensity teen employment (> 10 or 20 hours/week) and problem behaviors (substance use, delinquency), as discussed in Arnett textbook (pp. 341-342)
  - Some teens may have inclinations toward substance use and delinquency even before starting to work (see Mortimer, p. 67, for further discussion)
  - Two reasons suggested by Arnett for work-substance use link are stress-relief and spendable income
  - Another possible reason is that work may expose teens to more deviant peers (see Matthew Ploeger, 1997, “Youth Employment and Delinquency...” , especially Table 2; note that data are very old, though)

• Work may also provide benefits to some teens, as textbook notes

• Child labor still common around the world ([here](#), [here](#), and [here](#))