



Student Drinking

January 2003

Purpose

The purpose of this survey is to continue monitoring the rate and impact of student drinking as well as efforts to enhance the concept of 'responsible drinking.'

Implications/Highlights

Most students recall seeing various materials on student drinking. At the same time, the proportion of students who say they drink and, of these, who binge drink rose. In addition, increased numbers of students report problem behaviors associated with their own or other students' consumption of alcoholic beverages.

Participation Rate

N = 1620

Phone calls: N = 996 (66% response rate)

Web: N = 624 (31% response rate)

Findings

There was an increase this year in the proportion of students who report drinking alcoholic beverages.

Proportion of Students Who Drink

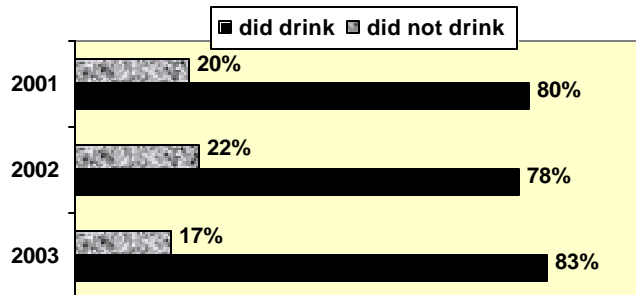


Figure 1. More than four-fifths of students from the 2003 survey say they drink alcoholic beverages

There was a difference among student groups who reported they drank.

- # More of the non-minority students than of the minority students said they drank.*
- # More of those who did belong than of those who did not belong to social fraternities and sororities drank.*
- # More of the seniors and juniors than of the sophomores and first year students said they drank.*

*Statistically significant at the .05 level

Drinking Percentages for Sub-Groups of Students

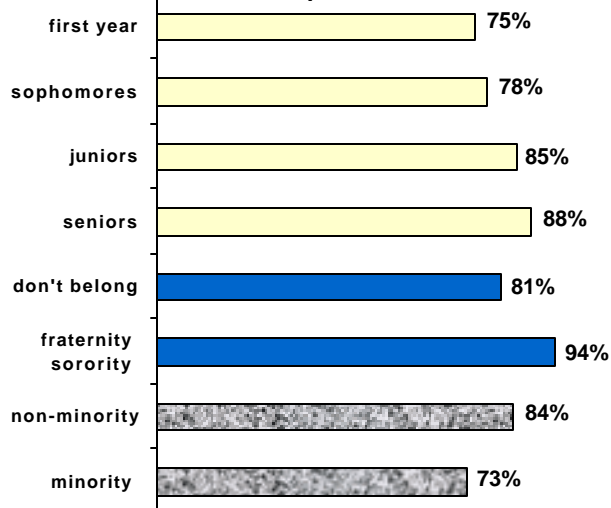


Figure 2. Drinking percentages for various sub-groups of students

Survey respondents estimated most Penn State students typically consumed an average of 5.84 alcoholic drinks when they socialized.

Those who said they themselves drank reported:

- averaging 5.89 drinks each time they socialize
- spending an average of 4.15 hours when they socialize

Survey respondents indicated drinking more than previous years.

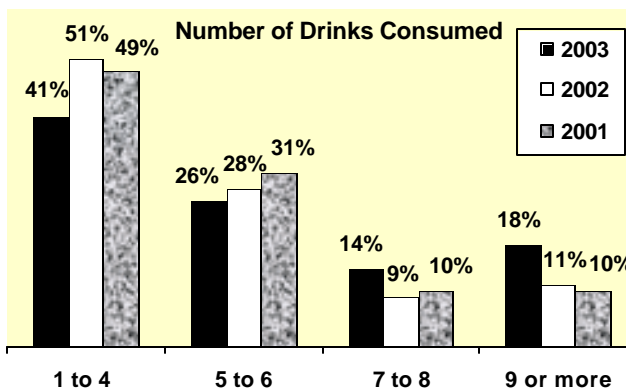


Figure 3. Students in 2003 report consuming more drinks when they socialize

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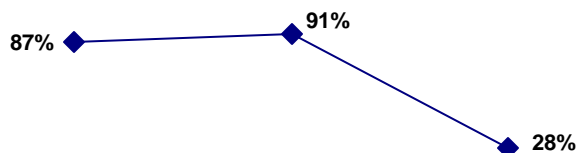
Binge drinkers are men who consume 5 or more drinks and women who consume 4 or more drinks at one social event.

Binge Drank Within Two Weeks Prior to Survey

	Binge Drinkers	Prior Two Weeks
men	76%	mean = 2.80 times
women	70%	mean = 2.15 times

Students were asked whether they recalled seeing specific Penn State materials focused on student drinking.

Recalled Seeing Penn State Materials on Student Drinking



saw PSU materials **saw 'Party Smart' message** **saw "Partnership" slogan**

Figure 4. Students said they had noticed specific messages about drinking

Students remembered seeing these messages on materials in various places throughout campus.

Publicity on Drinking Noticed by Students

75% HUB stall stories 55% Collegian 18% doorknob hangers
 72% posters/flyers 34% table tents 8% keg envelopes
 71% bus panels 29% coasters

Those students who recalled seeing the message “Most Penn State Students Have Zero to Four Drinks When They Party” estimated that ‘other students consume 5.77 drinks when they socialize’ compared to those who did not recall seeing this message who estimated that ‘other students consume 6.50 drinks when they socialize.’ *

Publicity: "Most Drink Zero to Four Drinks" (estimate of how many drinks other students consume when socializing)

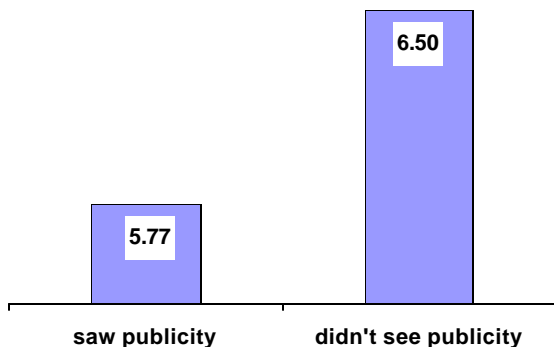


Figure 5. Respondents estimated other students consumed more than four drinks

The difference in number of drinks they themselves consume and the number of hours they drink when they socialize was *not* significantly different between those who recalled seeing this message and those who did not.

Those who said they noticed the slogan, “The Partnership-campus and community- united against dangerous drinking,” reported consuming fewer drinks (mean = 5.13 drinks) when they socialize than those who did not recall slogan (mean = 6.16 drinks.)*

Saw Partnership Slogan on Dangerous Drinking

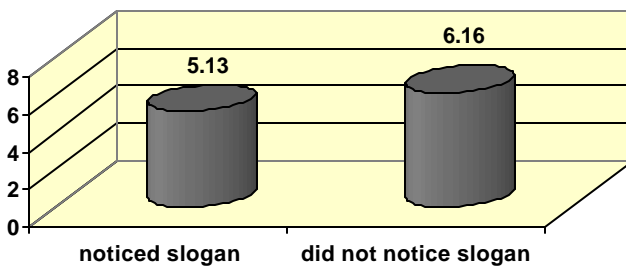


Figure 6. Those who recalled slogan reported consuming fewer drinks when they socialize

Students were asked about specific behaviors when they socialized. Most ate a meal before drinking.

	never	sometimes	usually	always
paced drinks to one an hour	40%	39%	16%	6%
also consumed non-alcoholic drinks	28%	42%	17%	14%
ate a meal before drinking	3%	19%	37%	42%
participated in party games	12%	40%	28%	20%

Those who participated in party games more often were more likely to consume more alcoholic beverages,* binge drink,* and engage in problem behaviors.*

Those Who Played Drinking

Party Games Were More Likely To:

- experience unwanted sexual advance *
- engage in unplanned sexual activity *
- not use protection when they had sex *
- have a hangover *
- miss a class *
- get behind in school work *
- forget where they were or what they did *
- argue with friends *
- damage property *
- get hurt or injured *
- do something later regretted *

About one-tenth (9.7%) of respondents said they were ‘athletes’ or members of an intercollegiate/varsity or club sports. Athletes did not differ from non-athletes except they were more likely to recall seeing various student drinking materials,* to eat a meal before drinking,* and to ‘forget where they were or what they did’* when they drank.

Forget Where They Were or What They Did

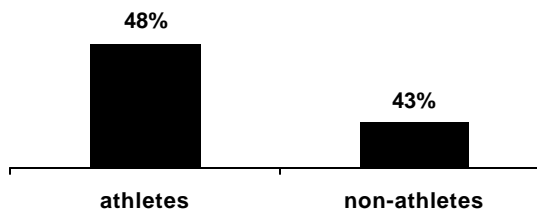


Figure 7. Athletes were more likely than non-athletes to forget where they were or what they did when they drank

*Statistically significant at the .05 level.

With permission of the Harvard School of Public Health, Penn State has continued to replicate a series of questions from their 1993 study related to the overall impact of drinking behaviors.

Effect of Other Students' Drinking

Behaviors	Penn State Pulse Student Drinking Surveys									Harvard Study
	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998	1997	1996	1995	1993 Penn State Data
Been insulted or humiliated	27%	23%	29%	29%	30%	28%	18%	28%	32%	37%
Had a serious argument or quarrel	32%	28%	34%	33%	38%	33%	20%	28%	40%	32%
Been pushed, hit or assaulted	13%	8%	12%	12%	14%	9%	8%	13%	16%	20%
Had your property damaged	22%	15%	22%	18%	23%	22%	11%	15%	17%	19%
Had to baby-sit drunken student	56%	55%	60%	60%	62%	51%	45%	55%	69%	60%
Had your studying/sleep interrupted	59%	56%	60%	56%	59%	59%	44%	54%	57%	64%
Experienced unwanted sexual advance	16%	17%	17%	17%	20%	17%	13%	21%	26%	29%
Been a victim of unwanted sexual experience	4%	5%	4%	6%	4%	5%	2%	3%	3%	2%

Greek vs. Non-Greek

Eleven percent or N = 172 of the respondents said they belonged to a social 'Greek' fraternity or sorority. Those who did belong were more likely than those who did not belong to encounter problem behaviors.

- been insulted or humiliated *
- had a serious argument or quarrel *
- been pushed, hit, or assaulted *
- had to take care of another student *
- experienced unwanted sexual advance *

Belonged to Social Fraternity/Sorority

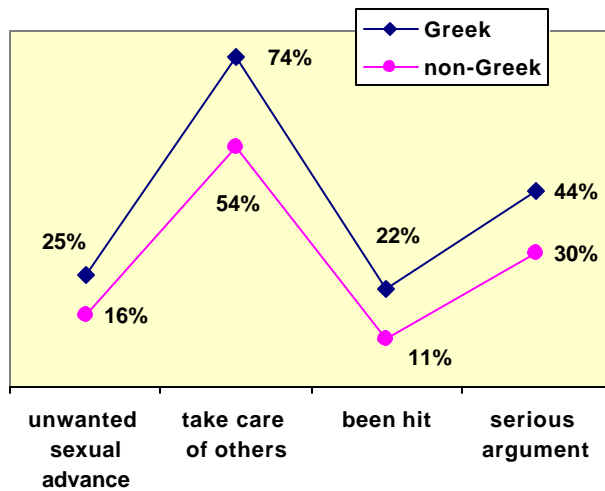


Figure 8. Those who belonged to social fraternities or sororities were more likely to encounter problem behaviors

Binge Drinkers

Binge drinkers (who are defined as men who consume 5 drinks or more and women who consume 4 drinks or more when they socialize) were more likely to encounter problem behaviors including unwanted sexual advances. Binge drinkers were more likely to have:

- been humiliated or insulted *
- had a serious argument *
- been hit or pushed *
- had property damaged *
- had to take care of other students *
- experienced unwanted sexual advances *

Experienced Unwanted Sexual Advances (Women)

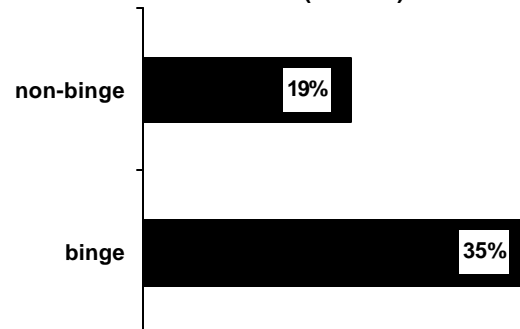


Figure 9. Women binge drinkers were more likely to encounter unwanted sexual advances

*Statistically significant at the .05 level.

Effect of Own Drinking

Behaviors	Penn State Pulse Student Drinking Surveys									Harvard Study 1993 Penn State Data
	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998	1997	1996	1995	
Have a hangover	77%	72%	74%	73%	74%	72%	54%	65%	69%	72%
Miss a class	36%	33%	36%	33%	39%	40%	19%	34%	27%	46%
Get behind in school work	28%	24%	23%	26%	29%	28%	17%	27%	24%	30%
Do something you later regretted	42%	42%	40%	43%	43%	38%	24%	35%	38%	44%
Forget where you are or what you did	43%	35%	34%	33%	40%	28%	22%	29%	30%	45%
Argue with friends	36%	33%	32%	35%	35%	32%	20%	32%	37%	27%
Engage in unplanned sexual activity	21%	17%	17%	17%	20%	16%	8%	13%	19%	26%
Not use protection when you had sex	11%	8%	7%	8%	8%	7%	3%	8%	7%	13%
Damage property	13%	9%	11%	7%	10%	8%	5%	8%	9%	13%
Get into trouble with campus or local police	6%	6%	5%	5%	8%	5%	4%	5%	7%	7%
Get hurt or injured Require medical treatment for an alcohol overdose	18% <1%	15% 1%	18% 1%	11% <1%	16% <1%	14% 1%	10% -	11% 1%	14% 1%	16% -

Greek vs. Non-Greek

Those who belonged to a social Greek fraternity or sorority were more likely to have hangovers,* miss classes,* get behind in classwork,* do something they later regretted,* forget where they were or what they did,* argue with friends,* engage in unplanned sexual activity,* not use protection when they had sex,* and damage property.*

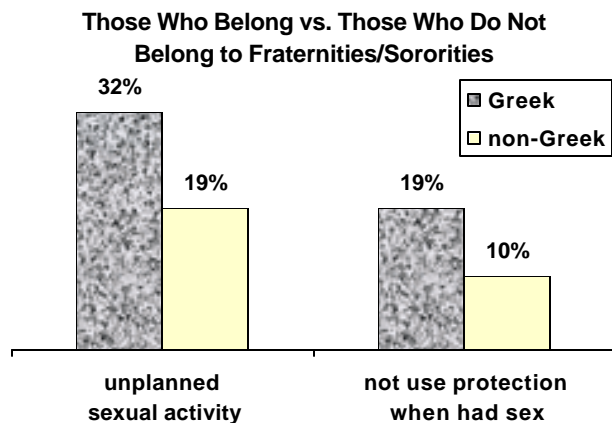


Figure 10. Those who belonged to social fraternities or sororities were more likely to engage in unplanned sexual activity and not use protection when they had sex

Binge Drinkers

Binge drinkers were more likely to get hurt or injured,* damage property,* miss classes,* get behind in schoolwork,* have a hangover,* do something later regretted,* forget where they were or what they did,* argue with friends,* engage in unplanned sexual activity,* and not use protection when they had sex.*

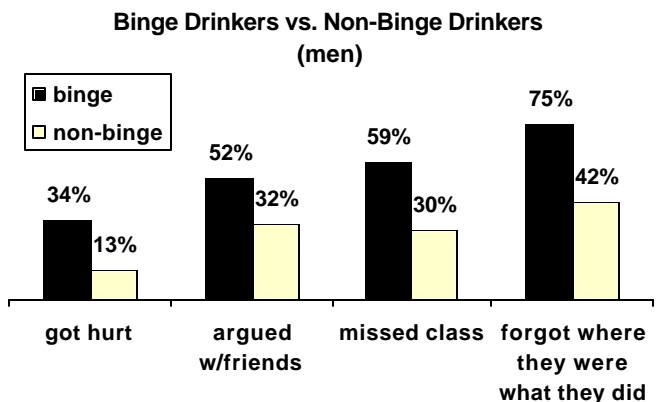


Figure 11. Male binge drinkers were more likely to encounter problems because of their own drinking

*Statistically significant at the .05 level.