



Student Drinking

March 1996



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Purpose

The goals of this survey were to replicate questions asked in an earlier survey and to further investigate students' perceptions of the drinking climate on campus.

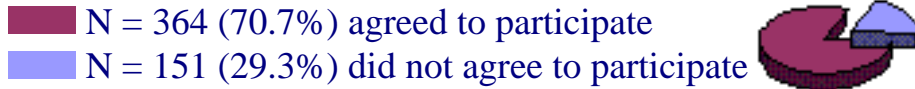
Highlights

More students in the 1996 survey than in the 1995 survey thought that drinking was a problem at Penn State. Very few reported being concerned about their own drinking.

Almost twice as many women as men reported that they had not consumed any alcohol in the past 30 days.

Nearly thirty percent of the students stated that during the week before the 1996 Spring Break their professors distributed material on drinking or specifically urged them to drink responsibly.

Participation Rate



Findings

- A majority (51.6%) of the students in the 1996 survey, compared to 44.4% of the students in the 1995 survey, felt drinking was a problem at Penn State.
- One-fifth of the students in the 1996 survey reported that they had consumed no alcohol during the past 30 days.

19.0%	all students
13.9%	men
25.6%	women

- Those students who had consumed alcohol in the past 30 days drank an average of 5.9 times and usually consumed 7.3 drinks on those occasions when they did drink.

7.3 drinks	all students
7.6 drinks	men
6.8 drinks	women

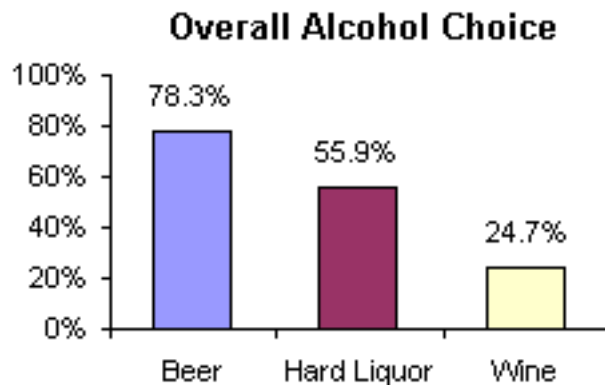
- A significant number of students who drank met the definition of 'binge drinking' which for men is 5 drinks or more at one time and for women is 4 drinks or more at one time.

- 51.2% men in the 1996 sample reported they usually consumed 5 or more drinks.
- 53.8% women in the 1996 sample reported they usually consumed 4 or more drinks.

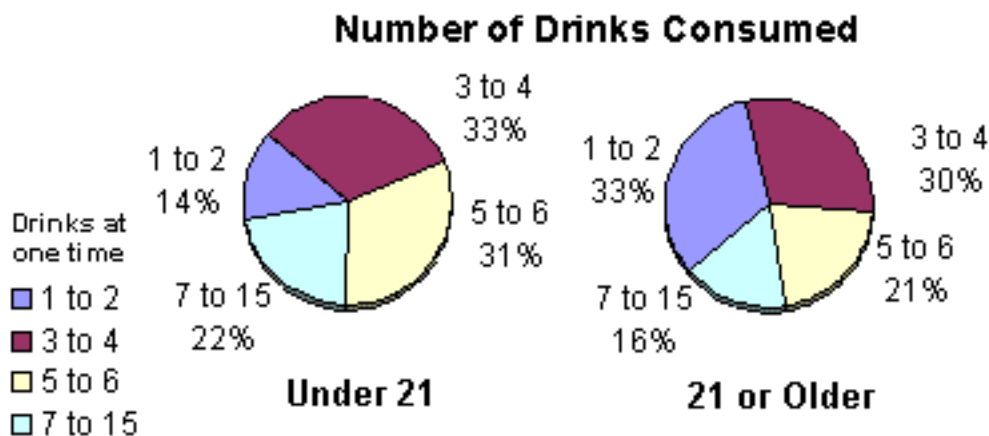
- Few students (3.9%) felt that they themselves had a drinking problem.

● Beer was most often the type of alcohol chosen.

- Men (84.4%) were significantly more likely than women (70.6%) to indicate they generally drank beer.
- Women (62.0%) were significantly more likely than men (51.1%) to drink hard liquor.
- Those under 21 (63.5%) were significantly more likely than those 21 or older (47.4%) to indicate they generally drank hard liquor.



● On those occasions in the past 30 days when they consumed alcohol, students under 21 were significantly more likely than those 21 or older to consume a greater number of drinks.

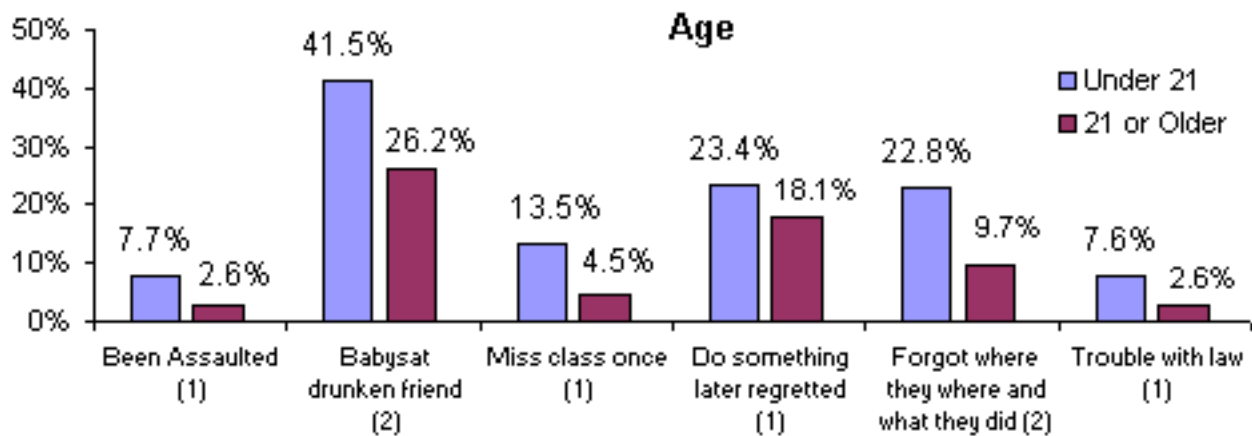
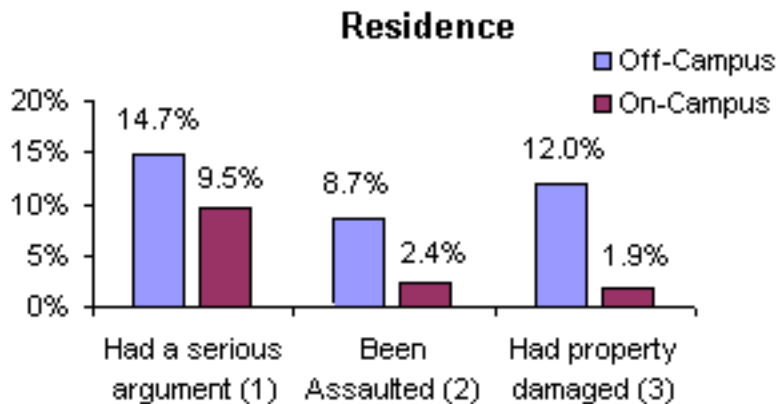
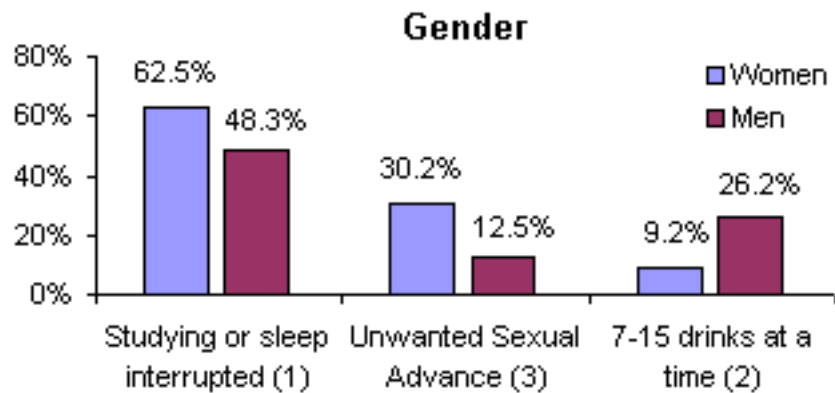


● Students¹ reported:

- 28.2% to have attended gatherings with other students, faculty or staff where alcohol was served
- 18.2% to have attended a campus event where alcohol was served
- 16.6% to have seen their RA drunk once or more
- 3.6% to have had a class where alcohol was served at the last session
- 3.6% to have observed underage minors being served alcohol by a faculty or staff member

¹Note that nearly half the students in this sample (44.6%) were 21 or older.

● The impact of other students' drinking differed significantly by gender, residence, and age:



(Statistically significant at the .05¹, .01², .001³ level)

● The following two charts reflect the overall impact of drinking behaviors. The first chart refers to the **"Effect of Other Students' Drinking"** behaviors and the second chart refers to the **"Effect of Their Own Drinking"** behaviors.

● More than half of the students in the 1996 survey reported having had to babysit a drunken student (54.9%) and having their sleep or studying interrupted (54.6%). These totals are fewer than the number of students in the 1995 and 1993 surveys.

● Fewer students in 1996 (27.6%) than in 1995 (32.0%) and in 1993 (36.6%) reported being insulted or humiliated by other students who were drunk.

- Fewer students in 1996 (20.7%) than in 1995 (26.5%) and in 1993 (29.0%) reported experiencing unwanted sexual advances because of drinking behaviors.
- Having a hangover was the most common effect of students' own drinking.
- Between a third and two-fifths of the students in these three surveys indicated that, because of their own drinking, they had done something which they later regretted.
- Fewer students in 1996 (12.8%) than in 1995 (19.2%) and in 1993 (25.8%) reported having engaged in unplanned sexual activity because of their own drinking.
- A large number of students in 1996 (29.0%), in 1995 (29.7%) and in 1993 (45.3%) reported that, as a result of their own drinking, they forgot where they were or what they had done.

Permission granted to replicate these questions from the 1993 College Alcohol Study coordinated by the Harvard School of Public Health.

Effect of Other Students' Drinking

Behavior	1996 Penn State Pulse	1995 Penn State Pulse	1993 Harvard Study Penn State Data	
Been insulted or humiliated	27.6%	32.0%	36.6%	
Been pushed, hit, or assaulted	13.0%	15.8%	31.7%	
Had your property damaged	15.2%	16.7%	19.4%	
Had to babysit drunken student	54.9%	69.4%	60.0%	
Had your studying/sleep interrupted	54.6%	57.1%	63.5%	
Experienced unwanted sexual advance	20.7%	26.5%	29.0%	
Been a victim of unwanted sexual experience	3.1%	2.6%	2.1%	

Effect of Own Drinking

Behavior	1996 Penn State Pulse	1995 Penn State Pulse	1993 Harvard Study Penn State Data	
Have a hangover	65.1%	69.2%	71.9%	

Miss a class	33.7%	26.9%	46.1%	
Get behind in school work	27.3%	24.3%	29.7%	
Do something you later regretted	34.9%	38.2%	43.8%	
Forget where you were or what you did	29.0%	29.7%	45.3%	
Argue with friends	31.5%	37.0%	27.3%	
Engage in unplanned sexual activity	12.8%	19.2%	25.8%	
Not use protection when you had sex	8.0%	6.9%	13.3%	
Damage property	8.5%	9.4%	13.3%	
Get into trouble with the campus or local police	5.2%	6.9%	7.0%	
Get hurt or injured	10.6%	14.1%	16.4%	
Require medical treatment for an alcohol overdose	0.6%	0.7%	0.0%	

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