

Student Drinking

February 1998



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Purpose

The purposes for this survey were to continue monitoring student drinking behaviors, to consider the drinking behaviors of students at some other Penn State campuses, and to learn how students compare their own consumption to that of other students.

Highlights

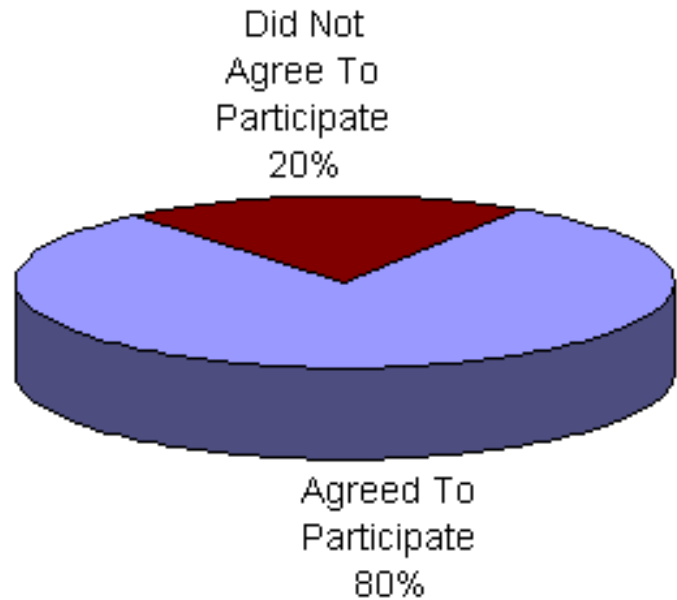
Far more students at University Park (59%) than at the other PSU campuses (18%) felt drinking was a problem at their campus.

Fewer University Park students (17%) than students at the other PSU campuses (42%) reported not drinking at all within the past 30 days.

The actual drinking consumption reported is lower than student stereotypes of how much other students drink.

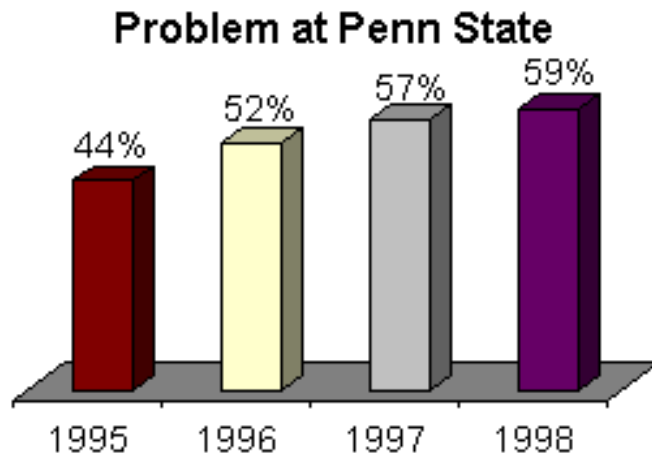
Participation Rate

N = 1028 (80%)
 agreed to participate
 N = 262 (20%)
 did not agree to
 participate



Findings

● The proportion of University Park students who report drinking to be a problem on campus continues to grow.



● Fewer students at University Park (17%) than students at the other Penn State campuses (42%) report they had consumed no alcohol in the past 30 days.

Consumed No Alcohol

	1998	1997	1996
Other PSU Campuses	42%	-	-
University Park Students	17%	22%	19%
University Park Men	16%	17%	14%

University Park Women	18%	27%	26%
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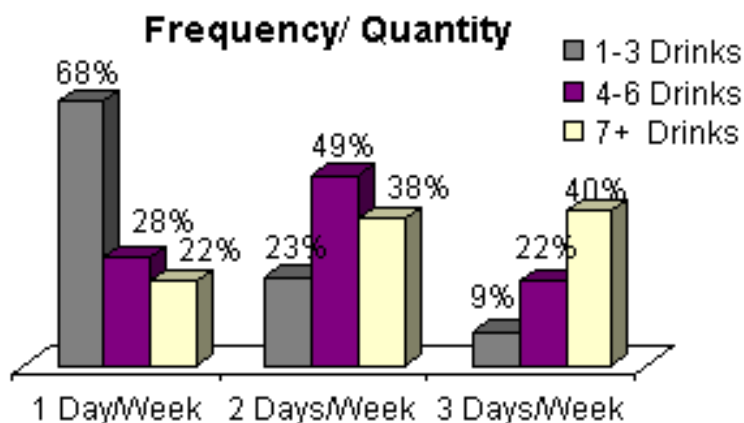
● The women (67%) at University Park were more likely than the men (53%) to feel drinking was a problem on campus.*

(* Statistically significant at the .05 level)

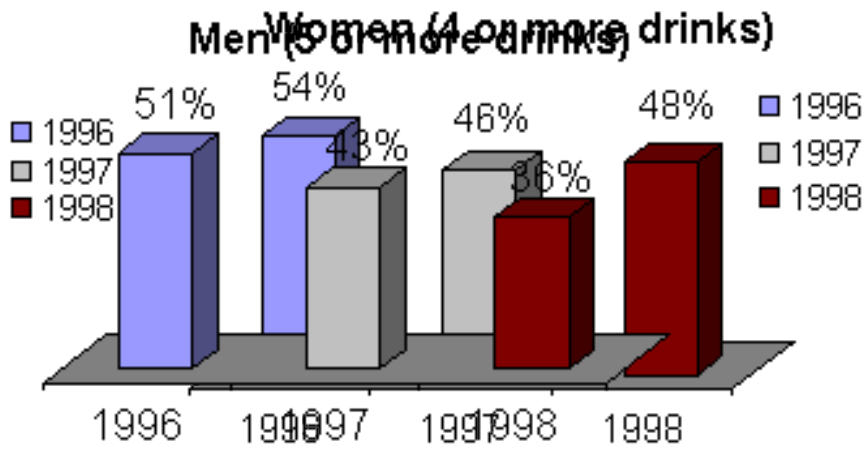
● Those University Park students who said they drank did so on average 6.4 times within the past 30 days and consumed an average of 4.4 drinks on those occasions.

	Number of Times			Drinks Per Occasion		
	<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1996</u>
UP students	6.4	5.6	5.9	4.4	4.1	4.6
UP Men	7.4	6.4	Na	5.0	4.6	7.6
UP Women	5.5	4.7	Na	3.9	4.0	6.8

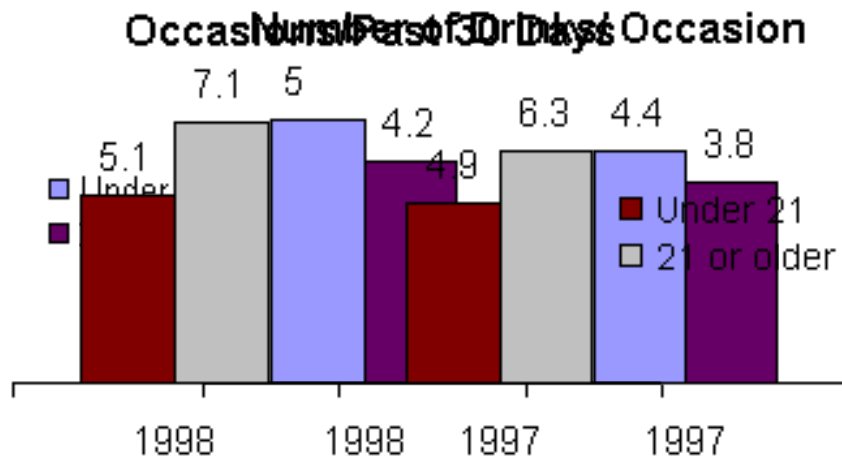
● There was a positive relationship between how many drinks were consumed at one time and how often students drank during a typical week. Those who drank less per occasion also drank less often.



● Fewer UP men reported they met the criteria for 'binge drinking' (5 or more drinks at one time) this year; the percent of UP women who met this criteria (4 or more drinks at one time) remained about the same as last year.



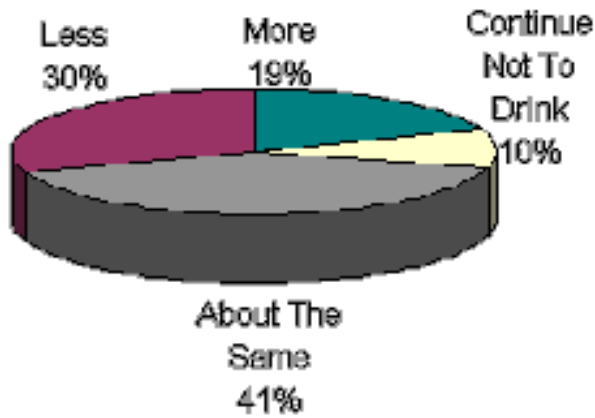
● Students age 21 or older drank more often but averaged fewer number of drinks per occasion than students under 21.



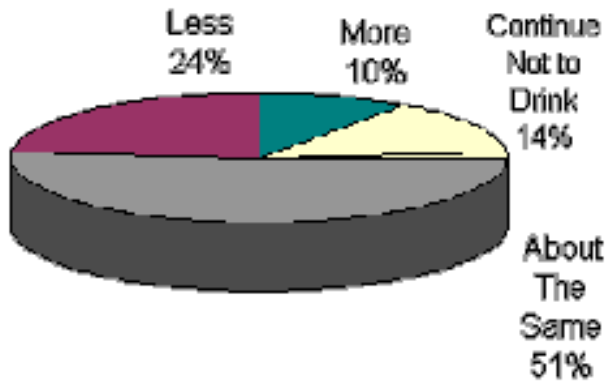
● Students were asked about their anticipated alcohol consumption this semester compared to last semester. The 1998 University Park students differed from those in 1997 in how much alcohol they anticipated consuming.

Compared To Last Semester

1998



1997

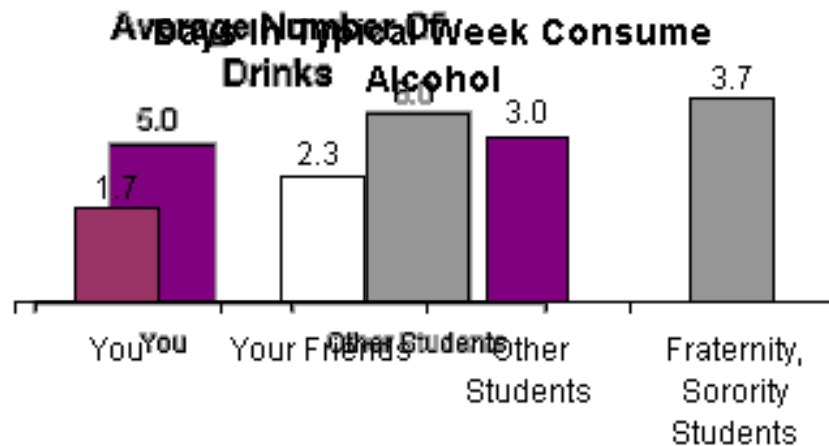


● Students at University Park and students at the four other PSU campuses differed significantly.

- More UP students thought drinking was a problem.* (59% vs. 18%)
- Fewer UP students reported they had consumed no alcohol in the past 30 days.* (17% vs. 42%)
- Students at UP drank more often.* (6.4 times vs. 3.7 times within the past 30 days)
- Fewer UP students thought getting drunk in college is unacceptable.* (33% vs. 50%)
- Students at the other PSU campuses were significantly more likely than UP students to report they had never been insulted, never had to baby sit a drunken student, never had their sleep interrupted, never had experienced unwanted sexual advances, never missed a class, never argued with friends and never been in trouble with police as a result of drinking behaviors.

The results that follow focus only on students from the University Park campus.

● Students were asked to compare their non-drinking behavior to that of other students. In all cases, students expected **others** to drink more often and to consume more alcohol.



● Male students drank more often during a week than did female students.*

● Fraternity and sorority students stated they drank more often* and that their friends drank more often* during a typical week than non-fraternity/sorority students.

(* Statistically significant at the .05 level)

● Students whose grade point average was 3.3 or above drank less often* and thought their friends also drank less often* than students with lower grades.

● Heavy drinkers (7 or more drinks per occasion) were less likely than those who averaged 4-6 drinks per occasion or 1-3 drinks per occasion to feel getting drunk in college is unacceptable.*

(* Statistically significant at the .05 level)

Penn State was a participant in the 1993 College Alcohol Study conducted by the Harvard School of Public Health who granted permission to replicate a series of questions related to the overall impact of drinking behaviors.

Effect of Other Students' Drinking

Behavior	1998 Penn State Pulse	1997 Penn State Pulse	1996 Penn State Pulse	1995 Penn State Pulse	1993 Harvard Study Penn State Data
Been insulted or humiliated	28%	18%	28%	32%	37%
Had a serious argument or quarrel	33%	20%	28%	40%	32%
Been pushed, hit, or assaulted	9%	8%	13%	16%	20%
Had your property damaged	22%	11%	15%	17%	19%
Had to babysit drunken student	51%	45%	55%	69%	60%
Had your studying/sleep interrupted	59%	44%	54%	57%	64%
Experienced unwanted sexual advance	17%	13%	21%	26%	29%
Been a victim of unwanted sexual experience	5%	2%	3%	3%	2%

● Students living off campus were more likely than students living on campus to have had a serious argument,* and had their property damaged* as a result of other students' drinking.

● Fraternity and sorority students more likely to have to babysit a drunken student* and had an unwanted sexual advance* as a result of other students' drinking.

(* Statistically significant at the .05 level)

● Dividing students who reported having consumed alcohol in the past 30 days into low (1-3), average (4-6), and high (7 or more) categories based on average number of drinks consumed, those in the high category are significantly more likely to have had a serious argument or quarrel* and experience unwanted sexual advances.*

(* Statistically significant at the .05 level)

● More non-minority students than minority students reported having been insulted or humiliated and having had their sleep interrupted.

● Dividing students into grade categories of low (below 2.8), medium (between 2.8 and 3.2) and high (equal or above 3.3), those with higher grades reported not having had any serious arguments or quarrels,* not having had any unwanted sexual advances* or experiences.*

(* Statistically significant at the .05 level)

Effect of Own Drinking

	1998	1997	1996	1995	1993
Behavior	Penn State Pulse	Penn State Pulse	Penn State Pulse	Penn State Pulse	Harvard Study Penn State Data
Have a hangover	72%	54%	65%	69%	72%
Miss a class	40%	19%	34%	27%	46%

Get behind in school work	28%	17%	27%	24%	30%
Do something you later regretted	38%	24%	35%	38%	44%
Forget where you are or what you did	28%	22%	29%	30%	45%
Argue with friends	32%	20%	32%	37%	27%
Engage in unplanned sexual activity	16%	8%	13%	19%	26%
Not use protection when you had sex	7%	3%	8%	7%	13%
Damage property	8%	5%	8%	9%	13%
Get into trouble with campus or local Police	5%	4%	5%	7%	7%
Get hurt or injured	14%	10%	11%	14%	16%
Require medical treatment for an alcohol overdose	1%	-	1%	1%	-

● Students who average 7 or more drinks at any one time were statistically more likely to:

- have had a hangover*
- have missed a class*

- have fallen behind in class work*
- have done something they later regretted *
- have forgotten where they were or what they did*
- have argued with friends *
- have engaged in unplanned sex *
- have not used protection when they had sex *
- have damaged property *
- have gotten into trouble with police*
- have been hurt or injured *

● Twice as many males (22%) than females (11%) reported consuming an average of 7 or more drinks at any one time*

(* Statistically significant at the .05 level)

● Those who reported consuming between 1 and 3 drinks at any one time earned higher average grades than those who consumed between 4 and 6 drinks or 7 or more drinks at any one time.*

● More fraternity and sorority students reported having forgotten where they were or what they said because of their own drinking.*

(* Statistically significant at the .05 level)

Revised on 07/17/00
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