



# Student Drinking '99

February 1999

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## Purpose

This survey replicates many of the same questions from earlier surveys. The purposes are to monitor student drinking attitudes and behaviors, to compare individual consumption and stereotypes of 'other students' consumption, and to explore a relationship between drinking and smoking.

## Highlights

Students feel that their 'friends' and 'other students' drink more than they do. Students who identify themselves as belonging to a fraternity or a sorority report more drinking than other students.

Students who do not drink are more likely to attend the HUB Late Night non-alcohol events.

A number of students (5%) indicate they smoke cigarettes only when they are drinking.

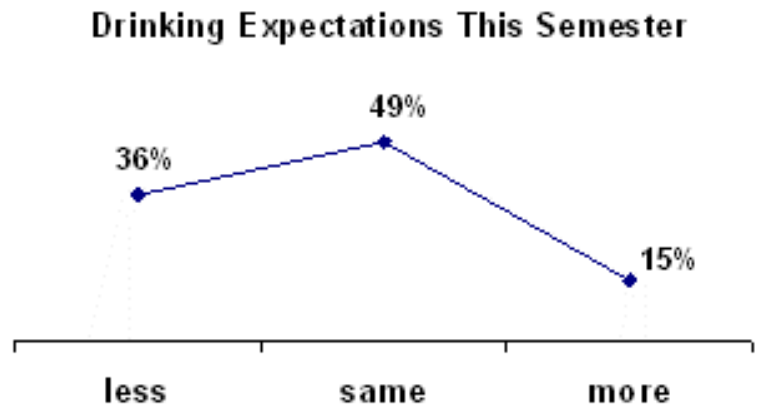
## Participation Rate

- N = 913 (68%) agreed to participate +
- N = 423 (32%) did not agree to participate



## Findings

- A majority of students (84%) consume alcoholic beverages.
- One third say they expect to drink less this semester than they did last semester.

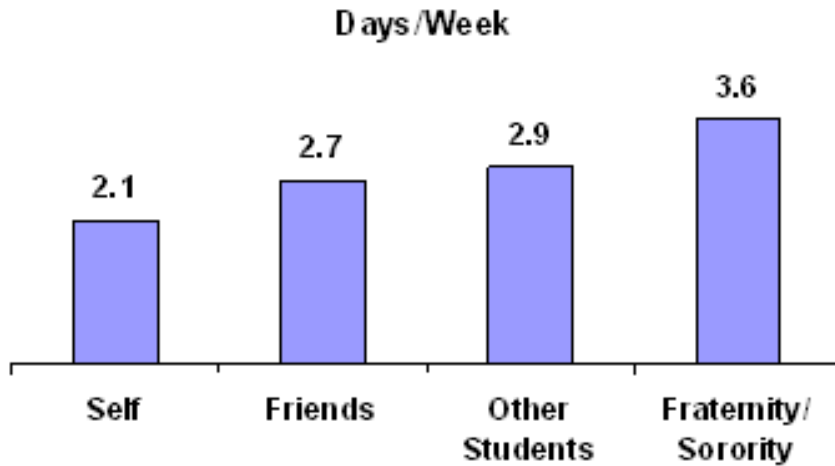


- There were significant differences between subgroups of students when asked if they drank alcoholic beverages.
  - More students with lower grades than those with higher grades said they drank.\*\*
    - 88% GPA of 2.75 or below
    - 84% GPA of 2.76-3.29
    - 78% GPA 3.30 or above
  - More fraternity/sorority students (92%) than other students (82%) said they drank.\*\*\*
  - More seniors (91%) than juniors (87%), sophomores (81%), and first year students (66%) said they drank.\*\*\*

(Statistically significant at the .01\*\* or .001\*\*\* level)

- In general, students think others consume more alcohol than they do themselves.



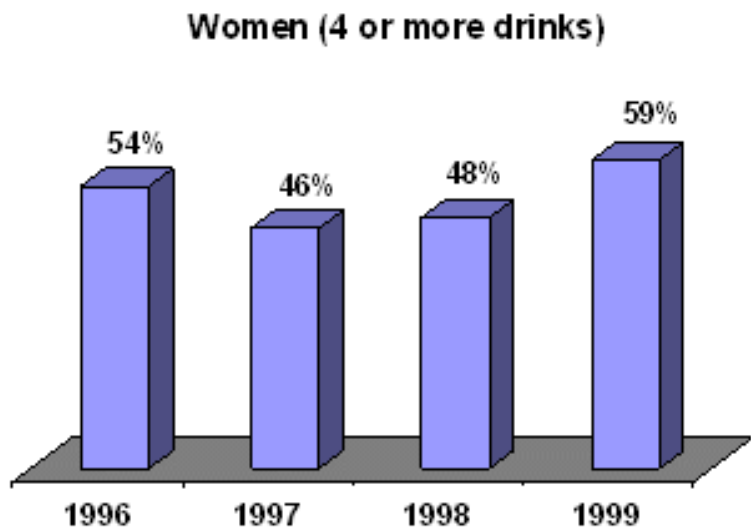


- Students who identified themselves as belonging to a fraternity or a sorority drink more often during a typical week than do other students (2.1 days/wk vs. 1.8 days/wk)\*\* but do not consume more drinks per occasion than other students (5.0 drinks/occasion vs. 5.1 drinks/occasion.)
- For several years, the survey asked students how much alcohol they consumed over the past month. There has been a steady increase in the number of times as well as the number of drinks consumed per occasion in the month prior to the survey.

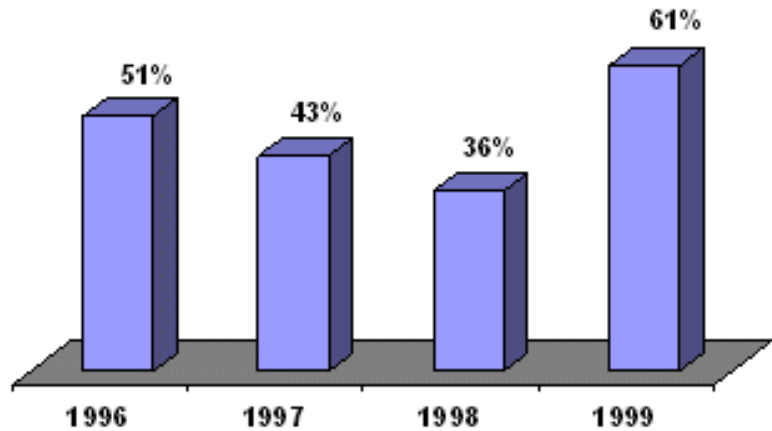
### Last 30 Days

	Average Number of Times			Average Number of Drinks		
	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>
Overall	5.6	6.4	7.2	4.1	4.4	5.3
Men	6.4	7.4	8.2	4.6	5.0	5.6
Women	4.7	5.5	6.0	4.0	3.9	4.2

- Binge drinking is defined as consuming 5 or more drinks at any one time for men and 4 or more drinks at any one time for women. The percentage of both men and women who meet these criteria rose in 1999.



**Men (5 or more drinks)**



● There was a positive relationship between 'quantity' and 'frequency.' Those who drank less per occasion also drank less often.\*\*\*

<b>number/drinks</b>	<b>number days/week</b>
1-3 drinks	1.4 days/week
4-6 drinks	2.0 days/week
7+ drinks	2.5 days/week

● The difference was not significant for students who said they did drink alcoholic beverages and those who did not drink when indicating agreement with the statement "Students who don't drink, don't fit in at Penn State."

**"Students Who Don't Drink Don't Fit In"**

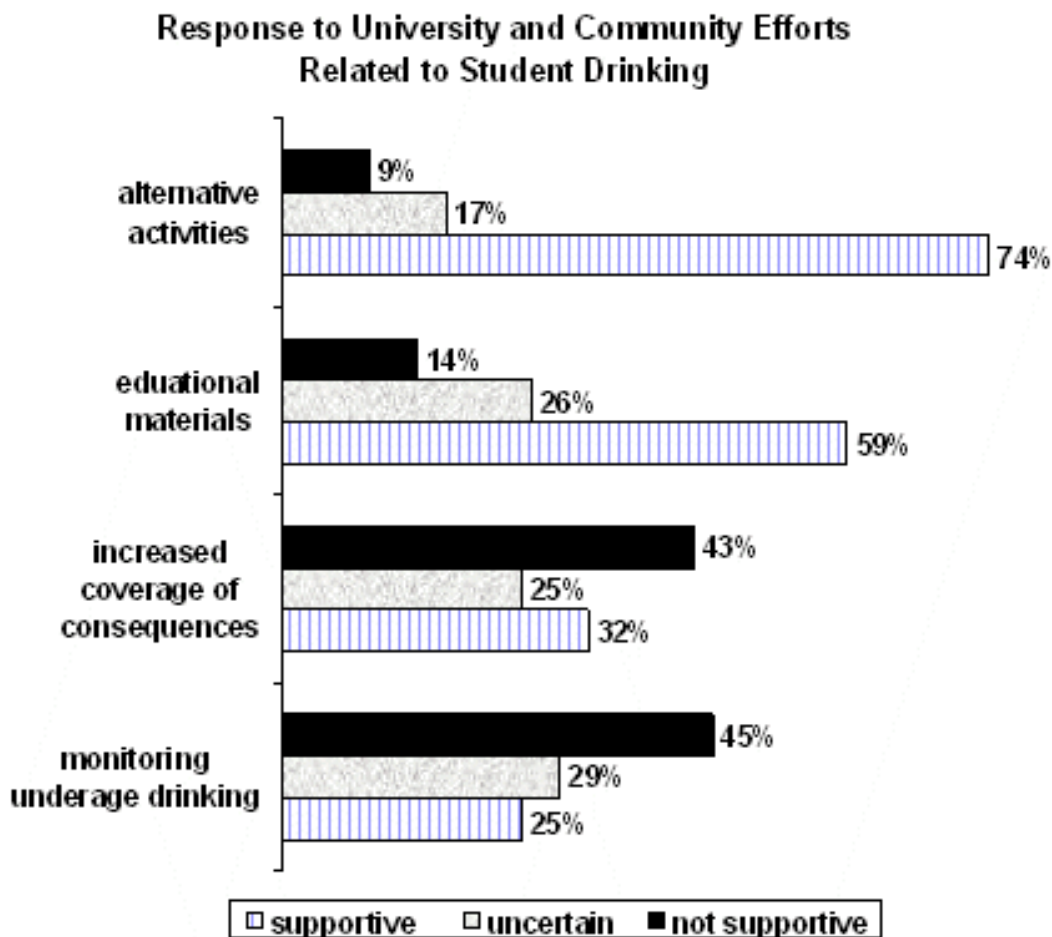
<b>Students</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Uncertain</b>	<b>Agree</b>
did drink	72%	13%	15%
did not drink	74%	15%	11%

● There is a small but significant relationship between students who say they drink and students who say they currently smoke. \*\*

● There also is a significant relationship between not drinking and attending HUB Late Night events.\*\*\* Those who say they do not drink attend an average of 3.3 events; those who say they drink attended an average of 1.5 events.

● Students were asked how supportive they were of recent University and community efforts related to student drinking. Three fourths of the students support providing alternative activities where alcohol is not served. Over half (59%) support availability of educational materials and programs on alcohol. Fewer were supportive of closer monitoring of underage drinking (25%) or

increased media coverage of consequences of problem drinking (32%).



● 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

	1999 Penn State Pulse	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	30%	28%	18%	28%	32%	37%
Had a serious argument or quarrel	38%	33%	20%	28%	40%	32%
Been pushed, hit or assaulted	14%	9%	8%	13%	16%	20%
Had your property damaged	23%	22%	11%	15%	17%	19%
Had to baby-sit drunken student	62%	51%	45%	55%	69%	60%
Had your studying/sleep interrupted	59%	59%	44%	54%	57%	64%
Experienced unwanted sexual advance	20%	17%	13%	21%	26%	29%

Been a victim of unwanted sexual experience	4%	5%	2%	3%	3%	2%
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- Men were more likely than women to report they had a serious argument\* and had their property damaged\* because of other students' drinking. Women were more likely than men to report they had to baby-sit drunken students\*\* and had their sleep or studying interrupted\* because of other students' drinking.
- There was not a significant difference between the proportion of men and women who said they had experienced unwanted sexual advances or had been a victim of unwanted sexual experiences because of other students' drinking.
- Those who identified themselves as belonging to a fraternity or sorority were more likely than other students to say they had been insulted or humiliated,\*\* had to baby-sit other drunken students,\*\* and had experienced unwanted sexual advances\* because of other students' drinking.
- There was a relationship between grades and impact of other students' drinking. Those with higher grades were less likely to have a serious argument or quarrel\*\* and having been pushed, hit, or assaulted\* but more likely to have their studying or sleep interrupted\* because of other students' drinking.

### Effect of Own Drinking

	1999 Penn State Pulse	1998 Penn State Pulse	1997 Penn State Pulse	1996 Penn State Pulse	1995 Penn State Pulse	1993 Harvard Study Penn State Data
Have a hangover	74%	72%	54%	65%	69%	72%
Miss a class	39%	40%	19%	34%	27%	46%
Get behind in school work	29%	28%	17%	27%	24%	30%
Do something you later regretted	43%	38%	24%	35%	38%	44%
Forget where you are or what you did	40%	28%	22%	29%	30%	45%
Argue with friends	35%	32%	20%	32%	37%	27%
Engage in unplanned sexual activity	20%	16%	8%	13%	19%	26%
Not use protection when you had sex	8%	7%	3%	8%	7%	13%
Damage property	10%	8%	5%	8%	9%	13%
Get into trouble with campus or local police	8%	5%	4%	5%	7%	7%
Get hurt or injured	16%	14%	10%	11%	14%	16%

Require medical treatment for an alcohol overdose	<1%	1%	-	1%	1%	-	
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● Men were more likely than women to say they forget where they were or what they did,\*\* argue with friends,\* engage in unplanned sexual activity,\* and damage property\*\*\* as a result of their own drinking.

● Those who identified themselves as belonging to a fraternity or a sorority were more likely than other students to say they missed a class\*\* because of their own drinking.

● There was a relationship between grades and having a hangover,\* missing classes,\*\* getting behind in school work,\* and getting into trouble with police.\* Those with lower grades were more likely to have problems because of their own drinking.

(Statistically significant at the .05, \* .01\*\* or .001\*\*\* level)

Revised on 07/17/00  
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