Student factors: Understanding individual variation in college drinking. (review).
Objective: Research on individual differences in drinking rates and associated problems among college students is reviewed. Method: Studies are included if completed within U.S. college and university samples and found in published scientific literature as identified by several searches of national databases. Results. The resulting review suggests first that the extant literature is large and varied in quality, as most studies use questionnaire responses from samples of convenience in cross-sectional designs. Evidence from studies of college samples does consistently suggest that alcohol is consumed for several different purposes for different psychological effects in different contexts. A pattern of impulsivity sensation seeking is strongly related to increased drinking among students. This pattern is supported by research into personality, drinking motives, alcohol expectancies anti drinking contexts. A second pattern of drinking associated with negative emotional states is also documented. Some long-term consequences of this second pattern have been described. Social processes appear especially important for drinking in many college venues and may contribute to individual differences in drinking more than enduring personality differences, Conclusions. Future research efforts should test interactive and mediating models of multiple risk factors and address developmental processes. Copyright 2002, Alcohol Research Documentation, Inc. Used with permission.
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Changing perceptions of peer norms as a drinking reduction program for college students.
Barnett LA; Far JM; Mauss AL; Miller JA. *Journal of Alcohol and Drug Education* 41(2): 39-62, 1996. (39 refs.)
Several hundred students at a state university were arranged in four treatment or intervention groups. The treatment group of chief interest received a "norm-setting" intervention program intended to reduce subjects' perceptions of the norms or expectations of various reference groups (including peers and parents) about appropriate levels of drinking. Questionnaires administered at three points across time indicated that the norm-setting intervention was indeed associated with the greatest reductions in the drinking norms attributed to the general student body, close friends, living groups, and parents. After four months, such reduced norm estimates were
associated with concomitant reductions in actual (reported) drinking behavior, but such reductions in drinking occurred irrespective of treatment group. While this outcome failed to vindicate any specific intervention program, it was consistent with the self-discrepancy theory on which the norm-setting intervention was based.

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Peer influences on college drinking: A review of the research.
Peer pressure is consistently implicated in the excessive drinking of college students. However, both theory and empirical findings suggest that peer pressure is a combination of three distinct influences: overt offers of alcohol, modeling, and social norms. Overt offers of alcohol can range from polite gestures to intense goading or commands to drink. Modeling occurs when the student's behavior corresponds to another student’s concurrent drinking behavior. Perceived social norms can serve to make excessive alcohol use appear common and acceptable to the student. This review critically examines the literature on each form of peer influence and provides suggestions for future research Copyright 2001, Ablex Publishing Corp.
Location: Dartmouth e-journal

College student heavy drinking in social contexts versus alone.
Christiansen M; Vik PW; Jarchow A. Addictive Behaviors 27(3): 393-404, 2002. (33 refs.)
Heavy drinking is common among college students and typically occurs in social contexts. Heavy drinking when alone, however, is less common. The present study hypothesized that students who drink heavily when alone (HD-Alone) would differ from college students who only drink heavily in social contexts (Social HD). Forty-nine HD-Alone students (at least one heavy-drinking episode when alone), 213 Social HDs, and 63 non-heavy drinkers (Non-HDs) were compared on alcohol-related consequences, drinking milestones, alcohol-outcome expectancies, and symptoms of depression. HD-Alone students reported more negative drinking consequences, earlier onset of regular drinking, more alcohol expectancies, less self-efficacy and motivation to reduce drinking, and higher depression scores than Social HDs and Non-HDs. Findings imply individual differences among heavy-drinking college students according to their drinking context. Copyright 2002, Elsevier Science Ltd.
Location: Dana Library. Dartmouth e-journal

Deconstructing contexts of binge drinking among college students.
Clapp JD; Shillington AM; Segars LB. American Journal of Drug and Alcohol Abuse
This paper examines the contextual characteristics common to binge drinking occasions reported by college students. In addition, the study examines the influence of such contextual characteristics on alcohol-related problems experienced by students. Using random sampling and telephone interview methodology, 401 college students attending a large southern California university were surveyed by trained research staff. The interview protocol was based on the Core Survey and included context of use questions from the College Risk Assessment Guide. Results of stepwise multiple logistic regressions indicate that drinking with friends and events with food available protect against alcohol problems, while drinking events in which illicit drugs are available present higher risk for problems. Implications for future research and prevention are discussed. Copyright 2000, Marcel Dekker, Inc. Used with permission.

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Environmental predictors of heavy episodic drinking.
This study examined the relationship between environmental characteristics and heavy episodic drinking by examining college students' last drinking events. For this study, 409 undergraduate students attending a large public university were randomly selected. Students were asked to report on their last drinking event within the 30-day period prior to being surveyed. There were 274 drinking events analyzed. Bivariate analyses and multiple logistic regression analysis were used to identify contextual factors predictive of heavy episodic drinking in specific drinking events. Drinking with friends, drinking beer and hard liquor, and having many people intoxicated at an event were predictive of heavy episodic drinking events. Dating events were protective of heavy episodic drinking. Implications for future research and prevention are discussed. Copyright 2001, Marcel Dekker, Inc. Used with permission.
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The reliability of environmental measures of the college alcohol environment.
Much of what we know about students' drinking patterns and problems related to alcohol use is based on survey research. Although local and national survey data are important to alcohol-prevention projects, they do not sufficiently capture the complexity of the alcohol environment. Environmental prevention approaches to alcohol-related problems have been shown to be effective in community settings and
researchers have begun to study and adapt such approaches for use on college campuses. Many environmental approaches require systematic scanning of the campus alcohol environment. This study assessed the inter-rater reliability of two environmental scanning tools (a newspaper content analysis form and a bulletin analysis form) designed to identify alcohol-related advertisements targeting college students. Inter-rater reliability for these forms varied across different rating categories and ranged from poor to excellent. Suggestions for future research are addressed.

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Costs of social consciousness: Gender, role-taking and patterns of alcohol use among women.
The author's dissertation research, designed within the context of the symbolic interactionist perspective, involved development and testing of an alcohol use model for women that addressed gender differences in factors that lead to drinking. The model suggested that women engage in role-taking more frequently than men, that chronic role-taking results in negative emotions among individuals with low self-esteem, and that alcohol alleviates the negative affect by reducing the propensity to engage in role-taking. The first phase of the study involved a preliminary survey of alcohol use, role-taking, self-esteem, and negative affect among college students. The second phase evaluated the relationship between these factors and heavy drinking in a representative sample of United States adults. The results suggested that role-taking propensity and self-esteem have different effects on drinking behavior across subgroups. Among undergraduates, negative affect was not related to drinking or role-taking behavior. High self-esteem and low propensity for role-taking resulted in more drinking among older students, although, upper-class women with low self-esteem and role-taking propensities were significantly more likely to drink than other upper-class women. In the adult sample, a propensity for role-taking combined with low self-esteem resulted in negative affect followed by drinking. The author explains differential results among subgroups in terms of the social nature of undergraduate drinking along with role occupation. Copyright 1998, University Microfilms International.
Location: Baker Library

Multilevel analysis of situational drinking among Canadian undergraduates.
Demers A; Kairouz S; Adlaf EM; Gliksman L; Newton-Taylor B; Marchand A. Social Science & Medicine 55(3): 415-424, 2002. (53 refs.)
Using a multi-level approach, we examined the contribution of drinking setting characteristics and of individual characteristics on the alcohol intake per drinking occasion. The data are drawn from the Canadian Campus Survey, a national mail survey
conducted in 1998 with a random sample of 8,864 students in 18 universities. For each student, up to five drinking occasions were investigated, resulting in 26,348 drinking occasions among 6,850 drinkers. At the individual level this study focused on the university life experience. At the situational level, information about alcohol intake was recorded relative to why, when, where and with whom drinking occurred. Our results show that drinking setting is as important as the individual characteristics in explaining the alcohol intake per occasion. Policies aimed at reducing students alcohol intake may be more beneficial if they address both situational and individual factors. Copyright 2002, Elsevier Science Ltd.

Location: Dana Library. Dartmouth e-journal

"Alcohol myopia", expectations, social interests, and sorority pledge status.
Elias JW; Bell RW; Eade R; Underwood T; Winsky K; Shonrock MD. Journal of Alcohol and Drug Education 42(1): 78-90, 1996. (15 refs.)
The concept of "alcohol myopia "defined as increased use of alcohol in the face of increased negative consequences of use, was examined in freshman college women with and without sorority pledge status. Increased use of alcohol and "alcohol myopia" were present in the sorority pledge group, but alcohol use was the mediating factor for alcohol myopia, and both groups showed the anomalous myopic behavior as alcohol use increased. The sorority pledges reported increased interest in general activity and social activity, but this interest was not related to alcohol consumption. The findings do not support use of negative information regarding alcohol as a necessarily effective means of reducing alcohol intake in college women, but findings are encouraging with respect to the lack of relationship between interest in social activity, alcohol intake, and myopia. Copyright 1996, Alcohol and Drug Problems Association of North America.
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Substance use in the US college-age population: Differences according to educational status and living arrangement.
Objectives. Substance use in the college-age population is an important public health and educational concern. This study compared rates of use among college students and nonstudents, including high school dropouts, from a single data source representative of the nation. Methods. Rates of use were estimated from the combined National Household Surveys on Drug Abuse from 1991 to 1993. Logistic regression models were used to test the effects of educational status and living arrangement.
Results. Educational status and living arrangement were found to be significant predictors of substance use. Rates of illicit drug and cigarette use were highest among high school dropouts, while current and heavy alcohol use were highest among college students who did not live with their parents. Conclusions. Substantial variation in substance use patterns within the college-age population suggests that overall rates of use for young adults should not be used to characterize specific subgroups of young adults. These data from a single source will thus help planners more clearly distinguish the service needs of the diverse subgroups within this population. Copyright 1997, American Public Health Association. Used with permission. Location: Dana Library. Matthews Fuller Library. Dartmouth e-journal

Challenging the collegiate rite of passage: A campus-wide social marketing media campaign to reduce binge drinking.
A social marketing media campaign, based on a normative social influence model and focused on normative messages regarding binge drinking, on a large, southwestern university campus has yielded positive preliminary results of an overall 29.2 percent decrease in binge drinking rates over a three-year period. The Core Alcohol and Drug Survey and the Health Enhancement Survey provided information on student knowledge, perceptions, and behaviors regarding alcohol and binge drinking. This study represents the first in-depth research on the impact of a media approach, based on a normative social influence model, to reduce binge drinking on a large university campus and has yielded promising initial results. Copyright 2001, Baywood Publishing Co., Inc. Location: Cork Journal Shelf

Alcohol and other drug use among African-American students in a southern university.
This analysis of the circumstances of alcohol and other drug use among African-American students at a predominantly White university indicated that the majority of these students drank in a responsible manner. Other drug use was almost nonexistent. Strong peer disapproval was exhibited toward drug users and alcohol abusers. Counselors dealing with such problems must be cognizant of the multicultural aspects of these behaviors. Copyright 1996, Association for Multicultural Counseling and Development. Location: Not at Dartmouth. Request via ILL
Pluralistic ignorance and health risk behaviors: Do college students misperceive social approval for risky behaviors on campus and in media?
Pluralistic ignorance is a psychological state in which individuals believe that their own beliefs and feelings differ from others' in a group despite the fact that they all behave similarly (Miller & McFarland, 1991). For example, college students reported that they were less comfortable with campus drinking than were other students on their campus (Prentice & Miller, 1993). We replicated this finding and investigated whether college students would show this pluralistic ignorance effect for other health-related risk behaviors (smoking, sexual behavior, and illegal drug use). In addition, we tested whether media portrayals of these behaviors also might result in pluralistic ignorance. The results show that a significant effect of pluralistic ignorance occurred for all 4 health-related risk behaviors, both in ratings of campus behaviors and in ratings of media portrayals of these behaviors. Participants indicated that other students on their campus would have higher comfort ratings with campus patterns of smoking, drinking, illegal drug use, and sexual behaviors than their own comfort ratings. Participants also indicated that other students would have higher comfort ratings with the same 4 behaviors as they are portrayed in the media than their own comfort ratings. Copyright 2002, V.H. Winston & Sons, Inc.
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Situational determinants of alcohol abuse among Caucasian and African-American college students.
The present study examined gender, race, and binge status differences in alcohol consumption among Caucasian and African-American college students as well as situational differences as qualified by the race of binge drinkers. A confidential questionnaire was voluntarily completed by Caucasians (n = 102) and African-Americans (n = 81) at a medium-sized regional university. The data analysis revealed a significant gender effect on alcohol consumption, with men consuming more alcohol than women. There was no significant main effect of race on alcohol consumption. In addition, Caucasian binge drinkers had significantly higher interpersonal problem behavior scores than did binge-drinking African-Americans, and binge-drinking African-Americans had higher intrapersonal problem behavior scores than did binge-drinking Caucasians. Copyright 1999, Elsevier Science Ltd.
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Social influences in motivated drinking among college students.
This study tested whether drinking motives mediate the relation between personality and alcohol use and whether these predictors affected drinking in these individuals' friends. College students and their friends participated in the study as dyads (n = 43 dyads, 86 participants). Each person completed surveys and a 28-day experience sampling protocol. Structural equation analyses found that (a) social motives mediated the relation between extraversion and alcohol outcomes, (b) coping motives mediated the relation between neuroticism and alcohol outcomes, and (c) enhancement motives mediated the relation between extraversion and alcohol outcomes. Moreover, young adults' alcohol use, but not their problem use, was influenced by their own drinking motives as well as the drinking motives of their best friends. 2003, American Psychological Association.

The prevalence an frequency of binge drinking among 334 first-year students at a private university were examined in relation to alcohol- related problems, social contexts of drinking, and personality characteristics. Binge drinking rates among the sample were higher than national averages and frequency of binge drinking was associated with more alcohol-related problems. Freshmen binge drinking, in general, was related to social developmental factors involving peer and family influences, along with impulsiveness and thrill-seeking tendencies than non-binge drinkers. Frequent binge drinkers were more likely to use drinking as a coping behavior, to drink in more high- risk situations, and showed stronger tendencies toward disinhibition. Frequent binge drinking men were more likely to engage in high-risk sexual behaviors associated with their drinking. The findings further support the efficacy of the Social Context of Drinking construct (Beck, Thombs, & Summons, 1993) in the study of abusive drinking patterns among young adults. Implications for early prevention programming at the university level are discussed. Copyright 1998, Alcohol and Drug Problems Association of North America.

This paper present findings from a case study of a group of crack-cocaine-using college students and an analysis of how their use differed from that of "street"-oriented users in other studies. A micolevel analysis shows that the practices of using the drug -- the ways in which crack is physically consumed -- depend on the context of a university
An individual in context: Predictors of alcohol use and drinking problems among Greek and residence hall students.
Larimer ME; Anderson BK; Baer JS; Marlatt GA. *Journal of Substance Abuse* 11(1): 53-68, 2000. (54 refs.)
Fraternity, sorority, and residence hall residents were compared on drinking rates and patterns drinking-related problems, family history of alcohol problems, alcohol outcome expectancies, and high school drinking patterns. Results indicated residence in a fraternity was related to more frequent alcohol consumption and greater negative consequences even after accounting for family history, expectancies, and high school drinking rates. Family history of alcohol problems was only related to negative consequences for men. Only high school drinking rates were related to amount of alcohol consumed per occasion, for both men and women. Fraternity residence was found to be related to more negative consequences even after accounting for current drinking habits. However sorority residence was found to moderate the relationship between current drinking and negative consequences. Both high and low drinkers in sororities indicated similar rates of alcohol-related negative consequences, whereas high frequency female drinkers in the residence hall sample reported significantly more problems. Copyright 2000, Ablex Publishing Corp.
Location: Dartmouth e-journal

Heavy drinking among college students is influenced by anxiety sensitivity, gender, and contexts for alcohol use.
Lawyer SR; Karg RS; Murphy JG; McGlynn FD. *Journal of Anxiety Disorders* 16(2): 165-173, 2002. (29 refs.)
In order to quantify relationships between anxiety sensitivity and situational antecedents to heavy alcohol consumption, 245 university student drinkers completed the anxiety sensitivity index-revised (ASI-R) and the inventory of drinking situations (IDS-42). The observed correlations indicated that anxiety sensitivity is related to negatively reinforced drinking, positively reinforced drinking, and temptation-motivated drinking. However, anxiety sensitivity is most clearly implicated as a factor in
negatively reinforced drinking, i.e., drinking followed by "tension reduction." Additionally, the relationship between anxiety sensitivity and negatively reinforced drinking is stronger among males than among females. The results point to anxiety sensitivity and gender as interacting individual difference variables that influence incidence of negatively reinforced heavy drinking among college students. Copyright 2002, Pergamon Press.
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Alcohol use and binge drinking as goal-directed action during the transition to postsecondary education.
IN: Schulenberg J; Maggs JL; Hurrelmann K.
This chapter focuses on the use of alcohol as a representative risk behavior during the transition to university life. The chapter argues that late adolescent and young adult alcohol use and binge drinking can be conceived of as purposive action directed toward the pursuit of developmentally normative goals. The introduction discusses the characteristics of this major developmental transition, the prevalence and functions of risk-taking during adolescence and young adulthood, and the theoretical assumptions and hypotheses that guided the research. Subsequent sections describe the study, in which late adolescent university students completed questionnaires about their adjustment, goals, beliefs about alcohol, and drinking behavior on two occasions as they began their first year and were adjusting to a college residence. The study viewed alcohol use as purposive behavior directed toward the attainment of instrumental, developmentally relevant goals. The extent to which psychosocial adjustment, personal goals, and beliefs about alcohol predicted alcohol use and binge drinking were examined. It was hypothesized that students with more positive self-images would drink less and students who feel more accepted by their peers would drink more; that students with high social goals would drink more and those with high academic goals drink less; that beliefs about the fun and risk of alcohol would predict drinking; and final goals and beliefs that promote or encourage drinking will be more strongly related to drinking than goals and beliefs that hinder or discourage drinking. Copyright 1997, Cambridge University Press.
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Greeks and athletes: Who drinks more?
This brief report discusses analysis of data from the Cork Alcohol and Drug Survey regarding drinking patterns of athletes and members of Greek organization. In brief,
the authors find that both the status of athlete and being a member of a Greek organizations contribute to increased drinking, vis a vis other students, and are also more frequently involved in binge drinking. In respect to the influence of athletic involvement and Greek status, the former is a more significant contributor to heavy drinking. By way of example, Greek athletes consume 3 times more alcohol than do non-athlete, non-Greeks. They are approximately twice as likely to be involved in binge drinking. Copyright 1999, Helen Dwight Reid Educational Foundation.

The history and drinking behaviour of the Nigerian students' Palm Wine Drinker's Club.


There is a certain glamour about the use of the native beer, palm wine, which constitutes the motivating ideals of the Kegite Club, a popular student society in most Nigerian universities. The objective of this paper is to examine how the ideals of the club are reflected in the general and drinking behaviour of members; with a view to highlighting the elements of these ideals and behaviour that can be of use in preventive drug education among youths in Nigerian institutions of higher learning. The history of the club was constructed by interviewing the founding fathers. The drinking behaviour was described by highlighting the findings of a questionnaire survey of members at the Universities of Ibadan (southern Nigeria) and Jos (northern Nigeria). The club was independently founded at the Universities at Ife and Ibadan (1972). The objectives are to promote the African culture, and to foster friendship among youths of institutions of higher learning. Official engagements are characterised by joyful exuberant singing, drumming and dancing, in which the only alcoholic drink allowed is palm wine, with strict rules to prevent intoxication. Compared with previous studies of Nigerian general population samples, it appears that, while Kegites use a much greater alcohol quantity than other students, the prevalence rate of use of other psychoactive substances is similar to that of the general population. The modalities for using the objectives of the club and positive aspects of the group's behaviour to play a psychoactive drug education role among university students, were discussed.

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Measuring excessive alcohol use in college drinking contexts: The Drinking Context Scale.


Research on youthful drinking has shown that the greatest risks associated with alcohol abuse are related to contextual factors that may potentiate heavy drinking as
well as increase risks for adverse consequences. These contextual factors include interacting psychological, interpersonal, and environmental dimensions of alcohol use. However, despite considerable college drinking research to identify these factors, few formal instruments have been produced for measuring excessive drinking in multidimensional contexts. The current study of 197 college students who were cited their first time for breaking university drinking rules focuses on the development and validation of a scale for measuring the likelihood of excessive drinking across an array of psychological, interpersonal and situational contexts resulting in the 23-item Drinking Context Scale (DCS). Three distinct factors emerged defining Convivial drinking, Private Intimate drinking, and drinking as a form of Negative Coping. These three factors explained 61.5% of the variance after principal components analysis and varimax rotation, showed excellent internal reliabilities, and were moderately intercorrelated. MANOVA analysis demonstrated concurrent validity with the Quality Frequency Index (QFI) and a modified version of the Michigan Alcoholism Screening Test (MAST). Implications for further research with the DCS are suggested. Copyright 1997, Elsevier Science Ltd.


Objective. This article provides a review of conceptual and empirical studies on the role of social norms in college student alcohol use and in prevention strategies to counter misuse. The normative influences of various constituencies serving as reference groups for students are examined as possible factors influencing students' drinking behavior. Method. A review of English language studies was conducted. Results. Parental norms have only modest impact on students once they enter college beyond the residual effects of previously instilled drinking attitudes and religious traditions. Faculty could theoretically provide a positive influence on student drinking behavior, but there is little evidence in the literature that faculty norms, and expectations about avoiding alcohol misuse are effectively communicated to students. Although the norms of resident advisers (RAs) should ideally prod restraint on student alcohol misuse, the positive influence of RAs is limited by their negotiated compromises with student, whom them oversee and by their misperceptions of student norms. Research reveals student peer norms to be the strongest influence on students' personal drinking behavior, with the more socially integrated students typically drinking most heavily. The widespread prevalence among students of dramatic misperceptions of peer norms regarding drinking attitudes and behaviors is also a consistent finding. Permissiveness and problem behaviors among peers are overestimated, even in environments where problem drinking rates are relatively high in actually. These misperceived norms, in turn, have a significant negative effect promoting and exacerbating problem drinking.
Conclusions: Interventions to reduce these misperceptions have revealed a substantial positive effect in several pilot studies and campus experiments. Copyright 2002, Alcohol Research Documentation, Inc. Used with permission.
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Alcohol use among college students as a function of their typical social drinking context.
This study investigated the relations among frequency of drinking in different social contexts; alcohol consumption, expectancies, and problems; and psychosocial characteristics among college students. Social drinking contexts were defined by the size and gender composition of social groups. Participants were 98 men and 98 women who endorsed current alcohol use. The results showed that typical social drinking contexts were associated with men's average daily number of drinks and frequency of drunkenness but were not associated with women's alcohol consumption. Controlling for alcohol expectancies and personality factors did not obscure significant social context effects for men's alcohol consumption or problems, supporting the importance of considering social context variables in studies of drinking. Future research with regard to alcohol education, intervention, and prevention strategies is discussed. Copyright 1998, American Psychological Association.
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Short- and long-term effects of fraternity and sorority membership on heavy drinking: A social norms perspective.
This study sought to determine whether the well-established relation between fraternity/sorority (Greek) membership and heavy alcohol use persists beyond the college years and whether some common third variables might account for the relation between Greek status and heavy drinking. During each of 4 years of college and 1 additional year, young adults (N = 319) completed measures of alcohol use, personality, alcohol expectancies, and environmental influences on drinking. Throughout the college years, Greeks consistently drank more heavily than non-Greeks. Statistically controlling for previous alcohol use did not eliminate this effect. However, Greek status did not predict postcollege heavy drinking levels. Also, perceived peer norms for heavy drinking mediated the relation between Greek affiliation and heavy alcohol use. Results are discussed in terms of situational determinants of heavy alcohol involvement in young adults. Copyright 2001, American Psychological Association.
Location: Baker Library
Social influences: Effects of the social environment on the use of alcohol and other drugs.
Szalay LB; Inn A; Doherty KT. Substance Use & Misuse 31(3): 343-373, 1996. (64 refs.)
The research aimed to measure social influences produced by the differential effects of "high use" and "low use" environments on students' vulnerability to substance misuse. Each environment was represented by 3,000 students sampled from high and low use colleges. The social influences were measured by comparing vulnerability/resistance scores derived through a cognitive mapping strategy of the Associative Group Analysis method. Using an advanced system of software, empirical measures of students' propensities to use or not to use harmful substances were obtained by comparing hundreds of spontaneous responses elicited from individual respondents to the response distributions of reference groups of frequent alcohol/drug users and nonusers. In all comparisons, students with higher levels of reported use also showed higher vulnerability. In all comparisons, students in the high use environment showed significantly higher levels of vulnerability than students in the low use environment. ANOVA results indicated the vulnerability of students was significantly related to (high vs low use) campus environment as well as to marijuana use, alcohol use, and gender. Measuring vulnerability as a function of social influences opens numerous applications in proactive prevention. Copyright 1996, Marcel Dekker, Inc.
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High-risk drinking in college, with a focus on what is known and what is yet to be learned, is discussed in this report. Section headings and topics discussed include: (1) an entrenched problem, including the multiple influences on student alcohol consumption and negative consequences; (2) the college scene; (3) recommendations for colleges and universities, for the research community, and for the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA); (4) task force on college drinking; (5) panel on contexts and consequences with an overview of college student drinking, glossary of alcohol terminology, barriers to reducing alcohol misuse; (6) epidemiology of alcohol use among college students, including drinking trends among college students and strategies for filling gaps in knowledge; (7) consequences of college student alcohol consumption, including damage to self and to others, damage to the institution, alcohol use and driving by college students, alcohol and high-risk sexual behavior, alcohol and physical and sexual aggression, differences in consequences among
Social context, perceived norms and drinking behavior in young people.
Thombs DL; Wolcott BJ; Farkash LGE. *Journal of Substance Abuse* 9: 257-267, 1997. (20 refs.)
An anonymous questionnaire was administered to 1283 middle school/high school students and 930 college students. The students responded to instruments assessing social context of drinking, perceived norms of drinking, alcohol use intensity, and frequencies of impaired driving (DWI) and riding with an impaired driver (RWID). Canonical correlation analyses revealed that in middle school/high school students, there are discernible patterns of association between social context, perceived norms, and alcohol abuse measures. Drinking intensity for self was closely related to several social context variables and perceptions of close friends' drinking intensity, whereas RWID and DWI frequencies for self were most strongly associated with different perceived norm variables. Among college students, findings from a canonical analysis showed that both social context and perceived norm variables were related to drinking intensity, although there were not multiple patterns or association among subsets of variables. Overall, the findings indicate that alcohol consumption has linkages to both social context and perceived norms. In contrast, DWI and RWID are closely related only to normative influences. Copyright 1997, Ablex Publishing Corp.
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Patterns of alcohol consumption, smoking and illicit drug use in British university students: Interfaculty comparisons.
Webb E; Ashton H; Kelly P; Kamali F. *Drug and Alcohol Dependence* 47(2): 145-153, 1997. (20 refs.)
The use of tobacco, alcohol and illicit drugs was investigated by questionnaire in 3699 second year students in ten UK universities. Patterns of use varied considerably between different faculty groups. Tobacco use was most prevalent in arts, social science and biological science students, among whom 36-39% of men and nearly one third of women were regular smokers, and least in female veterinary students (5%). Alcohol consumption was greatest in biological science students: 23% of those who drank exceeded 'hazardous' levels compared with 10-16% in all other faculties.
Prevalence of cannabis use was highest in arts and social science students of whom 27% reported regular weekly use compared with 9-22% in other faculties. Experience with other illicit drugs was greatest among arts, social science and physical science students, of whom 64-71% reported experience at least once or twice, and least among veterinary students (42%). Identification of different lifestyles may help to direct appropriate health information to particular student groups. Copyright 1997, Elsevier Scientific Publishers Ireland, Ltd.
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Alcohol use and problems at colleges banning alcohol: Results of a national survey.
Objective: This study examines student alcohol use and associated problems, including drinking and driving, at U.S. colleges that ban alcohol for all students on campus.
Method: A nationally representative sample of students (N = 11,303, 61% women) attending U.S. colleges completed questionnaires regarding alcohol use and related behaviors in the spring of 1999. The responses of 2,252 students at 19 ban schools were compared with those of 9,051 students at 76 nonban schools. Results: Students at ban colleges were 30% less likely to be heavy episodic drinkers and more likely to abstain from alcohol. The lower rates of heavy episodic drinking apply to students whether or not they were heavy episodic drinkers in high school. However, among drinkers, students at ban schools engaged in as much extreme drinking as drinkers at schools that do not ban alcohol and experienced the same rate of alcohol-related problems. At schools that ban alcohol, fewer students experienced secondhand effects of the drinking of others than did students at nonban schools. Students at ban schools were not more likely to drink and drive than were students at nonban schools.
Conclusions: A campus ban on alcohol may support abstention from alcohol use and reduce heavy episodic drinking and the associated secondhand effects in college. Since this is a correlational study, we cannot determine whether the lower rates of heavy episodic drinking are due to the ban or to other factors (e.g., self-selection of students to these schools). Ban schools do not enroll fewer high school heavy episodic drinkers.
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