

**Alcohol and Other Drug Use at OSU:
2000
The Core Alcohol and Drug Survey Results**

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
LIST OF TABLES	iii
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	1-SUM
INTRODUCTION	1
Context.....	1
Purpose of the Study	2
Study Methodology.....	3
Limitations of the Study.....	3
Definition of Terms.....	4
Description of the Sample.....	4
FINDINGS	5
Alcohol Use	5
Prevalence of Alcohol Use.....	5
General Alcohol Use.....	5
Annual Prevalence of Alcohol Use.....	7
30-Day Prevalence of Alcohol Use.....	8
Quantity of Alcohol Consumed	10
Weekly Consumption.....	10
Binge Drinking.....	11
Other Drug Use	13
General Drug Use	13
Annual Drug Use	14
30-Day Prevalence	14
Tobacco and Marijuana.....	15
Consequences of Alcohol and Drug Use	17
Academic Performance: GPA.....	18
Other Consequences.....	19
Indirect Consequences	22
Perceptions of Alcohol and its Use.....	22
Perceptions of Use	22
Beliefs of Social and Sexual Effects	23
REFERENCES	25
APPENDICES	26
Appendix A.....	26
The Core Alcohol and Drug Survey	
Appendix B.....	32
Respondent Demographics: Undergraduates – 2000	

Alcohol and Drug Use at OSU: 2000

The Core Alcohol and Drug Survey Results

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Introduction

The purpose of this report is to provide information regarding alcohol and drug use, consequences of that use, and perceptions of the campus environment among Ohio State's undergraduate students. As part of the report, comparisons are made to national norms along with longitudinal comparisons between data collected in 1998 and 2000 at Ohio State. The study also examines various subgroups of Ohio State students such as men and women, white students and students of color, on-campus and off-campus residents, and students under 21 and those of legal drinking age. Differences between and among class ranks are also examined. By identifying usage patterns and identifying high-risk subgroups, intervention strategies can focus on the most acute problem areas.

The report findings come from data collected through the Core Alcohol and Drug Survey, developed by the Core Institute at the Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. The survey is designed for use with the university student population to assist institutions in obtaining a common "core" of baseline information about alcohol and other drug use. This mail survey was administered by the Center for Survey Research of the OSU College of Social and Behavioral Sciences for the Student Wellness Center in Spring of 2000. A total of 1,000 students were randomly selected, and 484 (48.4%) surveys were completed.

Overall Findings

While alcohol use continues to be prevalent among undergraduates, evidence suggests that there has been a slight reduction in its use since 1998.

- In 2000, over 89% of undergraduate students reported having used alcohol. Almost 86% reported using alcohol in the last year, and 76.4% in the last 30 days.
- Over 10% of students reported having never used alcohol in 2000 compared to 7.1% in 1998.
- In 2000, only 17.9% reported using alcohol frequently during a 30-day period compared to 21.3% in 1998.
- Similarly, in 2000, the binge drinking rate was 44.2%. This is a slight decrease from the 47.6% rate in 1998.

Examining alcohol usage patterns among student subgroups, the data show some differences between and among various groups.

- Students of color continue to use alcohol less than white students. For example, only 28.5% of students of color reported using alcohol weekly over the last year compared to 59.8% of white students. Furthermore, the binge drinking rate for students of color was only 21.3% compared to 50.8% for white students. In addition, since 1998, evidence suggests a reduction in alcohol use among students of color. In 1998, 26.8% of students of color reported binge drinking compared to 21.3% in 2000.

- Women appear to be using alcohol more frequently than reported in the past and are becoming as likely to use alcohol as men are. In 2000, 15% of women reported using alcohol frequently compared to 10.1% in 1998, and 49.3% reported weekly alcohol use compared to 34.4% (in 1998). Although the gap between men and women's binge drinking rates has decreased, there was still about a 10% difference; women reported a 39.1% binge drinking rate compared to men's 50.0% rate.
- When comparing students by class rank, seniors appear to be the least likely to use alcohol excessively. This held true when looking at the average number of drinks students had per week, the rate of frequent alcohol use, and the rate of binge drinking. Seniors reported a 38.9% binge drinking rate compared to 42.0% for freshmen, 44.6% for sophomores, and 53.8% for juniors.
- While students who are under 21 and live on campus report less prevalent use of alcohol than students who are of legal drinking age and who live off campus respectively, they appear to be more likely to use higher quantities of alcohol. For example, 23.4% of students under 21 reported frequent bingeing compared to 20.7% of students 21 and over, and 28.6% of students who lived on campus reported such behavior compared to 19.7% of off-campus residents.

With tobacco and marijuana remaining the most commonly used drugs by students (after alcohol), evidence suggests that drug use is on the rise.

- Half of the students surveyed in 2000 reported using tobacco in the last year and 34.3% reported using marijuana. For marijuana use, this marked a 10% increase from what was reported in 1998.
- In 2000, amphetamines (at 17.5%) and designer drugs (at 13.8%) also showed increases in overall use. For amphetamines, there was a 14.5% increase and for designer drugs, 10.8% in comparison to the 1998 data.
- Furthermore, when looking at the use of designer drugs during the past year, the percentage grew over 9% between 1998 and 2000. At 10.8%, the 2000 OSU rate of use almost doubled the national average of 5.5%.
- Reported cocaine use also doubled between 1998 and 2000. In 1998, 4.4% reported having used cocaine compared to 9.3% in 2000.
- Lastly, when looking at the 30-day use of drugs, there were increases in the percentages of students who reported using the 11 different drugs - with the exception of inhalants, which showed a slight decrease.

Students experience a variety of direct and indirect academic, social, and physical consequences as a result of alcohol and drug use.

- Consistent with the findings in 1998, the data in 2000 demonstrate an inverse relationship between alcohol use and academic success as measured by GPA. As the prevalence of alcohol use, the frequency of use, and the rate of binge drinking among students increased, GPAs decreased

- Related to GPA, binge drinkers (especially frequent binge drinkers) are much more likely to miss a class or do poorly on a test or project as a result of alcohol or drug use. For example, almost 82% of frequent bingers reported having missed a class, and over 50% reported performing poorly on an important test or project as a result of drinking or drug use. For non-bingers, only 18.3% and 13.7% respectively reported similar difficulties.
- Bingers are also more likely to experience physical consequences and risks such as having a memory loss, driving under the influence, being hurt or injured, and being taken advantage of sexually.
- Socially, binge drinkers also experience a number of consequences such as doing something they later regretted, being criticized by someone they know, and getting in trouble with authorities.
- Furthermore, students experience secondary effects of drinking, consequences experienced as a result of others' drinking. Almost 63% reported that students' drinking interferes with their lives on or around campus. OSU students reported a higher frequency of experiencing consequences such as interrupting their studying, messing up their physical space, and making them feel unsafe as compared to the 1999 national responses.

Students continue to perceive alcohol to be an important part of the social life at OSU and perceive its use to be higher than reported behavior indicates.

- In comparing actual behavior to perceptions of alcohol use, we find that students report a higher perception of use than reported consumption. Over 94% reported that they thought students used alcohol weekly. In reality, only 52.8% of the respondents reported that they used alcohol that frequently.
- The majority of students believe that alcohol serves a variety of social functions such as breaking the ice, enhancing social activity, and giving people something to do. OSU students' social views of alcohol were similar to what was found in the national sample.
- A majority of students perceive alcohol to be a central part of the social life for students. Over 90% agreed that it was a central part of the social life for male students, fraternities, and sororities. Moreover, there was a noticeable increase in the percentage of students who believed alcohol was central to male students, female students, and athletes in 2000 compared to responses from 1998.

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Alcohol and Other Drug Use at OSU: 2000
The Core Alcohol and Drug Survey Results
The Office of Student Affairs Assessment

INTRODUCTION

Context

Alcohol and other drug use continues to be a problem that colleges and universities struggle with across the country. In a 1989 Carnegie Foundation study, college presidents viewed alcohol abuse as their number one campus life problem. This view has not changed, and a number of presidents are getting directly involved in addressing the abuse and its consequences (Wechsler, 1995). According to Robert Carothers, President of the University of Rhode Island, speaking on behalf of a group of college presidents, "In our view, student binge drinking and the many problems that arise from it are among the most serious threats faced by our nation's institutions of higher education." (The Higher Education Center for Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention, 1998) As such, many campuses are cracking down with stricter policies and increased arrest rates. Because of tougher enforcement and the changes in reporting guidelines, alcohol arrests on campuses jumped 24.3% in 1998, and drug arrests increased by 11.1% (Nicklin, 2000). Other efforts to crack down on underage drinking and illegal-drug use at colleges are the changes made by Congress in 1998 to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. Under these changes, colleges can now notify parents if a student younger than 21 is caught drinking or using illegal drugs (Burd, 2000).

Despite efforts to reduce alcohol abuse, alcohol remains the number one health risk to college students, according to alcohol abuse experts. On average, 50 students die from drinking every year (Delaney, 1998). In addition, binge drinking (or having 5 or more drinks in one sitting) is associated with unplanned and unsafe sexual activity, physical and sexual assault, unintentional injuries, criminal victimization, interpersonal problems, physical or cognitive impairment, poor academic performance, automobile crash fatalities, and suicide (Wechsler, 1995). Colleges also pay significant related costs for property damage, liability, health services, and security. The riots at Penn State and Ohio University over students' perceived "right to party" (Reisberg, 1998) as well as other riots over athletic events at Michigan State and Ohio State also highlight the destructive behavior linked to alcohol use.

At Ohio State, alcohol has contributed to incidents in the residence halls and violations referred to the student judicial office. During the 1999-00 school year, of the 2,034 incidents documented on student behavior in the residence halls, 617 (or 30.3%) were related to or involved alcohol. In addition, 172 (or 8.49%) of the incidents were related to drug use. Although the number of alcohol-related incidents in the halls decreased by 26 from the previous year, these incidents represent a higher percentage of the number of cases seen because of a significant decrease in the total number of incidents. In 1998-99, alcohol-related behavioral problems represented 21.4% of the total number of incidents compared to 30.3% in 1999-00. The same dynamic held true for drug-related incidents; while the number of drug-related incidents remained constant, there was an increase in the percentage of incidents that were drug

related from 5.79% to 8.49%. While generally the percent of students involved in alcohol-related incidents in the residence halls has remained relatively consistent at about 8% since 1994, in 1999-00 approximately 7.3% of students living in the residence halls were involved in such incidents. Of the 95 cases referred to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs in 1999-00, 32 of the students (33.7%) engaged in the use of alcohol as a contributing factor to their referral. This is an increase from the previous year when 15 of the 66 students (or 22.7%) referred to Judicial Affairs had used alcohol or drugs as part of the precipitating event that led to their referral.

College binge drinking is a complex health, social, and educational problem. It stems from a number of causes such as risk-taking behavior, peer pressure and group drinking norms, previously learned drinking patterns, the availability and marketing of alcohol, and institutional denial and enabling behavior. Students who binge tend to think they represent the norm and argue that they are just doing what is accepted on campus. As a result, they don't think they have a problem. However, demonstrating the actual amount or level of drinking on campus and informing students of these results can help to reduce drinking behavior, as many students perceive drinking to be more prevalent than it actually is (Wecshler, 1998). "Social norming" highlights the gap found on most campuses between student-perceived levels of alcohol consumption and most students' actual consumption. The social-norms approach depends on most young people's desire to be "normal" (Mendelson, 2000).

Another point to note is that many students come to college having already tried alcohol and having binged. Thirty-nine percent of high school seniors reported having five or more drinks at least once in the previous 30 days (Ferraro, 1999). Half of college binge drinkers start in high school, making the problem one that colleges partially inherit (Wecshler, 1998).

In addition to alcohol use, in a study by Harvard's University's School of Public Health, marijuana use by college students nationwide increased nearly 22% from 1993 to 1999. The use of illicit drugs other than marijuana rose nearly 21% among college students during the same time period. Such drugs include amphetamines, barbiturates, cocaine, hallucinogens, heroin, opiates, or tranquilizers. Moreover, evidence suggests that, like alcohol, such use did not begin in college but that younger students seem to bring patterns of use they began in high school to college (Yachnin, 2000).

Purpose of the Study

This study uses the Core Alcohol and Drug Survey (or the Core Survey) to report the alcohol and drug usage patterns among Ohio State undergraduates, the consequences of that use, and perceptions of the campus environment. The Core Survey developed by the Core Institute at the Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, is specifically designed for use with the university student population to assist institutions in obtaining a common "core" of information about alcohol and other drug use. (See Appendix A.) Specifically, information is provided on the frequency and prevalence of alcohol and other drugs, consequences of alcohol use (and other drugs) including the relationship between GPA and alcohol use, and the perceptions and views of alcohol and its role on campus. The study also provides the opportunity to compare Ohio State to national averages and to look at changes over time using the 1998 and 2000 OSU data. By identifying usage patterns and identifying high-risk subgroups, intervention strategies can focus on the most acute problem areas.

Study Methodology

The Core Alcohol and Drug Survey was conducted at Ohio State in Spring of 2000. This mail survey was administered by the Center for Survey Research of the OSU College of Social and Behavioral Sciences for the Student Wellness Center. A total of 1,000 students were randomly selected using a list of 31,816 undergraduate students provided by the University Registrar's Office. These students received by mail an advanced letter explaining the research project and requesting their assistance followed by the first mailing of the survey. If necessary, students received a postcard reminder and a second mailing of the survey. Five \$100 prizes were offered as incentives. A total of 484 surveys (48.4%) were completed. In addition, 24 letters were returned by the U.S. Postal Service because of incorrect addresses. In most cases, the margin of error is +/- 4.4%.

A version of the survey was also administered by phone in 1998 when 407 surveys were completed, 296 undergraduates and 111 graduate and professional students. Ohio State made changes to the 1998 Core Survey to suit their needs at that time. Some questions were altered, others eliminated, and still others added. For example, questions were added regarding students' perceptions of alcohol advertising and asking them about the number of drinks they consume at a party. In the 2000 study, the Core Survey was not altered (see Appendix A).

Limitations of the Study

In addition to the risk that all surveys are subject to potential sources of imprecision and bias, the primary limitations of this study center on the accuracy of students' responses, changes in the questions and methodology, and the sample size. One limitation is the accuracy of the responses provided by the students. Their behavior was self-reported. Because of the personal nature of the questions, respondents may have underreported their use of alcohol and other drugs especially on those items that represented illegal or embarrassing behavior. However, because the 2000 survey was administered by mail, students may have been more likely to respond honestly. On the other hand, other research has found that students may exaggerate self-reported alcohol use based on the perceptions of social norms.

One of the goals of the Core Survey is to track use over time. Our ability to compare the 2000 data with 1998 data is somewhat limited because of changes made to the wording of questions and/or to the response options provided. In addition, in 1998 the survey was administered by phone; in 2000 it was a mail survey. Because of the sensitive nature of the questions, there may be a difference in students' comfort level with providing honest answers depending on if they were asked over the phone or by mail.

Other limitations result from a small sample size. For example, we are unable to look at race/ethnicity beyond comparing white students and students of color, and we are unable to understand how alcohol and other drug use impacts sexual activity and sexual assault given the few number of cases reported. Also, as in all surveys, is the risk that the sample is not representative of the population.

Definition of Terms

- **Frequent use of alcohol** is defined (for the purpose of this study) as having used alcohol on 10 or more days over a 30-day period.
- In the Core Survey, **binge drinking** is defined as having five or more drinks in one sitting during a two-week period.
- **Frequent binge drinkers**, as defined by Harvard's School of Public Health, are those students who reported having binged three or more times during a two-week period.

Description of the Sample

The 2000 Core Survey administered at Ohio State included responses from undergraduate students. Graduate and professional students were not included because evidence from the 1998 survey indicated that drug and alcohol use was not problematic among these students. In addition, the national Core data (1999) focused on a sample of undergraduate students.

The demographics of the students who responded to the 2000 Core Survey were as follows: (For a complete description of the respondents, see Appendix B.)

- 58.6% were female; 41.4% male
- 18.2% were freshmen; 23.2% were sophomores; 24.4% were juniors; and 33.5% were seniors
- 47.8% were under 21; 32.7% were 21 to 22 years old; 19.5% were 23 or older
- 9.1% were Asian/Pacific Islander; 6.6% were Black/African American; 1.3% were Hispanic; 79.9% were white (non-Hispanic); and 3.2% responded "other" with regard to their ethnic origin.
- 94.4% of the respondents were single
- 34.2% were not working; 55.4% worked part-time; and 10.4% worked full-time
- 70.9% indicated that they lived off-campus; 29.1% lived on-campus

Comparing the undergraduate population of the university to the respondents, the sample is generally representative of the student body with the following exceptions:

- Women were more likely to respond than men were; 58.6% of the respondents were women compared to 51% of the population.
- Full-time students also appeared to be slightly over-represented in the sample with 92.2% of the sample indicating that they were full-time students compared to 83% of the population.
- Although generally the respondents represent the racial/ethnic composition of the student body, there was a higher percentage of Asian/Pacific Islander respondents than found in the student body. However, this difference may be caused by a different classification system on the Core Survey than what is used at the University.

FINDINGS

The findings from the 2000 survey are organized into four areas: alcohol use (including binge drinking), other drug use, consequences of alcohol and other drug use, and perceptions of alcohol on campus. The focus of the report is on alcohol use and campus perceptions regarding alcohol, which reflects the prevalence of the use and abuse of alcohol.

Throughout the discussion of alcohol use, data are presented to look at various groups within the campus community including differences in behavior with regard to gender, race/ethnicity, age, class rank, and grade point average (discussed in the consequences section). Comparisons based on residency (on-campus and off-campus residents) are also made.

When appropriate, the 2000 data is compared to the 1998 OSU data and to the national data from the 1999 survey. (This is the most recent national data available at this time.)

Alcohol Use

Prevalence of Alcohol Use

General Alcohol Use

Alcohol is by far the most commonly used drug among undergraduate students. A summary of alcohol use among OSU students (having used alcohol, having used alcohol in the last year, and having used alcohol in the last 30 days) is presented in Table 1.0.

- In 2000, 89.3% of the students reported “having used” alcohol at some point in their life.
- Men and women reported having tried alcohol at similar rates (87.7.0% and 89.5% respectively).
- Differences between on-campus and off-campus residents indicate that 86.5% of resident students reported having used alcohol and almost 91% of off-campus students reported the same.
- Students 21 and over were more likely to have used alcohol than students under 21 (91.2% compared to 87.0%).
- When comparing students’ responses from 1998 to 2000, in 2000 slightly less students reported having used alcohol and having used alcohol in the last year. However, use in the last 30 days seemed to increase.

Table 1.0: OSU Alcohol Use by Subgroup: 2000 & 1998

Alcohol Use	Has used Alcohol		Has used alcohol within the last year		Has used alcohol within the last 30 days	
	2000	1998	2000	1998	2000	1998
2000 Sample						
All Undergraduates (n=487)	89.3	92.9	85.9	87.5	76.4	73.3
Men (n=188)	87.7	93.4	83.3	89.8	76.3	79.0
Women (n=266)	89.5	92.3	87.5	84.4	76.2	65.9
White (n=378)	93.4	93.3	91.4	88.2	82.4	76.9
Students of color (n=95)	75.5	90.2	67.4	82.5	55.3	51.2
Under 21 (n=231)	87.0	90.5	85.2	83.0	73.5	66.9
21 and over (n=252)	91.2	95.3	86.3	91.9	78.6	79.7
Freshmen (n=88)	81.8	87.0	80.7	78.3	73.9	65.2
Sophomores (n=112)	90.2	89.9	86.5	79.4	75.0	60.9
Juniors (n=118)	91.4	94.3	89.0	90.0	78.3	75.7
Seniors (n=162)	92.0	98.9	86.7	98.9	78.1	87.5
On-Campus (n=127)	86.5	89.5	84.9	81.9	73.6	67.6
Off-Campus (n=310)	90.6	94.8	87.0	90.5	78.3	76.4

In 1998 and 2000, 60.8% of students had reported trying alcohol by the age of 17 (data not shown). It stands to reason that the number of students who used alcohol prior to college was higher than 61% when including those students who used alcohol at the age of 18 and prior to coming to OSU. Furthermore, in 2000, only 28.4% of students reported first using alcohol between the ages of 18 and 25. Such findings support the conclusions presented in the introduction that, to some extent, colleges and universities inherit the drinking behavior that began in high school.

Another way of looking at the data is to look at those students who reported having never used alcohol. (See Table 2.0.)

- Only 7.1% of the 1998 sample reported having never used alcohol. In 2000, 10.7% responded that they had not used alcohol.
- Consistently across subgroups, evidence suggests that students were slightly less likely to use alcohol in 2000 than in 1998. The notable exception is when looking at differences between white students and students of color. White students' usage pattern remained consistent; students of color were considerably less likely to have used alcohol in 2000 as compared to 1998.

Table 2.0: Undergraduates who had Not Used Alcohol: 1998 & 2000

percent response	Total	Men	Women	White	Students of Color	On-Campus	Off-Campus	Under 21	21 & over
1998	7.1	6.6	7.7	6.7	9.8	10.5	5.2	9.5	4.7
2000	10.7	12.3	10.5	6.6	24.5	13.5	9.4	13.0	8.8

Annual Prevalence of Alcohol Use

When looking at the use of alcohol over the year prior to students completing the Core Survey, we find the following: (See Table 3.0 for OSU 2000 data. National data and 1998 findings not shown.)

- The percentage of undergraduate students who reported having used alcohol within the year prior to completing the survey was 85.9% (compared to 87.5% in 1998).
- The 1999 national data indicated a similar percentage of students who reported having used alcohol in the last year - 85.1%.
- OSU underage students reported the same frequency of annual alcohol use as found in the 1999 national date – 85.2%.
- Over 29% of OSU undergraduates reported having used alcohol six or less times during the year, compared to 17% in 1998.
- Over 51% of students of color reported having used alcohol six or less times during the year, compared to 47.5% in 1998.

Table 3.0: Frequency of Alcohol use Over the Last Year: 2000

percent response	Total (n=487)	Men (n=188)	Women (n=266)	White (n=378)	Students of Color (n=95)	Under 21 (n=231)	21 & Over (n=252)
Never	14.1	16.7	12.5	8.6	32.6	14.8	13.7
Once a year	4.8	4.8	4.5	3.8	9.5	5.7	4.0
6 times a year	10.4	8.6	11.7	10.5	9.5	11.7	9.3
Once a month	6.8	3.2	9.5	6.7	8.4	8.3	5.2
Twice a month	11.0	8.6	12.5	10.7	11.6	11.3	10.9
Once per week	25.7	22.0	28.8	27.9	16.8	24.3	27.0
Three times a week	22.4	28.5	18.2	26.8	7.4	20.9	23.4
five times a week	4.1	6.5	2.3	4.6	3.2	2.6	5.6
Every day	0.6	1.1	0.0	0.5	1.1	0.4	0.8

percent response	Freshmen (n=88)	Sophomores (n=112)	Juniors (n=118)	Seniors (n=162)	On-Campus (n=127)	Off-Campus (n=310)
Never	19.3	13.5	11.0	13.3	15.1	13.0
Once a year	5.7	2.7	5.9	4.4	4.8	5.2
6 times a year	11.4	11.7	9.3	10.1	11.1	8.8
Once a month	4.5	9.9	5.1	6.3	7.1	7.2
Twice a month	8.0	13.5	9.3	12.7	11.1	10.1
Once per week	25.0	22.5	27.1	28.5	22.2	28.0
Three times a week	21.6	22.5	26.3	19.6	23.0	22.8
five times a week	3.4	3.6	5.1	4.4	4.0	4.6
Every day	1.1	0.0	0.8	0.6	1.6	0.3

To capture an understanding of the reported annual alcohol use, the responses of “once per week,” “three times a week,” “five times a week,” and “everyday” have been combined to ascertain those students who used alcohol on a weekly basis. (See Table 3.1 for a comparison between 1998 and 2000.)

- Almost 53% reported having used alcohol weekly during the past year in the 2000 survey. In 1998, this number was slightly less at approximately 49%.

- Comparing groups, in 2000, men were almost 9% more likely to report weekly alcohol use than women. However, women were 15% more likely to report weekly alcohol use in 2000 as they were in 1998.
- In 2000, white students were over 31% more likely than students of color to use alcohol on a weekly basis.
- In 2000, those students who were of legal drinking age were over 8% more likely than students under the age of 21 to report weekly alcohol use.
- Although the trend is less striking than it was in 1998, in 2000 sophomores still reported the lowest level of weekly use (48.6%) compared to freshmen (51.1%), juniors (59.3%) and seniors (53.1%).
- Lastly, in 2000, 50.8% of on-campus residents reported weekly use of alcohol, and 55.7% of off-campus residents reported the same.

Table 3.1: Weekly Alcohol Use over the Last Year: 1998 & 2000

percent response	Total	Men	Women	White	Students of Color	Under 21	21 & Over
1998	48.8	59.9	34.4	51.8	30.0	43.6	54.0
2000	52.8	58.1	49.3	59.8	28.5	48.2	56.8

percent response	Freshmen	Sophomores	Juniors	Seniors	On-Campus	Off-Campus
1998	47.8	39.7	51.4	54.5	46.7	50.1
2000	51.1	48.6	59.3	53.1	50.8	55.7

30-Day Prevalence of Alcohol Use

In looking at alcohol use in the 30 days prior to the 2000 survey, we find that the differences between use and non-use widen between the subgroups. (See Table 4.0 for OSU 2000 data. National data and 1998 findings not shown.)

- In 2000, over 76% of the undergraduate sample reported having used alcohol in the 30 days prior to completing the survey. This compares to 73.2% of the national sample.
- The same percentage of men and women reported using alcohol in the last 30 days in 2000. In 1998, 14% more men reported using alcohol in the last 30 days compared to women.
- Over 27% more of white respondents reported using alcohol in the last 30 days compared to students of color. This finding is similar to what was found in 1998.
- In 2000, students who were under 21 were slightly more likely to report using alcohol in the last 30 days than students of legal drinking age were. Nationally, 73.7% of underage students reported using alcohol within the 30 days prior to completing the survey; OSU students reported similarly at 73.5%. However, in 1998 almost 80% of students who were 21 and older reported using alcohol compared to 66.9% of those who were under 21.
- Juniors and seniors showed a slightly higher rate of alcohol use in the previous month than did freshmen and sophomores.
- In 2000, about 5% more of the on-campus students reported drinking alcohol in the last 30 days compared to off-campus students. In 1998, the numbers were reversed.

Table 4.0: Frequency of Alcohol Use in the Last 30 Days: 2000

percent response	Total (n=487)	Men (n=188)	Women (n=266)	White (n=378)	Students of Color	Under 21 (n=231)	21 & Over (n=252)

					(n=95)		
0 days	23.6	23.7	23.8	17.6	44.7	26.5	21.4
1-2 days	19.7	16.7	23.1	17.3	28.7	19.9	19.4
3-5 days	18.8	16.1	19.6	20.8	11.7	16.8	21.0
6-9 days	19.9	21.0	18.5	23.0	8.5	20.8	18.5
10-19 days	14.6	18.3	12.7	17.6	4.3	14.2	14.9
20-29 days	2.7	3.2	2.3	3.0	2.1	1.8	3.6
all 30 days	0.6	1.1	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.0	1.2

percent response	Freshmen (n=88)	Sophomores (n=112)	Juniors (n=118)	Seniors (n=162)	On- Campus (n=127)	Off-Campus (n=310)
0 days	26.1	25.0	21.7	21.9	26.4	21.7
1-2 days	20.5	23.1	13.9	21.3	20.8	17.8
3-5 days	14.8	18.5	18.3	21.9	13.6	21.7
6-9 days	21.6	14.8	24.3	20.0	20.8	20.7
10-19 days	13.6	16.7	14.8	13.1	13.6	15.1
20-29 days	3.4	1.9	5.2	1.3	4.0	2.3
all 30 days	0.0	0.0	1.7	0.6	0.8	0.7

The prevalence of alcohol use over the 30 day period prior to the survey is further demonstrated by looking at those students who used alcohol on 10 or more days (used alcohol frequently). (See Table 4.1 for a comparison between 1998 and 2000.)

- Of the total sample in 2000, 17.9% reported using alcohol on at least 10 days during the 30-day period. This number was down 3.4% from 1998.
- In 2000, men were more likely to use alcohol on a frequent basis than women (22.6% as compared to 15%). However, in 1998, the difference between the two groups was much greater. In 2000, women reported higher frequent use than they did in 1998, while the percentage of men who reported using alcohol frequently dropped.
- White students, in 2000, were over three times as likely to use alcohol frequently than were students of color (21.4% as compared to 6.4%). These findings are consistent with 1998 data.
- While the percentage of underage students who reported using alcohol frequently remained relatively consistent between 1998 and 2000, students of legal drinking age were less likely to report using alcohol frequently in 2000 as compared to 1998 (19.7% compared to 27.8%).
- In 2000, on- and off-campus residents reported similar rates of frequent alcohol use.
- Seniors were the least likely to report frequent alcohol use in 2000. In both 1998 and 2000, juniors reported the highest rate of frequent alcohol use when compared to freshmen, sophomores, and seniors.

Table 4.1: Percent of Students who Use Alcohol Frequently: 1998 & 2000

percent response	Total	Men	Women	White	Of Color	Under 21	21 & Over
1998	21.3	30.0	10.1	23.5	7.2	14.9	27.8
2000	17.9	22.6	15.0	21.4	6.4	16.0	19.7

Table 4.1 (cont.)

percent response	Freshmen	Sophomores	Juniors	Seniors	On Campus	Off Campus
1998	18.4	14.4	27.1	23.8	17.2	23.5
2000	17.0	18.6	21.7	15.0	18.4	18.1

Quantity of Alcohol Consumed

In looking at the quantity of alcohol consumed, the Core Survey asks two relevant questions: on average, how many drinks do you consume in a week, and how many times in the last two weeks have you had five or more drinks in one sitting. (In 1998, OSU also asked, “On average, how many drinks do you have at parties?”)

Weekly Consumption

The responses to the question, how many drinks do you consume in a week, are displayed in Table 5.0 (data from 2000).

- Over 30% of the undergraduate respondents reported that, on average, they have zero drinks per week.
- At the same time, 15.5% reported having 14 or more drinks per week, and the average was 6.16 drinks per week.
- Men and women were equally likely to report having zero drinks per week (31.2% and 30.8% respectively). However, 24.7% of men reported averaging 14 or more drinks per week compared to only 9% of women. Similarly, men averaged twice as many drinks per week as women did (8.74 and 4.29 respectively).
- Students of color (58.5%) were two and a half more times likely to report averaging zero drinks per week than white students were (22.5%). Furthermore, only 5.3% of students of color reported averaging 14 or more drinks as compared to 18.3% of white students.
- On-campus residents and students under the age of 21 were more likely to report that they consumed zero drinks in a week than were off-campus students and students of legal drinking age respectively. However, students under the age of 21 averaged a higher number of drinks consumed in a week compared to students 21 and over (6.37 and 5.98 respectively), and students living on campus averaged more than those living off campus (7.83 and 5.72 respectively).

Table 5.0: Average Number of Drinks Consumed in a Week: 2000

Percent response	Total (n=487)	Men (n=188)	Women (n=266)	White (n=378)	Students of Color (n=95)	Under 21 (n=231)	21 & Over (n=252)
0	30.3	31.2	30.8	22.5	58.5	34.6	26.8
1-6	39.6	31.2	44.7	41.6	30.9	33.8	44.4
7-13	14.6	12.9	15.4	17.5	5.3	16.0	13.2
14 & over	15.5	24.7	9.0	18.3	5.3	15.6	15.6
Average	6.16	8.74	4.29	7.02	3.35	6.37	5.98

Table 5.0 (cont.)

percent response	Freshmen (n=88)	Sophomores (n=112)	Juniors (n=118)	Seniors (n=162)	On-Campus (n=127)	Off-Campus (n=310)
0	34.5	32.1	26.3	29.8	34.6	27.6
1-6	33.3	41.1	32.2	47.2	30.7	43.5
7-13	14.9	11.6	23.7	9.9	15.0	14.9
14 & over	17.2	15.2	17.8	13.0	19.7	14.0
Average	7.15	5.67	7.26	5.16	7.83	5.72

Comparisons of the average number of drinks consumed in a week between 1998 and 2000 (OSU data) are provided in Table 5.1.

- In 1998, 28.0% reported that they averaged zero drinks in a week; in 2000, the percentage increased to 30.3%.
- In 1998, 17.4% reported averaging 14 or more drinks, compared to 15.5% in 2000.

Table 5.1: Average Number of Drinks Consumed in a Week: 1998 & 2000

Percent response	1998 (n=293)	2000 (n=487)
0	28.0	30.3
1-6	39.9	39.6
7-13	14.6	14.6
14 & over	17.4	15.5

Binge Drinking

Binge drinking, defined as having five or more drinks in one sitting, has gained much attention. Such behavior has been linked to behavioral consequences for students (see the introduction and the section on consequences.) The binge drinking rates for the 1998 and 2000 OSU undergraduate samples are presented in Table 6.0.

- In 2000, 44.2% of the OSU undergraduate sample reported having binged in the last two weeks. Nationally, in 1999 the binge drinking rate was 46.8% (data not shown).
- Half (50%) of OSU men reported binge drinking in 2000 as compared to 39.1% of women.
- In 2000, 50.8% of white respondents reported binge drinking compared to only 21.3% of students of color.
- Those students under legal drinking age in 2000 reported binge drinking at a slightly lower rate (42.9%) than those students who were 21 or older (45%).
- In 2000, a higher percentage of juniors (53.8%) reported binge drinking compared to the other class ranks. Seniors reported the lowest percentage of binge drinkers at 38.9%.
- On-campus and off-campus students reported similar rates of binge drinking (44.4% and 44.5% respectively) in 2000.

Table 6.0: OSU Binge Drinkers: 2000 & 1998

percent response	Total	Men	Women	White	Students of Color	Under 21	21 & over
2000	(n=487) 44.2	(n=188) 50.0	(n=266) 39.1	(n=378) 50.8	(n=95) 21.3	(n=231) 42.9	(n=252) 45.0
1998	(n=296) 47.6	(n=167) 55.7	(n=129) 37.2	(n=255) 51.0	(n=41) 26.8	(n=148) 45.3	(n=148) 50.0

percent response	Freshmen	Sophomores	Juniors	Seniors	On-Campus	Off-Campus
2000	(n=88) 42.0	(n=112) 44.6	(n=118) 53.8	(n=162) 38.9	(n=127) 44.4	(n=310) 44.5
1998	(n=69) 47.8	(n=69) 43.5	(n=70) 47.2	(n=88) 51.2	(n=105) 46.7	(n=191) 48.2

When comparing the binge drinking rates from the 2000 OSU survey to the 1998 OSU survey, there appears to have been a slight decrease in binge drinking rates between 1998 and 2000.

(See Table 7.0.)

- In 2000, the binge drinking rate dropped 3.4%, from 47.6% in 1998 to 44.2% in 2000.
- For men, students of color, students 21 and older, and freshmen, there was a 5% decrease in binge drinking from 1998 to 2000.
- Seniors reported a 12% decrease in binge drinking rates between 1998 and 2000.
- Sophomores and white students reported very similar rates in 1998 and 2000.
- Evidence suggests that women's high risk drinking behavior is steadily increasing over time with a 10% increase since 1996 (data not shown).
- Students of color are experiencing the opposite trend; their high risk drinking appears to be steadily decreasing over time with an all-time low binge drinking rate of 21.3% in 2000, by far the lowest binge drinking rate of all subgroups.

According to Harvard's study on binge drinking, frequent bingers are defined as those who binged three or more times in the past two weeks. The frequency of binge drinking behavior for OSU undergraduates in 2000 (during a two week period) is presented in Table 7.0. Table 7.1 presents the percentage of frequent binge drinkers in 1998 and 2000.

- Among all students surveyed in 2000, 22.2% reported bingeing one or two times during a two-week period; 22.0 three or more times (down from 24.3% in 1998).
- In 2000, men were almost twice as likely to report being frequent bingers than were women (30.3% of men compared to 16.6% of women).
- White students continued to report much higher rates of frequent bingeing as compared to students of color (25.9% and 7.4% respectively).
- In 2000, the rate of frequent bingers was slightly higher for students under 21 (23.4%) compared to those of legal drinking age (20.7%).

- Contrary to 1998 when the rates were similar, in 2000 on-campus students (28.6%) were more likely to report frequent bingeing than off-campus students (19.7%) were.
- In 2000, freshmen and juniors reported the highest levels of frequent binge drinking at 26.1% and 28.2%. Seniors reported the lowest number of frequent binge drinking at 15.5%, down from 21.6% in 1998.

Table 7.0: Frequency of Binge Drinking Behavior: 2000

percent response	Total (n=487)	Men (n=188)	Women (n=266)	White (n=378)	Students Of Color (n=95)	Under 21 (n=231)	21 & Over (n=252)
0 times	55.8	50.0	60.9	49.2	78.7	57.1	55.0
1-2 times	22.2	19.6	22.6	24.9	13.9	19.5	24.3
3 or more (frequent bingers)	22.0	30.3	16.6	25.9	7.4	23.4	20.7

percent response	Freshmen (n=88)	Sophomores (n=112)	Juniors (n=118)	Seniors (n=162)	On-Campus (n=127)	Off-Campus (n=310)
0 times	58.0	55.4	46.2	61.1	55.6	55.5
1-2 times	15.9	23.2	25.7	23.4	15.8	24.9
3 or more (frequent bingers)	26.1	21.5	28.2	15.5	28.6	19.7

Table 7.1: Frequent Binge Drinking (3 or more times): 1998 & 2000

percent response	Total	Men	Women	White	Of Color	Under 21	21 & Over
1998	24.3	31.2	15.6	26.7	9.7	24.3	24.4
2000	22.0	30.3	16.6	25.9	7.4	23.4	20.7

percent response	Freshmen	Sophomores	Juniors	Seniors	On-Campus	Off-Campus
1998	31.9	20.3	24.2	21.6	24.8	24.1
2000	26.1	21.5	28.2	15.5	28.6	19.7

Other Drug Use

General Drug Use

The percentages of undergraduate students who reported having tried various drugs, as well as their annual and 30-day use patterns are presented in Table 8.0. Comparisons are made between 1998 and 2000 and, when available, with the 1999 national Core data. Overall, the data show the following use of drugs:

- After alcohol, tobacco was the highest used drug with 63.6% of the undergraduate sample reporting that they had used tobacco in 2000. This marked a slight decrease (2.3%) from 1998 when 65.9% of OSU undergraduates reported having used tobacco.
- The next most common drug used was marijuana with 51.9% reporting having used marijuana in 2000. This is a 10% increase from 1998. This increase is consistent with what has been found nationally.

- In 2000, amphetamines (17.5%), hallucinogens (15.7%), and designer drugs (13.8%) were the most commonly used drugs following tobacco and marijuana. In the case of amphetamines and designer drugs, these were marked increases compared to 1998 when only 3% reported having used either type of drug.

Annual Drug Use

The annual drug use looks at those undergraduate students who reported using each drug listed at least once within the year prior to completing the Core Survey. Overall, drug use among OSU students increased between 1998 and 2000. The summary of annual drug use is also presented in Table 8.0.

- In 2000, 50% of the students surveyed reported having used tobacco within the last year. This is slightly higher than the 1998 usage rate of 48.0% and the 1999 national rate of 47.3%.
- The next most commonly used drug in 2000 was marijuana; 34.3 % of Ohio State students surveyed reported having used marijuana in the last year, up 10% from 1998. The national rate was similar to the 2000 OSU rate at 32.5%.
- The use of designer drugs grew 9.2% between 1998 and 2000 to make it the third most common drug used within the last year (excluding alcohol). At 10.8%, the OSU rate of use almost doubled the national average of 5.5%.
- Cocaine (5.2% compared to 1.0%) and amphetamines (7.3% compared to 0%) have also shown marked increases in annual use between 1998 and 2000.

30-Day Prevalence

The 30-day prevalence presents data on the percentage of undergraduate students who reported using each drug listed at least once within the 30 days prior to completing the Core Survey. (See Table 8.0.)

- In 2000, for five of the drug categories, less than 1% of students reported using the drug in the last 30 days.
- In 2000, tobacco was still the most commonly used “other” drug at a rate of 36.5% of the undergraduate population. This rate was very similar to the national rate of 35.5% but up slightly from 1998 (33.8%).
- Nineteen percent (19.0%) of OSU students surveyed in 2000 used marijuana in the 30 days prior to taking the survey – comparable to the national rate of 18.7%.
- Similar to the findings of use within the last year, the use of designer drugs and amphetamines in the 30 days prior to completing the Core Survey showed a noticeable increase between 1998 and 2000. In 1998, the usage rate for both drugs was 0.0%; in 2000, 4.2% reported using amphetamines, and 3.0%, designer drugs.

Table 8.0: Other Drug Use: 2000 & 1998 OSU Undergraduate Usage and 1999 National Usage

Other Drug Use	Has Used*		Has used within the last year			Has used within the last 30 days		
	OSU 00 (n=487)	OSU 98 (n=296)	OSU 00 (n=487)	OSU 98 (n=296)	National	OSU 00 (n=487)	OSU 98 (n=296)	National
Tobacco	63.6	65.9	50.0	48.0	47.3	36.5	33.8	35.5
Marijuana	51.9	41.9	34.3	24.3	32.5	19.0	12.5	18.7
Cocaine	9.3	4.4	5.2	1.0	3.8	2.3	0.0	1.6
Amphetamines	17.5	3.0	7.3	0.0	6.3	4.2	0.0	3.1
Sedatives	7.1	2.7	3.1	1.3	3.0	0.6	0.0	1.4
Hallucinogens	15.7	11.1	6.4	6.0	6.6	1.9	0.6	2.2
Opiates	3.3	3.0	1.0	2.0	1.4	0.6	0.0	0.7
Inhalants	7.2	5.7	2.3	1.6	2.3	0.2	0.7	1.0
Designer Drugs	13.8	3.0	10.8	1.6	5.5	3.0	0.0	2.5
Steroids	0.6	0.3	0.0	0.3	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.5
Other illegal drugs	5.0	0.7	2.5	0.0	2.2	0.4	0.0	0.9
<i>Alcohol</i>	89.3	92.9	85.9	87.5	85.1	76.4	73.3	73.2

* National Data not available.

Tobacco and Marijuana

Tables 9.0 and 9.1 present data regarding tobacco and marijuana use by subgroup in 2000.

Despite low frequencies among some of the subgroups, the data demonstrate patterns of use.

- Similar to the findings regarding the prevalence of alcohol use, students of color reported the lowest rate of use of both tobacco and marijuana. Only 22.3% reported using tobacco and 7.5% reported using marijuana in the last 30 days, compared to 40.6% (tobacco) and 21.8% (marijuana) for white students.
- Men were generally more likely to have used tobacco with 66.3% reporting that they had used tobacco compared to 60.2% of women. However, men and women reported similar tobacco usage patterns within the last year and within the last 30 days. They also reported similar rates of frequent use.
- Men reported higher use of marijuana than women did. Over 22% of men reported using marijuana in the last 30 days compared to 17% of women.
- With regard to age, students under 21 and students 21 and over reported similar rates of general tobacco use. However, students 21 and over were more likely to use tobacco frequently with 22.7% reporting such use compared to 15.6% of students under 21.
- While students under 21 and students 21 and over reported similar marijuana use within the 30 days prior to taking the survey, students 21 and over were more likely to report frequent use - 8.4% compared to 3.5% for students under 21.
- While sophomores and juniors reported higher rates of tobacco use within the last year and within the last 30 days than freshmen and seniors reported (about a 10% difference), the frequent use of tobacco was about the same across class rank (about 19%).
- Examining marijuana use by class rank, some interesting patterns emerge. Juniors and seniors were more likely to have used marijuana than freshmen and sophomores. However, freshmen and sophomores were more likely to have used marijuana within the last year and within the last 30 days.
- Off-campus students reported higher tobacco use within the last year (52.3%) and within the last 30 days (39.1%) than on-campus students reported (47.6% and 31.5% respectively).

- Although there were some differences between on- and off-campus students' overall use of marijuana and use within the last year, there were no noticeable differences in the use of marijuana in the last 30 days or in the frequency of use.

Table 9.0: OSU Tobacco Use by Subgroup: 2000

percent response	Has Used*	Has used within the last year	Has used within the last 30 days	Has used frequently in the last 30 days*
All students	63.6	50.0	36.5	19.4
Men (n=188)	66.3	49.5	36.4	19.2
Women (n=266)	60.2	49.2	34.9	18.8
White (n=378)	69.2	55.5	40.6	21.7
Students of color (n=95)	45.3	30.5	22.3	10.6
Under 21 (n=231)	61.5	50.4	36.4	15.6
21 and over (n=252)	65.7	49.6	36.7	22.7
Freshmen (n=88)	61.4	45.5	33.7	19.8
Sophomores (n=112)	63.4	55.0	41.3	19.2
Juniors (n=118)	68.4	55.9	42.7	18.7
Seniors (n=162)	61.7	44.4	31.1	20.4
On-Campus (n=127)	63.0	47.6	31.5	18.5
Off-Campus (n=310)	65.0	52.3	39.1	20.8

* Frequently is defined as using tobacco 10 or more days.

Table 9.1: OSU Marijuana Use By Subgroup: 2000

percent response	Has Used*	Has used within the last year	Has used within the last 30 days	Has used frequently in the last 30 days*
All students	51.9	34.3	19.0	5.9
Men (n=188)	54.5	34.8	22.3	9.2
Women (n=266)	49.6	32.8	17.0	3.5
White (n=378)	69.2	38.9	21.8	6.3
Students of color (n=95)	28.4	17.0	7.5	3.3
Under 21 (n=231)	48.9	36.8	18.4	3.5
21 and over (n=252)	55.0	32.5	19.4	8.4
Freshmen (n=88)	45.5	36.0	22.4	4.7
Sophomores (n=112)	48.2	38.2	21.7	5.6
Juniors (n=118)	59.0	35.0	19.7	6.9
Seniors (n=162)	53.1	30.4	15.1	6.9
On-Campus (n=127)	54.0	33.7	19.9	5.4
Off-Campus (n=310)	49.6	37.3	18.5	4.0

* Frequently is defined as using marijuana 10 or more days.

Consequences of Alcohol and Drug Use

Academic Performance: GPA

The data are fairly consistent with regard to the inverse relationship between alcohol use and grade point average (GPA). (See Tables 10.0-14.0.) Furthermore, the relationship between alcohol use and GPA are consistent with the findings from the 1998 OSU data and findings from the national Core Survey (The Higher Education Center for Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention, 1997). (Date not shown. Because of differences in the data, direct comparisons cannot be made.)

- Of the undergraduate respondents, almost 97% of students with a “C” average or lower reported having tried alcohol and having used alcohol within the last year. These are higher usage rates than reported by students with higher GPAs. When looking at students with at least an “A-” average, 85.2% reported having tried alcohol and 78.7% reported having used alcohol within the last year.
- Furthermore, 85.2% of students with a “C” average or lower reported using alcohol within the last 30 days compared to 72.2% of those students with an “A-” or an “A” average.

Table 10.0: OSU Alcohol Use by GPA: 2000

Alcohol Use	Has tried Alcohol	Has used alcohol within the last year	Has used alcohol within the last 30 days
All (n=487)	89.3	85.9	76.4
C or lower (n=62) (2.0 & lower)	96.8	96.7	85.2
C+ to B- (n=137) (2.3 to 2.7)	91.2	88.2	73.9
B to B+ (n=169) (3.0 to 3.3)	86.8	84.3	78.0
A- to A (n=108) (3.7 to 4.0)	85.2	78.7	72.2

Similarly, the inverse relationship between GPA and alcohol use held true when looking at frequency of alcohol use. (See Table 11.0.)

- Over 21% of those students with a “C” or lower average reported frequent alcohol use (10 or more days within a 30-day period). Frequent alcohol use gradually decreases as the GPA increases.
- For students with a “C+” to a “B-” 20.9% reported frequent alcohol use; for respondents with a “B” to a “B+”, 18.3%; and for those with above an “A-”, only 9.3%.

Table 11.0: Frequency of Alcohol Use in the Last 30 Days and GPA: 2000

percent response	All (n=487)	C or lower (n=62)	C+ to B- (n=137)	B to B+ (n=169)	A- to A (n=108)
0 days	23.6	14.8	26.1	22.0	27.8
1-2 days	19.7	27.9	14.2	17.7	25.0
3-5 days	18.8	21.3	20.1	15.2	22.2
6-9 days	19.9	14.8	18.7	26.8	15.7
10-19 days	14.6	14.8	17.2	16.5	7.4
20-29 days	2.7	6.6	3.0	1.2	1.9
all 30 days	0.6	0.0	0.7	0.6	0.0

The inverse relationship between GPA and alcohol use becomes even more apparent when examining the quantity of alcohol consumed. First, the number of drinks students average per week demonstrates the differences. (See Table 12.0.) These findings are consistent with national data that found that students with an “A” average consume a little more than three drinks per week; B” students have almost five drinks per week; “C” students average more than six drinks per week; and students in academic difficulty consume nine drinks per week (The Higher Education Center for Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention, 1997).

- Over 33% of students with an “A” average reported that they averaged zero drinks per week. For students with a “C” or lower, there were 24.6% who reported averaging zero drinks consumed in a week.
- Under 8% of students with above an “A-” or better reported averaging 14 or more drinks in a week compared to 19.7% of students with a “C” or lower.

Table 12.0: Average Number of Drinks per Week and GPA: 2000

percent response	All (n=487)	C or lower (n=62)	C+ to B- (n=137)	B to B+ (n=169)	A- to A (n=108)
0	30.3	24.6	32.4	28.4	33.3
1-6	39.6	42.6	33.1	40.8	45.4
7-13	14.6	13.1	17.6	14.2	13.9
14 & over	15.5	19.7	16.9	16.6	7.4

Second, binge drinking provides another way of looking at the differences in the quantity of alcohol consumed and GPA. The inverse relationship continues for the binge drinking rates by GPA. (See Tables 13.0 & 13.1.)

- Over 43% of students with a “C” or lower reported binge drinking in the two weeks prior to completing the survey, and 22% were frequent binge drinkers.
- The binge drinking rate decreases as the GPA increases. Only a third (33.3%) of students with higher than an “A-” or better reported binge drinking, and only 16.7% reported binge drinking frequently.

Table 13.0: Binge Drinking and GPA: 2000

percent response	All (n=487)	C or lower (n=62)	C+ to B- (n=137)	B to B+ (n=169)	A- to A (n=108)
Binge Drinkers	44.2	43.5	48.2	47.0	33.3

Table 13.1: Frequency of Binge Drinking and GPA: 2000

percent response	All (n=487)	C or lower (n=62)	C+ to B- (n=137)	B to B+ (n=169)	A- to A (n=108)
0 times	55.8	56.5	51.8	53.0	66.7
1-2 times	22.2	25.8	21.8	24.4	16.7
3 or more (frequent bingers)	22.0	17.8	26.3	22.4	16.7

Other Consequences

As shown above, there is a strong inverse relationship between alcohol use and academic success. In Table 14.0, data are presented regarding the frequency in which all respondents' experienced other negative consequences from drinking or alcohol use. Comparisons between 2000 and 1998 are also provided. Table 15.0 compares the frequency of consequences of non-binge drinkers, binge drinkers and frequent bingers.

- A majority of OSU students have had a hangover (64.3%) and have been nauseated (57.5%) as a result of drinking or drug use.
- Evidence suggests that there has been an increase in students experiencing negative consequences from drinking and drug use between 1998 and 2000. In most cases, there was at least a 5% increase in the frequency of such consequences. (This increase may also be reflective of the different methodologies used in data collection between 1998 and 2000.)
- An exception to this trend is in the incidents of students who reported that they had tried unsuccessfully to stop using alcohol or other drugs; in 1998, 8% reported having this experience compared to 4% in 2000.

Table 14.0: Consequences of Drinking or Drug Use During the Past Year: 2000 & 1998

Consequences – percent response	2000 (n=487)	1998 (n=263)
Had a hangover	64.3	*
Gotten nauseated or vomited	57.5	*
Done something you later regretted	40.5	35.7
Missed a class	40.0	34.6
Driven a car while under influence	36.3	25.4
Got into an argument or fight	34.3	21.7
Had a memory loss	28.5	27.8
Been criticized by someone you know	27.8	24.0
Performed poorly on an important test or project	25.2	17.1
Been hurt or injured	16.2	10.3
Have been taken advantage of sexually	12.7	6.8
Been in trouble with police, resident halls or other college authorities	12.3	11.8
Damaged property, pulled a fire alarm, etc.	9.9	4.6
Thought you had a drinking or other drug problem	9.5	8.4
Thought about suicide	6.0	0.4
Have taken advantage of another sexually	4.8	3.8
Tried unsuccessfully to stop using drugs and/or alcohol	4.0	8.0
Arrested for DWI/DUI	1.0	1.1
Tried to commit suicide	0.4	0.0

* In 1998, OSU asked about these consequences during the past month rather than the past year. Hence, the data are not comparable.

Table 15.0 presents differences in students' responses based on their level of high risk drinking.

- Looking at consequences directly related to academic success, almost 82% of frequent bingers reported having missed a class, and over 50% reported performing poorly on an important test or project as a result of drinking or drug use. For non-binge drinkers, only 18.3% and 13.7% respectively reported similar difficulties.
- Over 82% of the frequent bingers also reported doing something they later regretted compared to only 18.5% of students who were non-binge drinkers.

Looking at students' physical safety and well-being (for both drinkers and non-drinkers), it became clear that binge drinking puts students at risk.

- Almost 57% of all binge drinkers reported having gotten into an argument or fight; 59.6% reported driving under the influence; and 26.5% reported being hurt or injured as a result of drinking or drug use.
- For frequent bingers, these numbers increased to 68.2% who got into an argument or fight; 59.6% who drove while under the influence; and 36.8% who were hurt or injured as a result of drinking or drug use.
- Another disturbing finding is the percentage of students who reported having been taken advantage of sexually or having taken advantage of another. Over 20% of binge drinkers reported having been taken advantage of sexually, and 29.2% of frequent bingers reported such experiences. Fifteen percent (15%) of frequent bingers admitted having taken advantage of another sexually.

Also worth noting is the increased percentage of binge drinkers who reported being in trouble with police, residence hall staff, or other college authorities.

- Over 21% of binge drinkers (and 29% of frequent bingers) reported having been in some kind of trouble as a result of drinking or other drug use. Only 6.4% of non-binge drinkers reported the same.

Table 15.0: Consequences of Drinking or Drug Use by Binge Drinking: 2000

Consequences – percent response	Non-Binge Drinkers (n=271)	All Bingers (n=215)	Frequent Bingers (n=107)
Had a hangover	42.1	92.6	94.4
Gotten nauseated or vomited	35.7	85.0	86.0
Done something you later regretted	18.5	67.9	82.2
Missed a class	18.3	67.1	81.9
Driven a car while under influence	17.9	59.6	70.1
Got into an argument or fight	16.5	56.8	68.2
Had a memory loss	12.4	48.8	63.8
Been criticized by someone you know	14.9	44.2	56.1
Performed poorly on an important test or project	13.7	39.7	50.5
Been hurt or injured	8.0	26.5	36.8
Have been taken advantage of sexually	6.4	20.7	29.2
Been in trouble with police, resident halls or other college authorities	5.2	21.4	29.0
Damaged property, pulled a fire alarm, etc.	2.2	19.6	32.1
Thought you had a drinking or other drug problem	3.4	17.2	29.0
Thought about suicide	5.2	7.0	8.4
Have taken advantage of another sexually	1.5	8.9	15.0
Tried unsuccessfully to stop using drugs and/or alcohol	2.6	5.6	6.6
Arrested for DWI/DUI	0.0	2.3	3.8
Tried to commit suicide	0.4	0.5	0.9

Indirect Consequences

In addition to the direct consequences of alcohol and other drug use, students may also experience secondary effects of drinking, consequences experienced as a result of others' drinking. Table 16.0 compares the percentage of OSU students who responded positively to experiencing a number of secondary effects of drinking. Overall, the data suggest that OSU students experience secondary effects of drinking at a higher rate than what students experience nationally. (These questions were not asked in the 1998 OSU survey.)

- Over 38% of OSU students responded that other students' drinking interferes with their studying, compared to 30.3% of the national sample.
- OSU students were also more likely to respond that other students' drinking made them feel unsafe and messed up their physical living space than what was found nationally, with differences of more than 13%.
- Over 62% of OSU students reported that other students' drinking interferes with their lives.

Table 16.0: Secondary Effects of Drinking: 2000 compared to 1999 National Data

percent response	2000 OSU (n=484)	1999 National (n=65,033)
Interrupts studying	38.1	30.3
Makes me feel unsafe	30.9	16.6
Messes up my physical living space	40.2	27.1
Adversely affects involvement on an athletic team or in other organized groups	9.2	10.3
Prevents enjoyment of events	20.7	16.3
Interfere in other ways	42.6	31.3
Interferes with my life	62.7	*

* Data missing from National Summary.

Perceptions of Alcohol and Its Use

Perceptions of Use

As stated in the introduction, one of the contributors to alcohol use is the perception that alcohol use is the norm and that often alcohol is perceived to be used at a higher rate than the actual rate of use. These findings hold true for OSU. (See Tables 17.0 -17.1.)

- Over 94% reported that they thought students used alcohol weekly (see the shaded rows in Table 17.0). In reality, only 52.8% of the respondents reported that they used alcohol that frequently.
- Since 1998, there has been a slight decrease in the difference between the perception of alcohol use and reported behavior. In 1998, the difference was 46.7% and in 2000, 41.5%. (However, some of this "improvement" in perception is because of an increase in the reported behavior.)

Table 17.0: 2000 Perceptions vs. Reported Behavior: Frequency of Alcohol Use

percent response	Perceived Behavior How often do you think they use alcohol	Reported Behavior How many times in the last year have you used alcohol
Once a year	0.2	4.8
6 times a year	0.4	10.4
Once a month	0.8	6.8
twice a month	3.1	11.0
Once per week	26.4	25.7
three times a week	48.2	22.4
five times a week	13.5	4.1
every day	6.2	0.6
do not use	1.0	14.1

Table 17.1: Perceptions vs. Reported Behavior: 2000 & 1998

Weekly alcohol use – percent response	2000 (n=487)	1998 (n=263)
Perception	94.3	95.5
Reported Behavior	52.8	48.8
Difference	41.5	46.7

Beliefs of Social and Sexual Effects

In addition to the perceptions of alcohol use among OSU students, the Core Survey examines student opinions regarding the role of alcohol in the social setting. A summary of these statements and the responses are presented in Table 18.0.

- Over 72% of OSU students surveyed agreed that alcohol breaks the ice, enhances social activity, and gives people something to do. Generally, these percentages are consistent with the national data, although OSU students were slightly more likely to agree that alcohol gives people something to do.
- Around 62% of students in both the OSU survey and the national survey agreed that alcohol gives people something to talk about.
- Approximately 57% of students, again in both the OSU and the national surveys, believed that alcohol facilitates male bonding, whereas 41% believed it facilitates female bonding.
- Over 54% agreed that alcohol facilitates sexual opportunities, but few agreed that alcohol makes women, men, or themselves sexier (25.6%, 14.4%, and 13.4% respectively).
- Overall, students did not feel that alcohol made it easier to deal with stress (only 34.9% agreeing with the statement), nor did they feel that it made food taste better (with 16.6% agreeing with the statement).
- Overall, OSU students responded similarly to students nationally regarding their social views of alcohol. However, nationally, students were slightly more likely to agree that alcohol allows people to have more fun and that it facilitates peer connections, female bonding and sexual opportunities.

Table 18.0: Social Views of Alcohol: 2000 compared to 1999 National Data

Alcohol has the following social & sexual effects...	2000 OSU (n=482)	1999 National (n=65,033)
Breaks the ice	73.2	74.0
Enhances social activity	72.8	72.8
Gives people something to do.	72.4	69.3
Gives people something to talk about	62.0	62.6
Facilitates male bonding.	57.5	56.8
Allows people to have more fun.	55.2	58.2
Facilitates sexual opportunities.	54.7	56.5
Facilitates peer connections	53.6	56.5
Facilitates female bonding.	40.8	43.4
Makes it easier to deal with stress	34.9	*
Makes women sexier.	25.6	24.3
Makes food taste better.	16.6	*
Makes men sexier.	14.4	14.6
Makes me sexier.	13.4	14.0

* Data missing from National Summary.

A third area pertaining to the perceptions of alcohol on campus is regarding the groups in which alcohol serves as a central part of their social life. (See Table 19.0 for responses from 1998 and 2000.)

- Over 90% of students believed that alcohol is a central part of the social life for male students, fraternities, and sororities.
- Over 80% believed that it is a central part for female students and 71% for athletes.
- Most noteworthy is the noticeable increases between the 1998 and the 2000 perceptions of the role of alcohol in the social lives of students. The perception that alcohol was central to the social life for female students saw the most drastic increase at 22.9%, followed by athletes at an increase of 14.3%, and male students at 12.1%.
- In addition, 39% of students thought that alcohol is a central part of the social life of alumni and 15.2% for faculty and staff.

Table 19.0: Students' Perceptions that Drinking is a Central Part of the Social Life for...? (2000 & 1998)

percent response	Male students	Female students	Athletes	Fraternities	Sororities	Faculty/ Staff	Alumni
1998 (n=289)	79.7	57.4	56.8	92.2	84.1	*	*
2000 (n=484)	91.8	80.3	71.1	94.1	90.1	15.2	39.0

* Data missing from the 1998 survey.

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APPENDICES

Appendix A

The Core Alcohol and Drug Survey

Appendix B

Respondent Demographics
Undergraduates - 2000

Class Rank	Frequency	Percent
Freshmen	88	18.2
Sophomore	112	23.2
Junior	118	24.4
Senior	162	33.5

Age	Frequency	Percent
17 and under	2	0.4
18 - 20	229	47.6
21 - 22	158	32.7
23 - 25	57	11.8
26 - 30	20	4.1
31 - 35	11	2.3
36 - 50	6	1.2

Ethnic Origin	Frequency	Percent
Am. Indian/ Alaskan Native	0	0.0
Hispanic	6	1.3
Asian/Pacific Islander	43	9.1
White (non-Hispanic)	378	79.9
Black (non-Hispanic)	31	6.6
Other	15	3.2

Gender	Frequency	Percent
Male	188	41.4
Female	266	58.6

Marital Status	Frequency	Percent
Single	457	94.4
Married	22	4.5
Separated	2	0.4
Divorced	3	0.6

Current Student Status	Frequency	Percent
Full-time	449	92.2
Part-time	38	7.8

Employment Status	Frequency	Percent
Full-time	50	10.4
Part-time	267	55.4
Not working	165	34.2

Residence Status	Frequency	Percent
On-Campus	127	29.1
Off-Campus	310	70.9

Current Residence	Frequency	Percent
House/apartment/ etc.	339	70.9
Residence Hall	120	25.1
Fraternity/ Sorority	16	3.3
Other	3	0.6