

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

CORE SURVEY RESULTS

2004

OFFICE OF STUDENT AFFAIRS ASSESSMENT

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

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INTRODUCTION

Alcohol and drug use continues to be a critical issue on college and university campuses across the nation. According to a 1989 study by the Carnegie Foundation, college presidents viewed alcohol as their number one campus life problem, which continues to resonate even today. Ultimately, in realizing the problem, these administrators have begun to find ways to address the issue. Speaking on behalf of a group of college presidents, Robert Carothers, President of the University of Rhode Island noted that, “in our view, student binge drinking and the many problems that arise from it are among the most serious threats faced by our nations’ institutions of higher education (The Higher Education Center for Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention, 1998). Former President of the University of Vermont, Dr. Judith Ramaley furthered this sentiment in stating, “underage drinking and excessive drinking have negative effects on everything we are trying to do as a university. They compromise the education environment, the safety of our students, the quality of life on campus, town/gown relationships, and our reputation” (National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, 2002). Further, in its 2002 report, the U.S. Surgeon General and the Department of Health and Human Services identified high-risk drinking among college students as a major health problem, another indicator of the seriousness of alcohol abuse among college youth.

In an effort to address the alcohol abuse phenomenon, a number of colleges and universities are clamping down by implementing stricter zero-tolerance policies and increasing arrest rates for offenders. According to J.L. Nicklin, (2000), alcohol arrests rose 24.3% due to tougher enforcement and changes in reporting guidelines. Further, the United States Congress also joined the ranks of those attempting crack down on underage drinking and drug use; in 1998, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act was amended to state that, in the case of underage alcohol and substance arrests, the university now reserves the right to notify parents of the actions of their child.

It is wholly acknowledged that while numerous efforts have been made to reduce alcohol abuse, it still remains as the number one health risks to college students. Moreover, the 2001 Harvard College Alcohol Study found that, despite numerous prevention efforts, the national rate for alcohol abuse and binge drinking among college students had remained virtually unchanged at 44%. The Harvard Study was further supported by The Chronicle of Higher Education’s study that surmised that even with a noted drop in the drinking habits of high school students, an increase in students living in alcohol-free housing, diminishing numbers of members within fraternities and sororities and the efforts of universities to educate students about the risks associated with drinking, the level of reported binge drinking has gone unchanged (April 2002).

The effects of high-risk drinking on the college student population are well documented. In a study initiated by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (2002), it was estimated that more than 1,400 college students between the ages of 18 and 24 perish each year from alcohol related injuries. In addition, Henry Weschler (1995) notes that binge drinking is associated with unplanned and unsafe sexual activity, physical and

sexual assault, unintentional injuries, criminal victimization, interpersonal problems, physical and cognitive impairment, poor academic performance, automobile crash fatalities, and suicide, as found in his study on binge drinking on American college campuses. Students are not the only group affected by the problem: universities have been faced with paying significant costs in insurance increases, property damage, health services, and heightened security. This has been evidenced at universities such as Penn State, Ohio University and The Ohio State University, where students have taken advantage of their perceived “right to party” (Reisberg) and resorted to episodes of destructive behavior that has been widely linked to alcohol use and abuse.

College binge drinking is a complex health, social and educational dilemma. 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. The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism surmised, “the tradition of drinking has developed into a kind of culture—beliefs and customs—entrenched in every level of college students’ environments. Customs handed down through generations of college drinkers reinforce students’ expectation that alcohol is a necessary ingredient for social success. These beliefs and the expectations they engender exert a powerful influence over students’ behavior toward alcohol” (2002). Hence, student who binge drink tend to think they represent the norm and argue that they are just doing what is accepted on campus. As a result, they do not believe they have a problem; sadly, this means that they fail to seek a solution.

Another emerging trend regarding alcohol use is in the increasing levels of high-risk drinking among women. Binge drinking used to be primarily associated with men, however several studies indicate a significant increase in the percentage of college women drinking in excess. With the changing gender norms also come changes in women’s drinking behavior. The female population is 15 times more likely to begin using alcohol by age 15 than their mothers were and 4 times more likely to begin drinking by the age of 16 (Jershild, 2002).

In addition to alcohol abuse, marijuana use by college students across the nation increased nearly 22% from 1993 to 1999 as noted in a study by the Harvard University School of Public Health. The use of illicit drugs other than marijuana rose nearly 21% among college students during the same time period (Yachnin, 2000). 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).

The Ohio-State University dedicates time and resources toward alcohol and other drug use primarily through its comprehensive prevention plan to address the use and abuse of alcohol and other drugs, which is led by the OSU Student Wellness Center. This plan blends individual and environmental programs through collaboration with the diverse resources of the campus and community. OSU strives to build a safer, healthier campus

by nurturing academic and social development through: 1) student assistance for alcohol and other drug problems, 2) alcohol and other drug prevention education, 3) involvement of faculty and students 4) prevention-oriented policies, 5) a late night programming initiative, 6) social norms marketing campaigns, 7) property owners, beverage distributors, and campus collaborations, and 8) assessment activities.

One of the most successful educational initiatives put forth by the Student Wellness Center targets first-year students. Through the First Year Success Series, Student Wellness staff and volunteers reached over 3000 first-year students through a variety of educational sessions during the fall of 2002. Through this initiative, along with parental involvement and summer orientation efforts, first-year students received consistent messages regarding responsible alcohol use.

Methodology

Behaviors regarding drug and alcohol usage have been shown to differ between students based on demographic characteristics. For that reason, comparisons were made to determine the comparability of the OSU survey samples across years of administration, OSU population, and national survey sample proportions based on gender, ethnicity, class rank, on or off-campus residence, and age. The results are provided in Table 00:01 to 00:05 below, a summary of the differences for each of the three comparison is made below.

Comparison of OSU samples 2000, 2002, 2004

The samples from OSU were found to be statistically similar based on gender, ethnicity, dorm/non-dorm resident, and class rank, and age in each of the three years of administration. The only exception to this is that, in the 2004 sample, the percentage of students over the age of 21 (60.5% 21 and over in 2004 compared to 52.0% in 2000 and 50.6% in 2002) was higher than in previous years.

Comparison of OSU sample and OSU population

The only difference of concern between the students completing the survey and the overall population of undergraduates at OSU is the proportion of respondents based on gender. With the proportion of females completing the survey being nearly 10% higher than the overall student population. To compensate for this difference, this report provides information by gender where appropriate.

Comparison of OSU sample and national sample

Differences between the OSU sample and the national comparative information provided by CORE were found with regard to age and class rank. The sample completing the survey at OSU is markedly different from the national sample in that 45.5% of OSU students are under 21 compared to 60.3% of the national comparative sample. Because of this, when making comparisons to the national data, the OSU sample will be weighted by age to correspond to the national data. This weighting will be used only during such comparisons, and will not be used elsewhere in the report.

Table 00:01 Gender

	2000	2002	2004	OSU TOTAL	OSU POPULATION	NATIONAL SAMPLE
GENDER	(450)	(424)	(455)	(1329)	(35,157)	(54,367)
Male	41.3%	42.7%	43.5%	42.5%	52.0%	38.3%
Female	58.7%	57.3%	56.5%	57.5%	48.0%	61.7%

Table 00:02 Ethnicity

	2000	2002	2004	OSU TOTAL	OSU POPULATION	NATIONAL SAMPLE
ETHNICITY	(466)	(443)	(479)	(1388)	(35,157)	(54,367)
American Indian/AK Native	0.0%	0.2%	0.0%	0.1%	0.4%	0.8%
Hispanic	1.3%	1.8%	2.1%	1.7%	2.2%	4.6%
Asian/Pacific Islander	9.0%	7.2%	7.9%	8.1%	5.6%	5.2%
White non-Hispanic	79.8%	80.8%	79.5%	80.0%	77.6%	79.3%
Black non-Hispanic	6.7%	8.1%	6.9%	7.2%	8.2%	6.5%
Other	3.2%	1.8%	3.5%	2.9%	6.0%	3.6%

Table 00:03 Class Rank

	2000	2002	2004	OSU TOTAL	OSU POPULATION	NATIONAL SAMPLE
CLASS RANK	(480)	(450)	(488)	(1418)	(35,157)	(54,367)
Freshman	18.3%	18.2%	17.4%	18.0%	14.8%	33.5%
Sophomore	23.3%	21.6%	17.4%	20.7%	20.6%	24.3%
Junior	24.6%	26.2%	23.0%	24.5%	22.6%	21.4%
Senior	33.8%	34.0%	42.2%	36.7%	42.0%	20.8%

Table 00:04 Residence

	2000	2002	2004	OSU TOTAL	OSU POPULATION	NATIONAL SAMPLE
RESIDENCE	(430)	(414)	(448)	(1292)	(35,157)	(54,367)
ON CAMPUS	29.3%	31.2%	29.9%	30.1%		54.7%
OFF CAMPUS	70.7%	68.8%	70.1%	69.9%		45.3%

Table 00:05 Age

	2000	2002	2004	OSU TOTAL	OSU POPULATION	NATIONAL SAMPLE
AGE	(477)	(447)	(484)	(1408)	(35,157)	(54,367)
UNDER 21	48.0%	49.4%	39.5%	45.5%	44.4%	60.0%
21 OR OVER	52.0%	50.6%	60.5%	54.5%	55.6%	40.0%

FINDINGS

Patterns of Drug and Alcohol Use

General alcohol usage is included in this section of the report, however, because it is far more prevalent than other drugs on campus, more detailed findings on alcohol usage are found in the proceeding Alcohol Usage section of the report.

Trend in Alcohol and Drug Usage

Three measures are used to determine the prevalence of usage, these include whether a student reports ever having used a drug, whether they used it in the last year, and whether they used it in the last 30 days. Students were asked about their usage of twelve different substances, including alcohol and an 'other' category. Although usage of most substances remained similar over the four-year period,

- Statistically significant decreases were found on all three measures for both tobacco use and the use of hallucinogens.
- The most notable decrease is in the use of tobacco, which shows a nine to ten percent drop in usage according to each of the three measures. In addition, the percentage of students who report using tobacco every day dropped from 10.6% in 2000 to 8.3% in 2004.
- The number of students who report having ever used hallucinogens dropped from 16.0% in 2000 to 9.1% in 2004.
- The number of students who report ever having used inhalants dropped from 7.3% in 2000, 2.3% in 2004.
- Statistically significant decreases are shown on one or more of the three measures for marijuana, inhalants, and designer drugs.
- Alcohol is the only substance that shows increased usage on all three measures, although the differences were not found to be statistically significant.

Substance	Ever Used				Used in Last Year				Used in Last 30 Days			
	2000	2002	2004	Change '00-'04	2000	2002	2004	Change '00-'04	2000	2002	2004	Change '00-'04
Tobacco	63.7%	58.4%	54.3%	-9.4%*	49.9%	44.2%	39.5%	-10.4%*	36.8%	32.2%	27.8%	-9%*
Alcohol	89.5%	91.3%	91.4%	1.9%	86.1%	89.2%	88.9%	2.8%	76.6%	81.3%	80.1%	3.5%
Marijuana	52.0%	50.4%	47.5%	-4.5%	34.4%	35.4%	30.6%	-3.8%	19.1%	16.7%	13.9%	-5.2%*
Cocaine	9.4%	6.4%	8.4%	-1.0%	5.2%	3.8%	4.5%	-0.7%	2.4%	1.6%	1.9%	-0.5%
Amphetamines	17.8%	16.3%	13.8%	-4.0%	7.4%	9.2%	5.4%	-2.0%	4.3%	5.9%	2.1%	-2.2%
Sedatives	7.2%	6.0%	6.6%	-0.6%	3.2%	3.6%	3.3%	0.1%	0.6%	1.1%	1.2%	0.6%
Hallucinogens	16.0%	9.4%	9.1%	-6.9%*	6.5%	2.7%	3.1%	-3.4%*	1.9%	0.7%	0.2%	-1.7%*
Opiates	3.3%	2.2%	1.9%	-1.4%	1.1%	1.6%	0.6%	-0.5%	0.6%	0.2%	0.2%	-0.4%
Inhalants	7.3%	6.2%	2.3%	-5%*	2.3%	1.6%	0.8%	-1.5%	0.2%	0.9%	0.0%	-0.2%
Designer drugs	14.0%	11.3%	10.3%	-3.7%	10.9%	6.1%	2.9%	-8%*	3.0%	2.0%	0.8%	-2.2%*
Steroids	0.6%	0.4%	0.8%	0.2%	0.0%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Other	5.1%	2.7%	3.5%	-1.6%	2.5%	2.0%	2.3%	-0.2%	0.4%	0.7%	0.4%	0.0%

* Indicates that the difference between '00 and '04 data is significant at $p < .05$

Demographic differences in alcohol and drug usage

Demographic groups based on age, gender, ethnicity, on/off campus residence and class rank were compared based on reported drug and alcohol usage. While no significant differences were found based on age or class rank, the following section describes the differences that were observed with relation to ethnicity, on/off campus residence and gender.

Drug and Alcohol Usage: Ethnicity

There were statistically significant differences found between ethnic groups and reported drug usage. [Table 01:03](#) displays the frequency of responses to whether or not a substance was used in the last 30 days. Results for the other two measures of usage (whether or not students had ever used or used the substance in the last year) depict similar patterns.

Overall, Asian and black students report lower usage of all drugs, and significantly lower usage of tobacco, alcohol, marijuana, and amphetamines than both White and Hispanic students. Following are specific examples of these differences:

- The percentage of black students who report using tobacco in the last 30 days, 14.1%, was less than half of what it was for white students, 34.7%.
- The percentage of Asian students reporting using alcohol in the last 30 days, 53.2%, was less than for white students, 84.7%.
- Although the small number of Hispanic respondents needs to be considered in interpreting results (n=24), Hispanic respondents report the highest levels of marijuana usage, 29.2% and amphetamine usage, 16.7%, compared to 16.5% and 4.0% in the overall population.

Table 01:03 Drug and Alcohol Use in Last 30 Days

Substance	Used in Last 30 Days				
	Hispanic	Asian/ Pacific Islander	White	Black	Overall
n	24	110	1097	99	1369
Tobacco*	33.3%	20.0%	34.7%	14.1%	32.4%
Alcohol*	70.8%	53.2%	84.7%	62.0%	79.8%
Marijuana*	29.2%	4.5%	17.8%	13.3%	16.5%
Cocaine	4.2%	0.9%	2.3%	0.0%	2.0%
Amphetamines*	16.7%	0.0%	4.2%	2.0%	4.0%
Sedatives	0.0%	0.0%	1.3%	0.0%	1.0%
Hallucinogens	4.2%	0.0%	1.0%	0.0%	0.9%
Opiates	0.0%	0.9%	0.3%	0.0%	0.3%
Inhalants	0.0%	0.0%	0.5%	0.0%	0.4%
Designer drugs	4.2%	0.9%	2.1%	1.0%	1.9%
Steroids	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Other	4.2%	0.9%	0.4%	1.0%	0.5%

* Indicates groups show statistically significant differences $p < .05$

Drug and Alcohol Usage: Age and On/Off Campus Residence.

The analysis of residence includes only students under 21, because the number of students aged 21 and over residing on campus is not sufficient for comparison. Based on this analysis, tobacco is the only substance that shows significantly higher usage by students living off campus. Findings indicate that, for students under 21 years old:

- 27.4% of on campus students report using tobacco in the last 30 days, compared to 36.3% of off campus students.
- 4.7% of on campus students report using tobacco daily compared to 9.7% of off campus students.

Drug and Alcohol Usage: Gender

The most notable finding based on gender is that women show a significantly higher rate of amphetamine usage. The differences in likelihood that they have ever used amphetamines (19.5% of women, 11.4% of men), used them in the last year (9.2% of women, 4.8% of men), or used them in the last 30 days (5.5% of women, 2.2% of men) are all significantly higher than the percentage of men.

The only other finding of statistical significance based on gender is that women are more likely to have ever used alcohol (61.2% of women, 56.5% of men) although the likelihood that they used it in the past year or past 30 days is the same as men.

National Comparison of Drug and Alcohol Usage

The comparison to national information is based on the 2002 OSU sample because that is the most recent national data available. OSU data is weighted in this comparison so that it is comparable based on the students' age categories of 20 and under, and 21 and over to match the national sample. Findings indicate that:

- A lower percentage of OSU students report using almost all drugs with the exception of alcohol and amphetamines. OSU students report significantly lower levels for use of marijuana, cocaine, sedatives, hallucinogens, and designer drugs than is reported nationally. ([Table 01:04](#))
- OSU has a significantly higher rate of alcohol usage based on how many students report using in the last year (88.7% compared to 85.2%) and how many students have used alcohol in the last month (80.5% compared to 73.4%)
- The percentage of OSU students reporting using amphetamines is higher than the national rate, with 6.4% reporting having used them in the past 30 days, compared to 5.1% nationally.

Table 01:04 Drug and Alcohol Use Compared to National 2002

Substance	Used in Last Year			Used in Last Year		
	OSU 2002*	National 2002	Difference	OSU 2002*	National 2002	Difference
n						
Tobacco	43.4%	43.3%	0.1%	31.8%	31.7%	0.1%
Alcohol	88.7%	85.2%	3.5%*	80.5%	73.4%	7.1%*
Marijuana	36.2%	35.7%	0.5%	17.4%	20.7%	-3.3%*
Cocaine	4.1%	5.5%	-1.4%*	1.8%	2.5%	-0.7%*
Amphetamines	9.1%	9.3%	-0.2%	6.4%	5.1%	1.3%*
Sedatives	3.6%	4.7%	-1.1%*	1.4%	2.3%	-0.9%*
Hallucinogens	2.3%	5.2%	-2.9%*	0.9%	1.4%	-0.5%
Opiates	1.8%	1.8%	0.0%	0.5%	0.8%	-0.3%
Inhalants	1.8%	1.7%	0.1%	0.9%	0.8%	0.1%
Designer drugs	5.9%	7.7%	-1.8%*	2.3%	2.1%	0.2%
Steroids	0.0%	0.8%	-0.8%	0.0%	0.6%	-0.6%
Other	1.8%	2.5%	-0.7%	0.9%	1.1%	-0.2%

OSU data weighted to match national sample based on age

*Chi-square test run against national average indicates significance at $p < .05$

Patterns of Alcohol Use

Alcohol is, by far, the most commonly used drug on campus. This section further elaborates on the extent of alcohol usage on campus both in terms of the prevalence of usage (whether a student ever used alcohol, used in the last year, or used in the last month) and in terms of the quantity of alcohol used (how often students binge drink, how many drinks they average per week).

Prevalence of Alcohol Use

The prevalence of alcohol use is examined from the following four perspectives.

1. Trend in usage is looked at over the three administrations of the survey in 2000, 2002 and 2004.
2. Results are examined based on demographic characteristics of students.
3. Comparisons are made to the national survey data.

Trend Information

Although no statistically significant differences were found, it appears that the prevalence of alcohol has increased slightly both overall and within each of the demographic groups that were studied (gender, ethnicity, class rank, and residence), the only exception to this is sophomores, who show a slight decrease in usage. Although none of the findings are statistically significant, it may be that there is an increase but that the sample sizes are not adequate to verify them statistically.

Table 01:02 Alcohol Prevalence Four Year Trend By Group

Group	Ever Used Alcohol				Used in Last Year				Used in Last 30 Days			
	2000	2002	2004	Change	2000	2002	2004	Change	2000	2002	2004	Change
OVERALL	89.5%	91.3%	91.4%	1.9%	86.1%	89.2%	88.9%	2.8%	76.6%	81.3%	80.1%	3.5%
GENDER												
Male	88.1%	87.8%	89.8%	1.7%	83.7%	83.8%	85.2%	1.5%	76.6%	78.2%	79.4%	2.8%
Female	89.8%	94.2%	91.4%	1.6%	87.8%	91.4%	90.6%	2.8%	76.4%	83.7%	79.6%	3.2%
ETHNICITY												
White	93.5%	94.4%	94.2%	0.7%	91.6%	93.2%	91.8%	0.2%	82.7%	86.4%	84.9%	2.2%
Non-White	76.3%	80.0%	80.6%	4.3%	68.1%	73.8%	78.1%	10.0%	55.9%	63.1%	62.1%	6.2%
CLASS RANK												
Freshman	81.8%	84.1%	86.9%	5.1%	80.7%	83.8%	88.2%	7.5%	73.9%	74.1%	78.8%	4.9%
Sophomore	90.2%	89.7%	85.9%	-4.3%	86.5%	86.5%	83.3%	-3.2%	75.0%	77.9%	73.5%	-1.5%
Junior	91.4%	96.6%	92.9%	1.5%	89.0%	94.0%	90.0%	1.0%	78.3%	88.0%	78.9%	0.6%
Senior	92.0%	92.2%	94.6%	2.6%	86.7%	90.2%	90.8%	4.1%	78.1%	82.1%	83.9%	5.8%
RESIDENCE												
On Campus	86.4%	85.3%	91.0%	4.6%	84.8%	85.0%	89.6%	4.8%	73.4%	77.3%	78.4%	5.0%
Off Campus	91.1%	94.4%	91.4%	0.3%	87.4%	91.5%	88.4%	1.0%	78.9%	83.6%	81.2%	2.3%

*Significant differences between years for that group

Age of first alcohol use

The age at which students first use alcohol has not changed significantly during the three survey administrations. Table 01:03 displays the ages that students report having first used alcohol for each of the three survey administrations. The age of first use was found to be statistically different between years, Chi-square (12)=26.521, $p < .05$. It appears that, in 2002, the highest percentage of students had used alcohol before completing high school (16-17 age category), with 70.5% cumulative percent, whereas the 2004 sample shows the lowest cumulative percentage in that category at 62.8%.

Table 02:01: Age at First Alcohol Use, Cumulative Percentages by Year

AGE AT FIRST USE	2000	2002	2004
(N)	(428)	(410)	(444)
Under 10	1.6%	3.2%	2.0%
10-11	2.6%	4.6%	2.9%
12-13	13.1%	12.7%	10.8%
14-15	41.4%	37.8%	33.3%
16-17	67.8%	70.5%	62.8%
18-20	95.3%	98.0%	92.1%
21-25	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Demographic Differences

Using combined data collected in 2000, 2002 and 2004, significant differences in alcohol usage on all three measures are identified based on ethnicity and age. No differences were shown based on the demographic characteristics of Gender, Class Rank, and on or off-campus residence.

Differences found based on ethnicity and age include:

- White students have the highest likelihood of having used alcohol in the past 30 days, 84.7%, compared to Asians 53.2%, blacks, 62.0%, and Hispanics 70.8%.
- Asian students report the lowest percentages of alcohol usage on all three measurements.

Table 01:01 Alcohol Prevalence Group Comparisons

Group	Ever Used Alcohol		Used in Last Year		Used in Last 30 Days	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
OVERALL	1413	90.7%	1406	88.1%	1397	79.3%
GENDER						
Male	562	88.6%	559	84.3%	557	78.1%
Female	764	91.8%	759	90.5%	752	79.8%
ETHNICITY*						
White	1107	94.0%	1102	92.2%	1095	84.7%
Hispanic	24	95.8%	24	87.5%	24	70.8%
Asian/Pac Islander	112	71.4%	110	64.5%	109	53.2%
Black	99	84.8%	100	81.0%	100	62.0%
Other	40	75.0%	39	69.2%	38	68.4%
CLASS RANK						
Freshman	254	84.3%	253	84.2%	254	75.6%
Sophomore	294	88.8%	291	85.6%	286	75.5%
Junior	345	93.6%	345	91.0%	341	81.8%
Senior	520	93.1%	517	89.4%	516	81.6%
RESIDENCE						
On Campus	387	87.6%	386	86.5%	386	76.4%
Off Campus	901	92.2%	895	89.1%	886	81.2%
AGE*						
Under 21	639	87.6%	636	86.2%	631	75.3%
21 or over	764	93.3%	760	89.7%	756	82.7%

*Significant differences between groups on all three measures

Comparison to National Data

The comparison to national information is based on the 2002 OSU sample because that is the most recent national data available. OSU data is weighted in this comparison so that it is comparable based on the students' age categories of 20 and under, and 21 and over. Findings indicate that OSU has a significantly higher rate of alcohol usage based on how many students report using in the last year (88.7% compared to 85.2%) and how many students have used alcohol in the last month (80.5% compared to 73.4%). Currently national data on prevalence of alcohol usage is not available based on gender, ethnicity, class rank, residence, or age.

Quantity of Alcohol Consumed

While the vast majority of students have used alcohol to some extent, the quantity consumed differs greatly between students. As an example of this difference, it was found that approximately 25% of the students consume over 75% of the total alcohol. In addition to the overall quantity of alcohol students consume, binge drinking is of particular concern because of the risk involved both from the alcohol itself, and the resulting impairment in judgment.

Trend Information

There is a significant overall increase in the number of students reporting that they participated in binge drinking during the previous two weeks between the 2000 (44.5%) and 2002 (52.8%) survey administrations. However, no significant increase was shown from 2002 (52.8%) to 2004 (53.9%).

The rate of frequent binge drinking does not appear to have increased between any of the survey administrations. While the number of students reporting binge drinking one or two times in the last two weeks increased from 22.5% to 28.5% in 2002, and 32.3% in 2004, the number of students reporting three or more episodes of binge drinking has remained relatively unchanged at 21-25% each year.

Trend information within demographic groups indicates that the following four specific groups show a significant increase in rate of participation in binge drinking from 2000 to 2004, in each case the largest increase was shown between 2000 and 2002.

- Asian/Pacific Islanders increased from 9.5% to 31.6%
- White students increased from 51.1% to 58.8%
- Students aged 20 and under increased from 42.8% to 55.5%
- Female students increased from 39.4% to 50.2%

Table 03:02 Trend in Binge Drinking by Group

	2000	2002	2004	Difference '00-'04
OVERALL	44.5	52.8	53.9	9.4
ETHNICITY				
Hispanic	33.3%	50.0%	50.0%	16.7%
Asian/Pacific Islander	9.5%	25.8%	31.6%	22.1%
White	51.1%	58.1%	58.8%	7.7%
Black	23.3%	33.3%	39.4%	16.1%
RESIDENCE				
On Campus	44.0%	55.5%	54.5%	10.5%
Off Campus	45.1%	52.3%	51.9%	6.8%
AGE				
20 and under	42.8%	49.8%	55.5%	12.7%
21 and over	45.3%	55.6%	52.9%	7.6%
CLASS RANK				
freshman	42.0%	50.6%	54.1%	12.1%
sophomore	44.6%	50.5%	51.8%	7.2%
junior	53.8%	59.8%	56.3%	2.5%
senior	38.9%	50.0%	53.4%	14.5%
GENDER*				0.0%
Male	50.0%	55.9%	58.1%	8.1%
Female	39.4%	50.8%	50.2%	10.8%

Demographic Differences

In this section, quantity of alcohol used by students is described using four different measurements based on survey response. These four measures are: 1) Percentage of students binge drinking in the last two weeks 2) Percentage of students in the top 25% based on consumption per week. 3) Mean number of drinks consumed per week. 4) Median drinks consumed per week. Overall findings indicate that there are not significant differences based on age, residence or class rank. Findings do indicate significant differences on all four measures based on Ethnicity and Gender. Following are examples of these differences, and findings can be seen in [Table 03:01](#).

- White and Hispanic students drink significantly more than Asian/Pacific Islander and Black students.
 - Whites and Hispanics have a median of four drinks per week compared to a median of zero drinks for Asian/Pacific Islanders and Blacks.
 - 56.0% of Whites and 45.8% of Hispanics report participating in binge drinking in the last two weeks compared to 21.6% of Asian/Pacific Islanders and 32.3% of Blacks.
 - Only 9.3% of Blacks and 5.4% of Hispanics drink enough to be in the top twenty-five percent of students based on alcohol consumption.
- Men drink significantly more than women.
 - 54.7% of men report participating in binge drinking in the last two weeks compared to 46.7% of women.
 - 32.9% of men are in the top twenty-five percent in terms of alcohol consumption compared to 20.3% of women.

Table 03:01 Quantity of Alcohol Use by Demographic Group

	n	Top 25% of all students in alcohol consumption	Binge Drinking in Last two weeks	Mean Drinks/week	Median Drinks/week
ETHNICITY*					
Hispanic	23	33.3%	45.8%	6.3	4.0
Asian/Pacific Islander	112	5.4%	21.6%	2.2	0.0
White	1104	29.4%	56.0%	7.0	4.0
Black	97	9.3%	32.3%	3.0	0.0
RESIDENCE					
On Campus	388	23.7%	51.7%	6.0	2.0
Off Campus	895	26.1%	49.7%	6.3	3.0
AGE					
20 and under	636	25.5%	49.0%	6.1	2.0
21 and over	762	25.7%	51.2%	6.4	3.0
CLASS RANK					
Freshman	253	23.7%	48.8%	6.0	3.0
Sophomore	293	26.6%	48.6%	6.3	3.0
Junior	343	28.0%	46.6%	7.1	3.0
Senior	519	24.5%	47.9%	5.8	2.0
GENDER*					
Male	562	32.9%	54.7%	8.4	3.5
Female	758	20.3%	46.7%	4.6	2.0

* Statistically significant differences found between groups on all four measures.

Comparison to National Data

In comparing OSU usage to the national data, information is available from CORE based on student class rank and gender regarding the average number of drinks per week. No statistical differences were found between OSU and the national sample.

Outcomes of Drug and Alcohol Use

Prevalence of Alcohol Use and Outcomes

Information from the survey regarding alcohol use and cumulative grade point average indicates that students who have never used alcohol perform significantly better in the classroom with 43.8% of this group having an A or A- average compared to 27.7% of students who have used alcohol [Table 01:03]. For students who have used alcohol, no significant difference in performance as found based on whether or not they had used in the last 30 days, or in the last year, however significant differences are found with regard to the quantity of alcohol that they consume.

Table 01:03 Alcohol Use And Academic Performance

Alcohol Usage	Self Reported Cumulative GPA				n
	D+ or Below	C- to C+	B- to B+	A- to A	
*Ever used					
Never Used	0.0%	10.9%	45.3%	43.8%	128
Have Used	0.8%	20.0%	51.4%	27.7%	1247
Total	0.7%	19.2%	50.8%	29.2%	1375
Usage in last year for students who have ever used alcohol					
Not used in last year	0.0%	16.7%	52.4%	31.0%	42
Used in last year	0.8%	20.2%	51.3%	27.7%	1196
Total ever used	0.8%	20.0%	51.4%	27.8%	1238
Usage in last 30 days for students who have ever used alcohol					
Not Used in last 30 days	1.9%	22.4%	50.9%	24.8%	161
Used in last 30 days	0.7%	19.9%	51.4%	28.1%	1073
Total ever used	0.8%	20.2%	51.3%	27.7%	1234

*Difference in GPA significant at $p < .05$, Chi-Square(3)=8.744.

Quantity of Alcohol Use and Outcomes

Students who consume the highest level of alcohol report significantly higher levels of experiencing negative outcomes in all topic covered by the survey, including academic, social, health and legal outcomes. Clear differences were found on these outcome measures based on whether students fell into the sixty percent of students who drink little or no alcohol (average 4 or less drinks/week), the twenty percent of moderate drinkers (average 5-10 drinks/week), or the 20 percent of heavy drinkers (average over 10 drinks per week).

The measure of average drinks per week was thought to be a better measure of overall alcohol behavior than binge drinking because binge drinking is only asked about relative to the prior two weeks rather than necessarily being a reflection of a long-term pattern of behavior.

Description of Frequent Drinkers

The top ten and top twenty percent of alcohol consumers on campus were examined based on survey responses to provide a description of these students based on demographic characteristics and campus activities. As described in this section, it was found that heavy drinkers are over-represented by white males and are more likely than other students to participate in intercollegiate athletics, intramural and club athletics and fraternities/sororities.

Demographics of High, Moderate and Light/None Drinkers:

In looking at the top ten or top twenty-five percent of alcohol consumers on campus, it can be seen that the demographics as well as binge drinking and drug usage behaviors of this group are distinctively different from the rest of the student body. For example:

- White males make up a disproportionately large percentage of the top twenty-five percent of consumers, representing 34.2% of the total respondents, and 49.4% of the heaviest users of alcohol.
- This finding is even more pronounced with the top ten percent of consumers, of which 65.9% are white males, compared to 34.2% of all respondents.
- Students in the top twenty-five percent of alcohol consumers participate in frequent binge drinking, with 77.2% of them reporting binge drinking three or more times in the last two weeks, as compared to 4.0% of the rest of students.
- Of the top ten percent of consumers, 94.3% report binge drinking three or more times in the last two weeks.
- Students in the top twenty-five percent of consumers are also significantly more likely to use drugs including tobacco, marijuana, cocaine, hallucinogens, and designer drugs.

Activities of High, Moderate and Light/No Drinkers

In looking at activities of students based on the quantity of alcohol they consume, it was found that:

- Moderate (11.5%) and heavy (10.4%) drinkers are significantly more likely to participate in intercollegiate athletics than light/none drinkers (6.3%).
- Heavy drinkers (55.8%) are more likely to participate in intramural or club sports than moderate (39.8%) light/none drinkers (36.7%).
- Heavy drinkers (11.6%) are significantly more likely to have a leadership position in intramural or club sports than moderate (5.8%) or light/none drinkers (3.8%).
- Heavy (16%) and moderate (14.4%) drinkers are more likely to have an active or leadership role in fraternities or sororities than light/none drinkers (7.5%).
- Heavy (9.0%) and moderate (9.5%) drinkers are less likely to have an active or leadership role in a religions group than light/none drinkers (20.4%).
- Heavy (6.2%) and moderate (11.0%) drinkers are less likely to be involved in minority/ethnic groups on campus (17.6%).
- Heavy and moderate drinkers are not significantly different in terms of their participation in social action groups, music and performing arts groups, or newspaper/radio/TV groups on campus.

Academic Outcomes

Students who consume the highest levels of alcohol report significantly lower grade point averages. They also report missing a significantly higher number of classes and getting lower test scores as a result of their alcohol or drug use.

Grades

Of the sixty percent of students who drink little or no alcohol, 34.1% report having a GPA equivalent to an A or A- average. This compares to only 23.5% of moderate drinkers and 21.2% of high-level drinkers.

Test Scores

Over half of high-level drinkers (51.8%) report earning a low test score as a result of drug or alcohol use, compared to only 12.9% of students who drink little or no alcohol report and 35.9% of moderate drinkers.

Missed Classes

While only 17.9% of low-level drinkers report ever missing a class due to drug or alcohol use, a majority of both moderate (52.5%) and high-level (78.2%). A majority of high-level drinkers report missing class three or more times due to drug or alcohol use (61.9%)

	Little or No Alcohol 0-4 drinks/week (60% of population)	Moderate Drinkers 5-10 drinks/week (20% of population)	High Level Drinkers 15+ per week (20% of population)
Grade Point Average			
A to A-	34.1%	23.5%	21.2%
B+ to B-	46.4%	59.2%	53.9%
C+ to C-	18.6%	16.6%	24.5%
D+ or below	0.9%	0.6%	0.4%
Poor test score because of alcohol or drugs			
Never	87.1%	64.1%	48.2%
Once or Twice	9.8%	27.2%	34.9%
Three or More Times	3.2%	8.8%	16.9%
Missed Class because of alcohol or drugs			
Never	82.1%	47.5%	21.8%
Once or Twice	10.2%	21.9%	16.2%
Three or More Times	7.7%	30.6%	61.9%

Social Outcomes

The heaviest drinkers report frequent, negative social outcomes as a result of drugs or alcohol. Negative social outcomes on this survey include getting into an argument or fight or being criticized by someone they know as a result of their use.

Arguments or Fights

The majority (69.7%) of heavy drinkers report having been involved in an argument or fight as a result of drinking, compared to 48.3% of moderate drinkers and 18.5% of little/no drinkers. Nearly one-third (32.3%) of heavy drinkers report three or more occurrences of being involved in arguments or fights, compared to 2.9% of little/no drinkers and 11.5% of moderate drinkers.

Criticism from Acquaintances

The majority (55.1%) of heavy drinkers report having been criticized by an acquaintance caused by their drug or alcohol use. This compares to 18.6% of little/no drinkers and 39.4% of moderate drinkers. In addition 16.1% of heavy drinkers have been criticized six or more times, compared to 5.9% of moderate and 1.9% of little/none drinkers.

Legal Outcomes

As would be expected, heavy drinkers are highly likely to participate in illegal activities when compared to students who drink less. This section reports the likelihood of high, moderate and little/no level drinkers to have reported participating in vandalism, had trouble with the police, or have driven while under the influence.

Damaging Property

Heavy drinkers report a significantly higher rate of having damaged property or falsely pulled a fire alarm, with 23.9% reporting having participated at least once. Only 8.4% of moderate drinkers and 2.1% of little/none drinkers report this behavior.

Trouble Involving Police, Residence Hall or other College Authority

While only 4.8% of little/no drinkers have had trouble involving authorities, 13.0% of moderate and 26.6% of heavy drinkers report this kind of problem.

Driven under the influence

The majority, 68.7%, of heavy drinkers report having driven while under the influence of drugs or alcohol at least once, and 16% of them report having done it ten or more times. This compares to 18.6% of little/none drinkers and 45.7% of moderate drinkers who drove, and 1.8% of little/none drinkers and 5.3% of moderate drinkers who drove ten or more times. In addition 2.4% of heavy drinkers report being arrested for DUI one or more times, compared to 0.3% of little/none drinkers and 1.2% of moderate drinkers.