

Students' Experiences and Attitudes Regarding Alcohol Use

Student and Parent Orientation Surveys 2000

Office of Residence Life
Report prepared by the Office of Student Affairs Assessment

Introduction

The Student and Parent Orientation Surveys, conducted by the Office of Residence Life, are geared toward assessing students and parents regarding students' experiences prior to coming to college and their expectations of their experiences at The Ohio State University. The surveys ask respondents about academics, activities, alcohol, diversity, and relationships. The Student Orientation Survey seeks feedback from students regarding their own behavior, previous experiences, and expectations for themselves and for the University. The Parent Orientation Survey, a parallel version of the student survey, asks for parents' perceptions of their son/daughter's behavior, previous experiences, and expectations for college.

The surveys were distributed during summer orientation. Students were asked to complete the survey during an evening session on residence life on the first day of the two-day event. This session was not mandatory but was highly encouraged for students who intended to live in the residence halls. During most orientation programs, this session attracted approximately 50% of students in attendance; during orientation programs for honors students, the percentage in attendance was as high as 75%. In total, 2,904 students responded to the survey, 52.3% of the 5556 incoming students who attended the two-day freshmen orientation program. Parents completed the surveys during a day-two session on residence life. During this time period, parents were given an option to attend a number of different informational sessions. A total of 1,221 parents completed surveys, approximately 19% of the 6,431 parents who attended summer orientation. Because of the nature of both sessions where data were collected, the responses and findings focus on experiences of students who would live in the residence halls their freshmen year and, hence, on traditionally aged students.

For organizational purposes, there are four mini-reports generated from the data of the surveys including reports on 1) Students' Academic Experiences and Expectations, 2) Students' Involvement Outside the Classroom and Students' Relationships with others, 3) Students' Experiences and Attitudes Regarding Alcohol Use, and 4) Students' Attitudes and Experiences Regarding Diversity. This report focuses on students' experiences and attitudes with respect regarding alcohol use. Comparisons are made between students' and parents' responses, between male and female students, and between students of various races/ethnicities.

Demographics

Of the 2,904 student respondents:

- 53.1% were female, and 46.9% were male
- 84.8% were white/non-Hispanic; 4.5%, Asian American; 6.6%, African American/black; 1.7%, Hispanic/Latino; 1%, multiracial; and less than 1%, other, American Indian, and Non U.S. Citizen/Permanent Residents

Of the 1,221 parent respondents:

- 64.5% were female, and 35.5% were male
- 53.6% were parents of daughters, and 46.4%, of sons.
- 87.5% were parents of white/non-Hispanic students; 4.2%, of Asian American students; 3.8%, of African American/black students; 1.9%, of Hispanic/Latino students; 1% of multiracial and “other” students; and less than 1% of American Indian and Non U.S. Citizen/Permanent Residents

Findings

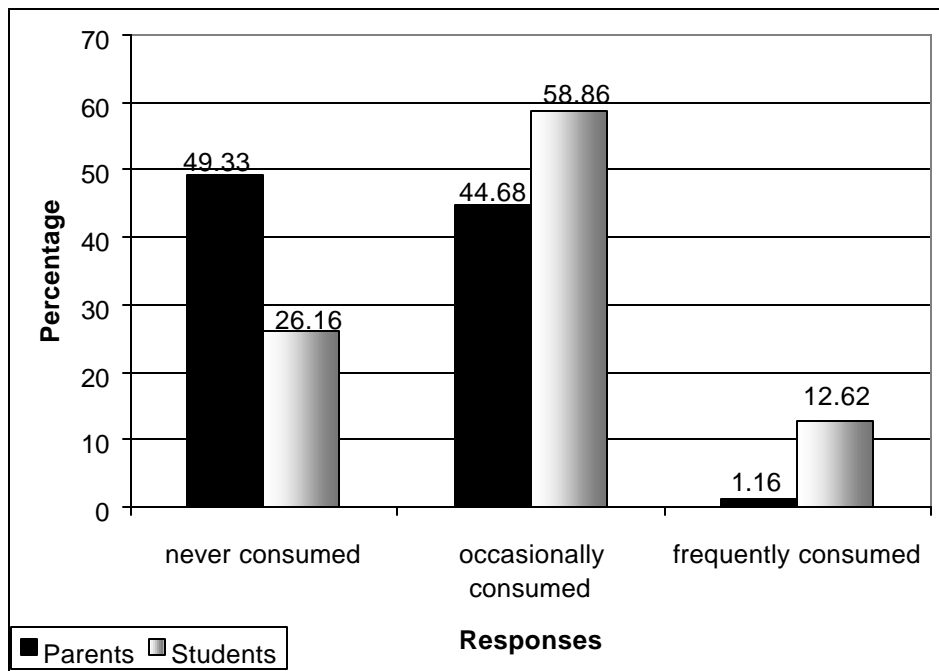
The report focuses on parents’ and students’ perspectives regarding students’ experiences and attitudes with respect to alcohol use. Comparisons are made between responses of parents and students, of male and female students, and of students of various races/ethnicities.

Comparisons between Parents and Students

With respect to the student’s alcohol use prior to coming to college, there was a large gap between parents’ responses and students’ responses.

- Almost half of the parents (49.33%) responded that their child never consumed alcohol, while only 26.16% of students said that they had “never consumed” alcohol before coming to college.
- Over 12% of students answered that they frequently consumed alcohol prior to coming to college compared to only 1.16% of parents who thought their child frequently consumed alcohol. (See Chart 1.0)

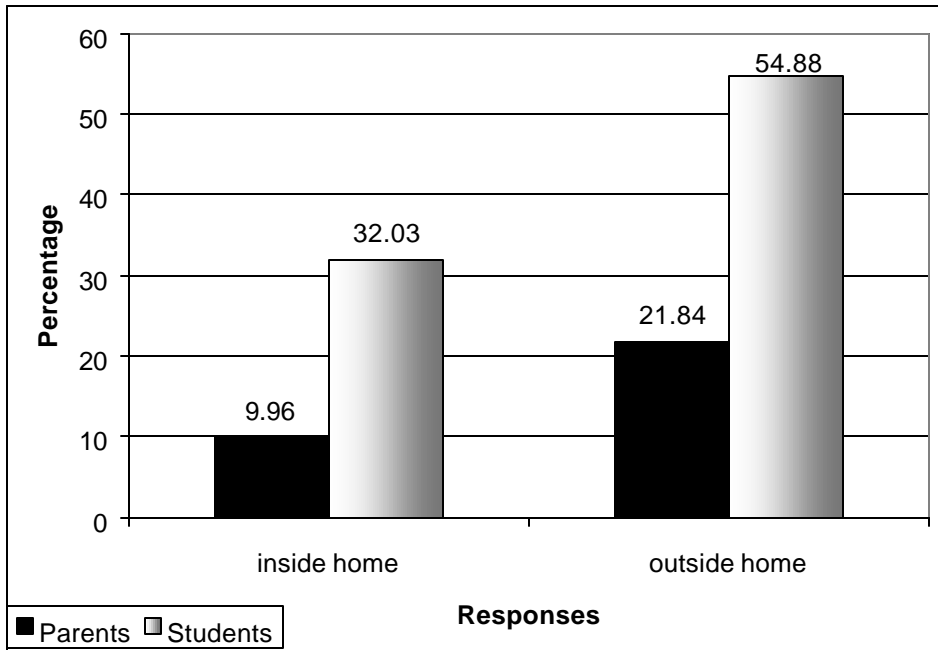
Chart 1.0: With respect to the student's alcohol use prior to coming to college, he/she...: BY PARENTS AND STUDENTS



Because almost half of parents responded that their child did not consume alcohol prior to coming to college, fewer parents responded to questions regarding where students drank, where or not it was under supervision and with whom they consumed alcohol compared to responses of students.

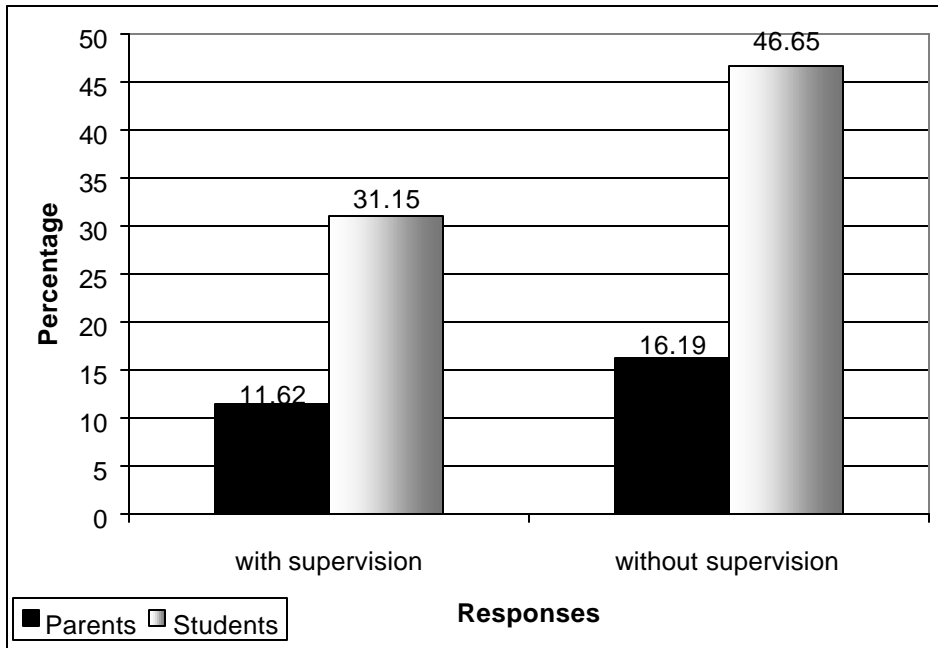
- Both parents (21.84%) and students (54.88%) answered that the student was more likely to consume alcohol outside his/her home than inside his/her home. (See Chart 1.1)

Chart 1.1: Where did the student consume alcohol? BY PARENTS AND STUDENTS (Responses account for those who responded that the student consumed alcohol prior to coming to college, 50.67% for parents and 73.84% for students)



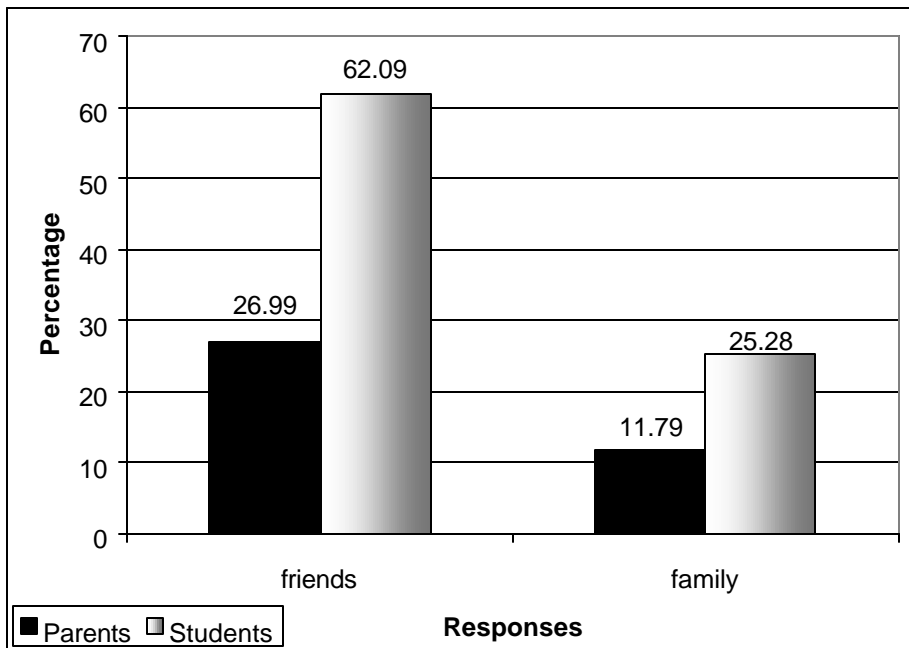
- Parents and students were more likely to respond that the student was not supervised when consuming alcohol prior to coming to college (compared to consuming alcohol with supervision). (See Chart 1.2)

Chart 1.2: Whether or not was the student under supervision when he/she consumed alcohol? BY PARENTS AND STUDENTS (Responses account for those who responded that the student consumed alcohol prior to coming to college, 50.67% for parents and 73.84% for students)



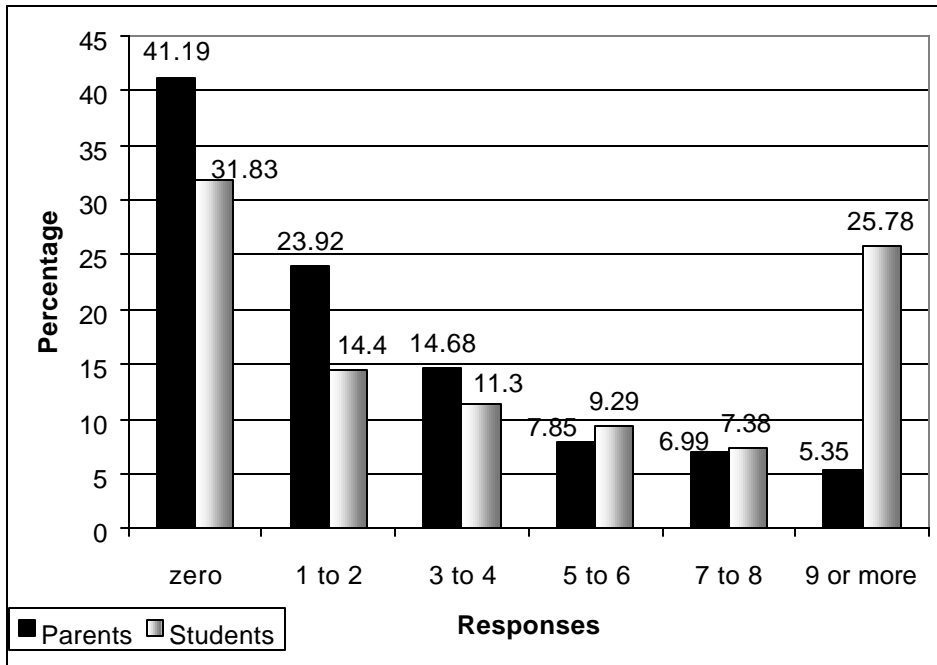
- Also, both parents and students responded that the student was more likely to consume alcohol with friends rather than with family. (See Chart 1.3)

Chart 1.3: With whom did the student consume alcohol? BY PARENTS AND STUDENTS (Responses account for those who responded that the student consumed alcohol prior to coming to college, 50.67% for parents and 73.84% for students)



- Over 41% of parents and almost 32% of students responded that the student would not drink alcohol during his/her first quarter on campus.
- Moreover, more students (25.78%) thought they would drink 9 or more alcoholic beverages each month during his/her first quarter on campus compared to 5.35% of parents who responded this way. (See Chart 1.4)

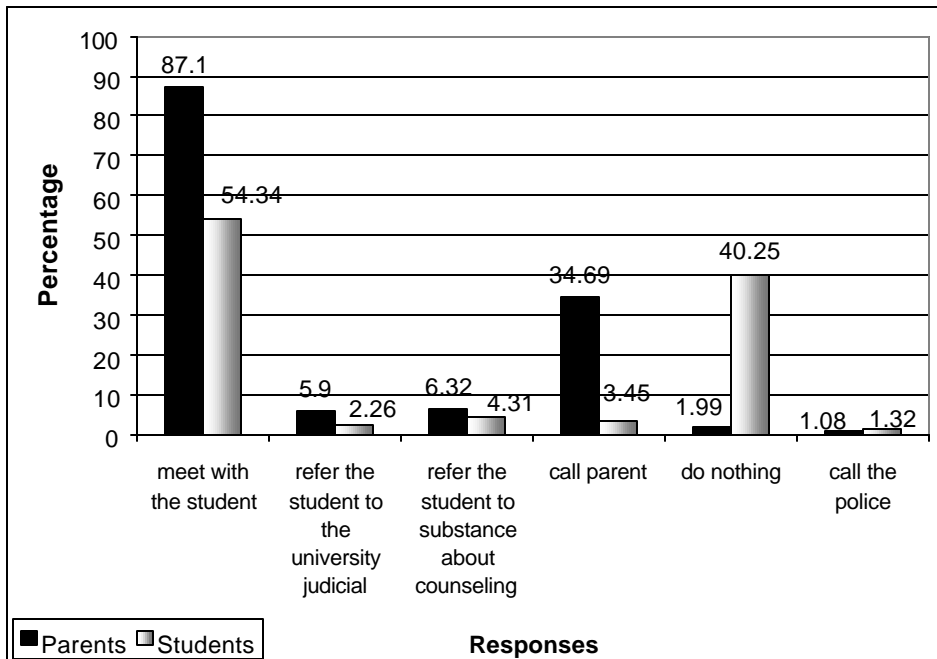
Chart 1.4: During the first quarter on campus, each month, how many alcoholic beverages is it believed the student will drink? BY PARENTS AND STUDENTS



When responding to what they hoped the residence life staff would do if the student were caught consuming or in possession of alcohol, parents responded quite differently from students.

- Most parents (87.1%) and a majority of students (54.34%) responded that they would like the residence life staff to meet with the student if the student was caught consuming or in possession of alcohol.
- More parents (34.69%) responded that they would like the residence life staff to call them if the staff member encountered their child consuming or in possession of alcohol than students (3.45%) who responded this way.
- In contrast, more students responded that they would like the residence life staff to do nothing if they were caught drinking or in possession of alcohol than did parents. (See Chart 1.5)

Chart 1.5: If caught consuming or in possession of alcohol, it is hoped that the residence life staff will....: BY PARENTS AND STUDENTS

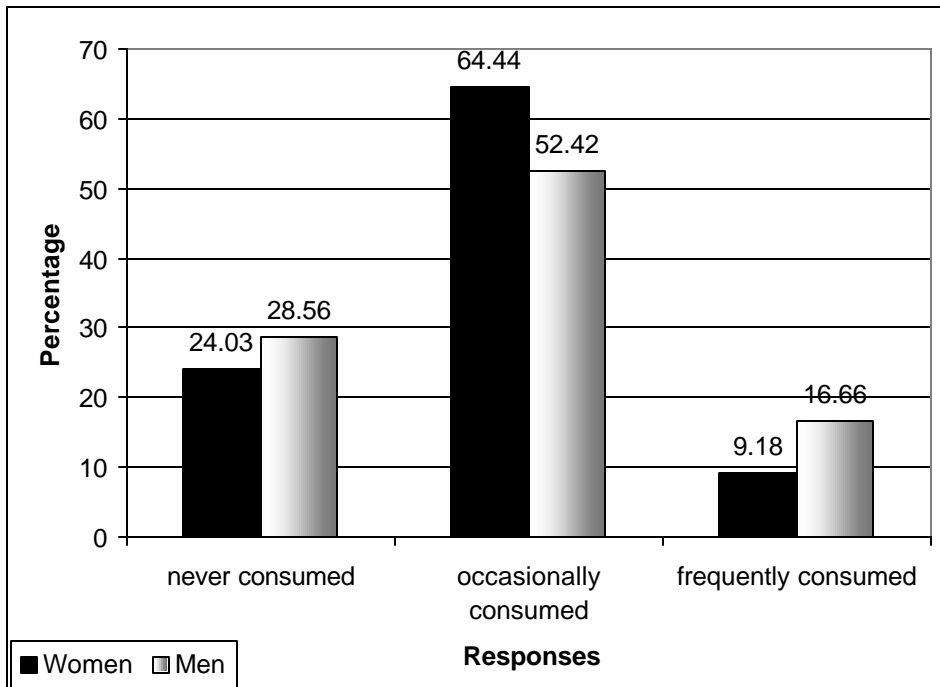


Comparisons between Female and Male Students

This section compares female students’ and male students’ responses regarding their experiences and attitudes with respect to alcohol use.

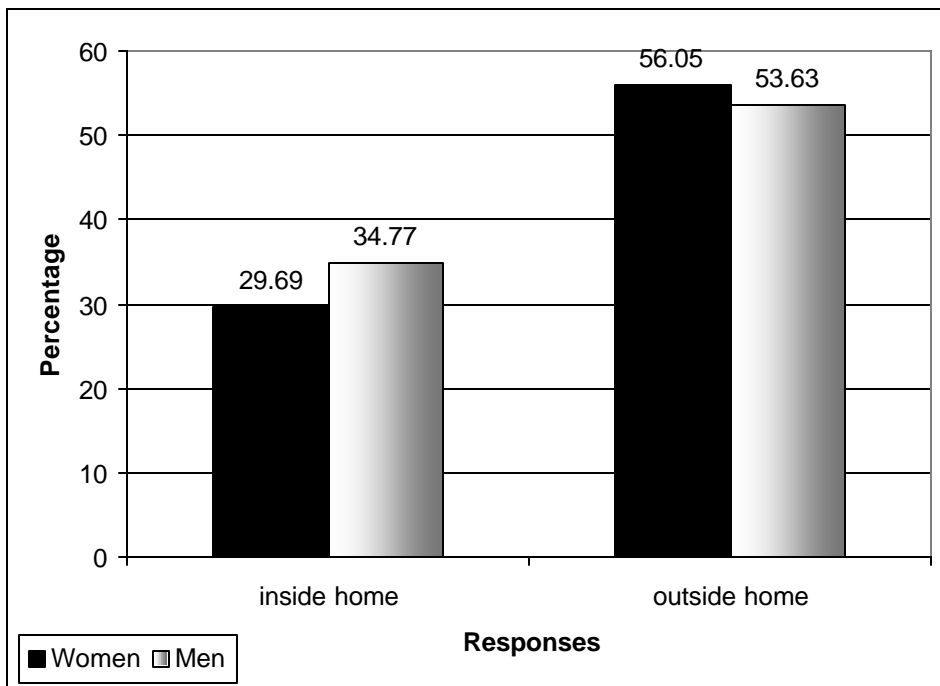
- Over 24% of women and over 28% of men revealed that they had never consumed alcohol prior to coming to college.
- In addition, more female students (64.44%) occasionally consumed alcohol prior to coming to college than male students (52.42%) did. However, more male students (16.66%) reported that they consumed alcohol frequently than did female students (9.18%). (See Chart 2.0)

Chart 2.0: With respect to my alcohol use prior to coming to college, you...: BY GENDER



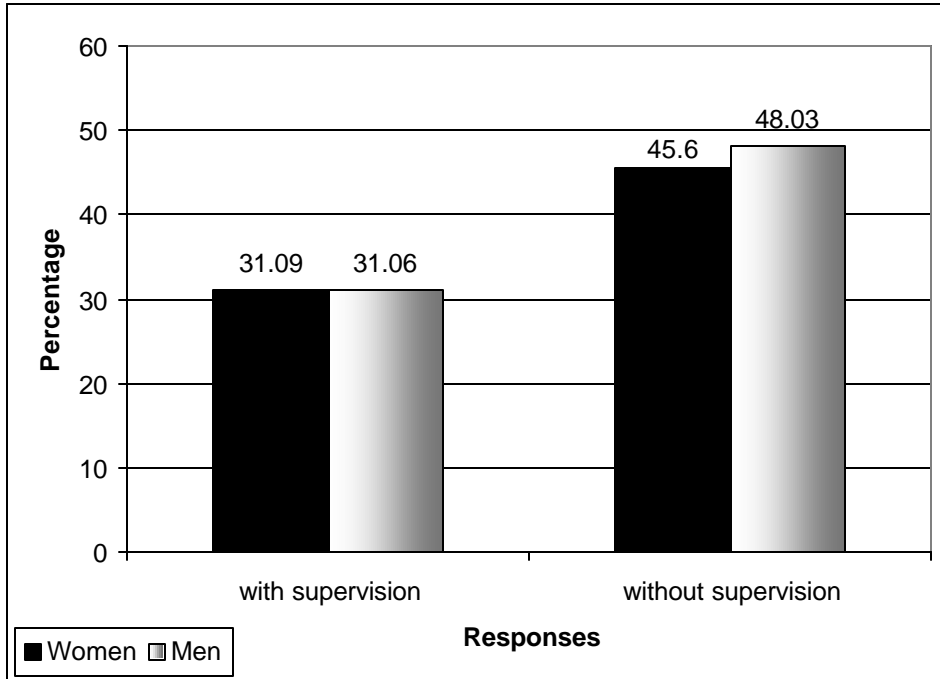
- Regarding where they consumed alcohol, the majority of students said “outside their home.”
- A slightly higher percentage of female students (56.05%) responded that they consumed alcohol outside their home than did male students (53.63%). (See Chart 2.1)

Chart 2.1: Where did you consume alcohol? BY GENDER (Responses account for those who responded they consumed alcohol prior to coming to college, 75.97% for female students and 71.44% for male students)



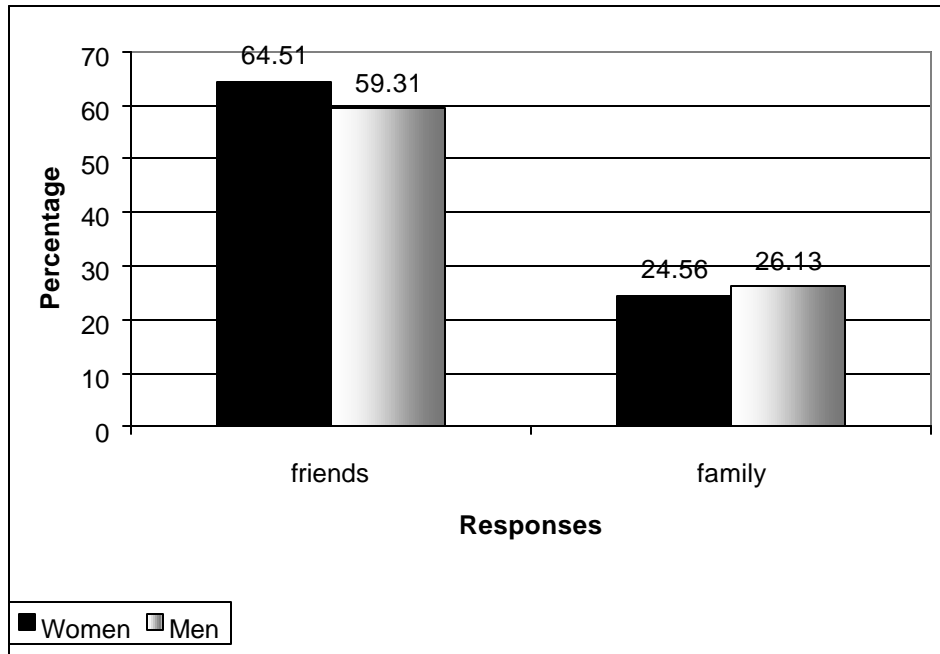
- Over 45% of students responded that they consumed alcohol without supervision prior to coming to college. More male students (48.03%) responded they were without supervision while consuming alcohol than did female students (45.6%). (See Chart 2.2)

Chart 2.2: Whether or not were you under supervision when you consumed alcohol? BY GENDER (Responses account for those who responded they consumed alcohol prior to coming to college, 75.97% for female students and 71.44% for male students)



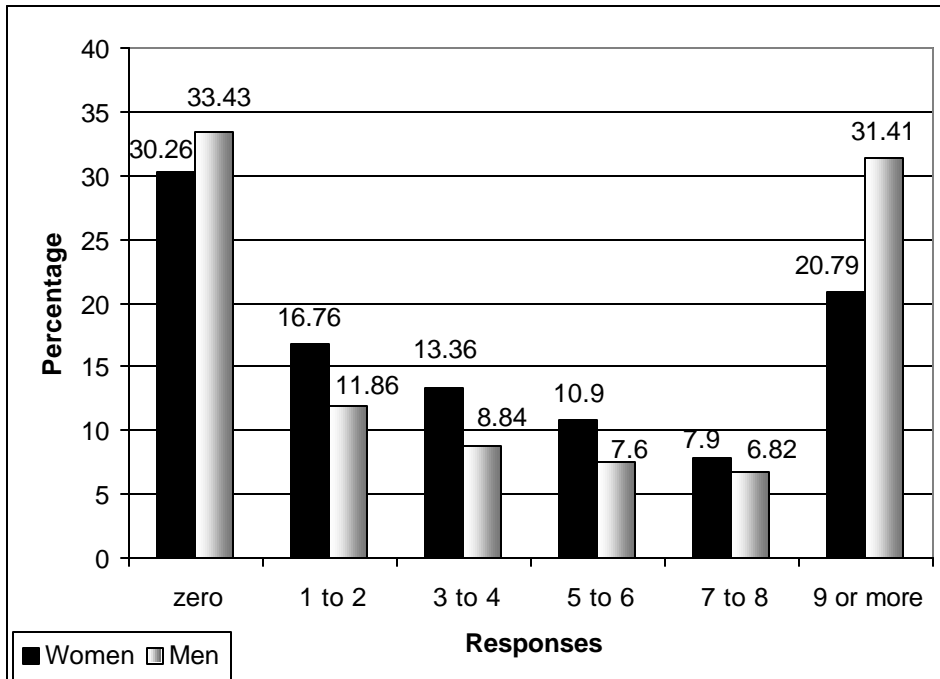
- More female students (64.51%) responded that they drank with their friends than male students (59.31) did. (See Chart 2.3)

Chart 2.3: With whom did you consume alcohol? BY GENDER (Responses account for those who responded they consumed alcohol prior to coming to college, 75.97% for female students and 71.44% for male students)



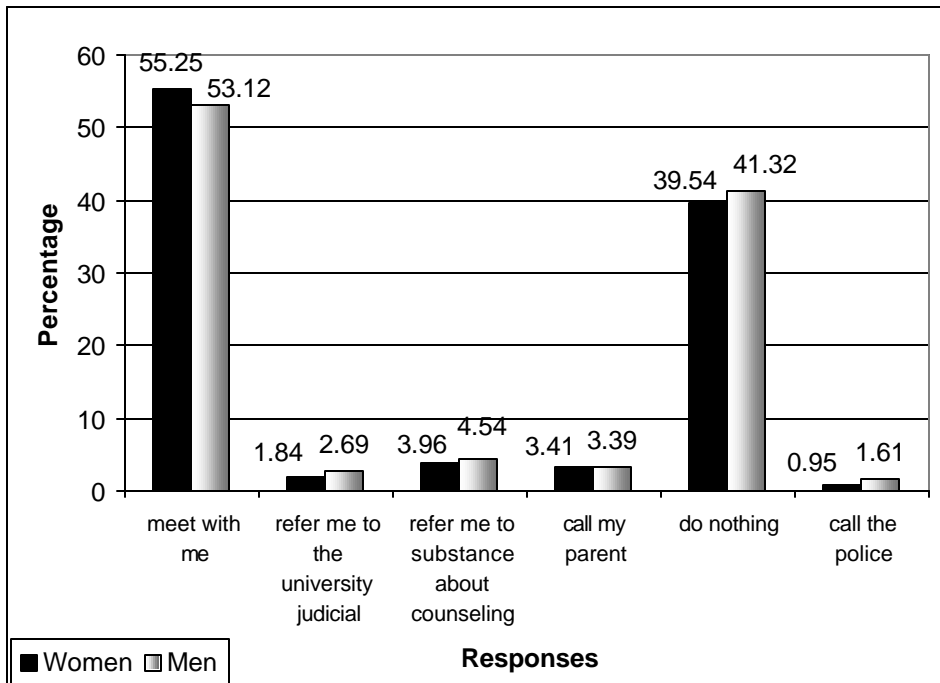
- More than 30% of female students and male students responded that they would not consume any alcoholic beverages during the first quarter of college.
- Almost 49% of female students believed they would consume between 1 and 8 alcoholic beverages compared to 35.12% of male students.
- However, more male students (31.41%) answered that they believed they would consume 9 or more alcoholic beverages than did female students (20.79%). (See Chart 2.4)

Chart 2.4: During the first quarter, each month, how many alcoholic beverages do you believe you will drink? BY GENDER



- If caught consuming or in possession of alcohol, most students hoped the residence life staff would either meet with them or do nothing. Thus, very few students wanted the staff to refer them to the university judicial process or to substance abuse counseling, or to call their parents or the police.
- More female students responded that they would like the staff to meet with them than male students, whereas more male students hoped that the staff would do nothing. (See Chart 2.5)

Chart 2.5: If caught consuming or in possession of alcohol, it is hoped that the staff will...: BY GENDER



Comparisons by Race/Ethnicity

This section examines the differences of the students’ responses regarding their experiences and attitudes with respect to alcohol use by race/ethnicity.

- More African American students (41.3%) responded that they never consumed alcohol prior to coming to college than any other group. Hispanic students reported the highest percent of alcohol use with only 10.2% responding that they had never consumed alcohol. (See Table 1.0)

Table 1.0: With respect to your alcohol use prior to coming to college, you...: BY RACE/ETHNICITY

Responses by percentage	American Indian n =5	African American n = 190	Asian American n = 129	Hispanic n = 50	White/ Caucasian n = 2429
Never consumed	40.00	41.30	37.60	10.20	24.64
Occasionally consumed	60.00	51.08	50.40	69.38	59.78
Frequently consumed	0.00	4.34	6.40	18.36	13.47

- Of all the racial groups, Hispanic students were most likely to report drinking at home. (See Table 1.1)

Table 1.1: Where did you consume alcohol? BY RACE/ETHNICITY (Responses account for those who responded they consumed alcohol prior to coming to college, 60% for American Indian students, 58.7% for African American students, 62.4% for Asian American students, 89.8% for Hispanic students, and 75.36% for white/Caucasian students)

Responses by percentage	American Indian n =5	African American n = 190	Asian American n = 129	Hispanic n = 50	White/ Caucasian n = 2429
Inside home	40.00	11.41	21.60	42.85	33.83
Outside home	40.00	30.43	46.20	59.18	57.68

- Hispanic students (57.14%) and white/Caucasian students (49.28%) were most likely to express that they consumed alcohol without supervision prior to coming to college compared to the other groups.
- Moreover, more white/Caucasian students (33.12%) and Hispanic students (30.61%) responded that they consumed alcohol with supervision than the other groups. (See Table 1.2)

Table 1.2: Whether or not were you under supervision when you consumed alcohol? BY RACE/ETHNICITY (Responses account for those who responded they consumed alcohol prior to coming to college, 60% for American Indian students, 58.7% for African American students, 62.4% for Asian American students, 89.8% for Hispanic students, and 75.36% for white/Caucasian students)

Responses by percentage	American Indian n =5	African American n = 190	Asian American n = 129	Hispanic n = 50	White/ Caucasian n = 2429
With supervision	20.00	11.41	20.80	30.61	33.12
Without supervision	20.00	20.65	36.00	57.14	49.28

- None of American Indian students responded that they consumed alcohol with their family.
- Hispanic students (at 30.61%) and white/Caucasian students (at 26.36%) were most likely to report drinking with family members compared to the other groups. (See Table 1.3)

Table 1.3: With whom did you consume alcohol? BY RACE/ETHNICITY (Responses account for those who responded they consumed alcohol prior to coming to college, 60% for American Indian students, 58.7% for African American students, 62.4% for Asian American students, 89.8% for Hispanic students, and 75.36% for white/Caucasian students)

Responses by percentage	American Indian n =5	African American n = 190	Asian American n = 129	Hispanic n = 50	White/ Caucasian n = 2429
With friends	60.00	41.84	48.00	75.51	64.44
With family	0.00	10.86	20.80	30.61	26.36

- More African American students (59.11%) and Asian American students (46.72%) believed that they would not drink alcoholic beverages during the first quarter compared to the other groups.
- Hispanic students' responses were the most diverse. Their responses fell relatively evenly into each category from zero to more than nine alcoholic beverage(s) (except for the category of seven to eight). (See Table 1.4)

Table 1.4: During the first quarter, each month, how many alcoholic beverages do you believe you will drink? BY RACE/ETHNICITY

Responses by percentage	American Indian n =5	African American n = 190	Asian American n = 129	Hispanic n = 50	White/ Caucasian n = 2429
Zero	25.00	59.11	46.72	17.39	28.85
One to two	75.00	19.88	13.11	19.56	14.04
Three to four	0.00	9.94	9.83	17.39	11.50
Five to six	0.00	7.18	9.01	17.39	9.27
Seven to eight	0.00	0.55	4.91	6.52	8.20
Nine or more	0.00	3.31	16.39	21.73	28.12

- More Hispanic students (8.16%) responded that they hoped the residence life staff would refer them to the university judicial process if caught consuming or in possession of alcohol than the other groups.
- A lower percentage of white/Caucasian students (3.71%) would prefer to be referred to substance abuse counseling compared to the other racial groups. (See Table 1.5)

Table 1.5: Chart 1.5: If caught consuming or in possession of alcohol, it is hoped that the staff will...: BY RACE/ETHNICITY

Responses by percentage	American Indian n =5	African American n = 190	Asian American n = 129	Hispanic n = 50	White/ Caucasian n = 2429
Meet with the student	60.00	55.74	54.16	44.89	54.48
Refer the student to the university judicial process	0.00	2.87	0.83	8.16	2.17
Refer the student to substance abuse counseling	20.00	8.62	6.66	6.12	3.71
Call parent	0.00	3.44	0.83	2.04	3.63
Do nothing	20.00	33.33	38.33	42.85	40.85
Call the police	0.00	2.29	0.83	0.00	1.36