4-18-2012

Student Involvement and Alcohol Consumption

Christopher M. Johnson
University of Dayton, stander@udayton.edu

Follow this and additional works at: http://ecommons.udayton.edu/stander_posters

Recommended Citation
Why?
High-risk alcohol consumption plagues many college campuses, including the University of Dayton. The 2001 Harvard School of Public Health College Alcohol Study suggests that participation in student activities such as student organizations and fraternities and sororities can impact students’ drinking habits. Previous studies on other campuses have had mixed results.

Research Question
Is there a correlation between student involvement and high-risk alcohol behavior?

Student Involvement Measures:
• Number of organizational memberships
• Number of leadership positions held
• Number of activities attended
• Time spent attending activities
• Learning/social outcome achievement
• Engagement in values congruence conversations
• Organizational Affiliations

High-risk Alcohol Behaviors:
• Binge Drinking (High-risk Consumption)
• Alcohol Dependence

Findings
High-risk alcohol consumption is considered a score of 4 or greater for women and a score of 5 or greater for men.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>Mean</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Campus Mean</td>
<td>5.67</td>
<td>4.53</td>
<td>4.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Values-Based Greek*</td>
<td>6.73</td>
<td>4.95</td>
<td>5.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious/Faith-Based*</td>
<td>3.83</td>
<td>3.04</td>
<td>3.28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*There was a statistically significant difference in consumption between the members and non-members of Values-Based Greek organizations and between members and non-members of Religious/Faith-Based organizations.

Findings
No statistically significant correlation was found between the following factors and high-risk alcohol consumption:
• Number of organizational memberships
• Number of leadership positions held
• Number of activities attended
• Time spent attending activities
• Learning/social outcome achievement
• Engagement in values congruence conversations

There was a strong, positive correlation between high-risk alcohol consumption and alcohol dependence.

Methods
• 3-part survey
• 126-question Student Activities Assessment by Educational Benchmarking, Inc.
• 10 Institution-Specific Questions
• 10-question World Health Organization Alcohol AUDIT
• Distributed to 3,276 ¾-time and full-time students
• Data was collected over 3 weeks in November and December, 2011.
• 377 surveys returned, 298 valid
• Statistical Procedures include correlations and comparisons of group means.

Demographics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class Standing</th>
<th>Seniors</th>
<th>Juniors</th>
<th>Juniors</th>
<th>Juniors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Males</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Females</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GPA</td>
<td>3.77</td>
<td>3.51</td>
<td>3.39</td>
<td>3.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Race</td>
<td>White</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusions
• Institution has a high level of alcohol consumption which may influence the lack of correlations between involvement and consumption.
• Students who are less satisfied with their experience consume less alcohol than those who are more satisfied.

Suggestions
• Further research into differences between students in Values-Based Greek organizations and Religious/Faith-based organizations
• Further research into how students find and define their peer groups.
• Further research into growing alcohol consumption each class year.
• Further research into the campus climate regarding satisfaction and rate of alcohol consumption.