

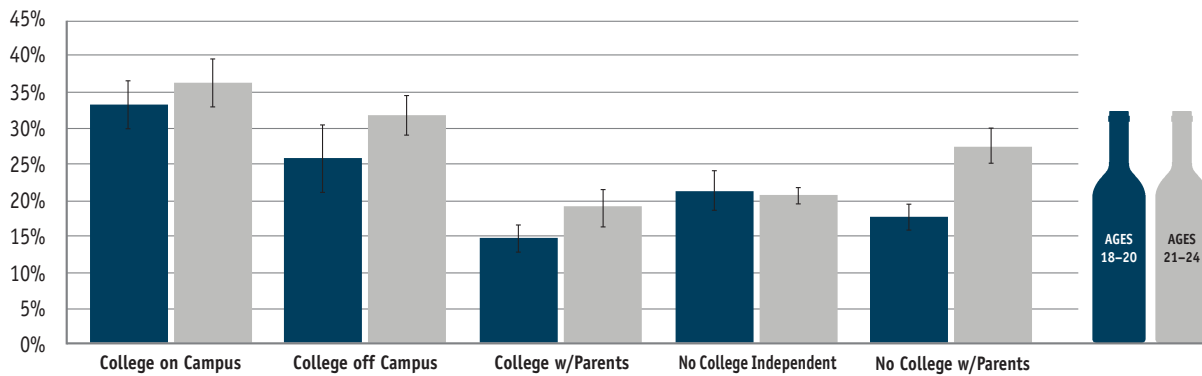
Collective Action Issue Brief #3:

DRINKING AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE CONCERNS AMONG COLLEGE STUDENTS

WHAT WE KNOW

Nationally, binge drinking (4 or more drinks in 2 hours for women, 5 or more for men) among young adults is one of the most prevalent and dangerous behaviors on college campuses. Binge drinking rates can vary depending on college enrollments and student living arrangements. The figure below shows that alcohol abuse is higher among young adults enrolled in college who live on campus or who live independently off campus than among college students living at home. College students who do not live at home have higher rates of binge drinking than young adults not enrolled in college, whether they live at home or independently.

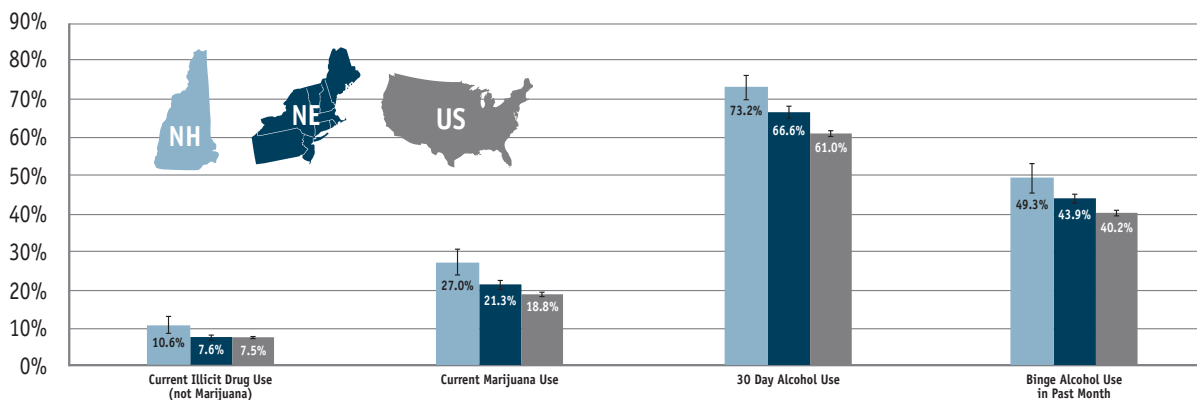
PREVALENCE OF BINGE DRINKING BY AGE, COLLEGE STATUS AND RESIDENCE: U.S. ADULTS 18–24



Source: National Epidemiologic Survey on Alcohol and Related Conditions, 2004–2005

Students are not just at risk for higher alcohol use, but for other drug use as well. Young adults in New Hampshire are more likely to use marijuana and other illegal drugs than other New Hampshire age groups. They also use these drugs at a higher rate than young adults in the Northeast region.

YOUNG ADULT SUBSTANCE ABUSE: NH - NORTHEAST - US



Source: 2011 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH)

WHY IT MATTERS

The consequences of excessive drinking and substance use affect virtually all college campuses, college communities, and college students. The statistics below help remind parents and others of the need to check with college students to talk about risks and to support their safety and well being.

HEALTH



Injury

599,000 students between the ages of 18 and 24 are unintentionally injured under the influence of alcohol.

15% of NH college students report being hurt while drinking, while 9% reported being transported to a hospital after drinking.

Alcohol Abuse and Dependence

31% of college students met criteria for a diagnosis of alcohol abuse and 6% for a diagnosis of alcohol dependence.

15% of NH college students think they may have an alcohol problem. 10% have tried to stop drinking.

Unsafe Sex

400,000 students between the ages of 18 and 24 had unprotected sex and more than 100,000 report having been too intoxicated to know if they consented to having sex.

24% of NH college students report having unprotected sex while drinking.

Health Problems/ Suicide Attempts

More than 150,000 students develop an alcohol-related health problem, and between 1.2 and 1.5% of all US college students indicate that they tried to commit suicide within the past year due to drinking or drug use.

8% of NH college students reported trying to commit suicide due to drinking, while 11% thought about committing suicide.

Death: 1,825 US college students between the ages of 18 and 24 die from alcohol-related unintentional injuries, including motor vehicle crashes.

CRIME



Assault

696,000 students between the ages of 18 and 24 are assaulted by another student who has been drinking.

10% of NH college students report hurting someone while drinking; 10% report making violent threats.

Sexual Abuse

97,000 students between the ages of 18 and 24 are victims of alcohol-related sexual assault or date rape.

About 9% of NH college students report taking advantage of someone sexually while drinking. 23% report being taken advantage of sexually.

Drunk Driving

3,360,000 students between the ages of 18 and 24 drive under the influence of alcohol.

12% of NH college students report driving drunk, with 8% reporting arrests for DWI. 21% reported riding in a car with someone who was driving drunk.

Police Involvement

About 5% of 4-year college students are involved with the police or campus security as a result of their drinking, and 110,000 students between the ages of 18 and 24 are arrested for an alcohol-related violation.

16% of NH college students report being in trouble with the police or authorities.

Vandalism: About 11% of NH college student drinkers report that they have damaged property while under the influence of alcohol.



COST

Academic Problems	About 25% of college students in NH report academic consequences from their drinking including missing class, falling behind, doing poorly on exams or papers, and receiving lower grades overall. With tuition rates in NH averaging \$14,576 per year for a 4-year public college and \$34,419 for a 4-year private college, negative impacts to academic performance can become very costly to parents and students.
Drop-Outs	Between 1/3 and 1/2 of all students leaving college leave due to alcohol related issues. As above, with the high cost of tuition and the cost of opportunities lost, students and families are paying a high price when students leave school from the negative consequences of alcohol or other drug abuse.
Loss of Financial Aid	For students who may use drugs, the financial consequences could be even more severe if they are convicted of a drug offense. According to federal regulations, students convicted of a drug offense that occurred during a period of enrollment while they were receiving Title IV Federal Financial Aid may lose eligibility for Federal Aid. This may include both grants and loans.
Property Damage	More than 25% of administrators from schools with relatively low drinking levels and over 50% from schools with high drinking levels say their campuses have a “moderate” or “major” problem with alcohol-related property damage.

WHAT WE CAN DO

Community institutions such as health clinics, businesses, local government, public safety, and others can help to address the risk behaviors among college populations through local media campaigns, student educational programs, mentoring programs, free and confidential screenings for college students, alcohol- and drug-free activities for young adults, strict adherence to liquor laws by restaurants and other alcohol licensees, and strong policy enforcement by colleges and employers with recovery supports made available.

Sources for Why It Matters

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WHERE TO FIND OUT MORE

YOUR STUDENT'S COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY:

- Website, Health Promotion Office, Health Services, Counseling Services

RESOURCES FOR COLLEGES:

New Hampshire Higher Education Alcohol and Other Drug Committee - www.nhheaod.org

National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism: College Drinking Changing the Culture: Parents
www.collegedrinkingprevention.gov/CollegeParents/Default.aspx

A Parent Handbook for Talking with College Students About Alcohol: A Compilation of Information from Parents, Students, and The Scientific Community. Turrisi, Ph.D., Rob. Prevention Research Center. The Pennsylvania State University. Tufts University. © 2010 CO Productions Ltd. Can be accessed at:
<http://ase.tufts.edu/healthed/documents/parentHandbook.pdf>

Higher Education Center for Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention - www.edc.org/hec

RESOURCES IN NEW HAMPSHIRE:

Technical Assistance for organizations, schools and businesses interested in prevention and early intervention best practices:
<http://www.nhcenterforexcellence.org>

Substance misuse policy and advocacy resources and training: <http://www.new-futures.org>

NH substance misuse information and educational materials: <http://www.drugfreenh.org>

NH Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Services: <http://www.dhhs.state.nh.us/dcbcs/bdas/>

Collective Action – Collective Impact state plan: <http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dcbcs/bdas/documents/collectiveaction.PDF>

GENERAL INFORMATION:

National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence - www.ncadd.org

Alcoholics Anonymous - www.alcoholics-anonymous.org

This issue brief was produced and disseminated by the New Hampshire Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Services, New Hampshire Center for Excellence and the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation and was developed in partnership with the New Hampshire Higher Education Alcohol and Other Drug (NHHEAOD) Committee.

