Data Dashboard
Summer 2015

Alcohol is the most common drug consumed by college students. Most Cal students who drink make safe choices and don't experience negative academic, physical or social consequences due to their drinking.

Don't underestimate or overestimate the scope and size of alcohol-related risks and consequences. Most, but not all are well-documented. They can be direct to the drinker or have second-hand impact on others. Negative consequences include death, injuries, sexual and physical assault, hangovers, black-outs, impaired academic performance, student attrition, driving under the influence, legal fines, property damage, vandalism, high risk sex, and dependence. Positive consequences may be social, emotional, physical or spiritual.

We draw on several national college drinking data sources as well as our own campus research statistics to inform and guide our policies, strategies and activities. Key data and facts are included here.

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• 40% of Berkeley students don’t drink
• 77% of Berkeley students who drink have four or fewer
• 22% of Berkeley students binge drink
• 95% of student drinkers use one or more personal risk management techniques.
  ▪ 45% alternate non-alcoholic with alcoholic beverages
  ▪ 69% keep track of how many drinks they consume
  ▪ 35% pace drinks to one per hour
  ▪ 35% set a limit in advance
• 60% of student drinkers do not experience negative consequences due to their drinking. However:
  ▪ 27% did something they later regretted
  ▪ 21% drove under the influence
  ▪ 12% had unprotected sex
  ▪ 8% injured themselves
• Among new student drinkers:
  ▪ 36% were nauseated or vomited
  ▪ 19% got into an argument
  ▪ 18% missed class or did poorly on an assignment
  ▪ 11% got in trouble with police or school authorities
• 53 alcohol emergency transports during fall 2014.
• 51% decrease in average number of alcohol emergency transports per weekend after the Inter-Fraternity Council banned hard alcohol in the common areas at parties in Nov 2014. Decrease even greater (69%) among transports of students from residence halls.
• 54 nuisance violations for loud, late parties in fall 2014 (vs. 84 in 2013).
• 46% of community members surveyed in south side neighborhoods in 2014 say their positive interactions with Berkeley students do not outweigh the adverse effects of late-night student noise, public intoxication and parties.

For more information, contact partysafe@berkeley.edu or (510) 643-9073.