



Underage Drinking and Drunk Driving Statistics Among College Students

Alcohol-related consequences for college students between the ages of 18-24ⁱ:

- **Death:** 1,700 die each year from alcohol-related unintentional injuries, including motor vehicle crashes
- **Injury:** 599,000 are unintentionally injured under the influence of alcohol
- **Assault:** More than 696,000 are assaulted by another student who has been drinking
- **Sexual Abuse:** More than 97,000 are victims of alcohol-related sexual assault or date rape
- **Unsafe Sex:** 400,000 have unprotected sex and more than 100,000 report having been too intoxicated to know if they consented to having sex
- **Academic Problems:** About 25 percent of students report academic consequences of their drinking including missing class, falling behind, doing poorly on exams or papers, and receiving lower grades overall
- **Health Problems/Suicide Attempts:** More than 150,000 develop an alcohol-related health problem
- **Drunk Driving:** 2.1 million drive under the influence of alcohol each year

Nearly half (48 percent) of all of the alcohol consumed by students attending 4-year colleges is consumed by underage students.ⁱⁱ

Over two out of every five of all college students are binge drinkers.^{iii,iv}

In 2001, approximately 44 percent of college students reported binge drinking, in a college survey. This percentage is almost identical to rates in three previous surveys.^v

College Alcohol Survey of four colleges indicated that binge-drinking levels are associated with ease of access to alcohol, price, special promotions, and outlet density in college communities.^{vi}

Students who attended schools with high rates of heavy drinking experienced a greater number of secondhand effects, including disruption of sleep or studies, property damage, and verbal, physical, or sexual violence.^{vii}

Drinking reduces the number of hours spent studying per day among college students. Each additional drink per occasion is associated with fifteen minutes less studying per day.^{viii}

Binge drinking is associated with lower grades among college students. Approximately five drinks per occasion are associated with a GPA lower by half a grade.^{ix}

Each additional drink consumed by college students per occasion increased the probability of missing a class by 8 percent and getting behind in school by 5 percent.^x

Approximately 6 percent of college students have been diagnosed as alcohol dependent and nearly one-third of students would be given an alcohol abuse diagnosis under psychiatric criteria. Approximately 44 percent of students reported at least one symptom of either abuse or dependence.^{xi}

One out of every four college students who drink report having forgotten where they were or what they did while drinking during the school year. The incidence of blackout was doubled (54 percent) among frequent binge drinkers.^{xii}

In 2001, 23 percent of underage college students reported obtaining alcohol from a parent or relative, up from 17 percent in 1993.^{xiii}

Four in every five college students drink and about half of these engage in heavy drinking.^{xiv}

Self-reported heavy drinking by college students has remained at approximately 44 percent for the past decade.^{xv}

Eighteen percent of US college students reported suffering from clinical significant alcohol-related problems in the past year, compared with 15 percent of their non-college-attending peers. College students were also more likely to be diagnosed as alcohol abusers than their non-college-attending peers.^{xvi}

Heavy-drinking college students not only place their own health at risk, but also they jeopardize the well-being of others. As many as 46 percent of the 4,553 people killed in 2001 in crashes involving 18–24-year-old drinking drivers are persons other than the drinking driver.^{xvii}

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<http://oas.samhsa.gov/NSDUH/2k5NSDUH/2k5results.htm#Ch3>
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