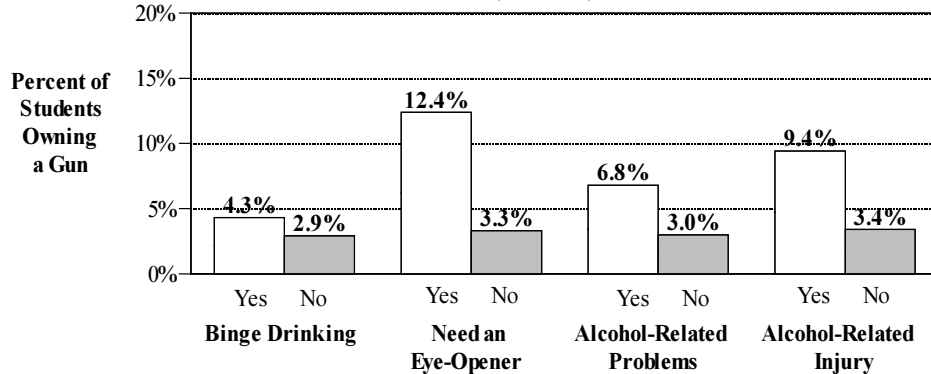


College Students With Serious Alcohol Problems More Likely to Own a Gun

College students with significant alcohol problems are far more likely to own a gun than students without alcohol problems, according to a new survey. The survey of more than 15,000 undergraduate students from 140 U.S. colleges reported that having a gun at college was positively associated with several serious alcohol-related behaviors. These behaviors included binge drinking, needing a drink first thing in the morning as an eye-opener, experiencing alcohol-related problems, and sustaining serious alcohol-related injury. These relationships held even when the study considered gender, region, and fraternity/sorority membership. However, the authors caution that these findings do not imply a causal relationship between gun ownership and alcohol problems. Rather, they suggest that “college gun owners are more likely than those who do not own guns to engage in activities that put themselves and others at risk for severe or life-threatening injuries” (p. 10).

**Percentage of College Students Who Own a Gun,
by Alcohol-Related Behaviors, 1997**

(n=15,685)



NOTES: Binge drinking is defined as having five or more drinks in a row in the previous two weeks.

Alcohol-related problems mean that a student reported experiencing at least one of the following: damaging property as a result of alcohol ingestion since the term began, being arrested for driving under the influence since the term began, or driving after binge drinking in the month before the survey.

All findings reported above were statistically significant ($p < .0001$).

SOURCES: Adapted by CESAR from data from Matthew Miller, David Hemenway, and Henry Wechsler, “Guns at College,” *Journal of American College Health* 48:7-12, July 1999. Available online at: <http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/cas>. For more information, contact Dr. Henry Wechsler at hwechsle@hsph.harvard.edu or 617-432-1137.