

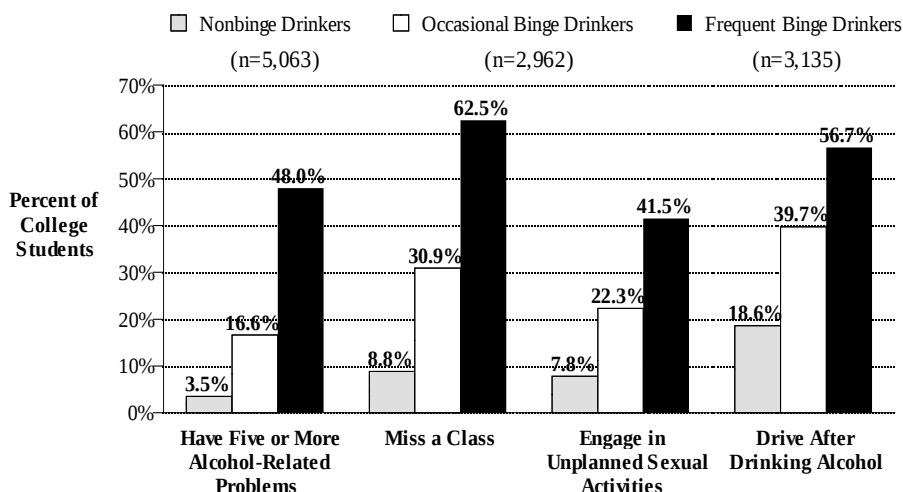
## A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

### *Binge Drinking College Students More Likely to Miss Class, Have Unplanned Sex, and Drink and Drive*

College students who binge drink are significantly more likely to report experiencing alcohol-related problems, such as missing a class or engaging in unplanned sexual activities, according to a 1999 survey of students at 4-year colleges across the U.S. Students who reported frequent binge drinking were most likely to report alcohol-related problems. Overall, 44% of college students reported binge drinking in the two weeks prior to the survey. These results are similar to those found in previous surveys in 1993 and 1997.

**Percentage of U.S. College Students Reporting Alcohol-Related Problems, by Level of Recent Binge Drinking, 1999**



**NOTES:** Binge drinking was defined as the consumption of 5 or more drinks in a row for men and 4 or more drinks in a row for women in the two weeks prior to the survey. Frequent binge drinking was defined as bingeing three or more times in the past 2 weeks; occasional binge drinkers were those students who had bingeed one or two times in the same period. Nonbinge drinkers were those students who had consumed alcohol in the past year, but had not bingeed in the previous 2 weeks. The national survey was a self-administered mail survey of a random sample of over 14,000 students at 119 nationally representative 4-year colleges in 39 states and the District of Columbia.

**SOURCE:** Wechsler, Henry, Jae Eun Lee, Meichun Kuo, & Hang Lee, "College Binge Drinking in the 1990s: A Continuing Problem, Results of the Harvard School of Public Health 1999 College Alcohol Study," *Journal of American College Health*, 48: 199-210, March 2000. Available online at [www.hsph.harvard.edu/cas](http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/cas).

### **April is Alcohol Awareness Month**

To learn about the causes, consequences, treatment, and prevention of alcoholism and alcohol-related problems, visit the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism's (NIAAA) website at <http://www.niaaa.nih.gov>.

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