

PREVENTION OF DUI AND ALCOHOL RELATED RISKS ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES

PRODUCED FOR

THE VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF CAMPUS LAW ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATORS

BY COLLECTIVE HEALTH IMPACT, LLC

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Studies confirm the benefit of incorporating enforcement interventions into programs in colleges and communities directed at alcohol use among young people.

Publicized and intensive enforcement of minimum drinking age and drinking and driving laws as part of campus programs have led to significant reductions of BAC drinking and driving among teenagers and young adults¹



Introduction

This report shares pertinent national, state and local research, web-available literature, and resource website information regarding public health and law enforcement concerns, prevention, and intervention strategies to address excessive alcohol use and driving under the influence (DUI) among community college and four-year college populations. Relevant findings from the existing national evidence base are highlighted and key considerations are introduced as background information for a project being undertaken by the Virginia Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators to develop an educational outreach campaign to reduce alcohol related crashes and DUI on college campuses.

This information will inform an emerging collaboration between campus law enforcement at four diverse Richmond, Virginia area campuses - J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College, Virginia Union University, Virginia Commonwealth University, and the University of Richmond—to develop and pilot a collaborative evidence-informed outreach and education strategy. This work will demonstrate to other campuses in Virginia that there is a unique added value of campus law enforcement in reducing high risk drinking and driving among college students.

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Collegiate Alcohol Use Is A Public Health Concern

Alcohol use is widespread among college age students. While perspectives differ on the extent and frequency of alcohol use among college students, we do know that underage drinking contributes to a wide range of costly public health problems², including:

Motor Vehicle Crashes (MVC)

MVC are the greatest single mortality risk for underage drinkers. Even with moderate alcohol drinking that may not violate BAC laws, there is significant risk of MVC. A four-year longitudinal study to compare drinking and driving before and after 21, found a 72% relative increase in driving after drinking in the 2 weeks after turning 21³.

Risky Sexual Activity, Sexual Violence, and Rape

Drinking in college at Greek houses, residence hall parties, and off campus parties, is associated with alcohol related sex with a stranger and all the concomitant public health risks. And most sexual assaults among undergraduate women occurred after women voluntarily consumed alcohol (more even than occurred after women had been given a drug without their knowledge or consent⁴).

Other Negative Consequences

Interpersonal violence (homicides, assaults); Suicide; Unintentional injuries, such as burns, falls, and drowning; Alcohol and drug poisoning; Brain impairment; Alcohol dependence (alcoholism); Academic problems

The younger college students were when first drunk, the more likely they are to develop alcohol dependence; drive after drinking; have an alcohol related injury; or have unplanned and unprotected sex after drinking⁵. Even non-drinking incoming college freshmen frequently experience **secondhand effects** of alcohol use (e.g. interruptions to sleep and study, having to take care of the drunk person, being inconvenienced by noise or vomit, being insulted or humiliated, having property damaged, or being a victim of assault or other crimes).⁶