



VENTURA COUNTY

PLACE OF LAST DRINK SURVEY



SPOTLIGHT

Driving Under the Influence: Students in College

Volume III

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**Ventura County
Behavioral Health**
ALCOHOL & DRUG PROGRAMS
PREVENTION SERVICES



SYNOPSIS

Most students in the DDP are attending local community colleges. Though a majority of students are between 21 and 25 years of age, underage drinkers make up 18 percent of the student participants. Almost half of students report their Place of Last drink as a bar, club, or restaurant, although a private residence is close behind. Almost two-thirds report binge drinking on the day of their arrest, and on average students report drinking 6 drinks on that day. Just over 1 in 5 students are stopped in counties outside of Ventura and 17 percent are involved in some type of crash when arrested. Property damage was the most common result of a crash, though over a third involved bodily injury. Where bodily injury occurred, injury to self was the most often reported outcome. Students tend to drink beer and mixed drinks/shots, and 1 in 10 indicates using other drugs prior to their arrest.

Among students, gender differences exist in drinking behaviors. Females are more likely to report their Place of Last Drink at a bar, club, or restaurant, whereas, males more often report a private residence. Even though rates of binge drinking are similar between females and males, males report drinking more heavily. However, females report higher BAC on average despite consuming two fewer drinks compared to males.

Compared to non-students, students in the DDP are more likely to report their Place of Last Drink in a bar, club, or restaurant and to drink in more than one location on the day of their DUI arrest. For those who reported their Place of Last Drink in a private residence, students are more likely to describe the situation as a house party, involving 10 or more people, and that persons under 21 are present when compared to non-students. It appears that students are more likely to report involvement in a crash and more likely to have injured themselves. Finally, students are also more likely than non-students to have used drugs on the day of their DUI arrest.

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN STUDENTS AND NON-STUDENTS

- **Students are more likely to report their Place of Last Drink in bar, club, or restaurant** (49.2%) compared to their non-student counterparts (44.8%) (*Figure 7*).
- **Students are less likely than non-students to report drinking beer** (57.6% vs. 61.6% respectively) and wine (8.4% vs. 11.4%). In contrast, students are more likely than non-students to report drinking mixed drinks or shots (57.0% vs. 44.2%).
- **More students report drinking elsewhere** prior to their Place of Last Drink than non-students (21.1% vs. 14.8%).
- **Non-students report a higher blood alcohol concentration** compared to students (.14 vs. .13).

Analyses were conducted to determine if circumstances around DUI arrests are different for college/university students (referred to as “students”) and those who are not students (referred to as “non-students”). The rate of students in the DDP has not changed over the last three years.

Demographically, students and non-students appear to be somewhat different from one another. Students tend to be younger than non-students, as might be expected. The average age of a student DDP participant is 26 years, while it is 36 for non-students; constituting a 10-year difference. Students are more likely to be female (33.3%) compared to non-students (24.1%). Also, students are less likely to be Latino (28.1%) than non-students (37.7%).

Despite differences in demographic variables, students and non-students appear to drink in similar ways. They do not differ in terms of the number of drinks they consumed the day of their arrest. Students drank, on average, 6.3 drinks and non-students drank 6.4 drinks². Additionally, binge drinking is reported at similar rates (64.4% for students, 64.2% for non-students).

However, *where* they drink and *what* they drink is different.

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COLLEGE STUDENTS IN DRINKING DRIVER PROGRAM

From May 2005 to January 2008, 5,947 Place of Last Drink surveys were collected from participants of Ventura County's Drinking Driver Program (DDP), a mandatory alcohol and drug education program for persons convicted of driving under the influence. Of those participants, 14 percent (n = 832) report that they attend a college or university. Over half of these students attend community colleges in Ventura County, either at Moorpark College (23.3%) or Ventura College (20.9%) and Oxnard College (9.6%). The next most commonly mentioned colleges or universities include California State University Northridge (4.6%), California State University Channel Islands (4.2%), and California Lutheran (4.2%).

Two-thirds of the students in the DDP are male and the average student age is 26 years old. Though most students in the DDP program are 21 to 25 (46.5%), 18% are under the legal drinking age, between 18 and 20 years old (Figure 1). Most students are White (58.2%) or Latino (28.1%).

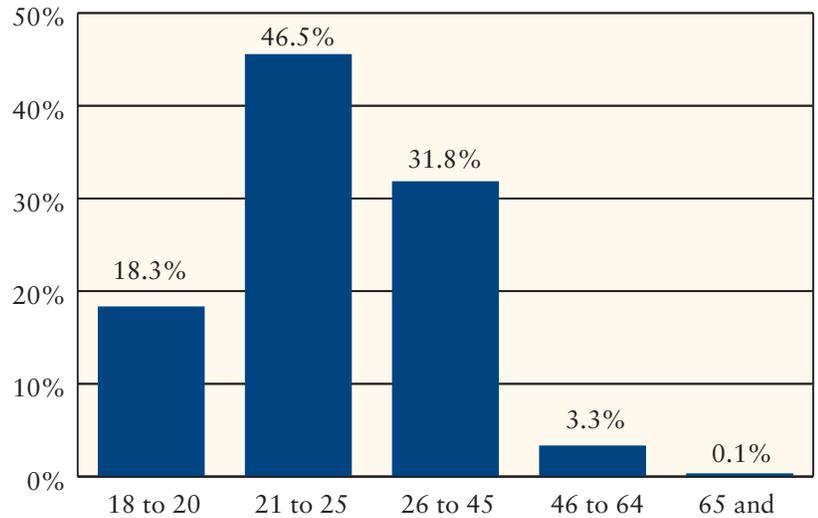


Figure 1. Age Distribution of Student in DDP

STUDENT DRINKING PRIOR TO DUI

Nearly 50 percent of the students report that their Place of Last Drink prior to their DUI arrest was at a bar, club, or restaurant, followed closely by a private residence (41.6%) (Figure 2). Of those students whose Place of Last Drink was a private residence, many indicate that there were more than 10 persons present in the residence (45.4%), that it was a “house party” (44.1%), and over half report that underage persons were at the residence (53.6%). When the Place of Last Drink was a bar, club, or restaurant, 12 percent indicate that the establishment had special drink promotions.

Almost two-thirds of the students report binge drinking on the day of their arrest (64.4%). The average number of drinks consumed was 6.3, ranging from 1 to 30¹. In fact, **1 in 5 students report drinking 10 or more drinks the night of their arrest (Figure 3).**

The most commonly reported type of drinks consumed on the day of their arrest by students in the DDP is beer (57.6%) or mixed drinks/shots of liquor (57.0%). A small minority of students report drinking wine (8.4%) on the day of their arrest. Additionally, 1 in 10 students (10.2%) report using other drugs prior to their arrest.

¹Reports of 31 or more drinks (N=2) were considered outliers and excluded from calculation of the average number of drinks by students.

Figure 2. Place of Last Drink as Reported by Students

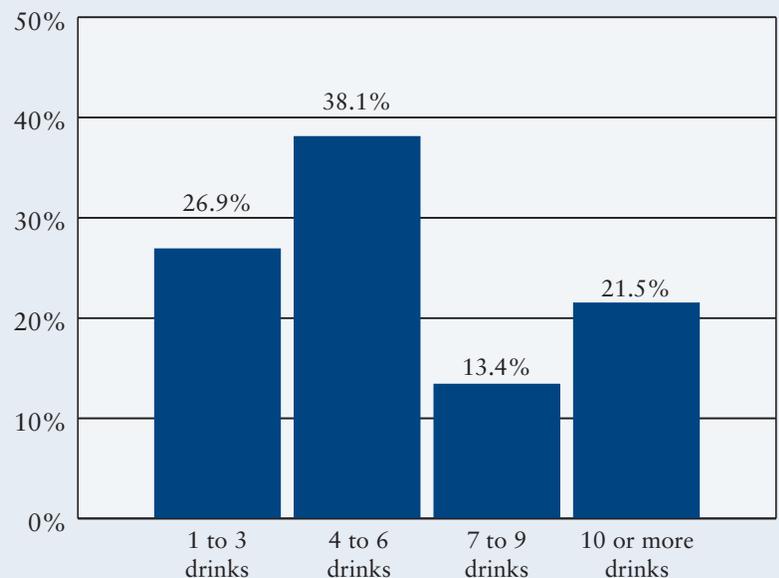
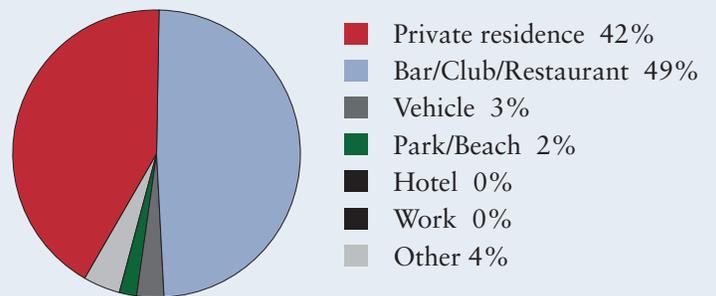


Figure 3. Number of Drinks Consumed by Students in DDP on the Day of DUI Arrest

CIRCUMSTANCES AROUND STUDENT DUI STOPS

Although the majority of students are stopped for DUI in Ventura County (78.7%), 21 percent are stopped in another county. Most often this county is Los Angeles (12.5%). Furthermore, students are rarely stopped at a DUI checkpoint (1%).

- For 17 percent of the students, their DUI involved a crash.
- Over a third report that bodily injury occurred.

Most crashes involved property damage only (65.9%), but over a third report that bodily injury occurred (34.1%; with or without property damage) (Figure 4). When an injury occurred, it most often was to the driver (83.0%) rather than a passenger (22.2%) or other person in another vehicle (11.1%). According to this group of students, there were no pedestrians injured.

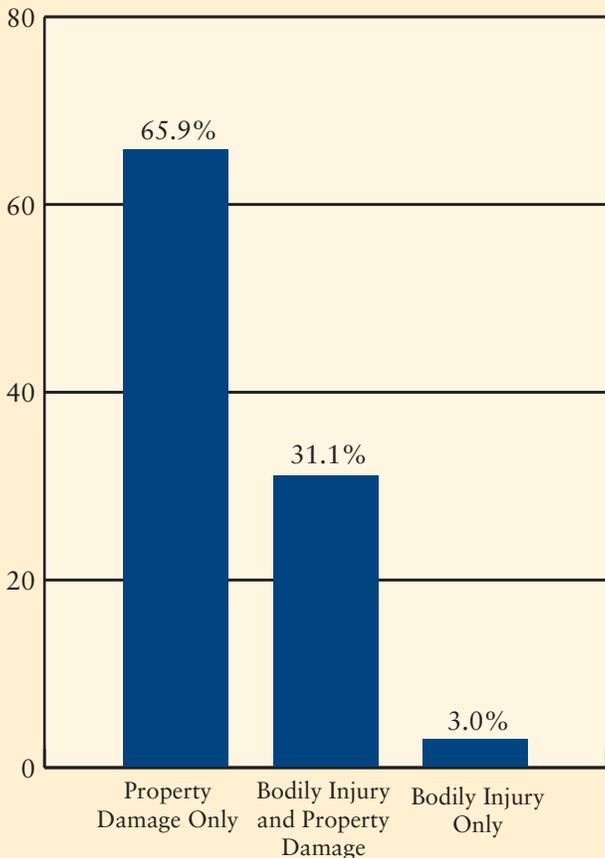


Figure 4. Results of DUI-Involved Crashes by Students

	Female	Male
	275	551
Average Age	26.3	25.7
Range	18-60	18-77
Race/Ethnicity		
African American	1.1%	2.6%
American Indian	1.1%	0.5%
Asian/Pacific Islander	3.0%	3.5%
Latino	18.1%	32.8%
Multi-Racial	3.3%	4.2%
White	71.2%	52.3%
Other	2.2%	4.2%

Table 2. Student Demographic Characteristics of Female and Male Students

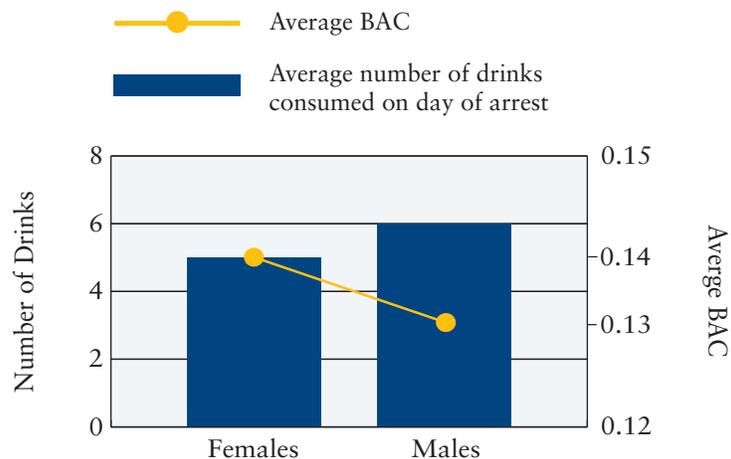


Figure 6. Average Number of Drinks and BAC of Female and Male Students

	Female	Male
Stopped at DUI Checkpoint	0.4%	1.3%
Crash Occurred	18.3%	17.0%
Bodily Injury Only	2.0%	3.5%
Bodily Injury and Property Damage	34.7%	29.1%
Property Damage Only	63.3%	67.4%
Where Bodily Injury Occurred		
Self Injured	83.3%	82.8%
Passenger Injured	11.1%	29.6%
Person in Other Vehicle Injured	11.1%	11.1%
Pedestrian Injured	0.0%	0.0%

Table 3. Characteristics of DUI Arrest of Female and Male Students

GENDER DIFFERENCES IN STUDENTS

Analyses were conducted to determine if circumstances around DUI arrests are different for female and male college/university students.

The ratio of male to female students in the DDP is 2:1. There is no age difference between female and male students, and both are more likely to be White (71.2% and 52.3% respectively) compared to other races/ethnicities. However, there are nearly twice as many males who are Latino (32.8%) compared to females (18.1%) (Table 2).

The reported Place of Last Drink is different for female and male students. Females are more likely to report their Place of Last Drink as a bar, club, or restaurant (59.0%); whereas, males are almost equally likely to report a private residence (46.0%) or a bar, club, or restaurant (44.2%) (Figure 5).

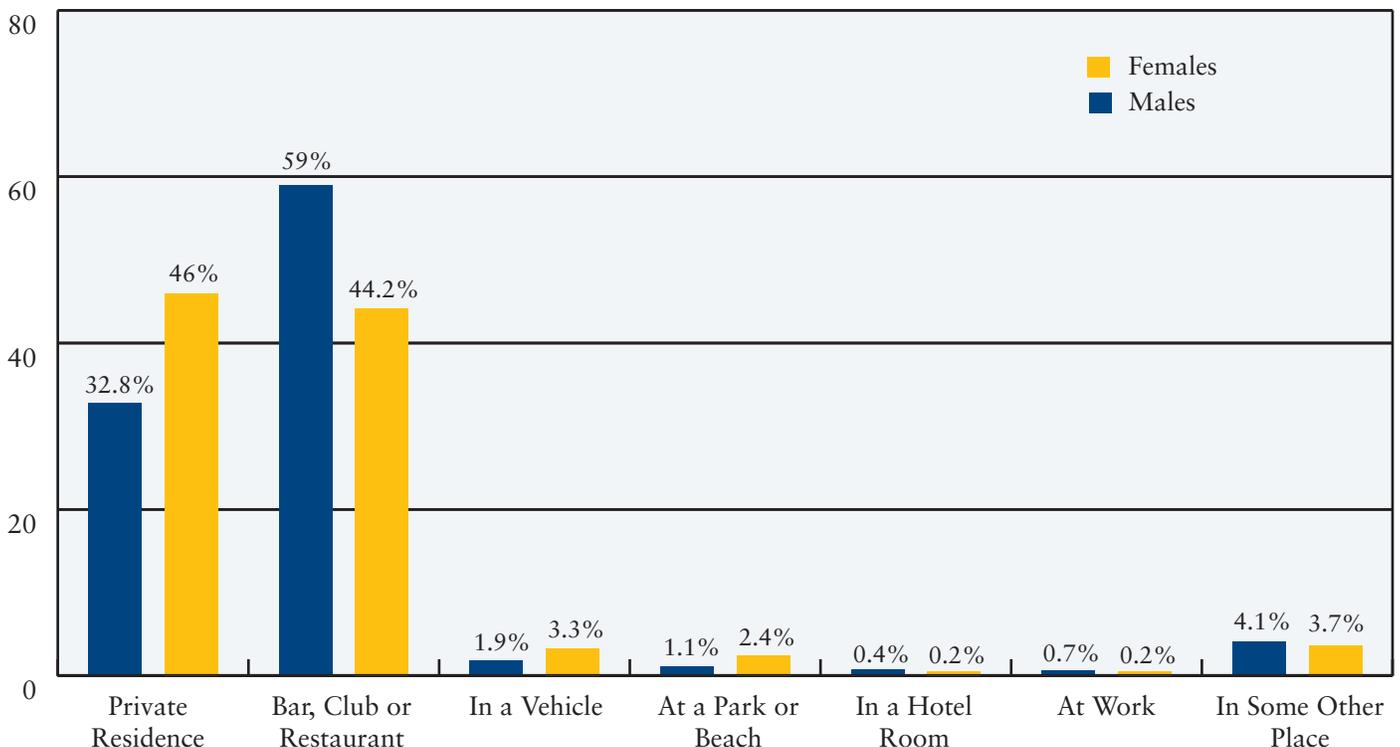
Female and male students differ in their drinking behaviors in the following ways:

- **Females are more likely than males to drink mixed drinks/ shots** (72.4% vs. 49.4%) and wine (13.8% vs. 5.6%, respectively) while males are more likely to drink beer (68.4% vs. 36.0%).
- **Though rates of binge drinking are similar for females and males** (61.5% vs. 65.8% respectively), almost twice as many males as females indicate that they consumed 10 or more drinks on the day of their arrest (25.7% vs. 13.5%).
- **The average number of drinks consumed on the day of the arrest for males is 7** (ranging from 1 – 30); whereas, females typically report consuming 5 drinks (ranging from 1 – 20).

Despite a greater number of drinks consumed by males, females report a higher BAC (.14, ranging from .01 to .37) compared to their male counterparts (.13, ranging from .01 to .33) (Figure 6).

Another difference between male and female students is where students are stopped for their DUI arrest. A greater proportion of females than males report being stopped in Los Angeles County (16.7% vs. 10.2% respectively). However, females and males are similar in other aspects of their DUI arrests. No difference between genders is seen for being stopped at a DUI checkpoint or whether a crash occurred with the DUI. Rates of injuries, types of injuries, and who was injured when a crash occurred are also similar in females and males (Table 3). Additionally, both groups report similar rates of drug use prior to their DUI arrest (9.2% for females, 10.9% for males).

Figure 5. Place of Last Drink of Female and Male Students



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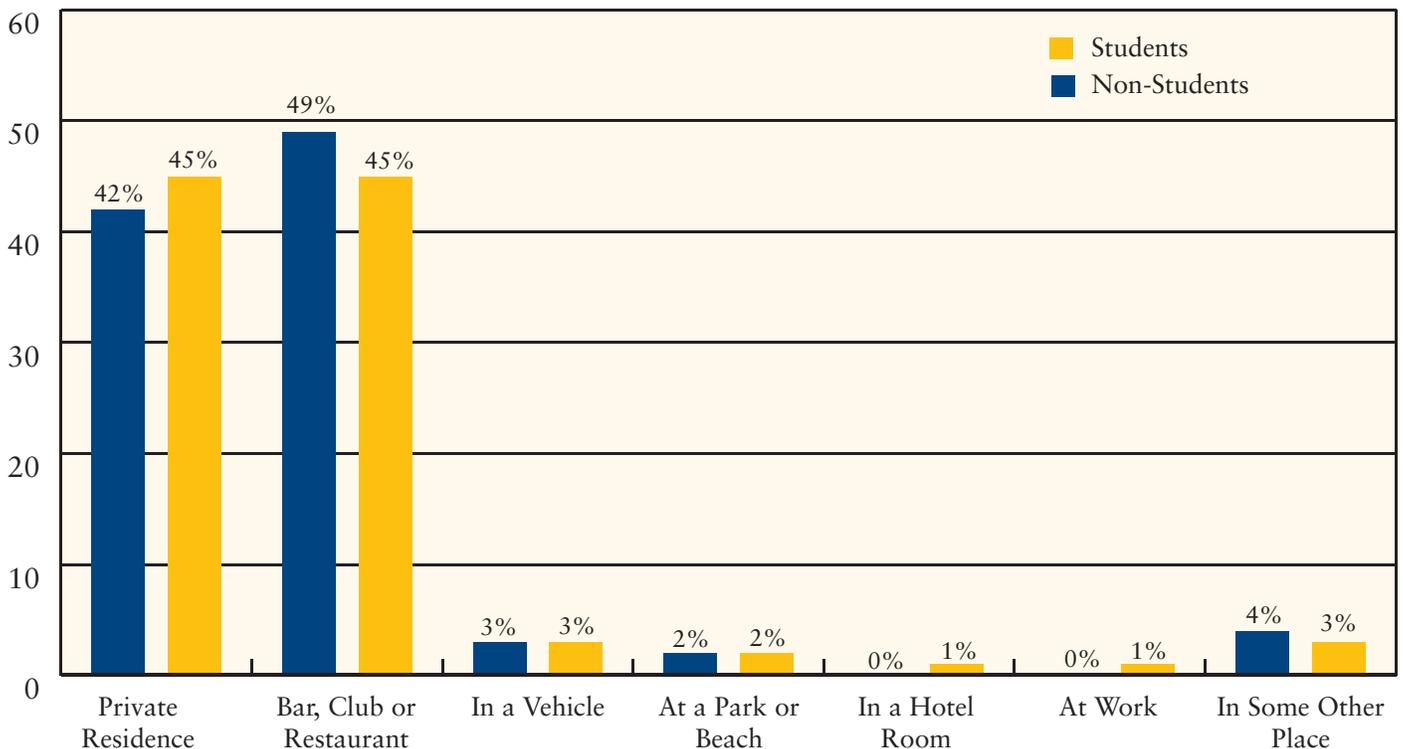
Along with differences in what and where they drink, use of drugs by students is different from non-students as well. A greater proportion of students indicate that they were using other drugs prior to their DUI arrest than non-students (10.2% vs. 8.1% respectively). The nature of drinking in a private residence is also different between students and non-students. For those in the DDP who reported their Place of Last Drink as a private residence, students were more likely than non-students to describe there was a house party (44.1% vs. 26.5%), that 10 or more people were present (45.4% vs. 26.1%), and that underage drinkers were present at the residence (53.6% vs. 24.6%).

The negative consequences may be somewhat greater for students. A larger percentage of students state that their DUI arrest involved a crash (17.3% vs. 14.1%). Though the rate of bodily and property damage are reported to be similar between students and non-students, the rate of injuries to themselves is higher for students than non-students (83.0% vs. 65.9%) when an injury occurred as part of the crash. (Table 5) Non-students are more likely to be stopped at a DUI checkpoint compared to students (2.3% vs. 1.0% respectively); though overall, the percentage of DDP participants who are stopped at a checkpoint is small (2.1%).

	Students	Non-Students
Stopped at DUI Checkpoint	1.0%	2.3%
Crash Occurred	17.3%	14.1%
Bodily Injury Only	3.0%	6.7%
Bodily Injury and Property Damage	31.1%	23.5%
Property Damage Only	65.9%	69.7%
Where Bodily Injury Occurred		
Self Injured	83.0%	65.9%
Passenger Injured	22.2%	15.4%
Person in Other Vehicle Injured	11.1%	17.9%
Pedestrian Injured	0.0%	1.0%

Table 5. Characteristics of DUI Arrest of Students and Non-Students

Figure 7. Place of Last Drink of Students and Non-Students



²Reports of 31 or more drinks (2 students, 11 non-students) were considered outliers and excluded from calculation of the average number of students.