

University of Wisconsin System Alcohol & Other Drug Use Survey

Data for Stevens Point from summer 2004

Presented by M. Plonsky, Ph.D. – Version 1.1 (3/19/05)

Demographic Data

The number of UWSP students completing the survey was 983. The response rate was 49.2% and was the highest of the 26 institutions surveyed. There were four demographic variables considered.

D1. Sex	%	N
Male	46.1	449
Female	53.9	524

In the spring of 2004, 56.0% of the 8077 students enrolled at UWSP were female. Thus the sample was representative.

D2. Student Classification	%	N	%
Freshman	21.4	209	41.4 (fresh/soph)
Sophomore	20.0	196	
Junior	22.1	216	58.6 (jun/sen/oth)
Senior	34.7	339	
Graduate/Professional	0.7	7	
Not seeking a degree	0.1	1	
Other	1.0	10	

For additional analyses, two categories were created for the student classification variable: lower ranking students consisting of freshman and sophomores, and higher ranking students consisting of juniors, seniors, graduates, etc. The fact that 41.4% of the sample was freshman or sophomore matches well with the fact that 39.6% of the students enrolled at UWSP in the spring of 2004 were freshman or sophomores.

D3. Approximate GPA	%	N	%
A	10.5	101	52.3 (high)
A-	20.6	199	
B+	21.2	205	
B	20.7	200	47.7 (low)
B-	13.5	130	
C+	8.8	85	
C	3.1	30	
C-	0.8	8	
D+	0.5	5	
D	0.1	1	
D-	0.1	1	
F	0.0	0	

For additional analyses, two categories were created for the GPA variable: high \approx GPA students consisting of those estimating their GPA at a B+ or higher and low \approx GPA students consisting of those estimating their GPA at a B or below. While 52.3% of the sample had estimated a high \approx GPA, 53.3% of those enrolled at UWSP in the spring of 2004 had a high GPA. Thus, the students approximated their GPAs well.

D4. Place of Residence	N	%	%
Residence Hall	403	41.5	41.5 (on campus)
Off-campus apartment or house	464	47.7	58.5 (off campus)
Parent or guardian's house	82	8.4	
Fraternity or sorority	1	0.1	
Other	22	2.3	

For additional analyses, two categories were created for the place of residence variable: on campus students and off campus students. While 41.5% of the sample lived on campus, only 35.6% of UWSP students enrolled during the spring of 2004 lived on campus. Thus, on campus students were slightly over represented.

Cross tabulations of the demographic variables revealed that:

- There were less males of lower rank than expected.
- Females expected better grades than males.
- Lower ranking students were more likely to live on campus.
- Higher ranking students had higher estimated GPAs.

Survey Questions

Q1. UW Campus Affiliation.

This report deals exclusively with the data for Stevens Point.

Q2. Within the past year, have you participated in any of the following activities?	Sample		Sub Sample			
	% Yes	N	male	on campus	fresh/soph	≈GPA high
Student clubs & organizations	49.0	482	46.3	46.2	38.5 ^{***}	57.4 ^{***}
Intramural or club sports	38.3	376	49.9 ^{***}	43.2 ^{**}	37.5	37.8
Religious & interfaith groups	19.7	194	15.8 ^{**}	28.3 ^{***}	26.4 ^{***}	23.4 ^{**}
Minority & ethnic organizations	11.0	108	8.2 ^{**}	11.4	12.3	10.5
Intercollegiate athletics	9.7	95	13.4 ^{***}	11.7	10.4	8.3
Student newspaper, radio, TV, etc	6.5	64	7.3	6.9	6.4	7.3

* = chi square significant at .05, ** = chi square significant at .01, *** = chi square significant at .001

Observations:

- Almost half of the students participated in student clubs and organizations and more than a third participated in intramural or club sports.
- Males were more likely than females to participate in intramural or club sports and intercollegiate athletics, but were less likely to participate in religious and interfaith groups as well as minority and ethnic organizations than were the females.
- Students living on-campus were more likely to participate in intramural or club sports as well as religious and interfaith groups when compared to those living off-campus.
- Lower ranking students less likely to participate in student clubs and organizations, but were more likely to participate in religious and interfaith groups than higher ranking students.
- Those with high ≈GPAs were more likely to participate in student clubs and organizations as well as religious and interfaith groups than were students with low ≈GPAs.

Q3. Campus Situation on Alcohol & Drugs	Sample		Sub Sample			
	% Yes	N	male	on campus	fresh/soph	≈GPA high
Does your campus have drug & alcohol use policies?	80.3	789	80.2	94.8 ^{***}	88.1 ^{***}	79.6
If so, are they enforced?	50.6	493	53.7	66.2 ^{***}	58.4 ^{***}	49.7
Does your campus have drug & alcohol abuse prevention education program?	44.1	430	46.3	47.1	40.4 [*]	46.0
Do you believe your campus is concerned about the prevention of drug & alcohol abuse?	72.8	705	71.1	72.6	72.8	75.4 [*]
Are you actively involved in efforts to prevent drug & alcohol use problems on your campus?	9.2	90	8.9	13.9 ^{***}	7.7	10.5

* = chi square significant at .05, ** = chi square significant at .01, *** = chi square significant at .001

Observations:

- The large majority of students believed that the campus has drug and alcohol use policies and more than half of the students believed that they are enforced.
- Fewer than 10% of the students are actively involved in efforts to prevent drug and alcohol use problems.
- Students living on-campus were more likely to believe that the campus has drug & alcohol polices and enforces them than were off-campus students. They were also more likely to be actively involved in drug prevention efforts on campus.
- Lower ranking students were more likely to believe that the campus has drug & alcohol polices and enforces them than were higher ranking students, however, they were less likely to believe that the campus has a drug education prevention program than were higher ranking students.
- Those with high ≈GPAs were more likely to believe that the campus is concerned about drug abuse than were students with lower ≈GPAs.

Q4. In which of the following ways does other students' drinking interfere with your life on or around campus?	Sample		Sub Sample			
	% Yes	N	male	on campus	fresh/soph	≈GPA high
Interrupts studying	39.2	385	34.5**	49.9***	41.6	40.9
Messes up your physical living space	29.3	287	32.0	37.2***	30.9	32.1*
Makes you feel unsafe	22.9	224	12.7***	28.4***	25.1	25.9**
Prevents you from enjoying events (concerts, sports, social activities, etc.)	16.8	164	14.5	17.7	16.4	19.5*
Adversely affects your involvement in an athletic team or in other organized groups	8.4	82	8.7	7.8	6.7	8.6
Interferes in other way(s)	39.0	380	35.2*	47.9***	42.3	41.0

* = chi square significant at .05, ** = chi square significant at .01, *** = chi square significant at .001

Observations:

- The most common way that other students drinking interfered with life on campus was by interrupting studying. Interferes in "other" ways was a close second.
- Males were less likely to report that other students' drinking interrupts studying, makes them feel unsafe, or interferes in other ways than were females.
- Students living on-campus were more likely to report that other students' drinking interrupts studying, messes up their physical living space, makes them feel unsafe, and interferes in other ways than were off-campus students.
- Students with high ≈GPAs were more likely to report that other students' drinking messes up their physical living space, makes them feel unsafe, and prevents them from enjoying events than were students with low ≈GPAs.

Q5. How often you have experienced the following due to your drinking or drug use during the past year?	Sample		Sub Sample			
	% Never	N	male	on campus	fresh/soph	≈GPA high
Had a hangover	34.7	340	28.5 ^{***}	45.6 ^{***}	43.8 ^{***}	38.5
Got nauseated or vomited	42.7	418	37.1 ^{**}	47.6 ^{**}	46.3	47.2 ^{**}
Missed a class	60.8	595	52.6 ^{***}	65.4 [†]	64.9 [†]	65.7 ^{***}
Did something I later regretted	63.1	616	59.5 [†]	67.3 [†]	64.6	66.1 [†]
Had a memory loss	66.0	647	58.4 ^{***}	70.9 ^{**}	68.1	72.0 ^{***}
Driven a car while under the influence	67.6	659	60.7 ^{***}	83.7 ^{***}	78.2 ^{***}	71.1 [†]
Gotten into an argument or fight	69.7	684	65.0 ^{**}	76.6 ^{***}	74.6 [†]	73.9 ^{**}
Been criticized by someone I know	74.2	726	67.6 ^{***}	77.1	73.9	76.7
Performed poorly on a test/important project	77.1	755	72.3 ^{***}	81.8 ^{**}	78.0	84.5 ^{***}
Been hurt or injured	83.0	807	77.9 ^{***}	86.7 [†]	85.0	85.5 [†]
In trouble with police or college authorities	85.6	838	80.1 ^{***}	84.0	83.7	88.9 ^{**}
Though I may have a drinking/drug problem	89.9	878	85.9 ^{***}	92.3 [†]	92.1	92.7 ^{**}
Have been taken advantage of sexually	92.7	909	92.0	93.0	93.8	94.5 [†]
Damaged property, pulled fire alarms, etc.	93.3	913	87.5 ^{***}	93.8	94.3	95.0 [†]
Tried unsuccessfully to stop using	95.5	934	93.5 ^{**}	95.8	96.0	97.0 [†]
Seriously thought about suicide	95.9	940	96.0	96.8	96.0	96.8
Have taken advantage of another sexually	97.1	951	95.1 ^{***}	97.0	97.3	98.2 [†]
Been arrested for DWI/DUI	98.3	957	98.0	99.5 [†]	99.0	99.0
Seriously tried to commit suicide	99.4	973	99.3	99.8	99.3	99.4

* = chi square significant at .05, ** = chi square significant at .01, *** = chi square significant at .001

Observations:

- Having a hangover was the most common problem reported due to drug use, with almost two-thirds of the students reporting this problem. Nausea and vomiting was the second most common problem with more than half of the students reporting it.
- Almost 40% of the students reported that they missed a class as a result of drug use.
- Close to a third of the students reported that they had: a memory loss, driven a car while under the influence, or had gotten into an argument or fight as a result of drug use.
- About a quarter of the students had been criticized by someone they knew or performed poorly on a test/important project as a result of drug use.
- The least commonly reported problems resulting from drug use were thoughts of suicide as well as suicide attempts. Taking advantage of another sexually and being arrested for DWI/DUI were also rarely reported.

- Males were quite consistent in reporting more problems due to drug use than were females. The results were statistically significant for 15 of the 19 problems listed.
- On campus students and those with a high ≈GPA reported the least problems as a result of drug use.
- Lower ranking students were less likely than higher ranking students to report that they a hangover, missed a class, drove under the influence, or got into a fight or argument.

Q6. Since the beginning of the school year, have you:	Sample		Sub Sample			
	% Yes	N	male	on campus	fresh/ soph	≈GPA high
Been in a situation where someone pushed you farther than you wanted to go sexually?	5.3	52	3.8*	6.8	6.0	4.4
Been in a situation where you pushed someone farther than that person wanted to go sexually?	1.1	11	1.6	1.3	1.3	1.0

* = chi square significant at .05, ** = chi square significant at .01, *** = chi square significant at .001

Observations:

- Very few students were pushed farther than they wanted to go sexually.
- Even fewer claimed to have pushed someone farther than they wanted to go.
- Not surprisingly, fewer males than expected had been pushed farther than they wanted to go sexually when compared to females.

Q7. In the last two weeks, have you had	Sample		Sub Sample			
	% Yes	N	male	on campus	fresh/ soph	≈GPA high
Five or more drinks in one sitting	46.6	453	60.3***	39.3***	41.6**	40.6***

* = chi square significant at .05, ** = chi square significant at .01, *** = chi square significant at .001

Observations:

- Five or more drinks in one sitting is the definition of “bingeing”, thus, close to half of the students had binged within the last two weeks.
- Males were the sub sample most likely to binge and those living on campus were the least likely.
- Males were more likely to have binged in the past two weeks than females.
- Students living on campus were less likely to have binged than those living off campus.
- Freshman and sophomores were less likely to have binged than higher ranking students.
- Students with high ≈GPA were less likely to have binged than those with low ≈GPA.

	Q8. What % of students here are non-drinkers?	Q9. What do you think is the average # of drinks consumed by the typical student/week?	Q10. What % of students do you think consumed >4 drinks in a row on at least 1 occasion in the past 2 weeks?
N	967	911	964
Mean	33.1	8.8	49.0
Median	25.0	8.0	50.0
Std. Dev.	25.87	5.56	23.39

Observations:

- Students believed that about one-third of their colleagues were non-drinkers and that about one-half binged within the past two weeks. The latter estimate agrees well with the self reported data of Question 7.
- Students estimated that their colleagues typically consume about nine drinks per week.
- Additional analyses revealed that:
 - Males believed the average student drinks more per week (M=9.4) than did females (M=8.3).
 - Students with low \approx GPA believed the average student drinks more per week (M=9.4) than did students with high \approx GPA (M=8.3).
 - Lower ranking students believed that a higher percentage of students binged in the last two weeks (M=51.9) than did higher ranking students (M=47.2).
 - Students with low \approx GPA believed that a higher percentage of students binged in the last two weeks (M=50.8) than did students with high \approx GPA (M=47.2).

Q11. Within the past year, about how often have you used . . .	Sample		Sub Sample			
	% Never	N	male	on campus	fresh/ soph	≈GPA high
Alcohol (beer, wine, liquor)	15.7	154	13.4*	22.3***	24.2***	18.7**
Tobacco (smoke, chew, snuff)	62.9	615	54.1***	66.3	63.5	70.1***
Marijuana (pot, hash, hash oil)	73.8	720	67.9***	75.4	71.9	77.9**
Prescription pain medication (not prescribed)	91.0	887	89.2	93.3*	92.3	93.2*
Amphetamines (speed) (not prescribed)	92.7	905	94.0	94.5	93.3	94.8**
Cocaine (crack, rock, freebase)	95.3	932	93.3**	97.0*	96.5	96.6*
Hallucinogens (LSD, PCP)	96.2	940	94.0***	96.5	96.5	97.8**
Sedatives (downers, ludes) (not prescribed)	97.2	952	96.2	99.3***	98.3	98.0
Designer drugs (ecstasy, MDMA)	98.5	959	98.0	98.3	98.8	99.2
Opiates (heroin, smack, horse)	98.8	963	98.0*	98.8	98.5	98.6
Inhalants (glue, solvents, gas)	99.5	974	99.1	100.0	99.8	99.2
Steroids	99.7	975	99.6	99.8	99.8	99.6
Other illegal drugs	96.9	946	95.5*	96.5	96.3	97.8

* = chi square significant at .05, ** = chi square significant at .01, *** = chi square significant at .001

Observations:

- Alcohol was by far the most common drug used in the past year with close to 85% of the students using it. The second most common drug was tobacco with more than a third using it.
- More than a quarter of the students used marijuana within the last year. Nine percent used prescription pain medication (not prescribed) and about 7% used amphetamines (not prescribed).
- The remaining drugs in the list were used by 5% or less of the students in the past year with opiates, inhalants, and steroids being the least likely to be used.
- Comparing the sub samples, the high ≈GPA group were the least likely to have used drugs in the previous year closely followed by those living on campus. Males appeared to be the most likely to have used drugs in the previous year.
- Males were the more likely to have used seven of the 13 categories of drugs listed in the previous year compared to females.
- Those living on campus were less likely to have used four of the 13 categories of drugs listed compared to those living off campus.
- Those of lower rank were less likely to have used alcohol in the previous year than higher ranking students.
- Those with high ≈GPA were less likely to have used seven of the 13 categories of drugs listed when compared to those of lower ≈GPA.

Q12. How often do you think the average student on campus uses . . .	Sample		Sub Sample			
	% Never	N	male	on campus	fresh/soph	≈GPA high
Alcohol (beer, wine, liquor)	0.2	2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.4
Tobacco (smoke, chew, snuff)	4.8	46	4.8	3.6	3.0*	6.4*
Marijuana (pot, hash, hash oil)	7.4	70	7.1	4.8*	4.0***	8.2
Prescription pain medication (not prescribed)	33.4	308	37.8*	33.2	29.2*	35.5
Amphetamines (speed) (not prescribed)	36.8	342	42.9***	35.3	31.2**	36.1
Designer drugs (ecstasy, MDMA)	40.9	380	43.7	41.9	37.1*	41.1
Steroids	43.2	400	49.5***	38.9*	35.7***	42.9
Cocaine (crack, rock, freebase)	46.2	431	48.9	42.4	38.2***	45.0
Sedatives (downers, ludes) (not prescribed)	46.0	425	50.0*	43.3	40.6**	44.9
Hallucinogens (LSD, PCP)	47.1	437	48.2	44.0	38.8***	46.4
Inhalants (glue, solvents, gas)	54.3	503	57.0	48.9**	46.2***	53.9
Opiates (heroin, smack, horse)	55.4	512	58.2	50.5*	46.3***	54.2
Other illegal drugs	43.1	396	46.1	42.3	37.1**	42.5

* = chi square significant at .05, ** = chi square significant at .01, *** = chi square significant at .001

Observations:

- How often students thought various drugs were used by other students followed a similar ranking to what they reported using themselves. Again alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana were the most popular drugs and inhalants and opiates were among the least popular.
- While the rank ordering of personal use of drugs and use estimated for other students was quite similar, the size of the estimates for other student use were dramatically higher. For example, alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana were estimated to be used by over 90% of other students and inhalants and opiates were estimated to have been used by over 50% of the students. When estimating their own use (Question 11), these figures were 75% and 1%, respectively.
- Comparing the sub samples, lower ranking students were the most likely to believe that other students were using. On campus students were also somewhat more likely to believe this. Males were somewhat less likely to believe that other students were using drugs.
- Males reported lower estimates of other student drug use than females (4 of the 13 items).
- On campus students reported higher estimates of other student drug use than off campus students (4 of the 13 items).
- Lower ranking students reported higher estimates of other student drug use than higher ranking students (12 of the 13 items listed).

Q13. Think about typical social drinking occasions you have with other students.				
	When you party, how many drinks do you usually have?	When you party, how many hours do you spend drinking?	How many drinks do other students consume, on the average when they party?	Average # of drinks you consume/week.
N	705	694	689	692
Mean	6.1	4.1	7.0	7.9
Median	5.0	4.0	6.0	5.0
Std. Dev.	4.00	1.85	2.73	10.12

Observations:

- Students consume about six drinks when partying and spend about four hours doing so.
- Students believe that other students consume about seven drinks when partying (which is a bit more than what they drink themselves).
- Students consume about eight drinks per week (although this measure shows a large amount of variability).

Q13. Means for sub samples.	Sex		Residence		Rank		≈GPA	
	male	female	on campus	off campus	fresh/soph	jun/sen/other	low	high
When you party, how many drinks do you usually have?	7.9	4.5 ^{***}	6.2	6.1	6.2	6.1	6.7	5.5 ^{***}
When you party, how many hours do you spend drinking?	4.4	3.9 ^{***}	3.9	4.3 ^{**}	3.9	4.3 [*]	4.3	4.0 [*]
How many drinks do other students consume, on the average when they party?	7.7	6.4 ^{***}	7.3	6.9	7.5	6.8 ^{***}	7.4	6.6 ^{***}
Average # of drinks you consume/week.	11.7	4.3 ^{***}	8.2	7.8	8.6	7.5	9.0	6.8 ^{**}

* = t test significant at .05, ** = t test significant at .01, *** = t test significant at .001

Observations:

- Males drink more when they party, drink for longer, and think that other students consume more than did females. In an average week, males consume close to three times as many drinks as do females.
- Students living off campus party for a little longer than do students living on campus.
- Higher ranking students party for a little longer and believe that other students consume less when they party than lower ranking students.
- Students with high ≈GPA drink less when they party and drink less per week than students with low ≈GPA. Students with high ≈GPA also spend less time partying and believe that other students consume less when they party than students with low ≈GPA.