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ARTICLES:

- Decisional Balance and Collegiate Drinking 18-36
Keith Morgen, Ph.D. & Lauren Gunneson

ABSTRACT

The study examined the perceived benefits and costs of alcohol use among undergraduates (N=462) perceiving their drinking as normal or abnormal as well as those undergraduates who met or did not meet the DSM-IV-TR criteria for an alcohol disorder. A 2x2 MANOVA and univariate analyses on the benefits (pros) and costs (cons) scales of the Alcohol Decisional Balances Scale (ADBS) revealed significantly higher perceived benefits of alcohol use among students reporting normal drinking behaviors and meeting the DSM-IV-TR diagnostic criteria. A significant interaction revealed that students who met the DSM-IV-TR criteria but perceived their drinking as normal reported the highest perceived benefits of drinking. Findings supported prior research highlighting the link between perceived benefits of alcohol use and problematic drinking.

Key words: alcohol, college, attitudes, DSM-IV-TR, decisional balance

- Development of a Low-Alcohol Drink Similar in Sensory Properties to a Full-Alcohol Drink 37-45
Carolyn F. Ross, Ph.D. & Karen Weller

ABSTRACT

The objective of this study was to examine different methods of preparation of a low-alcohol drink for use as a control in behavioral studies. Treatments included: untreated juice, juice with alcohol (rum), juice with rum floated on the surface and juice with ethanol floated on the surface. Untrained panelists (n=48) rated each drink for overall preference, alcohol aroma intensity, sweetness, sourness, "burn"/mouthfeel, alcohol flavor and perceived alcohol concentration. Alcohol flavor intensity and "burn" were the most intense in juice with rum, followed by the two floated alcohol drinks. Perceived alcohol concentration was moderate in juice with floated rum and juice with floated ethanol. Floating ethanol on top of a juice performed adequately as a sensory mimic for a full-alcohol drink.

A Night in Tijuana: Female Victimization in a High-Risk Environment.....46-71
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Eduardo Romano & Mark Johnson*

ABSTRACT

We examine the epidemiology of victimization among females crossing the U.S. border to drink in Tijuana, Mexico, with the purpose of creating a framework for an intervention to improve safety among female youth in drinking settings. Drinking history, history of victimization, evening drinking experience, and environmental factors are assessed.

Among female crossers surveyed in 2005-2006, 53% reported experiencing some type of victimization, with 29% experiencing moderate physical aggression and 38% experiencing unwanted moderate sexual incidents. Youth and reported history of verbal abuse were consistently associated with victimization with more participants frequently reporting incidents of victimization. Predictors of victimization among young females (aged 16-20) generally included environmental factors, whereas evening drinking was associated with victimization among women aged 21 and older.

Factors that Predict Self-Perceived Problem Drinking Among College Students72-88
Elaine M. Eshbaugh, PhD

ABSTRACT

Excessive alcohol use among college students is a significant public health problem. In order to design and implement effective intervention programs, college personnel must first target students who are problem drinkers. This study of 316 Midwestern college students examines factors that predict whether a student self-identifies as a problem drinker. Although 42% of students indicated recent binge drinking episodes and 30% reported a regrettable sexual experience due to alcohol use, 80% indicated that their drinking is "not at all problematic." Students were more likely to identify themselves as problem drinkers if they consumed more drinks per week when compared to other students. Other statistically significant predictors of self-perceived problematic drinking were binge drinking, consuming alcohol without the company of others, having an alcohol-related arrest, and participating in regrettable sex due to alcohol use. Students reporting more depressive symptoms than other students were also more likely to identify as problem drinkers. Future research should consider additional variables when examining the complex processes students utilize in deciding whether their drinking is problematic.