DISCUSSION

For the purpose of this discussion, frequent drinkers and drivers are defined as those students who indicated that they had driven a vehicle after drinking three or more times over the past year. According to the 2012 MCHBS, those who drove a vehicle after drinking were primarily upperclassmen (72% were at least in their 3rd year in school). While 78% of all Missouri college students ‘correctly’ identify a designated driver as someone who has consumed no alcoholic beverages, only 46% of those who frequently drank and drove defined a designated driver as such.

The MCHBS also indicates that Missouri college students who frequently drive after drinking experience significantly higher rates of negative consequences than the average Missouri college student. As the table above shows, those who report drinking and driving frequently also report being hurt or injured, receiving medical attention, being taken advantage of sexually, taking advantage of someone else sexually, engaging in risky sexual behavior, being coerced into drinking more than they wanted, missing class, and performing poorly on a test or class assignment at rates more than double than the average Missouri college student experiences as a result of drinking.

SUMMARY

The majority of Missouri college students are making good choices in terms of their alcohol use as it relates to drinking and driving, but a significant number choose to drink and drive with frequency. Additionally, as a result of their drinking, those who drink and drive are experiencing a much higher rate of negative consequences of drinking. Campuses should continue to reach out to their students, particularly upperclassmen, about responsible alcohol use, the availability of sober ride programs or taxi services, and the potential negative impacts of alcohol consumption and drinking and driving behavior.

Contact Partners in Prevention at (573) 884-7551
Report prepared by Jessica Schlosser, Partners in Prevention Staff
Funded by the Missouri Department of Mental Health’s Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse