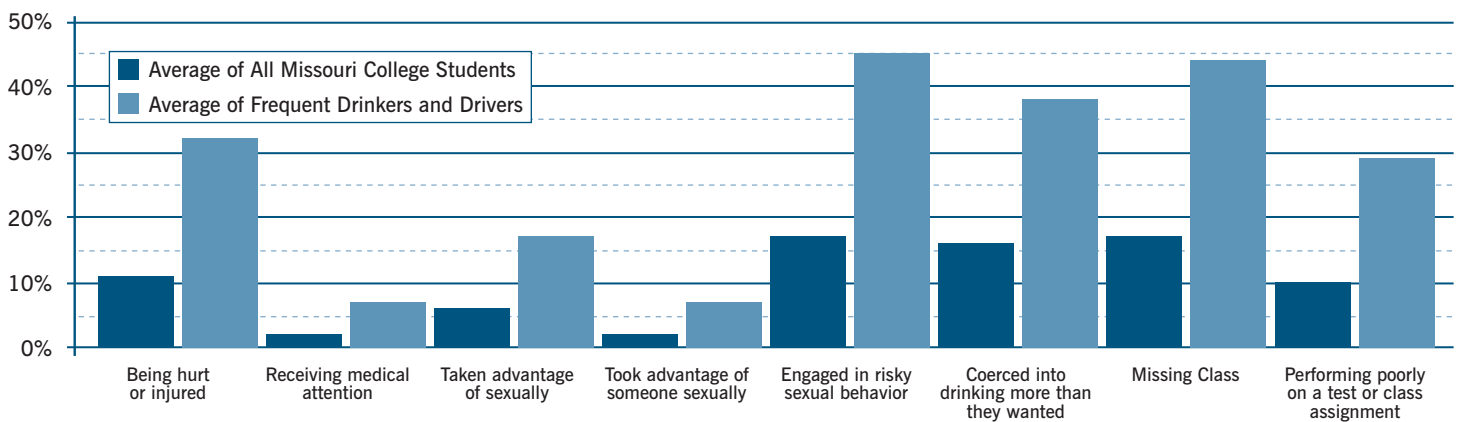


A PICTURE OF FREQUENT DRINKERS AND DRIVERS

Partners in Prevention is a statewide coalition dedicated to creating healthy and safe college campuses in Missouri. The coalition is comprised of 21 public and private colleges and universities across the state. Partners in Prevention focuses on reducing high-risk behaviors, and tracks such progress through the implementation of the Missouri College Health Behavior Survey (MCHBS). The MCHBS is implemented annually in the spring, and allows for examination of some of the consequences of drinking and driving as well as the characteristics of those who choose to engage in this behavior. The chart below depicts the differences in consequences between the average Missouri college student and those students who report frequently driving after drinking.

Comparison of Statewide Average and Frequent Drinkers and Drivers



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.

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