

1 Original Experimental Research

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3 Title: **Binge and High-Intensity Drinking – Associations with Intravenous Alcohol Self-**
4 **Administration and Underlying Risk Factors**

5 Running Head: Laboratory Binge and High-Intensity Drinking

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Abstract

Some styles of alcohol consumption are riskier than others. How the level and rate of alcohol exposure contribute to the increased risk of alcohol use disorder is unclear, but likely depends on the alcohol concentration time course. We hypothesized that the brain is sensitive to the alcohol concentration rate of change and that people at greater risk would self-administer faster. We developed a novel intravenous alcohol self-administration paradigm to allow participants direct and reproducible control over how quickly their breath alcohol concentration changes. We used drinking intensity and the density of biological family history of alcohol dependence as proxies for risk. Thirty-five alcohol drinking participants aged 21-28 years provided analytical data from a single, intravenous alcohol self-administration session using our Computer-Assisted Alcohol Infusion System Rate Control paradigm. A shorter time to reach 80 mg/dL was associated with increasing multiples of the binge drinking definition ($p=0.004$) which was in turn related to higher density of family history of alcoholism (FHD, $p=0.04$). Rate-dependent changes in subjective response (intoxication and stimulation) were also associated with FHD (each $p=0.001$). Subsequently, given the limited sample size and FHD range, associations between multiples of the binge drinking definition and FHD were replicated and extended in analyses of the Collaborative Study on the Genetics of Alcoholism database. The Rate Control paradigm models Binge and High-Intensity Drinking in the laboratory and provides a novel way to examine the relationship between the pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of alcohol and potentially the risk for the development of alcohol use disorders.

Key Words

Binge drinking, High-Intensity Drinking, alcohol self-administration, ascending limb, subjective response

71

72 **Introduction**

73 Binge drinking is common [1] and associated with significant health risks (e.g. [2-5]). The
74 impact on risk of how one consumes alcohol (how quickly and how high an alcohol
75 concentration is achieved) is inherent in the definition of Binge and High-Intensity Drinking. The
76 National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) explicitly recognizes bingeing (“...a
77 pattern of drinking that brings blood alcohol concentration (BAC) levels to [80 mg/dL]”) as one
78 pattern of risky drinking, typically occurring after 4 or 5 drinks for women and men – in about 2
79 hours [6]. Breath alcohol concentration (BrAC) indexes the arterial concentration (as in [7]), to
80 which the brain is exposed [8]. Unfortunately, many individuals consume more than 4 or 5
81 alcohol drinks on an occasion. This pattern, termed High-Intensity Drinking [9], is associated
82 with an elevated risk of developing an alcohol use disorder (AUD) [10-13]. Bingeing and High-
83 Intensity Drinking are also clearly influenced by genetic risk; existing and novel risk loci were
84 associated with typical maximum alcohol consumption in the Million Veteran project [14], with
85 ~50% of the sample consuming *at least* 4 or 5 drinks on an occasion (11).

86 Several AUD risk models have been proposed based on the subjective response to
87 alcohol, each derived using oral alcohol challenges and suggesting a relationship between
88 alcohol pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics. The two models with the most support are
89 the Low Level of Response Model and the Differentiator Model. The Low Level of Response
90 Model is based on the finding that males with a positive family history of AUD (FHP) reported
91 lesser subjective responses to an alcohol challenge than those without family history (family
92 history negative, FHN) [15]. The Differentiator Model posits that FHP individuals are more
93 sensitive to the rewarding effects on the ascending limb (period of increasing BrAC), and more
94 tolerant to the sedating effects on the descending limb (when BrAC is decreasing), compared to
95 FHN controls [16]. Ingestion of alcohol, however, results in substantial variation in peak BrAC
96 and latency to peak BrAC, limiting experimental control over how quickly alcohol exposures

97 change (e.g. [17] [18]). Consequently, most research has focused on the response to alcohol on
98 the ascending versus descending limbs. Nonetheless, interest in the effects of rate of change of
99 BrAC, *per se*, has existed for some time [19-21].

100 Intravenous (IV) alcohol administration techniques document a relationship between the
101 alcohol concentration time course and its effects, including the role of rate of change of brain
102 exposure. The alcohol clamp, comprises a linear rise to a target BrAC which is then maintained
103 for hours, thus eliminating rate of change as a contributing factor to measurements obtained
104 during the clamp. Outcomes include subjective and physiological responses to both the
105 investigator-defined initial positive rate of change of BrAC (initial response to alcohol) and
106 changes in the response during maintenance of a steady BrAC (acute tolerance). The clamp
107 paradigm has successfully examined family history of AUD [22-24], genetic association of acute
108 tolerance [25], recent drinking history [24], and other indicators of risk [26]. Conversely, using a
109 paradigm where specific rates of BrAC ascent and descent were prescribed, we reported
110 increased perceptions of “high” and “intoxicated” measured at the same BrAC and elapsed time
111 on the ascending versus descending limb in moderate drinkers, and the reverse of that pattern
112 in light drinkers [27]. Thus, the precise exposure control provided by IV alcohol administration
113 techniques supports a relationship between positive and negative rates of change of BrAC and
114 response to alcohol, drinking history, and other AUD risk factors. Taken together, the
115 observations across the oral and IV alcohol challenge literature invited a study of how the
116 steepness of self-controlled positive rates of change in BrAC relate to the subjective response to
117 alcohol, family history, recent drinking history and risk for AUD.

118 Alcohol self-administration paradigms are increasingly common in human studies and
119 suggest the importance of examining how quickly people consume alcohol, the relationship
120 between how quickly BrAC changes and subjective response or other risk factors. Using oral
121 alcohol self-administration techniques, investigators have primarily investigated the temporal
122 dynamics of a drinking episode. Outcomes of interest have largely been limited to total volume

123 of alcohol consumed, frequency or speed of consumption, and latency to start or finish a drink
124 [28-33]. These studies provided minimal examination of alcohol concentration temporal
125 dynamics beyond peak, ascending versus descending limb, or overall differences (for example
126 [30,34]); likely secondary to the aforementioned variability in alcohol exposure even after a
127 standard “drink” and challenges collecting frequent alcohol concentration measures after oral
128 consumption. Using an IV alcohol paradigm, Stangl et al. reported that those who self-infused
129 more rewards in the first 30-min of the lab study reported drinking more heavily in the past
130 month and reported a greater rewarding subjective response compared to participants who
131 infused less during the same interval [35]. Recently, the time to achieve a binge level exposure
132 of 80 mg/dL was associated with AUD risk [36], genetic risk [37], and high-risk drinking [38]. In
133 these studies, each IV alcohol reward is identical. Thus, participants only achieved *indirect*
134 control of the overall rate of BrAC change through selection of *when* alcohol was delivered.
135 Further, the rate of change associated with each reward was identical and thus may have been
136 too rapid or too slow for an individual participant for whom the rate of change influences, if not
137 determines, reward. Recently, investigators employed ecological momentary assessment and
138 estimated blood alcohol concentrations to examine alcohol consumption in the community.
139 Noting the limitations of the methodology, they reported that, within drinking episodes, “faster
140 consumption” (determined as greater rates of change in *estimated* blood alcohol concentration)
141 was associated with decreased negative affect and increased positive affect [39]. Consequently,
142 while the alcohol self-administration literature consistently identifies a role for drinking rate and
143 the resultant alcohol pharmacokinetics in multiple outcome measures, no study has yet to
144 provide participants direct and reproducible control over their alcohol exposure time course.

145 We developed a novel IV alcohol self-administration paradigm to assess preference for
146 high *rates of change of* BrAC as a potential underlying risk factor for AUD. By allowing
147 participants to directly control how quickly their BrAC changed for each reward interval, we
148 tested the primary hypothesis that their self-administered alcohol exposure profile is associated

149 with recent Binge and High-Intensity Drinking. In addition, we explored the underlying reasons
150 including the role of subjective sensitivity to rate of change of alcohol exposure and Family
151 History Density of AUD amongst other AUD-related risk. Then, based our results implicating
152 Family History Density of AUD and recent Binge and High-Intensity Drinking, we tested whether
153 the interview-based associations found in our laboratory study replicated in a much larger
154 sample population from the Collaborative Study on the Genetics of Alcoholism (COGA).

155

156 **Methods**

157 See Supplementary Material for expanded details.

158 *Laboratory Participants*

159 A total of 37 participants, 18 men and 19 women aged 21-27, completed the study. All
160 were healthy, non-treatment seeking, and at-risk alcohol-consuming participants comprising 29
161 and 4 European and African ancestry respectively, with the remainder being of mixed, other, or
162 unknown ancestry (Laboratory Session; Table 1A). All participants were heavy drinkers ($\geq 7/14$
163 drinks per week or $\geq 3/4$ drinks on one occasion for women and men respectively [6]). The study
164 was approved by the Indiana University School of Medicine Institutional Review Board. NIAAA
165 guidelines for administering alcohol in human studies were followed. Participants were
166 interviewed, providing demographic and medical information, a recent 35-day drinking (timeline
167 follow-back; [40,41]), an evaluation of antecubital vein access and vital signs, a blood sample
168 for liver function testing, and a urine sample for drug use and pregnancy-testing. As tobacco use
169 is also highly prevalent in heavier drinkers, N=8 recent smokers were included.

170

171 *Alcohol Self-Administration Sessions*

172 Each participant undertook one IV alcohol self-administration session. Participants were
173 instructed to avoid consuming alcohol after 4 PM on the previous day and to not eat anything
174 after midnight. Each was admitted to the outpatient section of the Indiana Clinical Research

175 Center at Indiana University Hospital at approximately 8 AM; all participants had a zero BrAC
176 and females had a negative urine pregnancy test. Smokers were offered nicotine replacement
177 during the session (none accepted). A standardized breakfast was provided, followed by
178 antecubital IV catheter placement in the non-dominant arm. In response to the participant's
179 experimental choices, the required infusion rate profile was calculated in real time, utilizing an
180 individualized physiologically-based pharmacokinetic model [42] and the Computer Assisted
181 Alcohol Infusion System (CAIS, [43-45]). BrAC was measured frequently throughout the
182 experiment. The safety limit, above which alcohol self-administration was suspended, was 150
183 mg/dL. Participants were not informed of their BrAC at any time.

184 Rate selection and subjective response assessments were repeated in 3 min epochs
185 (Figure 1). Three min was determined to be the minimum interval over which the participant
186 could experience the effects of the selected rate of BrAC based upon pharmacokinetic modeling
187 of brain alcohol concentration and consistent with work by Gomez et al [8]. A visual display
188 allowed the participant to choose the next rate of BrAC change by turning a dial. Participants
189 were instructed that the experimental objective was to determine how much they enjoyed
190 various alcohol exposure rates and that they would be able to increase, decrease, or keep their
191 BrAC the same as they desired. They were encouraged to make decisions with minimal delay,
192 during which their BrAC was held constant. The maximum ascending rate in each epoch was 5
193 mg/dL per min or whatever lesser rate would achieve a BrAC within 5 mg/dL of the safety limit.
194 The maximum available descent rate was initially -5 mg/dL per min, reducing with equilibration
195 of alcohol in the total body water [46-49], and subsequently limited by the participant's alcohol
196 elimination rate. The display was dynamically updated to present the current range of available
197 choices.

198 Participants documented their current subjective perceptions over approximately 20
199 seconds at the end of each epoch, using a visual comparison to their preceding selection
200 (Figure 1), consistent with our prior work [25,50,51]. The following Subjective Response

201 questions were used, adapted from the Subjective High Assessment Scale [52] as implemented
202 by Schuckit et al [15,53-55], the Brief Biphasic Alcohol Effects Scale [56], and the Subjective
203 Effects of Alcohol Scale [57].

204 How much am I feeling the effects of the drug right now? (INTOXICATED)

205 How STIMULATED (energized, excited, up) do I feel right now?

206 How ANXIOUS (tense, jittery, nervous) do I feel right now?

207 How RELAXED (carefree, mellow, loose) do I feel right now?

208 How SEDATED (slow thoughts, sluggish, difficulty concentrating) do I feel right now?

209 After the session, participants were transferred to a private room until the later of 5 PM
210 or their BrAC fell below 20 mg/dL. We compensated participants \$25 in cash at the time of the
211 interview and \$125 at release.

212

213 Laboratory Measures

214 *Time to reach BrAC of 80 mg/dL.* The elapsed time (minutes) at which the participant reached a
215 BrAC of 80 mg/dL was employed as the primary outcome, as in our prior work [36-38]. Two
216 participants did not self-administer alcohol and post-session debriefing identified intentional
217 manipulation to achieve an earlier discharge time in one case and, in the other, a significant
218 recent stressor which would have precluded their involvement had it been reported at the
219 screening interview. These individuals were excluded from all analyses.

220 *Subjective Response to Alcohol.* Operationalizing our prior work for repeated assessment [58],
221 subjective response to alcohol as a function of time was modeled as a linear combination of the
222 current alcohol concentration, the preceding rate of change in alcohol concentration, and the
223 cumulative exposure to alcohol at that time across all measured time points, using Matlab
224 (Mathworks, Natick MA). The coefficient relating the rate of change in alcohol concentration to
225 subjective response served as the analytical variable.

226 Interview-based Measures

227 Family History of AUD module of the SSAGA [59], the Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test
228 (AUDIT; [60]), Penn Alcohol Craving Scale (PACS, [61]), and the retrospective Self-Reported
229 Effects of Alcohol (SRE, [62]) were collected. For safety and procedure-related purposes, the
230 Clinical Institute Withdrawal Assessment for Alcohol [63], and the Center for Epidemiologic
231 Studies Depression Scale [64] were completed.

232 *Drinking Intensity.* Laboratory sample drinking intensity (DI) was characterized by the
233 self-reported maximum number of drinks in a 24-hour period (Maxdrinks) during the 35 day
234 timeline follow-back interval, divided by 4 or 5 drinks for women and men respectively, a
235 strategy comparable to that adopted in the epidemiological literature [9,12,13] and labeled as
236 low-risk if $DI < 1$ (N=2), moderate-risk if $1 \leq DI < 2$ (N=11), high-risk if $2 \leq DI < 3$ (N=14), and
237 extreme-risk if $DI \geq 3$ (N=8). Given sample size concerns, the low-risk group was excluded from
238 all group-based analyses, leaving a final analytical sample of 33 subjects. In the subsequent
239 study, DI groups were created in COGA using the lifetime Maxdrinks variable. DI group
240 demographic characteristics by sample are in Tables 1A and 1B, with additional COGA sample
241 data presented in Supplementary Table 1B.

242 *Family History Density.* A family history density (FHD) score [65] was calculated for each
243 participant in both samples. FHD scores were based on degree of biological relatedness, in
244 which parents and full-siblings with a lifetime history of DSM-IV alcohol dependence contributed
245 0.5 for each person, each dependent grandparent or sibling of parents contributed 0.25, and
246 non-affected biological relatives contributed zero. We calculated FHD as the sum of weights
247 divided by the number of counted relatives. A detailed description of Materials and Methods is
248 provided in Supplemental Material.

249

250 **Statistical Analyses**

251 *Time to Reach 80 mg/dL.* Survival analyses used a Cox proportional hazards model to
252 test if the time at which drinkers reached 80 mg/dL differed as a function of DI. The Akaike
253 Information Criteria (AIC) was utilized to evaluate fit. Nicotine and gender were tested and
254 included if significant ($p < 0.05$). FHD was tested in a separate model to avoid any confounds
255 between FHD and DI group. To verify that our primary result was not a function of the DI group
256 definition process, subsequent analyses examined the relationship between Maxdrinks and
257 Time to Reach 80 mg/dL.

258 *Subjective Response.* The individual contribution of FHD and DI group to the subjective
259 response was evaluated using separate analyses of variance (ANOVA) model for FHD and for
260 DI group. We included FHD, AUDIT, and the FHD*AUDIT interaction in each ANOVA model to
261 account for the potential effect of high AUDIT scores in those with higher FHD.

262 *Drinking Intensity Groups.* An ANOVA model was used to examine the characteristics of
263 the three DI groups for age, FHD, craving (PACS), and AUDIT (Table 1A) by using DI group as
264 a predictor variable. Tukey-corrected pairwise comparisons were used to identify how the
265 groups differed. A Chi-square test was used to test whether gender and nicotine use was
266 associated with the DI groups.

267 *Family History Density.* To utilize risk information inherent in the DI group variable, an
268 ordinal logistic regression model was employed to examine the hypothesis that FHD predicts DI
269 group. The Score Test was employed to test the equal proportional odds assumption. ANOVA
270 models were subsequently used to assess if FHD predicted the alcohol-related interview
271 variables PACS/DAQ, SRE-total, and AUDIT/SC scores. Age and gender were excluded from
272 the models because they were not significant.

273 Pearson correlation coefficients were estimated to aid in interpretation of associations
274 between quantitative variables, when applicable. Odds ratios (OR) and 95% Confidence

275 Intervals (CI) are reported when appropriate. An adjusted $\alpha=0.01$ was used to correct for the 5
276 subjective responses analyzed in the same model. An $\alpha=0.05$ was employed for all other
277 analyses. All analyses were completed using SAS v9.4.

278

279 **Results**

280 *Demographics:* The (mean; standard deviation) age of participants in the Laboratory sample
281 was (23.1; 1.9) years and (24.8; 2.3) in the COGA sample. The laboratory sample reported
282 (12.7; 6.0) drinks per week. There were slightly more women than men in both samples
283 (Laboratory sample=55%, COGA sample=51%).

284 *Alcohol Self-Administration:* Many laboratory participants reached the safety limit of 150 mg/dL.
285 DI group significantly predicted the time until a participant reached binge drinking BrAC
286 threshold (80 mg/dL; overall $p = 0.004$, AIC=153.7) with 5 participants not reaching 80 mg/dL
287 (Figures 2 and 3). The extreme-risk DI group reached a BrAC of 80 mg/ faster (mean 33.3 min)
288 than the high-risk DI group (mean 57.2 min); hazard ratio = 3.33, 95% CI = [1.22, 9.09], $p=0.02$,
289 and faster than the moderate-risk DI group (mean 85.4 min); hazard ratio = 7.14, 95% CI =
290 [2.22, 21.74], $p=0.01$; There was an emerging trend in the difference in time between the high-
291 and moderate-risk DI groups; hazard ratio = 2.13, 95% CI = [0.85, 5.26], $p=0.10$. FHD, nicotine,
292 and gender were not associated with time until binge level exposure occurred for the DI groups
293 (all $p>0.10$).

294 Individuals with higher Maxdrinks also reached 80 mg/dL levels more quickly ($p=0.004$,
295 hazard ratio = 2.21, AIC=162.4).

296 *Rate Dependent Subjective Response:* DI group did not predict any rate-dependence of
297 subjective responses (all $p\geq 0.38$). FHD by itself predicted rate sensitivity (at $p\leq 0.01$) for two of
298 the five subjective responses to alcohol (Table 2):

299 *Intoxication:* Higher FHD was associated with lower rate-dependent intoxication effects
300 (p=0.001). AUDIT score was not associated with intoxication, *per se*, (p=0.09), but individuals
301 with both a high FHD and high AUDIT scores reported feeling significantly more intoxication as
302 a function of rate of alcohol exposure (FHD*AUDIT p=0.003).

303 *Stimulation:* Higher FHD was associated with lower rate-dependent stimulation (p=0.01).
304 As with intoxication, AUDIT score was not associated with rate sensitivity of stimulation
305 (p=0.10), although individuals with higher FHD and AUDIT scores reported moderately more
306 stimulation (FHD*AUDIT p=0.05).

307 *Anxious:* There was an association between both higher FHD and higher AUDIT scores
308 and a greater alcohol rate-dependent anxiety (p=0.04 and p=0.03 respectively), however the
309 significance did not survive correction. There was no significant interaction between AUDIT and
310 FHD and anxiety (p=0.09).

311 *Sedation and Relaxation:* No association between alcohol exposure rate and FHD,
312 AUDIT, or their interaction was identified in the measure of Sedation or Relaxation (all p>0.2).

313

314 *Drinking Intensity Group:* Individuals in the high-risk DI group had higher AUDIT scores than
315 those in the moderate-risk DI group (p=0.04, Table 1A). Those in the extreme-risk DI group had
316 higher FHD compared to those in the moderate-risk DI group (p=0.036). There were no pairwise
317 differences between the groups for any other alcohol-related screening variable (all p>0.2).

318 *Family History Density:* FHD predicted DI group (p=0.02; Score Test p=0.40), a finding that
319 prompted subsequent testing for replication in the COGA sample, given the small laboratory
320 sample size and limited FHD range.

321

322 *COGA Participants*

323 The COGA sites began with recruitment of AUD probands from inpatient and outpatient
324 treatment facilities and administered a poly-diagnostic interview, the Semi-Structured
325 Assessment for the Genetics of Alcoholism (SSAGA) [66,67], and targeted families with a high
326 density of first-degree relatives with alcohol dependence. Comparison families were recruited
327 within the same communities [68]. To approximate the Laboratory Sample, COGA were
328 included in analyses only if they were of European ancestry, between the ages of 21 and 28 at
329 their most recent interview, and ever drank at least one full alcohol beverage. One person per
330 extended family corresponding to the participant with the lowest identification number in the age
331 range was retained. The final COGA sample contained N=644 individuals, with 65% having a
332 parent with AUD. FHD was computed in the COGA sample [58] in the same way as the
333 Laboratory sample. See Supplementary Material for more discussion of the COGA sample.

334 Higher FHD was associated with greater drinking intensity in the COGA sample ($p=0.0002$;
335 Score Test $p=0.54$, Supplementary Figure 1). Individuals with a higher FHD were 7.75 times
336 more likely to be in the extreme-risk DI group compared to the other DI groups (based on unit of
337 0.25 in FHD calculation; 95% confidence interval (CI) = [1.45, 40.76]). FHD was not associated
338 with any of the alcohol-related screening measures (all $p>0.30$) in the Laboratory sample.

339

340 **Discussion**

341 Rate Control is the first human laboratory paradigm where participants had explicit,
342 reproducible control over their *rate* of change of alcohol exposure. The results support our
343 primary hypothesis – that people who report risky drinking self-administered alcohol to a binge
344 level faster. This behavior suggests that they may consume alcohol to raise their BrAC quickly
345 versus simply achieving a higher level; potentially a pharmacodynamic mechanism underlying

346 risky drinking. Clinically, this observation provides evidence of the importance of counseling
347 people on not only how much and how often but also *how quickly* they drink, urging extra
348 precaution for those with greater FHD. The results support FHD as a risk factor for elevated
349 drinking intensity; it is also associated with subjective response, although in an indirect and
350 complex manner. The findings also build upon previous studies that used retrospective
351 evaluation of a free-access IV alcohol-self-administration paradigm to demonstrate that time to
352 achieve binge levels during a drinking episode reflected risk factors for AUD such as gender,
353 family history of AUD, impulsivity, and level of response [35,36,38].

354 As a risk factor, FHD captures a combination of biological (genetic) and
355 psychosocial/environmental factors. The genetics of alcohol consumption has garnered interest
356 (e.g. [69,70]), yet Binge and High-Intensity phenotypes are relatively unexplored. Use of the
357 AUDIT consumption subscale [71] has been productive [72-74], but this measure does not
358 specifically capture the High-Intensity Drinking phenotype and may reflect non-problematic
359 alcohol usage [74]. Further, some work suggests the prediction of clinical phenotypes based on
360 AUDIT consumption-based polygenic risk scores may be sample-dependent [75]. Maxdrinks,
361 which, at higher ranges, is more specific to Binge and High-Intensity Drinking, has proven a
362 valuable phenotype in genetic studies [14,76,77]. Consequently, our Laboratory finding of an
363 association between FHD and drinking intensity group is congruent with the literature and
364 significantly strengthened by replication in the much larger COGA sample. In fact,
365 supplementary COGA analyses showed that drinking intensity accounted for more variability in
366 the alcohol screening measures than FHD (See Supplementary Material), highlighting the
367 importance of collecting information on drinking patterns within and across events.

368 Our results suggesting that psychodynamic effects of alcohol may be exposure-rate
369 dependent is not new, but remains relatively unexplored [19-21]. Studies using oral challenge
370 techniques have been limited by the lack of control of the alcohol concentration trajectory.
371 Under conditions in which participants could select their exposure rate, FHD, but not drinking

372 intensity group, was associated with rate-dependent subjective response. Specifically, this
373 negative relationship between FHD and the alcohol exposure-rate dependent term for both
374 intoxication and stimulation, suggests that those with higher FHD perceive less of these effects
375 for a given positive exposure rate. Such a person may have to drink faster if intoxication or
376 stimulation is a goal, suggesting support for the Low Level of Response Model. Another
377 possibility is that higher FHD is associated with greater, more rapid acute tolerance to
378 intoxicating and stimulating effects.

379 Exposure-rate sensitivity should be applicable to the descending limb, but few
380 participants in our study chose to reduce their alcohol exposures. Thus, extension of our results
381 to the descending limb and directly comparing to the pre-existing subjective response models of
382 risk is not advised.

383 Study limitations are primarily related to the small Laboratory sample size, resulting in a
384 limited range of FHD and diversity, and limited power to detect smaller effect sizes. Further,
385 Maxdrinks was determined over the 35-day timeline follow-back interval in the Laboratory
386 Sample compared to the lifetime assessment in the COGA dataset. However, variability in
387 timeframe and drinking pattern assessment is also present in the larger literature [9,11-14] and
388 the optimal timeframe and metrics for assessing drinking intensity likely varies with the question
389 of interest; potentially serving as either a state or trait risk factor. In the Laboratory sample,
390 however, the groups each consumed alcohol over a similar timescale – approximately 3 days
391 per week, and across the entire sample this was typically the weekend (Supplementary Figure
392 2). Thus, the primary difference was the intensity of each event. In that context, our survival
393 analysis results appear to be reflective of recent drinking intensity. Consequently, further study
394 will be required to assess the potential impact of acute and/or chronic tolerance on our alcohol
395 self-administration and subjective response measures, since each theoretically contributes to
396 ongoing rapid alcohol self-administration in the laboratory and the community. Alcohol is not
397 administered intravenously in the community, and our protocol did not include the sensory and

398 environmental cues participants routinely experience when ingesting alcohol. The absence of
399 such cues may have contributed to lack of association between drinking intensity and the
400 subjective responses. The difference in route of administration and environment may limit
401 generalizability, but we chose a controlled lab environment to assess alcohol's pharmacological
402 effect and to allow exquisite control of exposure rates (in contrast to consumption rates) which is
403 not possible with ingestion. Our sessions also began in the morning to allow for monitoring after
404 alcohol-self-administration, and while not a common time-of-day for alcohol consumption for
405 many, the time course of exposures suggests this was not a significant impediment (Figure 2).
406 Finally, we asked subjects how much they enjoyed controlling their rates of exposure. While this
407 positive valence focus is appropriate for those in an early stage of their drinking career (or within
408 the Binge-Intoxication stage of AUD development, summarized in [78]), the instructions may
409 need to be tailored to future populations under study. Despite these limitations, the strengths of
410 this study include obtaining multiple assessments per subject to estimate the pharmacokinetic-
411 pharmacodynamic relationship, constraining the age ranges in the COGA sample to reduce
412 differences between the samples, and replicating Laboratory interview-based results in the
413 much larger COGA sample.

414 There are several potential uses of the rate control paradigm. Most importantly, these
415 results support the need for studies aiming to change how quickly people drink, the desire for
416 rapidly increasing alcohol exposures, and their underlying neurobiology. Rate control could
417 serve as an endpoint in studies aimed to screen interventions for efficacy prior to larger clinical
418 trials. For example, a reduction (if not elimination) in the time to achieve 80 mg/dL could be
419 considered a successful outcome of intervention, whether it is counseling about the dangers of
420 binge drinking, a repurposed compound, or neuromodulation of reward circuitry. Further,
421 pairing targeted analyses with objectively determined degrees of intense drinking may be a way
422 to identify specific genes (or combinations) underlying subjective response, although obtaining a
423 sufficient sample size may be challenging. Exploration of other contributors to drinking intensity,

424 such as impulsivity [79] and sex as well as sexual identity differences [80], are also warranted.
425 Further, we envision rate control as an objective tool to examine the role of acute and chronic
426 tolerance on the Binge and High-Intensity Drinking phenotype.

427

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483

484

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697

698

699 Table 1: Demographic Analysis by Drinking Intensity Group. Due to small number (n = 2),
 700 participants with membership the Low Drinking Intensity Group of the Laboratory Sample were
 701 excluded from all group-based analyses. Data show mean (standard error) or percent. AUDIT:
 702 Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test. FHD: family history density of biological relatives with
 703 an AUD. PACS: Penn Alcohol Craving Scale. Maxdrinks, DD/W, and D/DD: Maximum number
 704 of drinks in a 24-hour period, Drinking Days per Week, Drinks per Drinking Day, and Heavy
 705 Drinking Days respectively over Timeline Followback interval.
 706

A: Laboratory Sample: Drinking Intensity Group					
	Low	Moderate	High	Extreme	p-value
Number	2	11	14	8	
Age	--	22.9 (0.53)	23.4 (0.57)	23.0 (0.63)	0.83
Gender (%F)	--	73%	43%	50 %	0.32
FHD	--	0.06 (0.03)	0.09 (0.03)	0.18 (0.04)	0.04
Craving (PACS)	--	6.1 (1.0)	8.7 (1.0)	7.1 (1.6)	0.39
SRE-total	--	5.92 (0.58)	6.81 (0.92)	7.46 (0.62)	0.28
AUDIT	--	8.0 (0.66)	11.1 (0.8)	8.8 (1.49)	0.39
Maxdrinks	--	6.2 (0.42)	10.7 (0.44)	15.9 (0.72)	0.004
DD/W	--	2.6 (0.2)	2.8 (0.27)	3.2 (0.55)	0.50
D/DD	--	3.5 (0.26)	5.5 (0.62)	5.5 (0.83)	0.03
B: COGA Sample: Drinking Intensity Group					
	Low	Moderate	High	Extreme	p-value
Number	45	74	119	406	
Age	24.4 (0.36)	24.4 (0.27)	22.3 (0.21)	24.8 (0.11)	0.033
Gender (%F)	62.2%	70.3%	61.5%	38.9%	<0.0001
FHD	0.23 (0.03)	0.27 (0.03)	0.30 (0.02)	0.35 (0.01)	<0.0001
Maxdrinks	3.1 (0.18)	6.4 (0.12)	10.3 (0.15)	24.1 (0.56)	<0.0001

707

708 Table 2: Beta and standard error of the general linear model rate of change of BrAC coefficients
 709 to each subjective response for the full analysis of variance model employing FHD, AUDIT, and
 710 FHD*AUDIT. The computation is shown for assessing FHD, AUDIT Score and the
 711 combination. Increasing biological family history of alcohol density was associated with less
 712 alcohol exposure rate-dependent sensitivity on the measures of Intoxication, representing
 713 general drug effects, and on Stimulation. Significant effects, based on an adjusted $\alpha \leq 0.01$,
 714 shown in bold; marginal effects italicized. AUDIT: Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test.
 715 FHD: family history density of biological relatives with an Alcohol Use Disorder.

716
 717

Subjective Response	FHD	AUDIT	FHD*AUDIT
Intoxication	-57.2 (15.87) <i>p = 0.001</i>	-0.49 (0.28) p = 0.088	5.66 (1.70) <i>p = 0.003</i>
Stimulation	-42.58 (15.30) <i>p = 0.001</i>	-0.45 (0.27) p = 0.103	3.40 (1.63) <i>p = 0.047</i>
Anxious	30.96 (14.18) <i>p = 0.038</i>	0.55 (0.25) <i>p = 0.034</i>	-2.68 (1.51) p = 0.088
Sedation	14.55 (22.22) p = 0.516	0.18 (0.38) p = 0.645	-0.44 (2.36) p = 0.855
Relaxation	18.69 (16.62) p = 0.271	0.35 (0.29) p = 0.240	-2.17 (1.78) p = 0.232

718

Figure 1: Exposure Rate Selection and Subjective Response Determination Sequence. The task began with an initial exposure rate selection, with the display indicating no past rate of change (baseline). During each 3 min epoch, beginning at 2.5 minutes, a set of subjective responses were collected over approximately 20 sec after which time the next exposure rate selection prompt was displayed, indicating the prior selection in the left hand (shaded) portion of the display. The choice and subjective response sequence was repeated throughout the experiment. The next exposure rate was then selected by rotation of the response button (Griffin Technologies Powermate®, depiction inset) to a position within the available range depicted in gray. The arrow position followed the button rotation in real time, and the rate chosen is confirmed by a single button press.

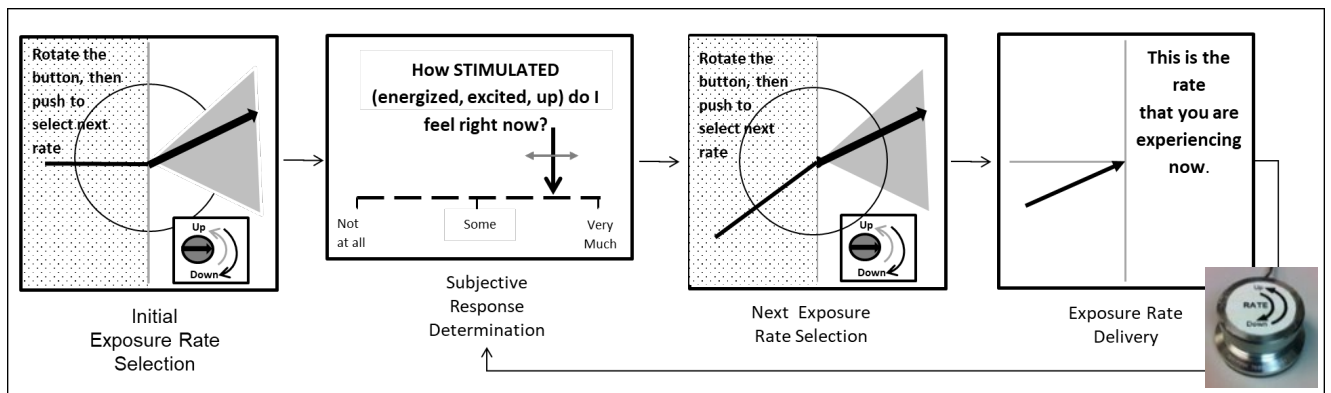


Figure 2: Alcohol Self-Administration Trajectories. Individual BrAC time courses and average time course for the DI groups are displayed. Mean times to reach 80 mg/dL are noted by vertical lines.

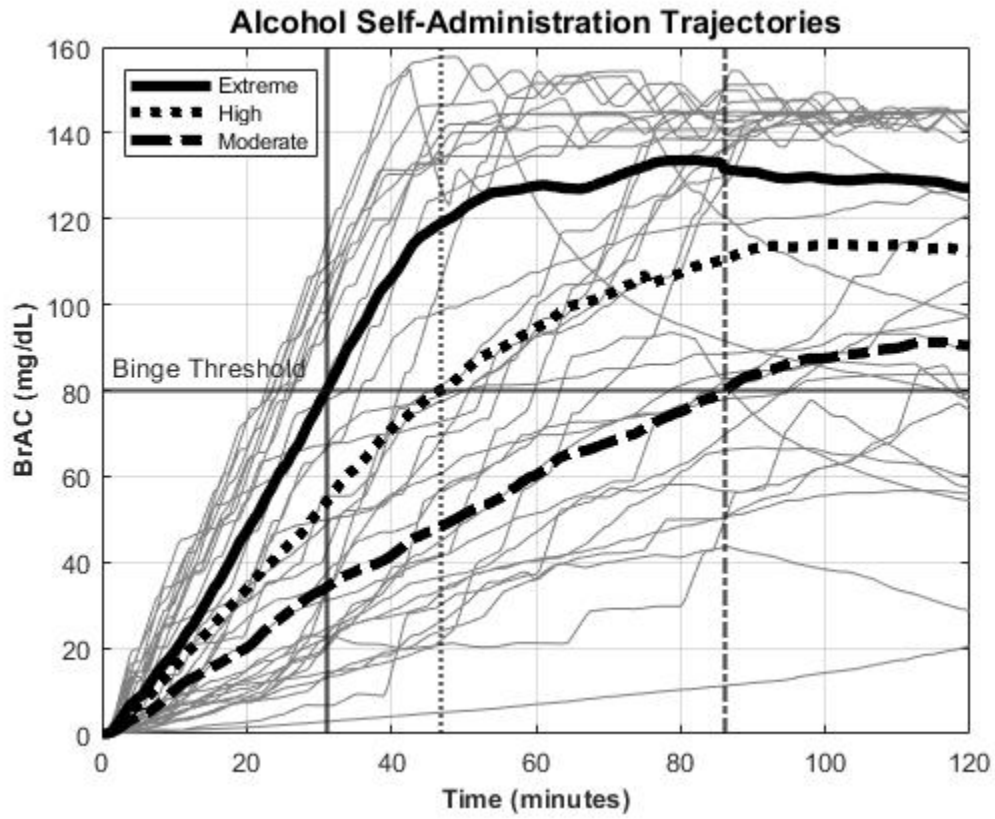


Figure 3: Survival Analysis of Time to a Binge Alcohol Exposure of 80 mg/dL. Kaplan-Meier curves show that drinking Intensity group significantly predicted the time until a subject reached binge drinking BrAC threshold ($p = 0.004$). 5 total participants did not reach 80 mg/dL, demarcated by the High and Moderate group's survival probability remaining non-zero at 120 minutes.

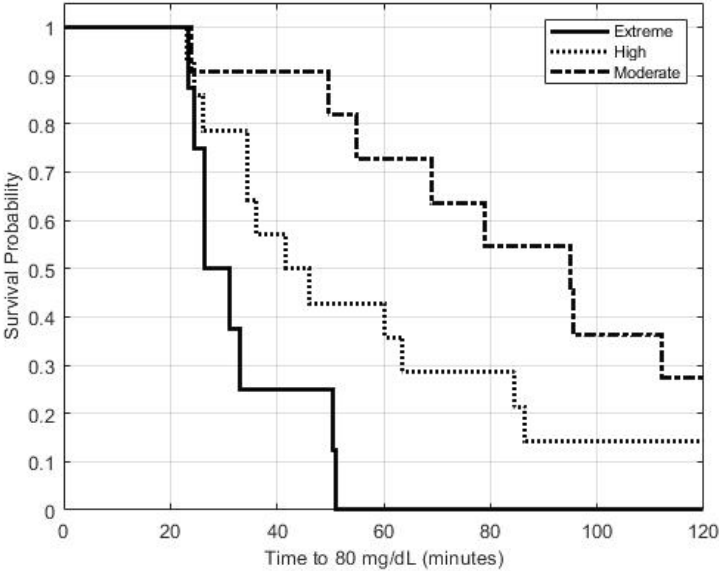
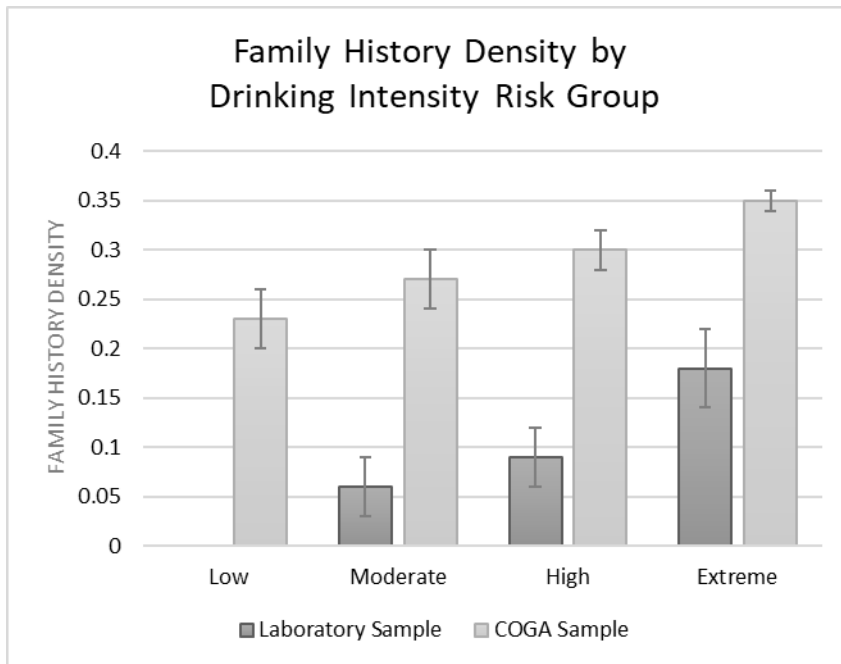


Figure 4: Family History Density by Drinking Intensity Risk Group (mean \pm SEM). DI groups were defined as low-risk if $DI < 1$, moderate-risk if $1 \leq DI < 2$, high-risk if $2 \leq DI < 3$, and extreme-risk if $DI \geq 3$. Laboratory Sample: $N = 2, 11, 14,$ and 8 . COGA Sample: $N = 45, 74, 119,$ and 406 . Given sample size concerns, the low-risk group was excluded from all Laboratory Sample analyses and is not displayed. There was a significant association between drinking intensity group and family history density in the Laboratory and COGA samples.



Supplemental Materials and Methods

Laboratory Sessions

Laboratory Sample Participants

A total of 37 (18 men and 19 women; 29 of European and 4 of African ancestry, with the remainder being of mixed, other, or unknown ancestry) healthy, non-treatment seeking, and at-risk alcohol-consuming participants completed the study (Laboratory Session; Table 1). NIAAA guidelines for administering alcohol in human studies were followed. Potential participants were recruited from those responding to local advertisements or past, unrelated study participants who provided consent to be contacted about other study opportunities. We screened potential participants by phone for basic eligibility (self-reported age of 21-27 years, NIAAA defined recent heavy drinking of $\geq 7/14$ drinks or at least 3/4 drinks on one occasion per week for women and men respectively [1], and self-reported general health). Those passing undertook an in-depth, in-person, enrollment interview after providing informed consent approved by the Indiana University School of Medicine Institutional Review Board. During that interview, we collected demographic and medical information, assessed most recent 35-day drinking (timeline follow-back; [2,3]), antecubital vein access and vital signs, and collected blood for testing liver function and a urine sample for drug- and pregnancy-testing.

Exclusion criteria were a clinically significant history of renal, hepatic, cardiovascular, pulmonary, or gastro-intestinal disease, any DSM-5 psychiatric condition including substance dependence (excluding alcohol; derived from the Semi-Structured Assessment for the Genetics of Alcoholism Interview (SSAGA) [4]) and Penn Alcohol Craving Scale (PACS), [5]), history of seizure or loss of consciousness for greater than 20 minutes, suicidality, court mandate not to use alcohol, incompatible clinical trial participation, or current use of medication that could influence subject safety or data integrity. All participants had a zero BrAC measurement on arrival to the Clinical Research Center and females had a negative urine beta-hCG test for pregnancy prior to interview and testing. As tobacco use is also highly prevalent in heavier

drinkers, smokers were permitted to participate (N=8 recent smokers), and were offered nicotine replacement during the session.

Laboratory Sessions

Each subject undertook one 2-hour intravenous (IV) alcohol self-administration session. Participants were instructed to avoid consuming alcohol after 4 PM on the previous day and to not eat anything after midnight. Each was admitted to the outpatient section of the Indiana Clinical Research Center at Indiana University Hospital at approximately 8 AM, asked to provide BrAC and urine samples precluding current alcohol, drug use, and - for females - pregnancy. They were provided a standardized 350 calorie breakfast at 9 AM, and then a nurse installed an indwelling 20-gauge IV catheter in an ante-cubital vein of the non-dominant arm. The participant rested for 15 min, then sat comfortably in a 5x7 foot, sound-dampened, testing chamber. The catheter was Y-connected to a two-channel IMED Gemini PC-2TX infusion pump (Alaris Medical Systems, San Diego, CA; now BD), each channel capable of delivering 998 ml/hr of infusate, comprising 6% (v/v) ethanol in half-normal saline prepared by the Indiana University School of Medicine Research Pharmacy. The infusion rate profile is calculated continuously to achieve participant-elected alcohol exposure rates using an individualized physiologically-based pharmacokinetic model [6] and our Computer Assisted Alcohol Infusion System (CAIS) [7-9]. Breath alcohol concentration (BrAC) was measured repeatedly with an Alcotest model 6510 (Draeger, Irving, TX) throughout the experiment and entered into CAIS in real time to ensure safety and to improve fidelity to the desired alcohol exposure rates. However, absent a collection error, the BrAC was obtained not more frequently than 3 minutes, corresponding to the primary task described below. The safety limit, above which no alcohol self-administration that would raise the BrAC was allowed, was set to 150 mg/dL. Participants were not informed of their BrAC at any time.

Rate selection and subjective response assessments were repeated in every 3 min epoch for the duration of the experiment (Figure 1). The task employed a visual display of the current rate of BrAC change and allowed the subject to choose the rate for the next epoch by turning a dial. The task required minimal effort and only a few seconds to complete. Participants were encouraged to make decisions with minimal delay and their BrAC was held constant during any delay. A 3-min epoch length allowed for the maximum number of subjective response assessments and provided a sufficient time over which the subject experienced the effects of the previously selected rate of BrAC, based upon our own physiologically-based pharmacokinetic modeling and consistent with work by Gomez et al [10]. The maximum ascending rate available was 5 mg/dL per min (or 300 mg/dL per hour) or whatever lesser rate would achieve a BrAC within 5 mg/dL of the safety limit in the next epoch. Negative rates provided the subject the opportunity to recover from any overzealous ascending exposure. The maximum initial BrAC descent available was approximately -5 mg/dL per min (-300 mg/dL per hour), decreasing over ~90 min as alcohol distribution in total body water approached equilibrium [11-14], then subsequently limited to the subject's natural alcohol elimination rate. The gray area in the selection pane described the range of increasing or decreasing BrAC rates that were available and was updated to display the available span determined by pharmacokinetic and safety limit constraints.

Participants documented their current subjective perceptions using a visual comparison to their preceding selection (Figure 1), which took approximately 20 seconds, consistent with our prior work ([15-17]. The following questions were used to examine Subjective Response to Alcohol, adapted from the Subjective High Assessment Scale [18] as implemented by Schuckit et al [19-22], the Brief Biphasic Alcohol Effects Scale [23], and the Subjective Effects of Alcohol Scale [24].

How much am I feeling the effects of the drug right now? (INTOXICATED)

How STIMULATED (energized, excited, up) do I feel right now?

How ANXIOUS (tense, jittery, nervous) do I feel right now?

How RELAXED (carefree, mellow, loose) do I feel right now?

How SEDATED (slow thoughts, sluggish, difficulty concentrating) do I feel right now?

Subject interaction with the technician was limited to periodic BrAC measurement, taken to validate and improve pharmacokinetic model performance. We excluded other distractions including TV, phone, or reading, and required participants to remain in the testing room for the duration of the experiment. Participants were provided bathroom breaks as needed, targeted for the time between alcohol infusions, during which the infusion was paused. After the alcohol self-administration session was completed, participants were transferred to a private room in the Indiana Clinical Research Center until either 5 PM or until their BrAC dropped below 20 mg/dl, whichever occurred later, to maximize safety and to discourage minimizing alcohol self-administration for an early release. We compensated participants \$25 in cash at the time of the interview and \$125 at the conclusion of the session.

Measures

Laboratory Measures - Expanded

Two dependent measures were obtained in the Laboratory Session: time to reach a BrAC of 80 mg/dL, and subjective response to alcohol across the alcohol exposure trajectory.

Time to reach BrAC of 80 mg/dL. The time (min) after commencing alcohol self-administration at which the subject's BrAC first reached 80 mg/dL was determined through examination of the continuous BrAC estimate, generated from the embedded physiologically-based pharmacokinetic model [25] and adapted to include actual BrAC measurements, consistent with our prior work [26-28]. Two participants did not self-administer alcohol and post-session debriefing identified intentional manipulation to achieve an earlier discharge time in one case and a significant recent stressor which would have precluded their involvement had it been

reported at the screening interview. These individuals were excluded from all analyses, leaving 35 potential participants for analysis.

Subjective Response to Alcohol. Each subjective response measurement was linked to alcohol concentration, the rate of change in alcohol concentration during the preceding 3 min (corresponding to the epoch length), and the cumulative exposure to alcohol until that sample time. Operationalizing our prior work for repeated assessment [29], subjective response was then modeled as the time-invariant linear combination of these alcohol exposure variables (Equation 1) over the entire time course through standard least squares minimization via Matlab (Mathworks, Natick MA). The linear model coefficients represent the contribution of the subject's alcohol concentration *per se*, rate of change of alcohol concentration, and cumulative alcohol exposure to each response trajectory.

$$\text{Equation 1 } \textit{Subjective Response}(t) = \alpha_1 \textit{BrAC}(t) + \alpha_2 \frac{d \textit{BrAC}(t)}{dt} + \alpha_3 \int_0^t \textit{BrAC}(\tau) d\tau$$

Given the underlying hypothesis that subjective responses drive alcohol self-administration (in the lab and the community) and a hypothesis and design focusing on the subject's choosing the rate of change of BrAC, the coefficient corresponding to sensitivity to the rate of change in alcohol exposure served as the subjective response variable. The exposure rate-dependent subjective response coefficients were not evaluated to test for differences in Time to 80 mg/dL as these outcomes are confounded.

Interview-based Measures - Expanded

Trained technicians interviewed participants in the Laboratory Sample to collect the following measures: Family History of AUD module of the SSAGA [30], the Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test (AUDIT; [31]), PACS [32], and the retrospective Self-Reported Effects of Alcohol (SRE, [33]). For safety and procedure-related purposes, the Clinical Institute Withdrawal Assessment for Alcohol [34], and the Center for Epidemiologic Studies Depression

Scale [35] were completed. The Short Form of the UPPS Impulsive Behavior Scale (UPPS-SF, [36]) was also collected in the Laboratory sample size but was excluded from all analyses given the absence of a comparable variable in the COGA data set. A brief nicotine history was also collected in the Lab sample, but also secondary to the small sample size, we did not control for nicotine exposure.

The same or similar alcohol-related measures were obtained in COGA interviews. Due to the large number of heavy drinkers in the COGA sample, SRE measures were winsorized such that the maximum value was equal to the mean value plus two standard deviations. In addition, only SRE scores from individuals who reported drinking at least two drinks within one drinking occasion were used. The SRE-total score was normalized by taking the square root of the total score (details in Lai et al [37]). The sum of questions 1-6 of the Desires for Alcohol Questionnaire (DAQ, [38]) was used as the measure of craving in COGA analyses as a proxy for the questions presented in the PACS questionnaire. These DAQ questions inquire about the desire to drink alcohol, with a 5-point Likert scale response of 1=not at all to 5=strongly agree and represented the largest contribution to a “strong desire/intention to drink” in the COGA sample [39]. The AUDIT is not administered as part of the COGA protocol; therefore, the sum of DSM-IV alcohol dependence criteria (symptom count = SC) endorsed was used as a proxy for AUDIT scores. Age at last interview and gender were included as covariates in all models and only retained if $p < 0.05$.

Drinking Intensity. Drinking intensity (DI) was characterized as multiples of the NIAAA binge drinking standard of 4 and 5 drinks on one occasion for women and men respectively, using the self-reported maximum number of drinks in a 24-hour period (maxdrinks) during the timeline follow-back interval. DI groups were defined in the Laboratory sample as low-risk if $DI < 1$ (N=2), moderate-risk if $1 \leq DI < 2$ (N=11), high-risk if $2 \leq DI < 3$ (N=14), and extreme-risk if $DI \geq 3$ (N=8). Given sample size concerns, the low-risk group was excluded from all Laboratory

sample analyses, leaving a final analytical sample of 33 participants. Lifetime maxdrinks was winsorized in the COGA sample to 50 and the DI groups were created as described above. There were enough individuals with $DI < 1$ ($N=45$) and thus this low-risk group was included in all COGA analyses. Demographic characteristics of the DI groups in the Laboratory and the COGA samples are described in Tables 1A and 1B respectively, with additional COGA data presented in Supplementary Table 1B.

Family History Density. A family history density (FHD) score [40] was calculated for each subject in both samples. FHD scores in the Laboratory sample were based on degree of biological relatedness, in which parents and full-siblings with a lifetime history of DSM-IV alcohol dependence contributed 0.5 for each person, each dependent grandparent or sibling of parents contributed 0.25, and non-affected biological relatives contributed zero. We calculated FHD as the sum of weights divided by the number of counted relatives. FHD was computed similarly in the COGA sample [41], although from direct family member interview.

Additional Statistical Analyses

Drinking Intensity Groups. Similar ANOVA models were used in the COGA sample as the Laboratory sample to describe differences in craving (DAQ), DSM-IV symptom count (SC), and SRE-total (Supplementary Table 1B).

Family History Density. Age and gender served as covariates in COGA analyses but were excluded from the Laboratory Sample models because they were not significant. Since FHD and DI group were both significant predictors of the alcohol measures in the COGA sample, an additional ANOVA was utilized to partition the variability contributed by FHD and DI group. Both FHD and DI group were included in the model, as well as appropriate covariates ($p < 0.05$), and the partial r^2 value was computed for FHD and DI.

Additional Results

Drinking Intensity Group: In the COGA sample, there were significant differences among the four DI groups for all alcohol-related measures (all $p < 0.005$; Supplementary Table 1). The high-risk and the extreme-risk DI groups had higher SRE and DSM-IV SC scores (SRE $p = 0.004$, $p < 0.0001$; DSM-IV SC $p = 0.005$, $p < 0.0001$ respectively) compared to the low-risk DI group. Similarly, the extreme-risk group had higher DAQ craving scores than the low-risk group ($p = 0.04$).

Family History Density: The association between FHD and DI group was stronger in the COGA sample ($p = 0.0002$; Score Test $p = 0.54$; Supplementary Figure 1) as expected given the greater analytical power. Individuals with higher FHD were 1.4 times more likely to be in the extreme-risk group compared to the other groups (per unit of 0.25; 95% CI = [1.17, 1.66]). Individuals with higher FHD were less sensitive to the effects of alcohol ($p = 0.007$) as indicated by higher SRE-total scores ($\rho = 0.12$). They also reported increased craving ($p = 0.01$; $\rho = 0.22$) and endorsed more DSM-IV alcohol dependence criteria ($p < 0.0001$; $\rho = 0.26$).

Drinking Intensity and Family History Density: Since both DI group and FHD predicted the alcohol-related measures in the COGA sample, both were included in the same ANOVA model. DI group significantly predicted the alcohol outcomes after accounting for FHD (all DI $p < 0.013$; all FHD $p < 0.01$). The partial r^2 values provided in Supplementary Table 2 indicated that DI group accounted for most of the variability in these outcomes ($8.2\% \leq r^2 \leq 25.7\%$) compared to FHD ($1.5\% \leq r^2 \leq 6.4\%$).

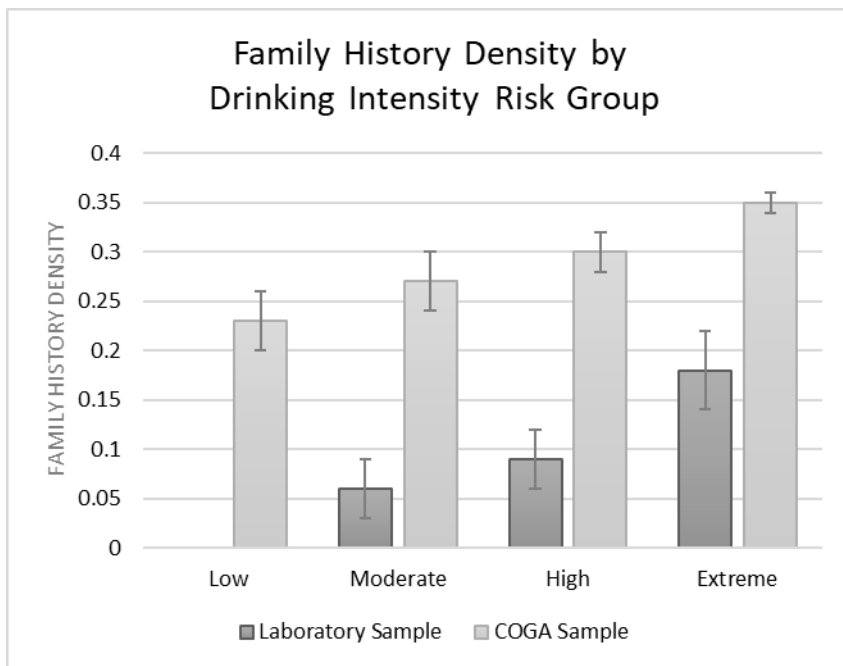
Supplementary Table 1: Expanded Demographic Analysis by Drinking Intensity Group. Due to small number ($n = 2$), participants with membership the Low Drinking Intensity Group of the Laboratory Sample were excluded from all group-based analyses. Data show mean (standard error) or percent. AUDIT: Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test. DAQ: Desires for Alcohol Questionnaire. FHD: family history density of biological relatives with an AUD. PACS: Penn Alcohol Craving Scale. SRE – Total: Self-Reported Effects of Alcohol Total score. MaxDrinks, DD/W, and D/DD: Maximum number of drinks in a 24-hour period, Drinking Days per Week, and Drinks per Drinking Day respectively over recording interval (Laboratory Sample – 35 days; COGA Sample – Lifetime).

A: Laboratory Sample: Drinking Intensity Group					
	Low	Moderate	High	Extreme	p-value
Number	2	11	14	8	
Age	--	22.9 (0.53)	23.4 (0.57)	23.0 (0.63)	0.83
Gender (%F)	--	73%	43%	50 %	0.32
FHD	--	0.06 (0.03)	0.09 (0.03)	0.18 (0.04)	0.04
Craving (PACS)	--	6.1 (1.0)	8.7 (1.0)	7.1 (1.6)	0.39
SRE-total	--	5.92 (0.58)	6.81 (0.92)	7.46 (0.62)	0.28
AUDIT	--	8.0 (0.66)	11.1 (0.8)	8.8 (1.49)	0.39
MaxDrinks	--	6.2 (0.42)	10.7 (0.44)	15.9 (0.72)	0.004
DD/W	--	2.6 (0.2)	2.8 (0.27)	3.2 (0.55)	0.50
D/DD	--	3.5 (0.26)	5.5 (0.62)	5.5 (0.83)	0.03
B: COGA Sample: Drinking Intensity Group					
	Low	Moderate	High	Extreme	p-value
Number	45	74	119	406	
Age	24.4 (0.36)	24.4 (0.27)	22.3 (0.21)	24.8 (0.11)	0.033
Gender (%F)	62.2%	70.3%	61.5%	38.9%	<0.0001
FHD	0.23 (0.03)	0.27 (0.03)	0.30 (0.02)	0.35 (0.01)	<0.0001
Craving (DAQ)	6.33 (0.24)	7.69 (1.22)	9.23 (1.01)	12.34 (0.83)	<0.0048
SRE-total	2.19 (0.20)	3.20 (0.20)	4.10 (0.19)	6.36 (0.16)	<0.0001
DSM-IV Symptom Count	0.02 (0.02)	0.38 (0.08)	0.99 (0.10)	2.73 (0.10)	<0.0001
MaxDrinks	3.1 (0.18)	6.4 (0.12)	10.3 (0.15)	24.1 (0.56)	<0.0001

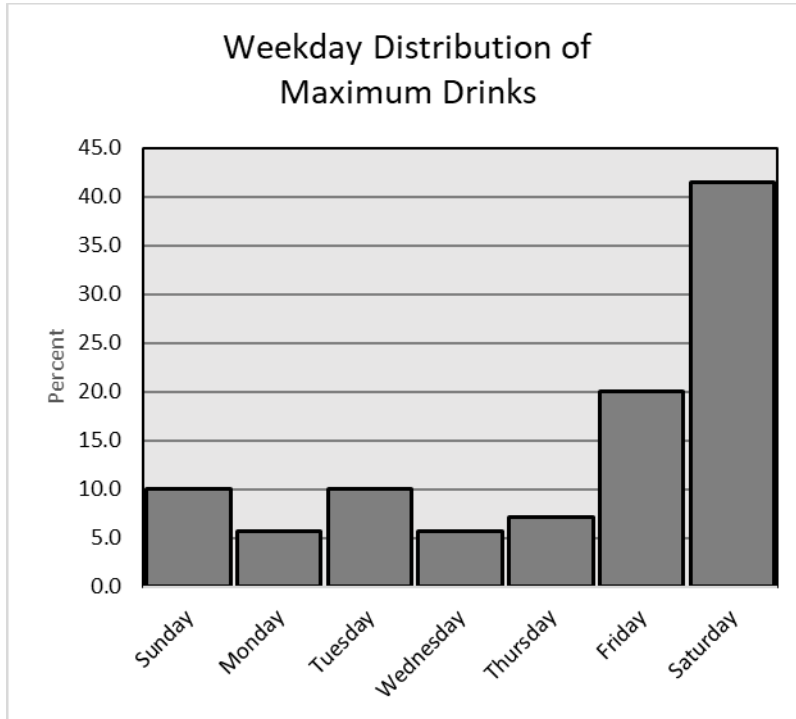
Supplementary Table 2: COGA Sample Family History Density (FHD), Drinking Intensity (DI) group, and Alcohol Interview Outcome partial r-square values. DI significantly predicted the alcohol interview outcome measures, even after accounting for FHD with DI group accounting for most of the variability in these outcomes ($8.2\% \leq r^2 \leq 25.7\%$). df1 = numerator degrees of freedom, df2 = denominator degrees of freedom)

Dependent Variable	Independent Variable	F(df1, df2) value	Partial r-square	p-value
DSM-IV Symptom Count	FHD	F(1,630)=62.78	6.4%	<0.0001
DSM-IV Symptom Count	DI	F(3,630)=84.17	25.7%	<0.0001
DSM-IV Symptom Count	gender	F(1,630)=9.76	1.0%	0.0019
DSM-IV Symptom Count	age	F(1,630)=26.51	2.7%	<0.0001
Craving Score	FHD	F(1,119)=6.84	5.0%	0.0101
Craving Score	DI	F(3,119)=3.76	8.2%	<0.0128
SRE-total	FHD	F(1,400)=8.97	1.5%	<0.0029
SRE-total	DI	F(3,400)=52.52	21.2%	<0.0001
SRE-total	gender	F(1,400)=35.89	6.0%	<0.0001

Supplementary Figure 1: Family History Density by Drinking Intensity Risk Group (mean \pm SEM). DI groups were defined as low-risk if $DI < 1$, moderate-risk if $1 \leq DI < 2$, high-risk if $2 \leq DI < 3$, and extreme-risk if $DI \geq 3$. Laboratory Sample: $N = 2, 11, 14,$ and 8 . COGA Sample: $N = 45, 74, 119,$ and 406 . Given sample size concerns, the low-risk group was excluded from all Laboratory Sample analyses and is not displayed. There was a significant association between drinking intensity group and family history density in the Laboratory and COGA samples.



Supplementary Figure 2: Weekday Distribution of Maxdrinks. Percent of maxdrink occurrences by day of the week demonstrating a predominant weekend pattern.



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