Posters   2003: Drinking and the High School Student

2003

Studying the transition to college: A new prospective study

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Recommended Citation

Sher, Kenneth J., "Studying the transition to college: A new prospective study" (2003). *Posters*. Paper 25 Samuel B. Guze Symposium on Alcoholism.
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IMPACTS

Studying the transition to college: A new prospective study

Goals of the Study

- Characterize the effects of college transition on alcohol use, related problems and dependence symptoms

- Distinguish the individual differences in alcohol involvement trajectories during the college years

- Identify the determinants of these trajectories and understand how these operate

- Comprehend the role of alcohol and other determinants in negative social, academic and health outcomes

Plans to Address Limitations of Our Previous Work

- Assess students prior to taking residence at the university
- Eliminate the prolonged data collection period by choosing an assessment instrument other than face-to-face interviews
- A faster type of instrument means more frequent data collection periods can be conducted allowing a higher resolution of time-bound functional relations in panel analyses and in growth curve analyses. Will also allow more degrees-of-freedom to identify longitudinal typologies via categorical data approaches as well as continuous data approaches
- Recruit a larger sample size for greater precision in estimating parameters in multivariate models

Plans to Address Limitations of Our Previous Work, continued

- Incorporating information on specific residence halls and Greek housing on assessments and using hierarchical linear models to cluster observations will allow for better resolution on selection and socialization effects on drinking

- Evaluate existing data to identify productive measures and constructs that need further refinement

- Over-sample African American students to assess the generalizability of models derived from the majority population to these students who typically are not well represented in college student drinking studies

Baseline

Research Plan

- **Subjects:** All first-time Fall 2002 freshman at the University of Missouri-Columbia

- **Assessment:** Paper and pencil questionnaire

- **Timing:** Summer prior to the start of the fall semester

Implementation

- **Subjects:** 4671 packets were distributed; responses were received from 3940 people; 3798 of those responses contained usable data

- **Assessment:** Paper and pencil questionnaires were administered on optical scanning sheets

- **Timing:** At Summer Welcome (freshman orientation) which ran June 10th-July 10th (Students who did not fill out the survey during these sessions were mailed the instrument to fill out and mail back prior to classes starting on August 26th.)

- **Constructs Assessed:** Ethnicity; motivations for attending college; religiosity and conventionality; alcohol and other substance use, related consequences, dependence, motivations and outcome expectancies; peer alcohol and substance use
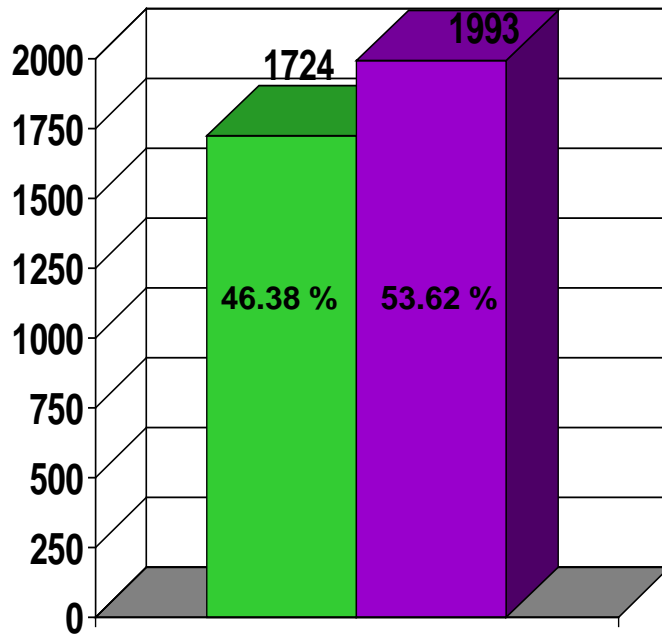
Wave 1

Research Plan

- **Subjects:** All baseline participants

- **Assessment:** Web-based questionnaire

- **Timing:** 12 weeks into the fall semester (prior to Thanksgiving Break)

Implementation

- **Subjects:** 3723 participants were contacted (77 of the previous respondents were excluded from this round because they died, were over age 20, did not matriculate to MU or dropped out of MU prior to the data collection period); 2533 sets of data were completed; an additional 171 sets of partial data were also collected (28 people declined participation this round; 71 individuals asked to be removed from the study)

- **Assessment:** Web-based questionnaire

- **Timing:** November 11th – December 20th

- **Constructs Assessed:** Alcohol and other substance use, related consequences, dependence, motivations and outcome expectancies; peer alcohol and substance use; Greek affiliation; living arrangements, parental education/employment; social supports; major personality domains; conduct disorder; anxiety and mood symptoms; eating disorders; time utilization; internet usage

Baseline Demographics

GENDER

Chart showing Male 46.38% (1724) and Female 53.62% (1993), Baseline N=3717

- Male (green)
- Female (purple)

AGE

	16	17	18	19	20+	Mean
Wave 0 N=3722	.11%	8.73%	86.27%	4.84%	.05%	17.95 SD= .37

Variable Key

- **Drunk**: How many times in the past 30 days did you get drunk (e.g. speech was slurred or unsteady on your feet) on alcohol?

- **Plus 5**: In the past 30 days how many times have you had five or more drinks in a single setting?

- **Plus 12**: In the past 30 days how many times have you had twelve or more drinks in a single setting?

Baseline Drinking Behavior

	0 Times in 30 Days	1 Time in 30 Days	2-3 Times in 30 Days	1-2 Times per week	3-4 Times per week	5-6 Times per week	Nearly Every Day	Every Day	Mean (Times per Week)
Drunk Wave 0 N=3716	52.74%	14.02%	14.07%	11.63%	4.90%	1.45%	1.02%	.16%	.61 SD=1.2
Plus 5 Wave 0 N=3708	55.29%	11.54%	12.86%	11.11%	5.91%	1.75%	1.40%	.13%	.66 SD=1.3
Plus 12 Wave 0 N=3716	82.13%	8.23%	5.33%	2.53%	1.13%	.38%	.16%	.11%	.16 SD=.64

Attrition by Gender

Gender	Wave 0	Wave 1 Responders	Wave 1 Non-responders
Male (%)	1724 (46.38%)	1019 (39.00%)	705 (63.86%)
Female (%)	1993 (53.62%)	1594 (61.00%)	399 (36.14%)

- 70.30 % of the baseline participants completed the Fall 2002 round of the survey
- Males were significantly less likely (p <.0001) to complete the Fall 2002 round of the survey

Attrition by Drinking Behavior

	Wave 1 Male Responders	Wave 1 Male Non-responders		Wave 1 Female Responders	Wave 1 Female Non-responders
Drunk Wave 0	.65 SD=1.26	.92 SD=1.52		.44 SD=.95	.62 SD=1.12
Plus 5 Wave 0	.77 SD=1.38	1.09 SD=1.65		.41 SD=.97	.65 SD=1.30
Plus 12 Wave 0	.24 SD=.79	.40 SD=1.00		.03 SD=.21	.06 SD=.30

Means given as times per week as reported at baseline

Changes in Drinking Behavior
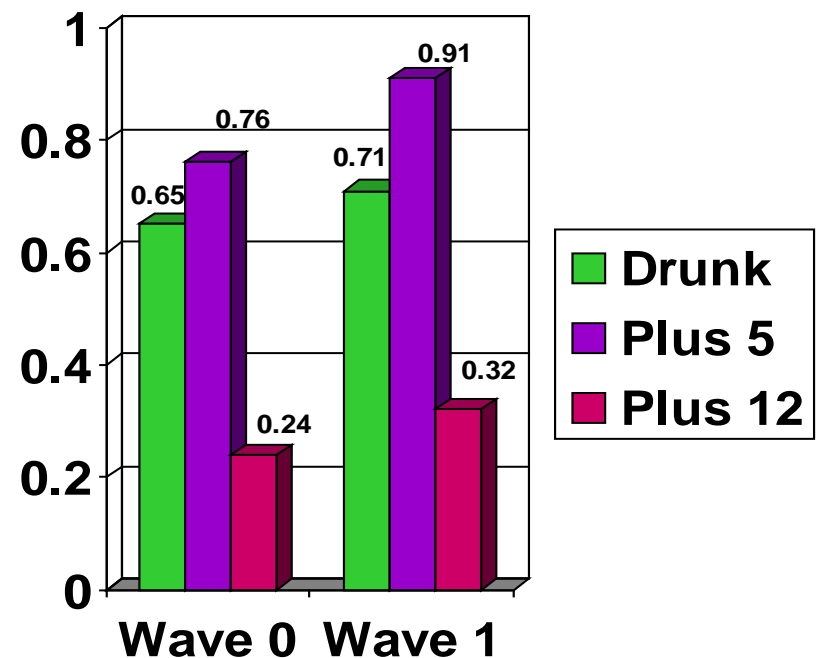

Females

Means given as times per week
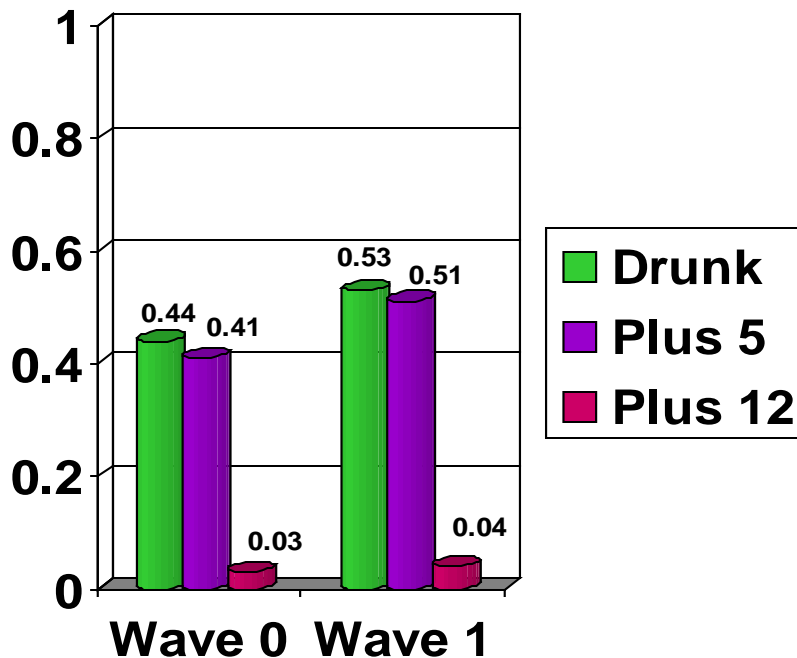
Males

Means given as times per week

Plans for Wave 2

Research Plan

- Subjects: All 3650 participants remaining after Wave 1

- Assessment: Web-based questionnaire

- Constructs to be assessed: Alcohol and other substance use, related consequences, dependence, motivations and outcome expectancies; peer alcohol and substance use; Greek affiliation; living arrangements, social supports; time utilization; family history of alcohol use; religion, sexuality, gambling, reasons for not drinking

- Timing: 12 weeks into the spring semester (launch is scheduled for April 7th)