



ILLINOIS HIGHER
EDUCATION
C E N T E R

for alcohol, other drug
& violence prevention

INSIDE

Frequency of Student Use (p.2-4)

Review of data regarding frequency of use during a 2-week, 30-day, and 12-month period.

How are students obtaining alcohol? (p.4)

Review of data regarding how students are obtaining alcohol.

Where is the use occurring? (p.5)

Review of data regarding where students are using alcohol.

What are the consequences of alcohol use? (p.5-6)

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Why are students using it? (p.7)

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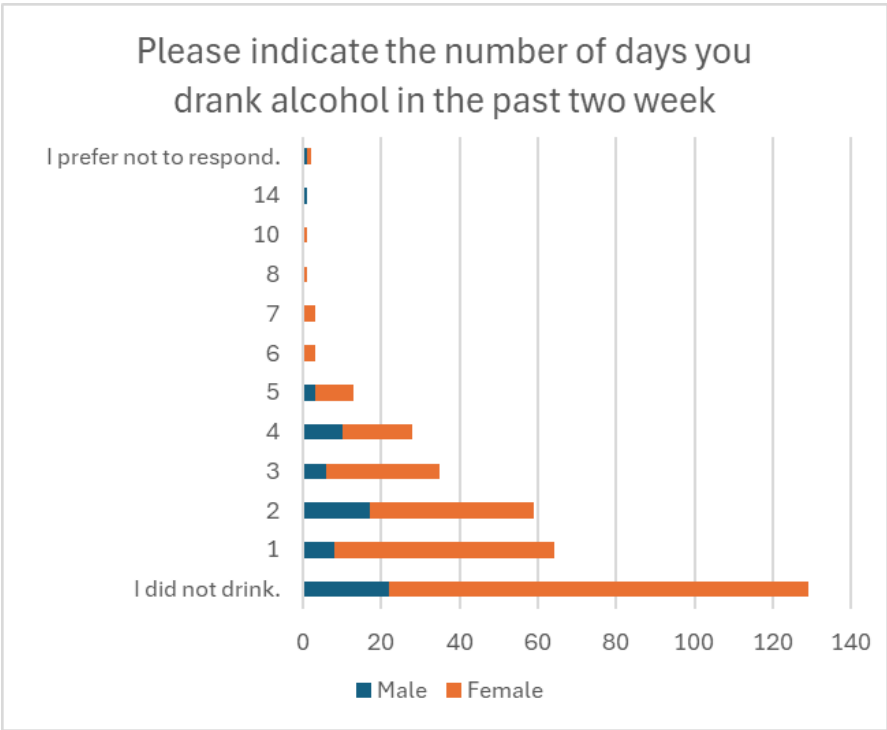
Summary and Resources (p.7)

2024 IACSUB Survey Findings on Alcohol Use in Higher Education

The Illinois Assessment of College Substance Use Behaviors (IACSUB) survey drew information from 705 participants spanning six colleges and universities across the State of Illinois. The purpose of the survey was to identify substance use behaviors among college students, such as frequency, location, and reasons for use. In this way stakeholders will be more able to identify substance use challenges in higher education and their related communities. Students were asked questions pertaining to alcohol, cannabis, and tobacco, as well as other drugs.

This brief will address alcohol use of college students from many angles including frequency of use, where students are using alcohol, the consequences of drinking, how students are obtaining alcohol, and why they choose to drink.

Figure 2.1



Alcohol frequency of use during a 2-week period

340 students participated in this question. Of the total participants, 38% of participants stated they had not drunk alcohol in the past two weeks ($n=129$). Additionally, 59% of participants indicated drinking alcohol on five or less days in the 2-week period ($n=199$).

Figure 2.2

Alcohol frequency of use during a 30-day period

Out of 340 participants, 271 identified as female and 68 identified as male. When looking at female participants, the data shows that 46% of them ($n=125$) drank alcohol five or less days in the past month while 53% ($n=36$) of male participants answered they drank alcohol 4 days or less in the same time frame.

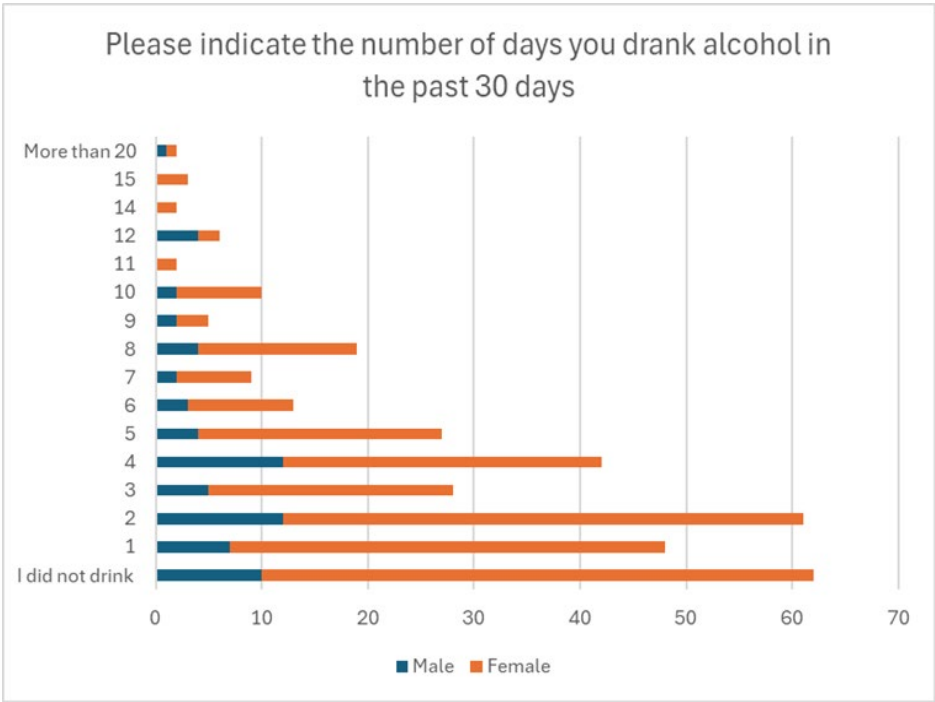
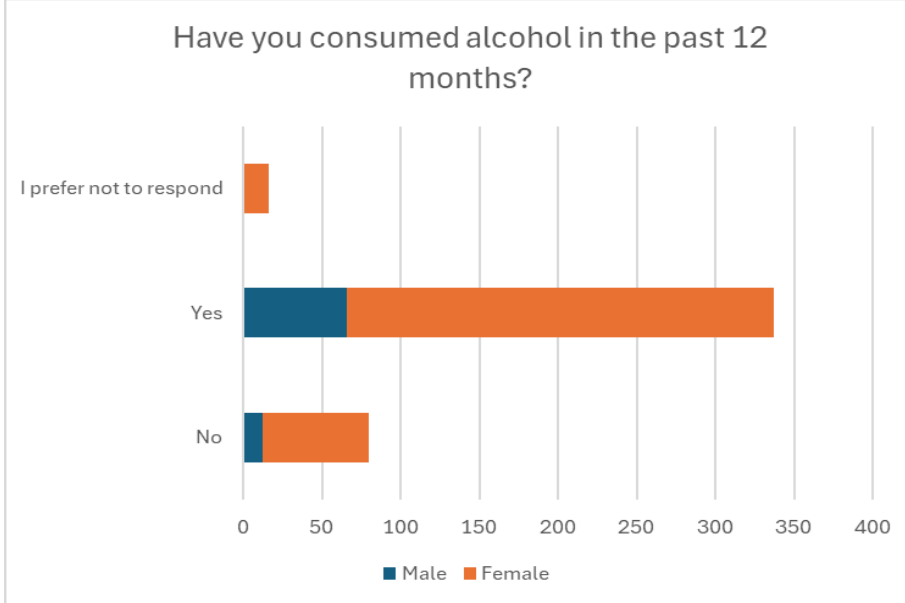


Figure 2.3



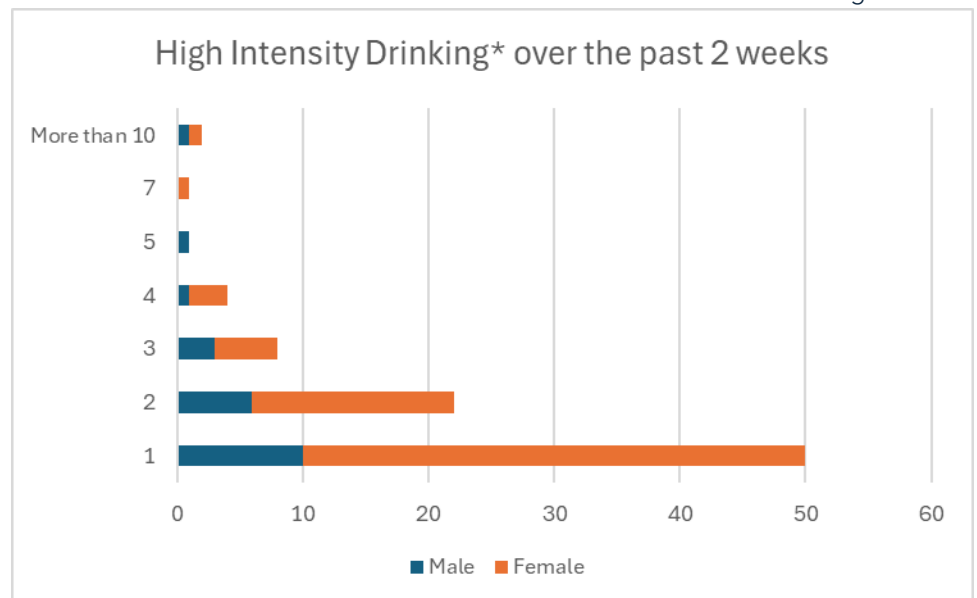
Alcohol frequency of use in a 12-month period

This question received a response from a total of 340 participants, of which 78% confirmed alcohol consumption in the past 12 months ($n=340$).

Frequency of high intensity drinking in a 2-week period

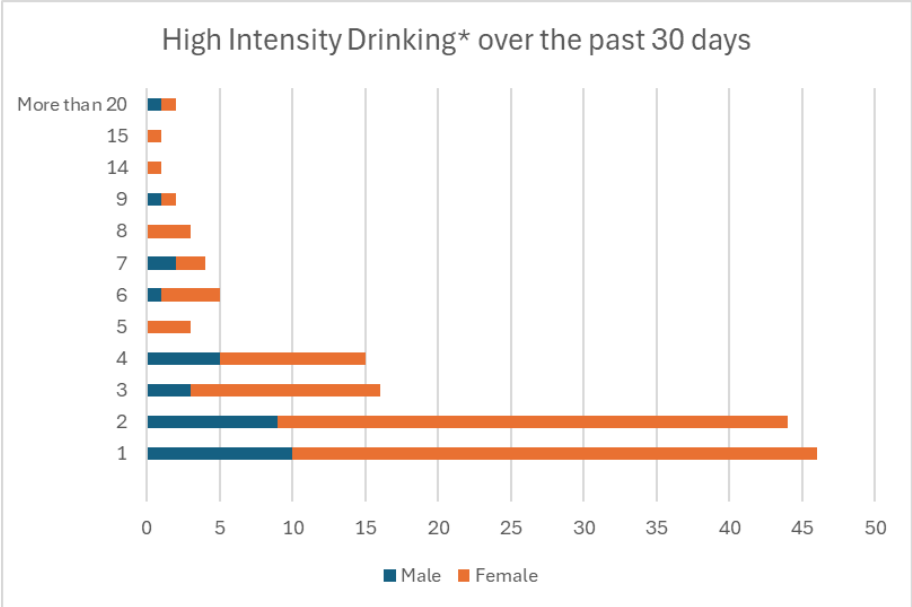
High intensity drinking in males is defined as 5 or more drinks in a two-hour period. High intensity drinking in females is defined as 4 or more drinks within two hours. No participants answered, "6 times". Of the 88 participants who said they had participated in high intensity drinking at least once in the last two weeks, 56.8% stated they had done so "1 time" ($n=50$). Also, 25% selected "2 times" ($n=22$).

Figure 2.4



*High Intensity Drinking is defined as 4 or more drinks for females and 5 or more drinks for males.

Figure 2.5



*High Intensity Drinking is defined as 4 or more drinks for females and 5 or more drinks for males.

Frequency of high intensity drinking in a 30-day period

When asked if they had participated in high intensity drinking in the past month, 50% of participants said no ($n=110$). Another 43% of total participants responded with answers of 4 or less times in the last 30 days ($n=94$). This study shows 11% of the 110 participants who had participated in high intensity drinking, indicated they had done so 6 or more times within the span of a month.

How are students obtaining alcohol?

The survey data shows that the most common way students obtain alcohol is by having a friend who is over the age of 21 buy it for them. Graph 2.6 shows that 47% of total responses fell into this category ($n=71$).

Figure 2.6

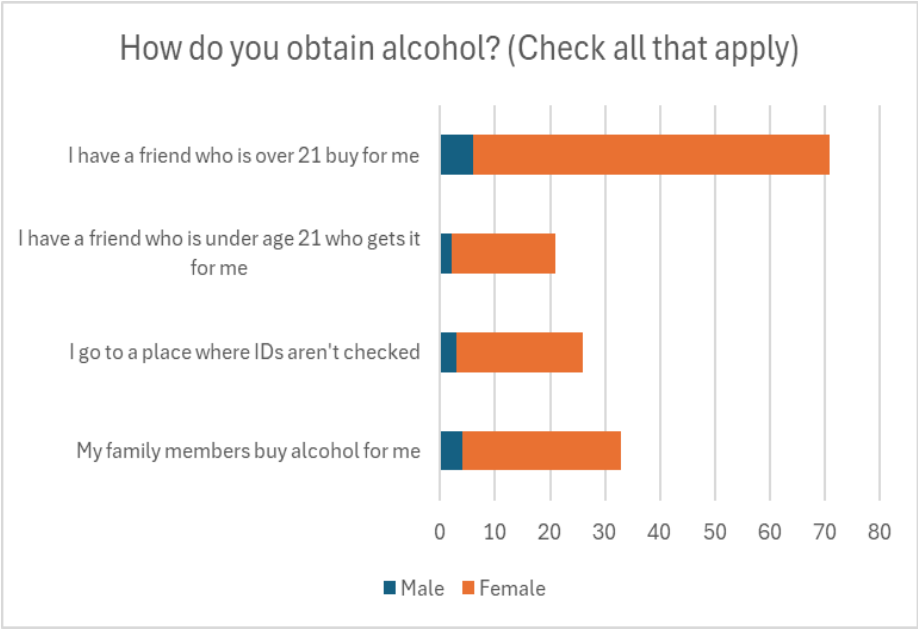
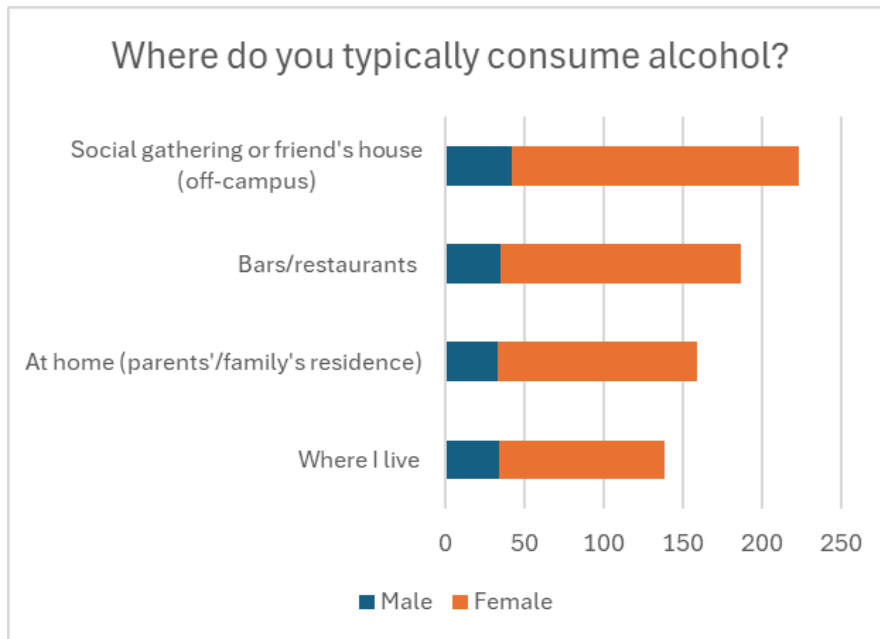


Figure 2.7



Where are students using alcohol?

This question received a total of 709 responses with male and female answers combined. The data collected shows 31.7% of participants disclosed they had drunk alcohol at a social gathering or at a friend's house ($n=225$). Another 26.5% of responses disclosed that students consumed alcohol at bars and restaurants ($n=188$).

What are the consequences of alcohol use to others?

There were a total of 1120 responses to this question. Of these total participants, 23.8% indicated that they had not had any of the experiences listed in the graph ($n=267$). Similarly, 23.75% of responses were that participants had taken care of someone who had too much to drink ($n=266$). The research also found that 14.5% of participant responses were that they had their sleep interrupted because of someone else's alcohol use ($n=162$).

Figure 2.8

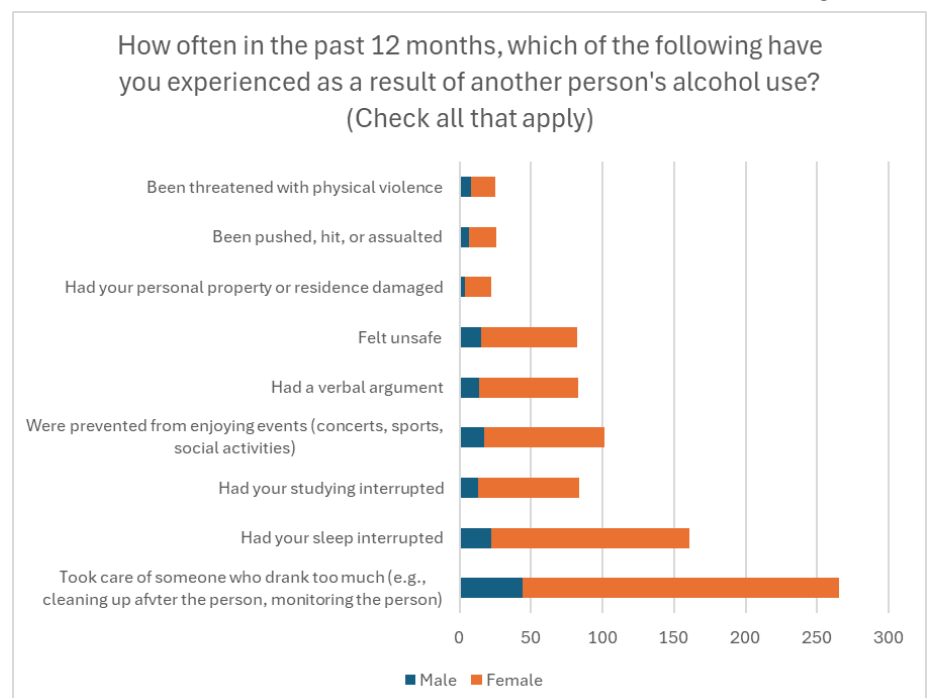
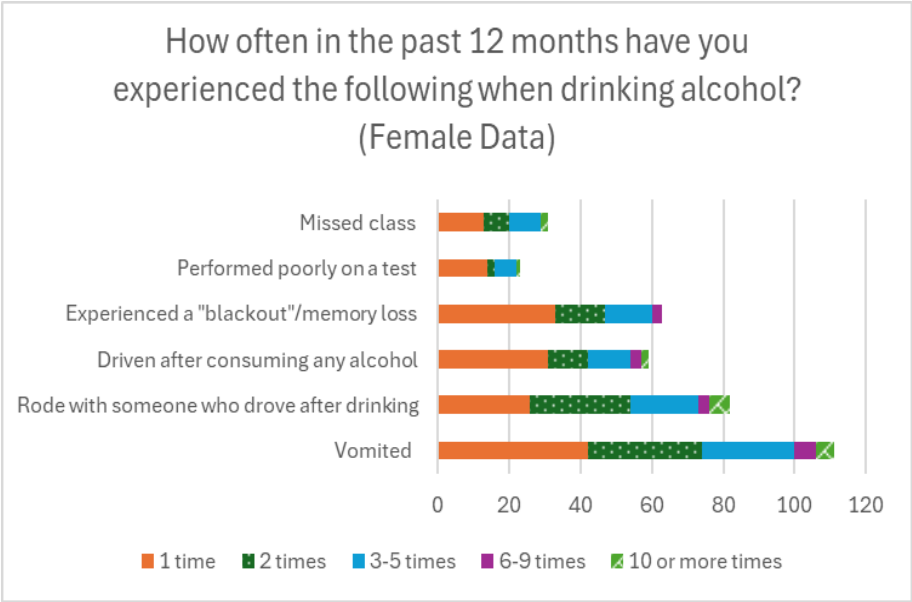


Figure 2.9



What are the consequences of alcohol use to self?

Female Data

Of the 339 total participants in this section who indicated experiencing a consequence of alcohol use to self at least once, 271 identified as female. The collected data for female participant data shows that 41.3% ($n=112$) said they had vomited due to alcohol consumption, and 31% of participants disclosed riding with someone who drove after drinking ($n=85$). An additional 24% indicated "blacking out" due to drinking ($n=65$), while 22.5% of females selected that they had drove after drinking alcohol ($n=61$).

What are the consequences of alcohol use to self?

Male Data

Of the 339 total participants in this section who indicated experiencing a consequence of alcohol use to self at least once, 68 identified as male. Participants were prompted to select all options that applied. The data shows that 38.2% of male participants disclosed vomiting when drinking in the past year ($n=26$). Additionally, 29.4% of males said they had ridden in a vehicle with someone who drove after drinking ($n=20$) and 28% of males disclosed driving under the influence of alcohol ($n=19$).

Figure 2.10

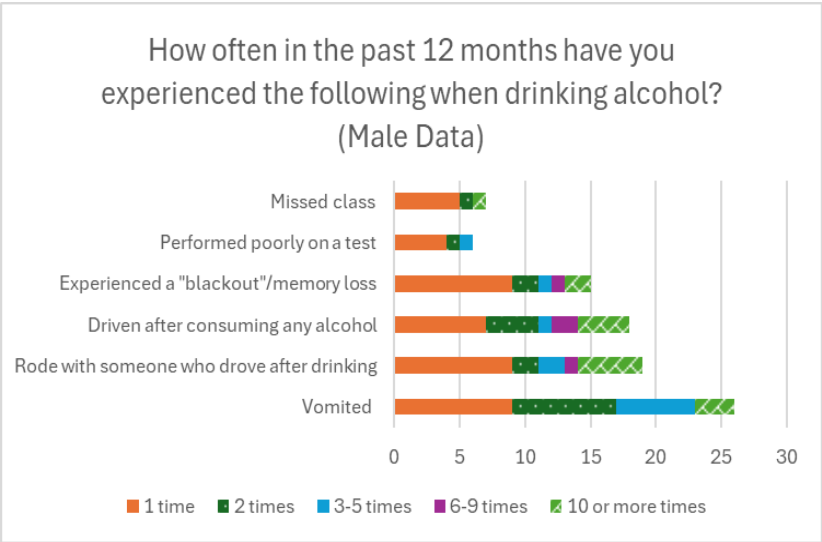
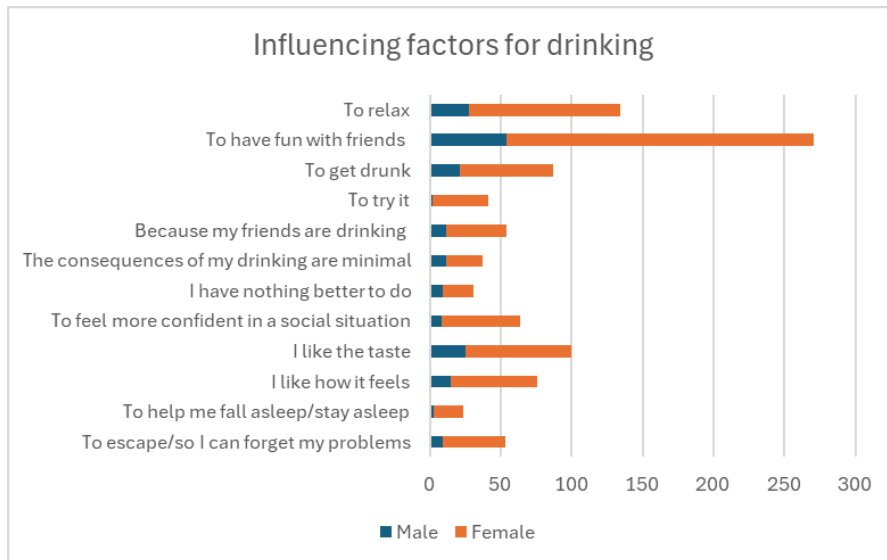


Figure 2.11



Why are students drinking?

The primary results of this question were that of the 976 total responses, 27.9% of them ($n=272$) indicated “to have fun with friends” and 13.8% ($n=135$) of responses were “to relax”.

Summary

This brief found that drinking and high intensity drinking are not occurring for many college students when measuring by past 2-week and 30-day time ranges. However, most college students indicated use within the last year. When drinking alcohol, most students indicated use during a day or two within the allotted time. Across the gender line, the data shows vomiting and riding with people who have been drinking are the most common consequences at the individual level of drinking alcohol. The research shows that many students have had their sleep disrupted by someone who was consuming alcohol or had to take care of others that drank too much. When asked for the reasoning behind choosing to drink alcohol, students selected to have fun with friends and to relax as their top responses.

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Resources

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