



Boston University School of Public Health
Department of Health Law, Policy & Management

Examining the Clarity and Effectiveness of Campus Alcohol Policies (CAPs)

Patrick J.D. Tiongson, MPH & David H. Jernigan, PhD

Investigators: Dr. David H. Jernigan, PhD, Pamela J. Trangenstein, PhD,
Ziming Xuan, ScD, Sarah Lipson, PhD, EdM, Timothy S. Naimi, MD

As required by the Alcohol Policy 19 Conference,
I/we have signed a disclosure statement and note the
following conflict(s) of interest:

None.

Harms to Others from Drinking Among College Students (“H2O”) Study

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- ***NIH Disclaimer:*** The content of this presentation is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the National Institutes of Health.

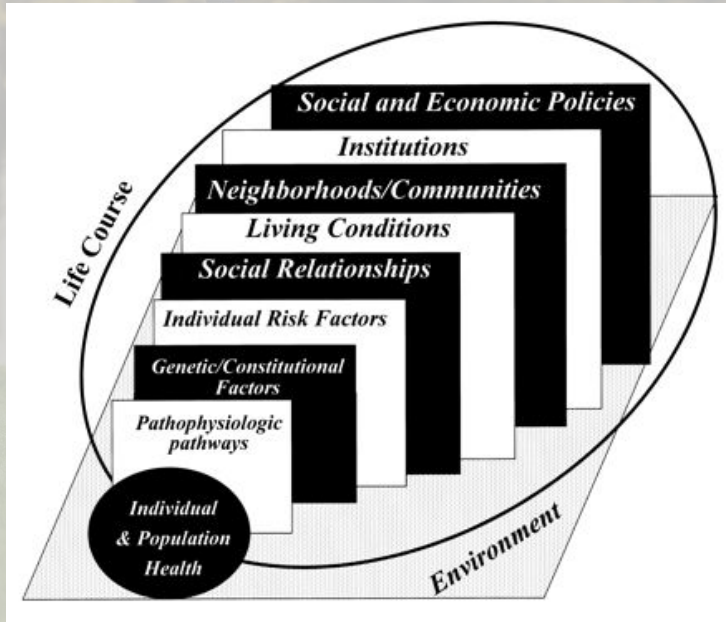
Alcohol Harms to Others (AHTO): Why are they important?

- Alcohol policies and prevention programs on U.S. campuses are largely designed around conservative estimates of the effects of alcohol, which focus primarily on harms to the student-drinker.
- Majority of college students have experienced some subjective or objective harm from other's drinking (e.g., unwanted sexual advance/contact, being insulted or humiliated, interrupted studying to “babysit” a drunk friend, destruction of property)

Harms to Others from Drinking Among College Students (“H2O”) Study

- Multi-stage, stratified cluster sampling
- 46 schools that offered on-campus housing
- 2,000 US college students, ages 18 to 24 years old
- 25-minute, online, anonymous survey with a \$10 incentive
- Assessed their drinking patterns, alcohol harms to others (AHTO) experienced since beginning of the term (including the individuals who inflicted the harms and their location)

Some Questions of Interest



1. What types of AHTO least likely to occur in schools that use Most Effective policies and/or Sanctions?
2. Which Most Effective policies are used by the most schools? Least used?

George A. Kaplan, What's Wrong with Social Epidemiology, and How Can We Make It Better?, *Epidemiologic Reviews*, Volume 26, Issue 1, July 2004, Pages 124–135, <https://doi.org/10.1093/epirev/mxh010>

Data Collection

- School CAPs collected in Spring 2022 term
- Google and search function on official school website: “alcohol policy”; “code of conduct”; “student or organization handbook”; “residence life handbook”
- Annual alcohol and drug notification

Focus Areas

- Compliance with EDGAR Part 86
- Clarity of campus alcohol policies
- Effectiveness of campus alcohol policies
- Effectiveness of sanctions for policy violations

EDGAR Part 86 Compliance

- ☐ Establish standards of conduct
- ☐ Describe legal sanctions
- ☐ Describe health risks of alcohol
- ☐ List available alcohol resources available to students
- ☐ Enumerate disciplinary sanctions

Clarity

- Readability of the CAP language
- Will they will be read and understood?
- Measured using Flesch readability score: 0-100 via Microsoft Word

Flesch score

engaging in misconduct related to the abuse of alcohol, whether on or off campus, will be subject to disciplinary action.

The University specifies:

Students who are 21 years of age or older and hold a valid driver's license and/or a government-issued identification card are eligible to possess and consume alcoholic beverages in the residence halls. Any student who is under 21 years of age and/or does not have a driver's license may be revoked.

1. Students who are 21 years of age or older and hold a valid driver's license are currently eligible to possess and consume alcoholic beverages in the residence halls.
2. Students who are under 21 years of age and/or do not have a driver's license are not eligible to possess and consume alcoholic beverages in the residence halls.
3. Quantities of alcoholic beverages stored in any residence facility by a student are limited to seventy-two ounces of beer (for example, six 12-ounce cans of beer); any substantial quantity of alcoholic beverages (such as beer balls or kegs; cases of beer, wine, or other alcohol) may not be delivered to or brought into residences or other University facilities. Students who bring substantial quantities of alcoholic beverages into the residences will be subject to disciplinary action; this may include, but is not limited to, expulsion from the residences.

Readability Statistics

| Counts | |
|-------------------------|--------|
| Words | 10,489 |
| Characters | 58,173 |
| Paragraphs | 306 |
| Sentences | 464 |
| Averages | |
| Sentences per Paragraph | 2.1 |
| Words per Sentence | 20.8 |
| Characters per Word | 5.3 |

Flesch Reading Ease 28.4

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level 11.6

Passive Sentences 38.5%

Editor

Corrections

- Spelling 1
- Grammar 4

Refinements

- Clarity 1
- Conciseness 23
- Punctuation Conventions 2
- Vocabulary 1

Similarity

3% of your text is similar to online sources.

Similarities reviewed 0 / 17

Insights

Document stats

Effectiveness of CAPs and Sanctions

- Multi-component measure
- Presence of 35 specific policy elements and 13 Sanctions for policy violations
 - Two Delphi Panels of Experts and (separately) Alcohol Prevention Practitioners

Effectiveness: Policies

- Most Effective – 17
- Somewhat Effective – 13
- Ineffective – 3
- Not Scored – 2

Effectiveness: Policies

- Most Effective – 5
- Somewhat Effective – 6
- Ineffective – 2

Effectiveness: Sanctions

- Most Effective – 5
- Somewhat Effective – 6
- Ineffective – 2

Scoring Effectiveness

- Most Effective – 2 points each
- Somewhat Effective – 1 point
- Ineffective or Not Scored – 0 points

Median Scores

| | Dry (N=15) | Wet (N=31) |
|--------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| EDGAR Part 86 | 4.3 | 4.4 |
| Clarity | 27.6 | 22.7 |
| Effectiveness: Policy | 63.5 | 45.7 |
| Effectiveness: Sanctions | 74.4 | 66.1 |

Policies: Median Scores

| | Dry | Wet |
|-----------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Midwest | 67.7 (n=2) | 44.6 (n=9) |
| Northeast | 75.5 (n=5) | 27.7 (n=4) |
| South | 65.2 (n=5) | 43.6 (n=9) |
| West | 63.4 (n=3) | 48.4 (n=9) |

Policies: Median Scores

| | Dry | Wet |
|-----------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Four-year | 62.9 (n=9) | 45.7 (n=31) |
| Two-year | 64.5 (n=6) | -- |

Sanctions: Median Scores

| | Dry | Wet |
|-----------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Midwest | 6.3 (n=2)* | 78.1 (n=9) |
| Northeast | 65.6 (n=5) | 75.0 (n=4) |
| South | 65.6 (n=5) | 73.4 (n=9) |
| West | 75.0 (n=3) | 71.8 (n=9) |

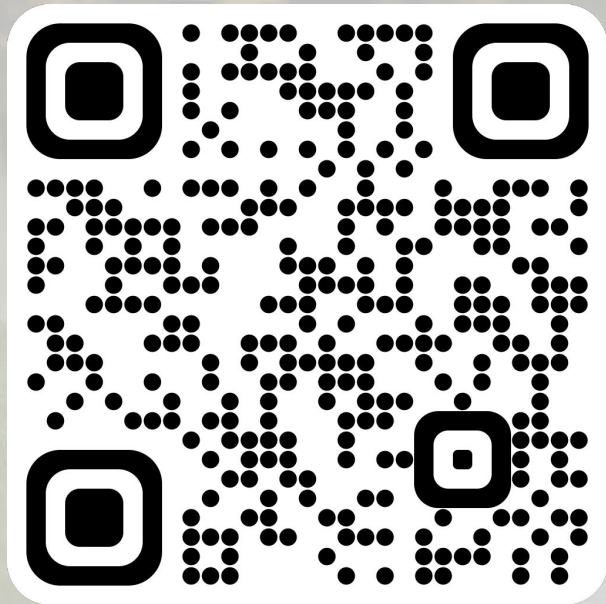
Sanctions: Median Scores

| | Dry | Wet |
|-----------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Four-year | 67.7 (n=9) | 74.3 (n=31) |
| Two-year | 64.6 (n=6) | -- |

Conclusion

- Standardized metrics assessing clarity and effectiveness should be used by colleges and universities to evaluate development of their campus alcohol policies.
- Regional or national metrics, if made available, can be used as benchmarks for schools to implement changes in policy.

Assessing Campus Alcohol Policies



Jernigan DH, Shields K, Mitchell M, Arria AM.
Assessing Campus Alcohol Policies:
Measuring Accessibility, Clarity, and
Effectiveness. Alcohol Clin Exp Res. 2019
May;43(5):1007-1015. doi: 10.1111/acer.14017.
Epub 2019 Apr 8. PMID: 30865305; PMCID:
PMC6502686.

A background image showing a group of students walking away from the camera on a paved path. The students are wearing backpacks and casual clothing. The path is lined with trees and a grassy area on the left. The image is slightly faded to allow the text to be prominent.

THANK YOU!

Patrick Tiongson (PJDT@BU.EDU)