

Differences in Alcohol Use among Ohio State Students

Center for the Study of Student Life

March 2015

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

International students are *less likely* to use alcohol than domestic students. They are also *more likely* to report that their academic performance is negatively affected by alcohol use.

- 28.7% of international students report that they *never* use alcohol, compared with only 15.8% of domestic students.
- 37.3% of domestic students have had five or more drinks of alcohol in one sitting at least once within the last two weeks, compared to only 29.0% of international students.
- International students are *more likely* (7.4%) to report that their academic performance is negatively affected by alcohol use, compared to 4.2% of domestic students.

FRATERNITY/SORORITY MEMBERS

Fraternity/sorority members are *more likely* to engage in risky drinking behaviors than non-fraternity/sorority members.

- 57.0% of members of a fraternity/sorority reported that they have had five or more drinks of alcohol in one sitting at least once in the last two weeks, compared with only 34.0% of non-fraternity/sorority members.
- 7.5% of fraternity/sorority members report that their academics have been negatively affected by alcohol use, compared to only 4.1% of non-fraternity/sorority members.

CLASS RANK

Compared to underclass (first- and second-year) students and graduate students, upperclass (third-year undergraduate or more) students are the most likely to engage in binge drinking. Upperclass students are also more likely to report that their academics are negatively affected by alcohol use. Graduate students are the least likely to binge drink and the least likely to report that their academics are negatively affected by alcohol use.

- 46.1% of upperclass students have had five or more drinks of alcohol in one sitting at least once in the last two weeks, compared to 36.6% of underclass students and 25.8% of graduate students.
- 6.6% of upperclass students reported that their academics were negatively affected by alcohol use within the last 12 months, compared to 5.1% of underclass students and 1.5% of graduate students.

Note: All reported differences in the executive summary are statistically significant at the $p < .05$ level or below.

INTRODUCTION

This report examines alcohol use among undergraduate and graduate students at the Ohio State University, with a focus on differences in use by demographic characteristics. Data for this report come from the American College Health Association's National College Health Assessment II (ACHA-NCHA II). NCHA is a voluntary, web-based survey that assesses topics of general health and wellness. In spring 2014, the survey was administered to 10,000 Ohio State students and yielded 1,114 responses (a response rate of 11.1%). Please note that given the low response rate, results should be interpreted with caution and should not be assumed to be generalizable. Not every respondent answered each question. All differences presented in the report are statistically significant at $p < .05$ level or below.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Gender	%
Male	34.1%
Female	65.7%
Transgender	0.3%

Class Rank	%
Rank 1	16.0%
Rank 2	18.0%
Rank 3	20.7%
Rank 4	14.3%
Rank 5	5.4%
Grad/Professional	25.3%
Other	0.4%

Race/Ethnicity	%
Black or African American	4.8%
Hispanic or Latino(a)	3.9%
Asian American	10.7%
American Indian	1.4%
White	76.7%
Biracial/Multiracial	2.5%

International Student	%
Yes	9.9%
No	90.1%

Fraternity or Sorority Member	%
Yes	11.1%
No	88.9%

Intramural Sport Participant	%
Yes	22.2%
No	77.8%

Varsity Athlete	%
Yes	2.9%
No	97.1%

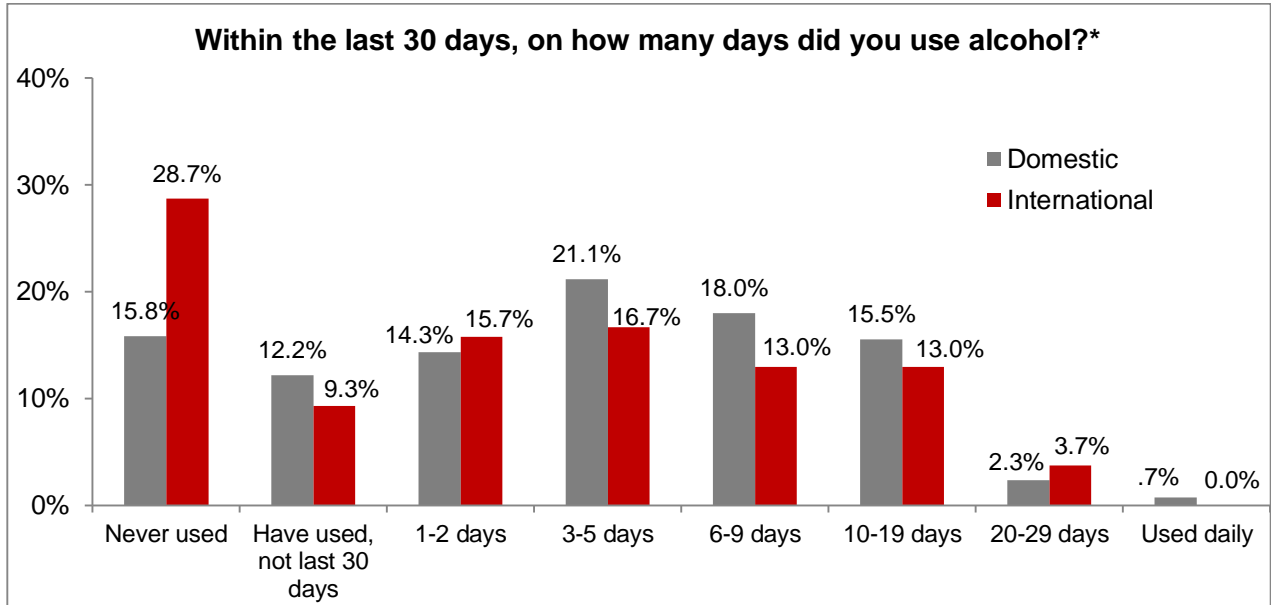
Self-Reported Grades	%
Mostly A's	47.8%
Mostly B's	38.9%
Mostly C's	11.6%
Mostly D/F's	0.5%

* $p < .05$ ** $p < .01$

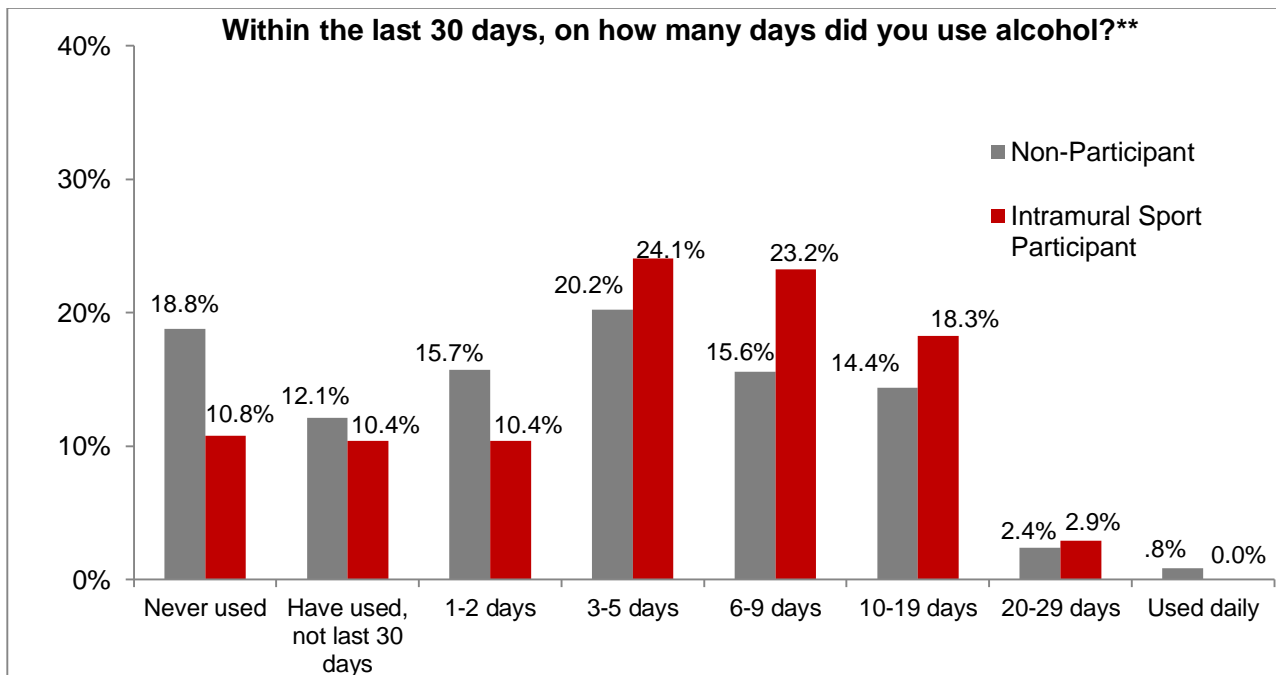
RESULTS

Frequency of Alcohol Consumption

This section examines frequency of alcohol consumption during the last 30 days. Several demographic groups exhibited statistically significant differences in alcohol consumption habits, as depicted in the charts below. International students (28.7%) were more likely to report never using alcohol than domestic students (15.8%).

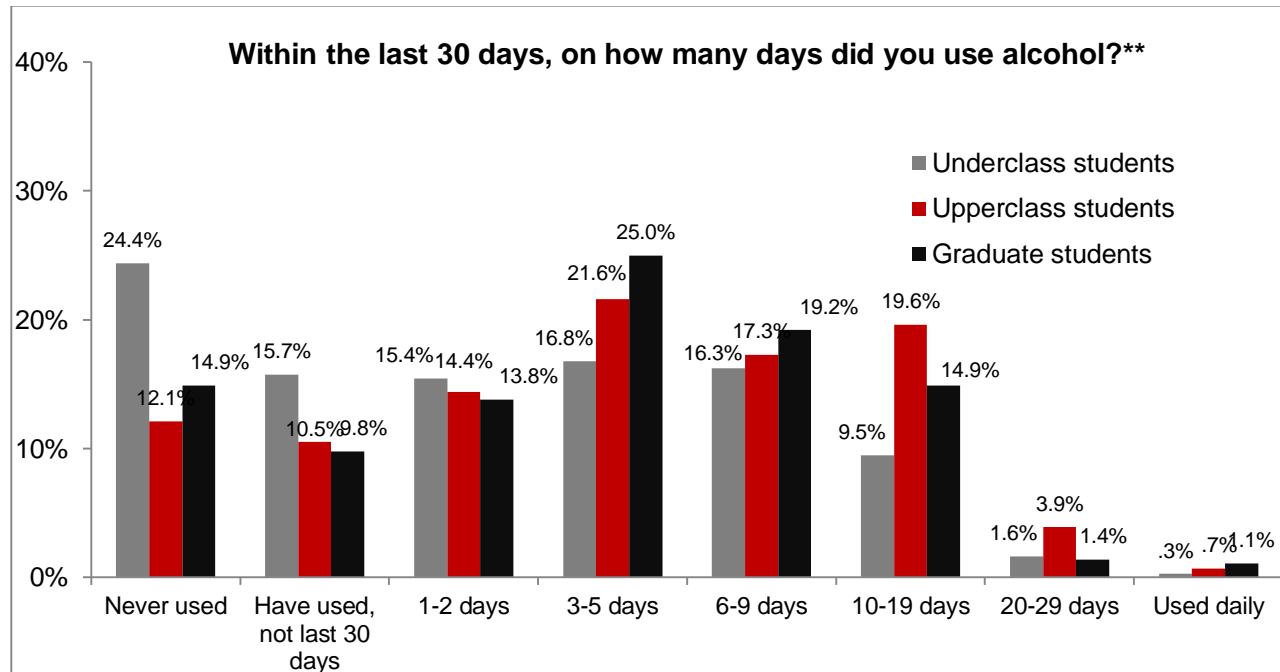


Intramural sports participants (68.5%), were more likely to drink alcohol on three or more days in the last 30 compared to non-intramural sports participants (53.4%).



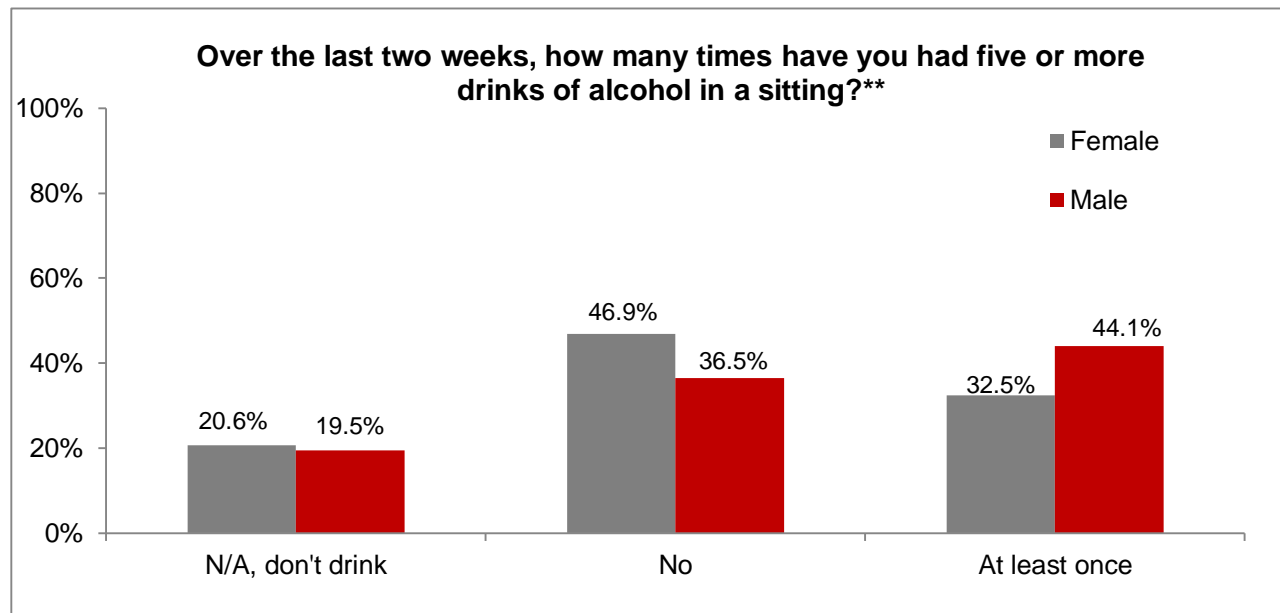
* $p < .05$ ** $p < .01$

Underclass (first- and second-year) students reported drinking less frequently than upperclass (third-year undergraduate or more) students or graduate students. Upperclass students surveyed had the highest percentages of students who drank both 10-19 days (19.6%) and 20-29 days (3.9%) during the last 30 days.



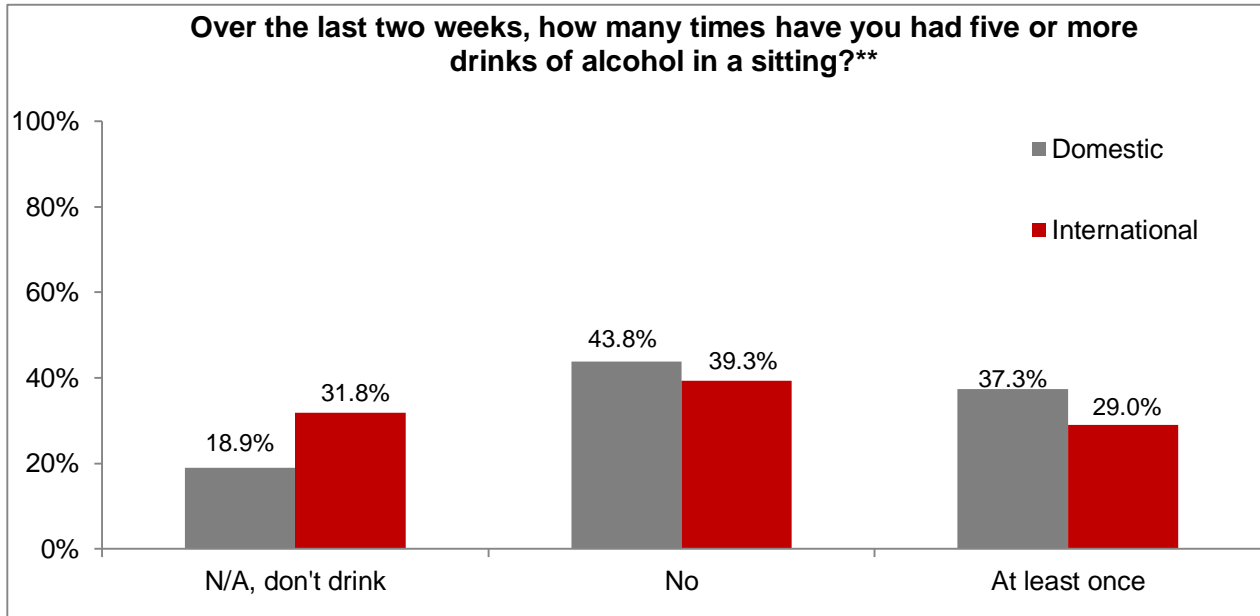
Binge Drinking

This section examines binge drinking behaviors, or how many times students report having five or more drinks of alcohol in a sitting during the last two weeks. Male students were much more likely to report binge drinking; 44.1% of males had five or more drinks at least once during the last two weeks, compared to 32.5% of females.

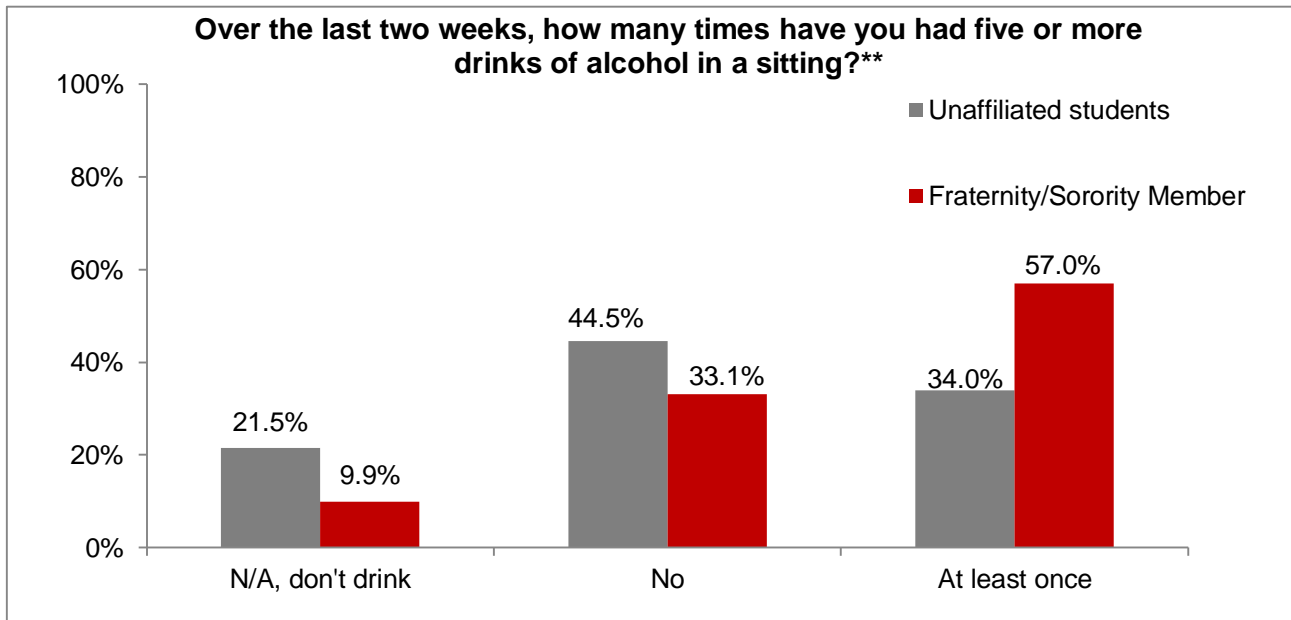


* $p < .05$ ** $p < .01$

A higher percentage of domestic students (37.3%) reported binge drinking one or more times in the last two weeks compared to international students (29.0%).

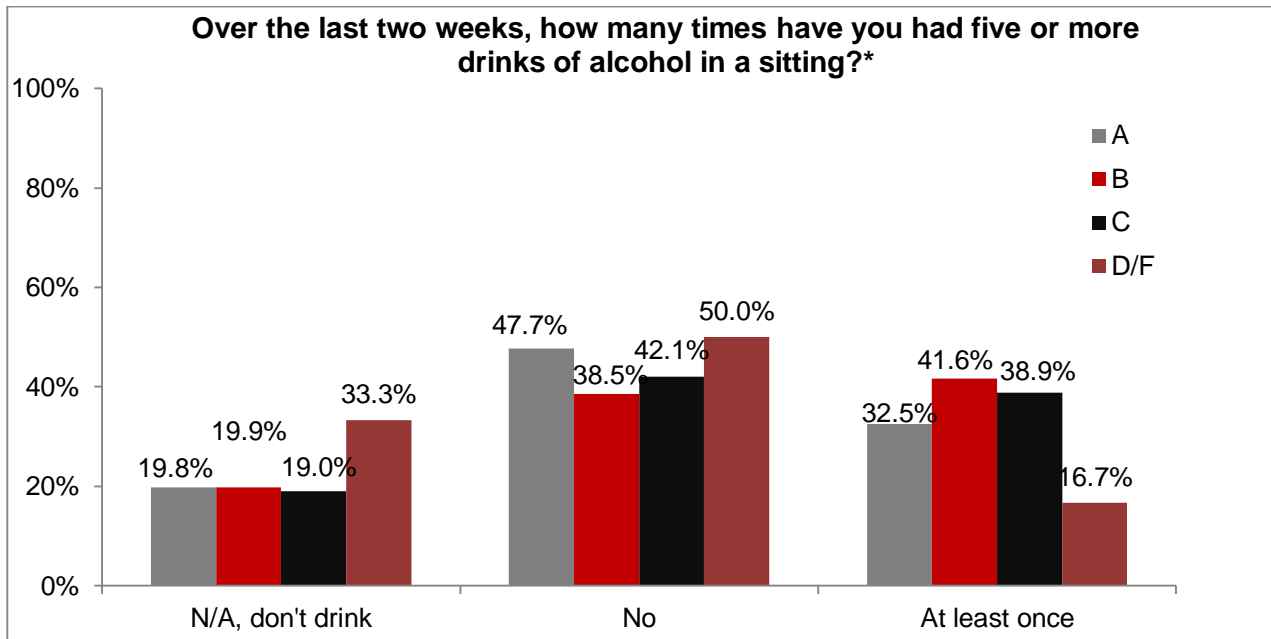


Members of fraternities and sororities were significantly more likely to report binge drinking during the past two weeks (57.0%) compared to non-fraternity/sorority members (34.0%). Non-fraternity/sorority members were also more likely to report that they do not drink compared to fraternity and sorority members (21.5% v. 9.9%, respectively).

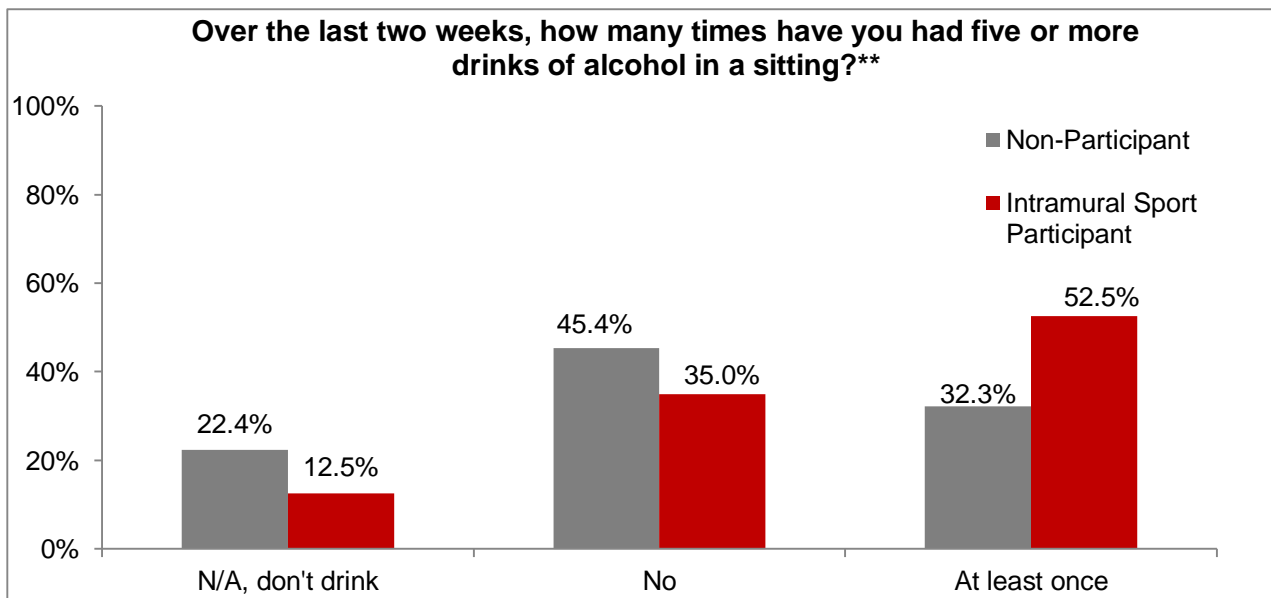


* $p < .05$ ** $p < .01$

Based on students' self-reported average grades, students with an average of D/F report binge drinking significantly less (16.7%) in the last two weeks than students with average C grades (38.9%), C grades (41.6%) and A grades (32.5%).

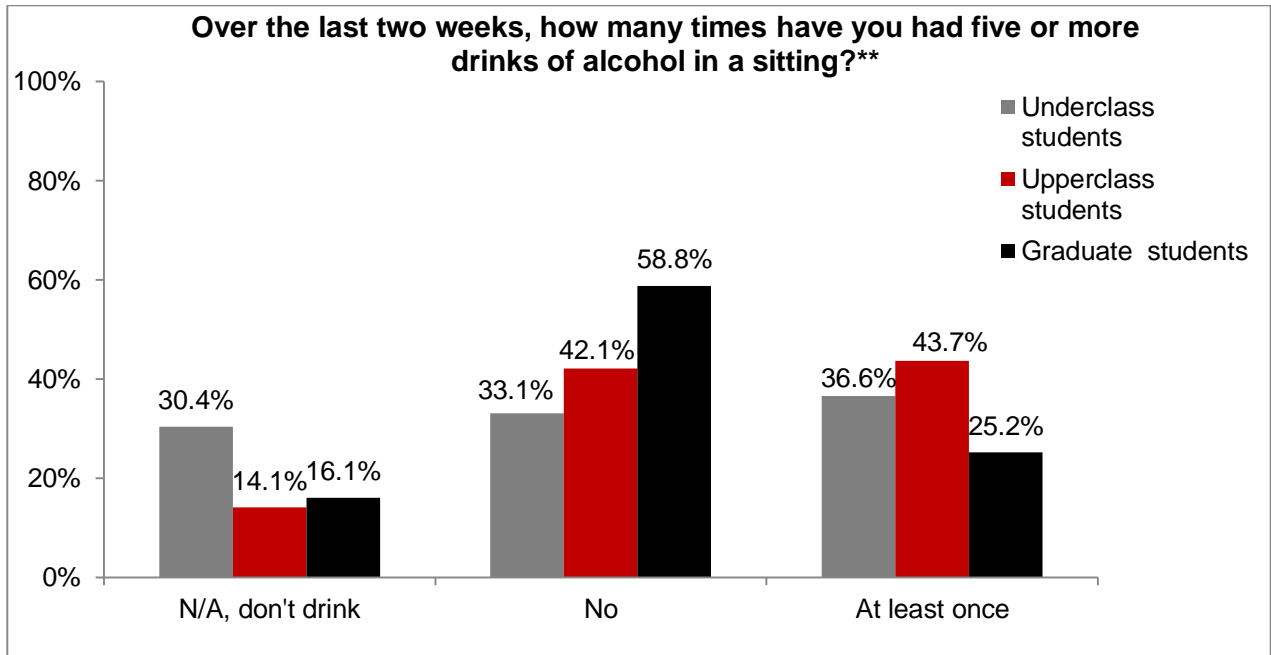


Over half of intramural sports participants (52.5%) had five or more drinks in a sitting in the previous two weeks. Less than one-third (32.3%) of all non-intramural participants reported engaging in binge drinking over the same time period.



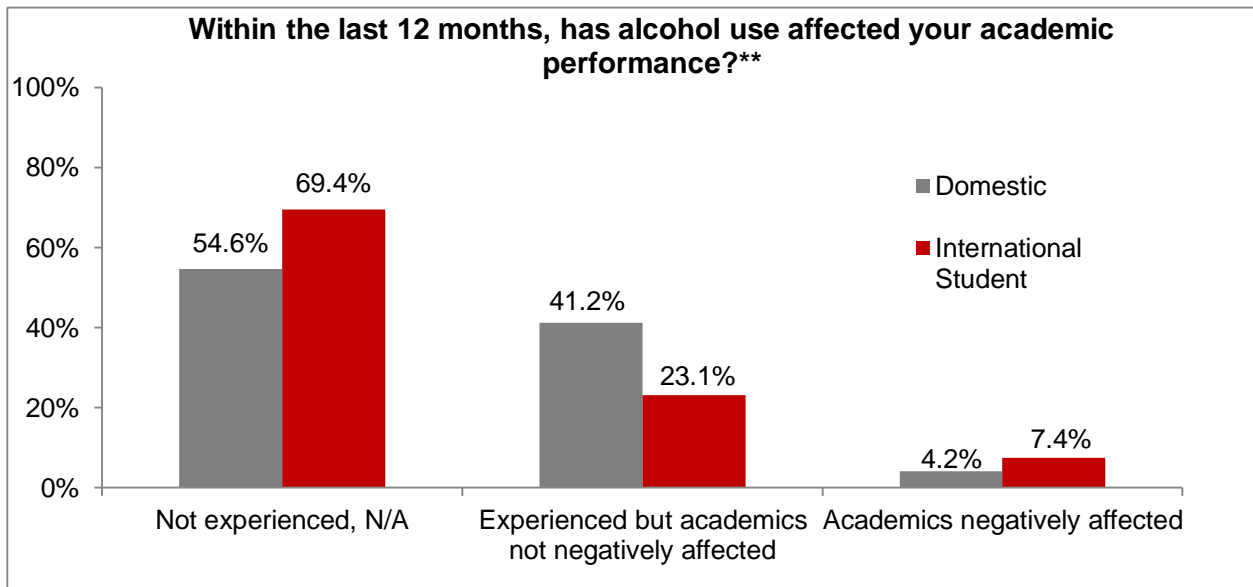
Upperclass students were the most likely to report binge drinking in the previous two weeks (43.7%), compared to underclass students (36.6%) and graduate students (25.2%).

* $p < .05$ ** $p < .01$



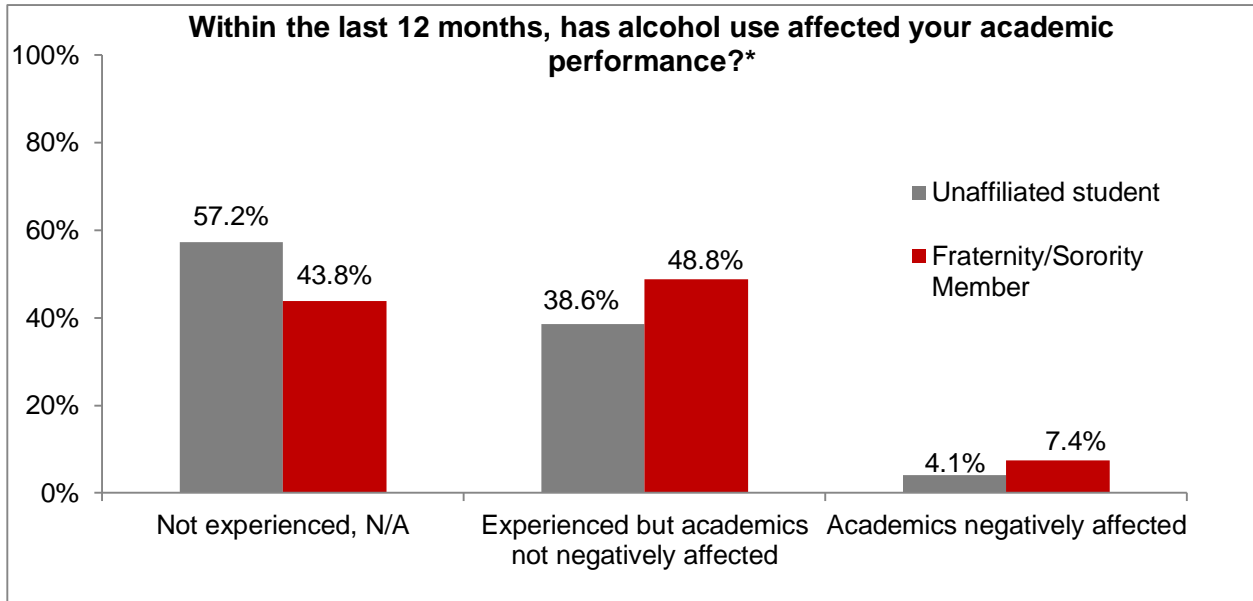
Negative Effects of Alcohol Use on Academic Performance

Students answered the question, “within the last 12 months, has alcohol use affected your academic performance?” International students were more likely to report that alcohol use negatively affected their academic performance (7.4%) compared to domestic students (4.2%).

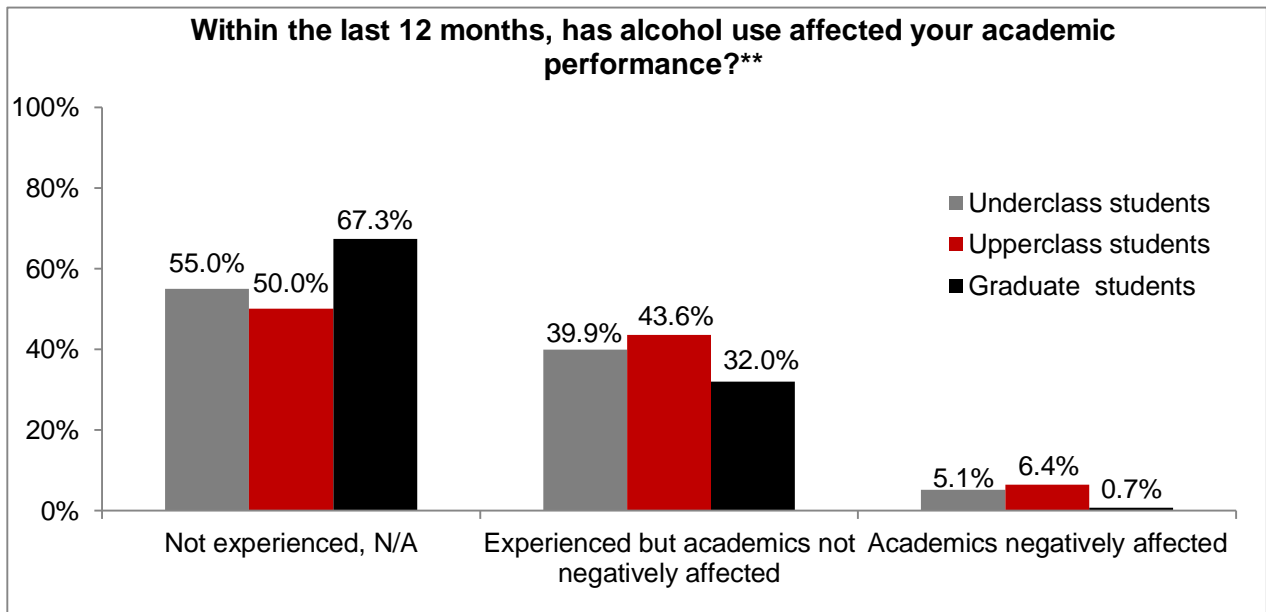


Fraternity and sorority members were also more likely to have their academic performance negatively affected by alcohol use (7.4%) compared to non-fraternity/sorority members (4.1%).

* $p < .05$ ** $p < .01$



There are statistically significant differences regarding the negative effects of alcohol use by class rank. Approximately 6% of upperclass students report that their academics were negatively affected by alcohol use, compared to 5.1% of underclass students, and 0.7% of graduate students.



* $p < .05$ ** $p < .01$