

# **Binge and Underage Drinking: Past and Future Concerns in Florida's State University System**

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## *Abstract*

*Disturbances have occurred across the nation due to the banning or restricting the use of alcohol. University communities in particular have dealt with the issue of binge drinking and underage drinkers' behavior for years. Information was obtained through surveys from each University Police Department in Florida's State University System. This information provides a window to the problems of binge drinking and underage drinkers throughout Florida. A review of recommendations provided by a national task force on alcohol-related problems also provides information on where Florida's Universities are now and what they may need to target in the future.*

## Introduction

For years nationwide the country has been dealing with the problems associated with binge and underage drinking incidents. Binge drinking has been defined as at least five drinks or more in a row for men and at least four drinks in a row for women (Gose, 1997).

Historically, universities have received publicity when tragic alcohol-related incidents occurred with their student population. Each state has to deal with the problems associated with the changing of the drinking age from eighteen to twenty-one years of age. Likewise, universities now have to deal with alcohol-related incidents from the student population who has yet to turn twenty-one.

University officials not only need to be concerned with the level of academic learning at their institution but also now must deal with the concerns of student misconduct on and off campus.

This writer's interest in this problem comes from being a lieutenant with the University of South Florida Police Department. What could Florida's state universities be dealing with in the future?

## Literature Review

### *Rioting*

American citizens are protesting and rioting in the streets across the nation. Are they protesting a war? Are they protesting for racial equality? No, they are protesting for the right to drink alcohol. In a special report issued by The Chronicle of Higher Education dated May 15, 1998, it is noted that students are rioting to demand the 'right to party.' Several universities and surrounding cities have dealt with clashes with police and massive property damage.

Michigan State University had approximately 2,000 students riot after an announcement was made to ban alcohol at tailgating parties at a popular spot during football games.

The University of Connecticut experienced two nights of rioting when police extinguished a bonfire that threatened apartment complexes.

Police had to use tear gas at Washington State University when students began throwing beer cans and rocks protesting a policy banning alcohol at fraternity social functions. Twenty-four officers were injured.

Police attempted to stop an annual party called "Spring Fling" at Plymouth State College. Students threw rocks and bottles and burned furniture during this incident.

Police used pepper spray to break up an end-of-the-semester fraternity party that erupted into violence at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

For the second year in a row during the change to daylight savings time, students at Ohio University caused disturbances when they lost one hour of drinking time (Chronicle, May 1998).

A similar incident occurred at Penn State University when tavern owners announced last call at 1:30 a.m. on July 12, 1998. Bonfires were set, cars were vandalized, officers were injured and several students were arrested (Campus Crime, July 1998).

These are only a few of the examples of incidents that have occurred nationwide due to the restriction of the use of alcohol.

What has caused the restriction of alcohol recently? Scott Warren, Dean of Students at Antioch College has said that Ohio's attempts to stop binge drinking are part of a nationwide trend. Federal law requires that colleges play a stronger role than in the past in enforcing state and local laws. Rules that ban keg parties limit tailgate parties or establish better monitoring systems to avoid underage drinking has become common. Warren stated, "College students nowadays seem to tie beer consumption to their constitutional rights, whether they're over-age, under-age, or drinking age" (Hurley, 1998, p. 1B).

What do students think about this issue? One University of Dayton student Matthew Arnold, 21, believes that the rules are the effort by university officials to exert power over adult students' legal behavior. Arnold was quoted as saying, "I like the fact that people are willing to speak out. They're starting to think again". Other students think rioting over alcohol issues is ridiculous. A University of Dayton graduate, Michele Turner, 22, was quoted as saying, "They don't protest when they're sober" (Hurley, 1998, p. 1B).

What other reasons could cause universities and state officials to place their concerns of binge drinking and underage alcohol consumption to the foreground?

### *Student Deaths*

In 1997 and 1998, several deaths of college students have occurred. The official cause of death may be different in each case; however, each death has been alcohol-related in some fashion.

The Chronicle of Higher Education dated November 6, 1998 reviews incidents where students died due to alcohol in "When Alcohol Kills, Who is Responsible?"

At the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), eighteen-year-old Scott Krueger drank himself to death at a Phi Gamma Delta initiation event in 1997. After a night of excessive drinking in the fraternity house, two students carried Scott Krueger to his bed, placed him on his stomach putting a trash can next to his bed. Krueger was found unconscious and was rushed to the hospital. Krueger spent forty hours in a coma before being pronounced dead. The autopsy report indicated he died of alcohol poisoning and from suffocating on his vomit. Mr. Krueger's family indicated they will name MIT as a defendant in a law suit. MIT Administrators said that the university could not be legally responsible for the actions of individual students in privately owned houses. There had been prior warnings and suspensions of fraternities at MIT for illegal and inappropriate use of alcohol prior to Scott Krueger's death (Reisberg, 1998).

On the night of August 25, 1997, the Sigma Alpha Epsilon (SAE) fraternity at Louisiana State University (LSU) took all of its thirty-nine pledges and members to an off-campus bar for a night of drinking. In a two-hour period, \$2,185.50 worth of drinks was served. Witnesses indicated that SAE members were seen holding drinks to pledge's mouths or physically forcing them to drink. The pledges were placed in a room together at the fraternity house to sleep it off. One pledge, Benjamin Wynne, was found later unconscious. An SAE brother noticed Wynne's skin was blue. Mr. Wynne died the next day. Authorities estimated Wynne had drunk more than two dozen drinks in a few hours. The fraternity was charged with purchasing alcohol for underage drinkers and the bar was charged with selling alcohol to underage persons. The advertisement of bars in school newspapers is also under attack (Haworth, 1998).

Several other universities have dealt with similar tragedies. A female Indiana University of Pennsylvania student died after drinking all night at a New Year's Eve party. Her blood alcohol level was .43%, which is four times the legal limit (Napsha, 1998).

In 1997, at least five drunken students died from falls or were killed by alcohol poisoning. In Virginia colleges, several students have died in separate alcohol-related incidents (Raghavan, 1998).

What role do the Greek organizations play and where are they headed in the future?

### *Greek Initiatives*

Some, not all, of the reported tragedies have occurred either in a fraternity house or with fraternity members. "Select 2,000" is a program sponsored by the National Interfraternity Conference that requires all fraternity houses on campuses to go "dry" (IAFT, 1998). There is a strong debate on whether this program will work. An example cited is LSU. Alcohol is banned at most fraternity parties at LSU; however, the tragic death of Benjamin Wynne with the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity still occurred (GOSE, 1997).

Phi Delta Theta fraternity at the University of Michigan offers its members the experience of fraternity life in a "substance-free" environment. Many students are demanding substance-free housing on campuses. The University of Michigan indicates that 27% of their resident student population on campus lives in a substance-free dorm (Clayton, 1998).

This writer conducted a telephone interview with David Glassman, Director of Insurance and Risk Reduction for Sigma Nu Fraternity. Sigma Nu Fraternity is one of many fraternities who are working towards substance-free fraternity houses nationwide. Each chapter house will be dry on campuses where 75% of all fraternity houses have voted to be dry. Glassman indicated that the process would be progressive with phasing in instead of completely changing all at once. Examples given were that of-age members being allowed to drink in their rooms. Glassman believes there is a growing trend of incoming freshmen that are demanding a substance-free living arrangement and unfortunately, the freshmen students who want to drink are the power drinkers. Glassman believes that the culture of the fraternity organization needs to change. It is important for "the survival of the organization". "There must be a shift in paradigm". Glassman indicated that the reason Sigma Nu is going dry is multi-faceted. Sigma Nu believes the chapters must get back to being a value based organization. The chapter must focus on the mission of Sigma Nu. Because new students want an alcohol-free environment, recruiting of new members is declining. Again, the fewer numbers of students who want to drink are more high-risk drinkers. For a fraternity to flourish there must be support from the alumni. Alumni must have good experiences with the fraternity to continue supporting the fraternity after graduation. Of course, there is the liability aspect of allowing fraternity members to use alcohol. Chapter members must pay larger amounts in fees for insurance. Once the chapter goes dry, the money can be used for more productive things such as scholarships. Glassman has also noticed an increase in enforcement of the drinking laws. Law enforcement has sent in underage personnel in order to check for violations. Also, the recent deaths in Virginia have cause for concern. Glassman indicated that Sigma Nu has not experienced any high profile cases; however, they have received "some calls that might cause concern" (D. Glassman, personal communications, December 11, 1998).

These types of tragedies are causing university administrators, federal, state and local officials to sit up and take notice. What types of initiatives are taking place from their perspective?

### *University Initiatives*

What steps are university administrators taking to approach the problem of binge and underage drinking? Many institutions have begun and many suggestions have been given.

There is continued debate over whether banning alcohol from college campuses will be effective. Michael P. Haines, coordinator of health enhancement services at Northern Illinois University and Henry Wechsler, the lead author of the Harvard Study are two of the most prominent college-drinking experts in the country. These two men strongly disagree over how colleges should combat excessive drinking (GOSE, 1997). Mr. Wechsler indicates that binge drinking is so rampant that colleges need to take steps to cut off the flow of alcohol. Mr. Hinds states that dangerous drinking is less prevalent than most students believe and that educating students about their misconceptions will get students to cut back their consumption (GOSE, 1997).

In an article entitled, "Banning Booze Isn't the Answer; College Students Can Be Taught to Drink Responsibly", Carol Williamson states that colleges who go "dry" are only exiling the problem off campus. Williamson gives one solution--for colleges to

open their own establishments serving alcohol, therefore having more control of who is drinking and how much (Williamson, 1998).

Virginia's State Attorney General, Richard Cullen, formed a Task Force on Drinking by College Students after a series of alcohol-related deaths. The task force is comprised of students, state legislators and university officials. The current Virginia State Attorney General, Mark Early, stated, the purpose of this task force is not to mandate from the top down, "nor is to prosecute and persecute students. Instead, we want to lead the discussion that will promote common-sense solutions which can change the culture of binge drinking on campus" (Sanminiatelli, 1998, p. 2.). Continued meetings for the task force will occur throughout the year.

Vivian Baltz, the mother of a University of Virginia student who died falling down stairs, indicated that colleges should try to change the notion that students will be all right as long as they don't drink and drive (Sanminiatelli, 1998).

Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala believes that colleges should ban alcohol advertising at sporting events and stop students from bringing alcohol to games. Shalala also stated that colleges must stop "turning a blind eye to underage drinking at tailgate parties and on campus" (Campus Crime, January 1998, p. 2).

Pennsylvania enacted a law that went into effect on February 18, 1998 which includes restrictions on advertising of alcoholic beverages in yearbooks, magazines, newspapers, program books, brochures and similar publications published by or for educational institutions. There have been questions raised on the constitutionality of the law citing violation of First Amendment rights (Kosovac, 1998).

What is the responsibility of the college administrators? At the University of Washington, UW Police patrol the resident's halls floor by floor. The Housing staff is trained to confront underage drinking from their residents; however, residents discuss the dangers of drinking in terms of getting caught. Students indicate you will not get caught if you stay in your room and are quiet. Students observe that if they are caught, they are not evicted. They know the alcohol policy is not strictly enforced (Walker, 1998).

Officials at MIT have admitted they have "gaps" in their alcohol policies. After the tragic death of Scott Kruegar, MIT now has stricter policies and penalties for violating the alcohol policy (Chacon, 1998).

### *Parental Responsibility*

What is the responsibility of the parents of college students? A survey conducted by the UCLA Graduate School of Education found that over 50% of college students consumed beer, wine and liquor in the twelve-month period before they entered college (Campus Crime, January 1998).

This writer has had personal experience with receiving a call from parents who have not heard from their child attending college for several months. The parents request the police to look into their child's well being. In doing so, it was determined that their child had dropped out of school, had been cashing the checks for tuition, books and rent for months without the parents' knowledge. Parents do not realize that in the eyes of law enforcement, the college student is seen as an adult at the age of

eighteen. Parents should not bring their child to college and leave believing their child can cope with all experiences that may occur.

The Century Council is an organization that is funded by leading distillers in American to fight alcohol abuse. The Century Council publishes a brochure entitled, "Parents, you're not done yet. Have you talked with them about drinking in college?" The brochure educates parents about the need to discuss alcohol issues with their child before coming to college. The brochures are free to any university who requests copies ([www.centurycouncil.org/](http://www.centurycouncil.org/)).

There is a growing belief that colleges should notify parents when their child has violated alcohol policies. Radford University adopted a change in policy that will notify parents of dependent freshmen students who have violated the substance abuse policies twice. University officials have cited parental involvement as one of the keys in curbing binge drinking (Campus Security Report, 1998 August). In notifying parents, colleges must be careful not to violate the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) that prohibits college administrators from revealing student records even to parents (Salmon, 1998).

### *IATF Recommendations*

The Inter-Association Task Force on Alcohol and Other Substance Abuse Issues (IATF) developed recommendations and guidelines in 1998 to assist colleges and universities with binge drinking problems. IATF held a symposium in April of 1998 where more than 100 college presidents, administrators and students discussed four areas:

- (1) Rebuild campus culture;
- (2) Provide comprehensive health education;
- (3) Foster community and life-enhancing values in a safe environment; and,
- (4) Addressing legal liability and legislative initiatives.

IATF recommended ten items that colleges and universities should do to address alcohol abuse:

- (1) Define binge drinking precisely;
- (2) Determine the causes and results of binge drinking and other high risk forms of abuse;
- (3) Develop policies about alcohol use and enforce them consistently;
- (4) Hold policy violators accountable for their behavior;
- (5) Include in policies prevention and other appropriate responses;
- (6) Pay particular attention to first-year students;
- (7) Enlist the direct support of the chief executive and members of the governing board;
- (8) Commit funds to address alcohol abuse through education, enforcement, treatment and related activities;
- (9) Use available resources and technologies to increase the campus communities understanding of the institution's "duty to care"; and,
- (10) Encourage the development of a model policy on the release of information to parents and guardians about their children's involvement in situations of alcohol abuse.

### *Rebuilding Campus Culture*

Are we as university administrator's sending appropriate messages or reinforcing poor choices? Students must be reminded of their responsibility for their actions. Students should be a part of the decision making process in changing campus culture. Involvement of everyone from the president and trustees to the faculty and staff should occur. Faculty may be the first to observe student's difficulties and referral systems should be in place. Help of local merchants and community members should be solicited. Peer leaders such as Greek organizations and student athletes should be utilized. Encouragement of alcohol-free living environments should be established. We must not leave out the actions of alumni and alcoholic beverage marketing on campus. Students emulate what they see.

### *Providing Comprehensive Health Education*

IATF indicates that a recent report from the National Center on Addition and Substance Abuse at Columbia University notes that there is an increasingly strong connection between substance abuse and a variety of health problems. Comprehensive health education programs should be established based on facts and research of the affects of drinking alcohol. IATF recommends the need for direct support of the president who can write to the parents of incoming students and to the faculty stating expectations and standards in order to "set the tone for community life" on campus.

### *Fostering Community and Life-enhancing Values*

IATF states that universities have a "responsibility to develop policies, procedures and service consistent with the mission that maximizes academic success learning and personal growth". Students should be free from the second-hand effects of dangerous behavior such as violence, unwanted sexual advances and sleep problems. Policies must be developed regarding alcohol use that is consistently reinforced to include prevention and other responses. First year students between eighteen and twenty should be targeted because they are more at risk to peer pressures.

### *Addressing Legal Liability and Legislative Initiatives*

There is a great liability for each institution under the law and in its "duty to care". Policies should be clear and follow all appropriate laws. Community members should be held accountable for their actions. Enforcement of the policies should be consistent. All activities involving alcohol should be reviewed on a regular basis. On-going training should occur for students, faculty and staff. Current laws and regulations are effective when strictly enforced by Law enforcement and institutions.

IATF believes parents should play an active role in combating substance abuse violations. IATF supports the development of policy to release information to parents involving alcohol abuse violations. An amendment to the Family Educational Rights and

Privacy Act (FERPA) has been introduced that may give institutions the option to notify parents of serious alcohol infractions without violating privacy laws.

A strong alcohol policy statement should be established to include a pro-health and safety, anti-abuse comment, underscoring of individual responsibility for their own actions, an equal emphasis on the universities "duty to care" and a commitment to alcohol education. Each institutions unique needs and experiences should be used and comply with all federal, state and local laws. A summary of state and local laws should be included in the policy. All college regulations should be listed to include locations where alcohol is permitted. Guidelines for alcohol beverage marketing on campus should be established (IAFT, 1998).

### *Florida Information*

What is occurring in Florida's Universities? The Princeton Review conducts a survey of college students ranking their colleges in several categories each year. In 1996, The Princeton Review ranked Florida State University (FSU) as the number one party school (LaPeter, 1998). The current Princeton Review ranked the University of Florida (UF) as the number three party school and Florida State University as the number six party school. The only other University in the State of Florida that received ranking was New College at the University of South Florida, Sarasota campus. New College received a number two ranking in "reefer madness" and a number seven ranking in "lots of hard liquor" (The Princeton Review, 1998).

FSU has become a participant in a five-year national study to reduce binge drinking. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for this study gave a grant of \$700,000 to FSU. A 1997 survey by the Harvard School of Public Health indicated that 61% of FSU's students "drink to get drunk". Four fraternities in the past two years have been reprimanded over alcohol violations (LaPeter, 1998).

One of the first initiatives was the sharing of arrest information with FSU, Florida A&M University (FAMU), and Tallahassee Community College administrators. The Leon County Sheriff's Office, Tallahassee Police Department, FAMU Police and FSU Police will notify school administrators of all arrests of students on alcohol-related charges whether the incident occurs on or off campus. This initiative is an attempt to hold students accountable for their actions on and off campus (Ensley, 1998).

My literary research did not uncover tragic stories in Florida's State University System as occurred at LSU and MIT. Glassman, with Sigma Nu Fraternity, indicated it was his belief that "Florida has just been lucky" (D. Glassman, personal communications, December 11, 1998).

One tragic incident did occur in October of 1998 at the University of Tampa, a private institution. A student dove into the Hillsborough River and drowned after a night of drinking (Atkins, 1998).

What else is being done in Florida to hopefully head off tragedies? How serious are the binge drinking and underage drinking problems within Florida's State University System? What should be our initiatives in the future?

All University Police Departments in Florida's State University System were surveyed for specific information.

## Method

The purpose of this research is to determine the extent of the problem of binge drinking and underage drinking on all campuses of Florida's State University System. The data was collected through surveys with the University Police Departments within Florida's State University System. A portion of the survey reflects what each department does to address the problems and concerns found on their university with regards to alcohol violations and/or binge drinking.

All Florida universities operate under the same guidelines mandated by the Student Right to Know and Campus Security Act of 1990 for the reporting of crimes. The number of violations reported may also be determined by how vigorously each law enforcement agency targets alcohol-related crime. Also examined are whether or not the university law enforcement agencies target violations of the Zero Tolerance Law (also known as the .02% law) and how many violations occurred. These numbers are not reflected in the statistical information prior to 1997 due to the availability of equipment for enforcing this law not being in place prior to January of 1997.

The survey of the university law enforcement agencies determines if student conduct code violations for alcohol and alcohol-related arrests are reported to the University Judicial Officer. The number of student conduct code violations for alcohol is based solely on how well statistical information is maintained by each law enforcement agency due to the fact that the reporting of student conduct code violations are not mandated by law. Whether or not the university law enforcement agencies gather statistical information when alcohol is a factor in calls for service was also gathered.

Additional information was gathered from these surveys to include student population of each university, the resident student population, the number of Fraternity and Sorority Houses and whether the Fraternity and Sorority Houses were located inside or outside of the universities law enforcement jurisdiction.

These surveys gathered information on educational programming conducted by the university law enforcement agencies and whether or not parental participation occurs during orientation programs.

## Results

There are ten universities in Florida's State University System, as shown below.

- The University of Florida (UF) in Gainesville
- The University of North Florida (UNF) in Jacksonville
- The University of South Florida (USF) in Tampa
- The University of Central Florida (UCF) in Orlando
- The University of West Florida (UWF) in Pensacola
- Florida State University (FSU) in Tallahassee
- Florida A&M University (FAMU) in Tallahassee
- Florida Atlantic University (FAU) in Boca Raton
- Florida International University (FIU) in Miami
- Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) in Ft. Myers

Each university has a police department with certified state law enforcement officers. A survey was sent to each University Police Department. I received a 100% response rate through telephone calls with management staff. Although all surveys were returned, some specific questions were not answered due to the lack of information.

There are approximately 221,000 registered students in Florida's university system as of August of 1998. The largest population of registered students is at the University of Florida (UF) with 42,953 and the smallest population of registered students at Florida Gulf Coast University with 3,044. FGCU is the newest university in the system. The three largest universities in population are UF, USF and FSU respectively with FIU and UCF not far behind.

There are approximately 27,300 resident students living on Florida's university campuses. The largest population of resident students is at UF with 9,034 and the smallest population at FGCU with 180. The largest ratio of resident students to registered students is at FAMU with approximately 25% of its population living on campus.

TABLE 1. UNIVERSITY DEMOGRAPHICS

	Number of Registered Students	Number of Resident Students	Number of Fraternity Houses		Number of Sorority Houses	
			On-Campus	Off-Campus	On-Campus	Off-Campus
UF	42953	9034	16	13	0	19
USF	33674	2590	0	3	0	0
FSU	31112	5300	0	21	0	16
FIU	30114	1226	0	0	0	0
UCF	29700	2200	6	7	6	0
FAU	19787	1410	0	0	0	0
UNF	11397	1650	0	1	0	0
FAMU	11337	2884	0	2	0	0
UWF	8204	912	2	4	3	0
FGCU	3044	180	0	0	0	0

\* Data Not Provided

\*\* Not Applicable

\*\*\*University Provided Information as Totals Only

UF, UCF and UWF reported having fraternity houses located on campus. UF has the largest number with 16. Seven universities reported having fraternity houses located off campus. UCF and UWF are the only two universities who have sorority houses located on campus. UF and FSU have 19 and 16 sorority houses located off campus respectively. FIU, FAU and FGCU do not have fraternity or sorority houses on or off campus.

FSU, UF and FAMU indicated that their police department handles calls for service from the off campus Greek houses; however, FSU was the only agency who

indicated they actively patrol the off campus Greek houses. All other University Police Departments do not respond to calls for service from off campus Greek houses.

One question requested information on how many Greek organizations have been placed on suspension due to alcohol-related incidents since 1995. Five universities indicated that either this question was not applicable to them or no Greek organizations had been suspended for alcohol-related incidents. FAU, UNF, and UF could not provide this information in the timeframe of the survey deadline. FSU indicated that 5 Greek organizations have been suspended due to alcohol violations since 1995 and FAMU reported 2 Greek organization suspensions.

All university police departments except FIU reported that they enforce the Zero Tolerance law otherwise known as the .02% law. This law is an administrative enactment suspending the driver license of persons under the age of twenty-one who have been found driving a vehicle with a blood alcohol content of .02% or higher and who have not been charged with driving under the influence. Out of the nine universities who enforce the .02% law, seven provided statistical information. UCF had 31 .02% arrests in 1997 and 1998. UWF had 23, USF had 6, FAU had 5, FGCU had 1 and both FAMU and UNF did not have any arrests.

Statistical information was requested from 1995 to the present, which was approximately November 1, 1998 on arrests for alcohol violations. The survey requested that the statistical information be broken down into categories such as driving under the influence or underage possession of alcohol. Some agencies gave only total arrests; therefore, the category information was not reviewed. FSU had the largest amount of arrests for alcohol violations over the past four years. In 1998 alone, FSU reported 307 alcohol violation arrests with an overall number of 616 since 1995. UF reported a total of 565 arrests with 128 in 1998. UCF had 293 total arrests with 106 in 1998. USF showed 126 total arrests since 1995 with 45 in 1998. UNF had 47 total arrests since 1995; however, 36 of those arrests occurred in 1998. UWF had 49 total arrests with 18 in 1998. The remaining universities showed fewer numbers ranging from 19 to 4 arrests since 1995.

TABLE 2. UNIVERSITY ARREST DATA

	Total Arrests		Alcohol		DUI Arrests				Underage Possession				Other Liquor Law Violations			
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1995	1996	1997	1998	1995	1996	1997	1998	1995	1996	1997	1998
UF	159	176	102	128	52	41	36	47	*	*	*	*	107	135	66	81
USF	35	19	27	45	25	12	18	12	7	7	6	27	3	0	3	0
FSU	129	70	110	307	***	***	***	10	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
FIU	0	1	1	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
UCF	49	68	70	106	39	43	45	66	10	25	14	20	*	*	*	*
FAU	2	2	8	7	2	1	1	1	0	1	4	3	0	0	1	0
UNF	4	2	5	36	2	0	1	0	1	1	2	30	1	1	2	6
FAMU	6	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	3	0

UWF	4	7	20	18	3	5	1	7	1	2	4	3	*	*	*	*
FGCU	**	**	0	4	**	**	0	0	**	**	0	3	**	**	0	0

\* Data Not Provided

\*\* Not Applicable

\*\*\*University Provided Information as Totals Only

All ten university police departments notify the University Judicial Officer of all student arrests for alcohol offenses. All university police departments except FAU refer all students to the University Judicial Officer for university alcohol policy violations. FAU refers students to a Housing Judicial system. Five police departments did not provide the number of student referrals since 1995. UCF had the highest number of referrals at 466 since 1995. USF had 62, UWF had 44 excluding 1998 information which was not available. FAMU had 11 and FGCU had 2 referrals.

Seven university police departments at times will refer a student to the University Judiciary Office in lieu of arrests citing criteria from officer discretion to the severity of the incident to the history of the student and the student's attitude. UF and FSU indicated they will not use a referral in lieu of arrest and UNF did not provide this information.

Four university police departments collect statistical information when alcohol is a factor in calls for service. USF reported 260 alcohol-related calls for service since 1995. FAU reported 91, FGCU had 11 since 1997 and FAMU had 3. The other six university police departments do not collect this information.

TABLE 3. UNIVERSITY DATA – OTHER

	Student Affairs Referrals				Alcohol-related Calls for Service				Alcohol Awareness Programs			
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1995	1996	1997	1998	1995	1996	1997	1998
UF	*	*	*	*	**	**	**	**	*	*	*	*
USF	1	0	26	35	109	57	30	64	0	2	4	1
FSU	*	*	*	*	**	**	**	**	*	*	*	*
FIU	*	*	*	*	**	**	**	**	0	0	0	0
UCF	97	112	126	131	**	**	**	**	*	*	4	6
FAU	*	*	*	*	15	26	28	22	0	0	1	2
UNF	*	*	*	*	**	**	**	**	**	**	7	8
FAMU	6	3	2	0	2	0	1	0	32	36	40	32
UWF	12	9	23	*	**	**	**	**	0	0	7	*
FGCU	**	**	0	2	**	**	1	10	**	**	0	2

\* Data Not Provided

\*\* Not Applicable

\*\*\*University Provided Information as Totals Only

All ten university police departments participate in student orientation. FIU and USF do not specifically discuss alcohol awareness during orientation. FGCU did not provide this information. All other university police departments indicated that alcohol

awareness is specifically discussed in orientation. Nine universities address alcohol awareness during orientation with parents. FAMU gives a program to parents as a joint effort with law enforcement and the office of drug-alcohol coordination. FAU advised that a member of the counseling center conducts the alcohol awareness programs with parents. Some universities indicated that the topic is discussed during the general orientation. USF does not specifically discuss alcohol awareness with parents. FAMU indicated they use several different brochures for alcohol awareness. FGCU utilizes the brochure for parents developed by the Century Council. FAMU conducts the largest number of alcohol awareness programs with 140 since 1995. UNF conducted 15 alcohol awareness programs and UCF conducted 10. All other universities conducted fewer than 10 programs since 1995 or did not provide the statistical information.

Nine universities do not allow tailgate parties where alcohol is consumed before university functions on campus. FSU does allow tailgate activity with alcohol consumption before university functions on campus. These events are monitored with the use of plain-clothes details.

Five universities have football teams. UCF and USF's teams play in a stadium located off campus and outside their primary jurisdiction. UF, FSU and FAMU also have football teams; however, their teams play in stadiums within their jurisdiction. All ten universities have officers who work events where alcohol is served. Eight universities indicated there is a process in place for groups to obtain approval for such events.

## Discussion

This writer found it interesting that all but one university in Florida's State University System does not allow tailgate parties where alcohol is consumed before a university function. In reviewing some of the riot situations that occurred across the country, the causes for these disturbances occurred when restrictions were being placed on tailgate parties that became problems. At USF, the police department even attempts to control tailgate parties before and after major concerts on campus. USF has an arena located on campus that is an outside corporation, The USF Sundome. The Sundome brings in a large amount of special events to the campus. Patrons are persuaded to enter the building when the doors open and persuaded to leave the area as soon as possible after the concert is over. Patrons are not allowed to remain in the parking lots over night. This could be one factor as to why the Florida universities have not had major disturbances occur as seen across the country.

The number of resident students on each campus seems to be correlated to the number of alcohol-related arrests. UF and FSU are two universities who had larger numbers of resident students and also had the greatest number of alcohol-related arrests. UCF did have a relatively high number of arrests in relation to a 7.5% resident student population to registered student population. This survey did not take into account how aggressive each police department might be in relation to alcohol violation enforcement. This could account for UCF's arrest numbers. FAMU is the one university that does not fit this correlation. FAMU is a historically black college. FAMU has a 25% resident student to registered student population; however, it had very low numbers for alcohol-related arrests. The Higher Education Center for Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention reports that historically black colleges seem to have fewer

alcohol and drug related problems. It is reported that some possible reasons for this fact could be extensive support networks within the universities, high regard for family and spiritual values, multi-faceted community ties and pride in African roots to name a few (IATF, 1998).

The majority of the universities surveyed appear to have strong systems in place to regulate and monitor special events. Officers are on scene for events that are serving alcohol. The presence of uniformed officers might prevent inappropriate behavior at a special event and if incidents do happen, officers can react quickly.

There seems to be a strong working relationship between the university police departments and the University Judicial Officers who handle student misconduct. Although it is not possible to determine how close the working relationship is from this survey, each police department uses some form of internal referral system for student misconduct issues. UCF, UWF and USF did provide the number of students referred for alcohol violations. From 1995 to the present, UCF referred 466 students, USF referred 62 students and UWF referred 44 students excluding 1998's statistical information that had not been counted. Because this information is maintained, these universities have a stronger system in place to determine the level of alcohol-related problems that occur on their campuses. USF also tracks the outcome of the internal disciplinary hearings on students they refer to the University Judicial Officer.

USF, FGCU, FAU, and FAMU maintain statistical information on alcohol-related calls for service. This is another factor that universities could use to better determine the level of concern for alcohol problems on their campus. For example, USF responded to 260 alcohol-related calls for service since 1995. Calls for service occupy a large amount of time for police services; however, they may not otherwise be tracked because arrests or student referrals did not occur.

The majority of the universities surveyed did not respond to or actively patrol off-campus Greek housing. UF and FAMU respond to calls for service but do not actively patrol Greek housing areas. FSU does both. This could also be a factor in why FSU's and UF's arrest numbers are higher than other universities.

All universities surveyed are actively involved in student orientation programs. This type of survey does not provide an avenue to determine the exact content in alcohol awareness information being provided at orientation. Some universities indicated this was occurring; however, most stated alcohol awareness was discussed in general. FAMU appears to be providing important information in a joint venture with other departments on campus. FAMU also conducted 140 alcohol awareness programs for students since 1995. They also direct their attentions towards parents. In light of the survey indicating that historically black colleges have fewer alcohol problems, FAMU seems to stand above the other universities in their efforts on alcohol awareness.

## Recommendations

In reviewing the activity occurring across the country, the suggestions of task forces and the activity reported in the survey of Florida universities, some recommendations can be made.

### *Task Force Recommendations*

- Send a letter from the President of the institution to parents of freshmen students educating them on alcohol-related concerns.
- Develop a strong university policy and ensure strict compliance of those policies for all university members.
- Direct monies towards alcohol education and alcohol-free campus events.
- Create substance-free housing areas.
- Create a task force involving all areas of the university to continually review alcohol-related concerns.
- Review how alcohol is marketed on campus.
- Involve the surrounding community including tavern owners to ensure more responsible drinking.
- Develop policy for notification to parents of dependant students who are violating the alcohol policy.
- Support and encourage the Greek effort for "Select 2,000".

### *Survey Recommendations*

- The university police departments should track alcohol-related calls for service.
- Track the number of student referrals and final dispositions sent to the University Judicial Officer by the police department.
- Continue the approval process for special events, officers working special events and hold tailgating activities to a minimum if not allowed at all.
- Have stronger involvement with specific alcohol awareness programs during orientation, specific attention should be directed at parents who attend orientation.
- Develop a process that has local law enforcement reporting alcohol-related arrests to the University Judicial Officer.
- Place more emphasis on alcohol awareness programming throughout the year.

Even with all recommendations in place, no one can guarantee that a tragic incident will never happen at any university. We must, however, do as much as we can to prevent such tragedies.

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**APPENDIX A**

**ALCOHOL USE & ASSOCIATED PROBLEMS AT  
FLORIDA'S PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES  
RESEARCH SURVEY**

Name of University: \_\_\_\_\_

# of Registered Students: \_\_\_\_\_ # of Resident Students: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Does your university have Fraternity and/or Sorority Houses? YES\_\_\_\_ NO\_\_\_\_  
(If no, please skip questions 2-5 and go to question 6; if yes, please answer all questions.)

2. How many fraternity houses are located: on campus \_\_\_\_\_  
off-campus \_\_\_\_\_

3. How many sorority houses are located: on campus \_\_\_\_\_  
off-campus \_\_\_\_\_

4. Do you handle calls for service from the off-campus Greek houses? YES\_\_\_\_ NO\_\_\_\_

5. Do you actively patrol the off-campus Greek houses? YES\_\_\_\_ NO\_\_\_\_

6. Do you enforce the .02% law? YES\_\_\_\_ NO\_\_\_\_

7. Please indicate how many alcohol arrests were made by your agency:

	<u>1995</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998 (year to date)</u>
<i>Total alcohol arrests</i>	_____	_____	_____	_____
<i>DUI</i>	_____	_____	_____	_____
<i>Underage Poss. Of alcohol</i>	_____	_____	_____	_____
<i>.02% Law</i>	XXX	XXX	_____	_____
<i>Other Liquor Law violations</i>	_____	_____	_____	_____

Please list categories of other liquor law violations: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. Do you notify the University Judiciary Officer of each arrest of students for alcohol related offenses? YES \_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_

9. Do you refer students to the University Judiciary Officer in lieu of arrest? YES\_\_\_\_  
NO\_\_\_\_

If yes, what criteria do you use: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

10. Do you refer all students to the University Judiciary Officer for University Alcohol Policy violations? YES\_\_\_ NO\_\_\_

If yes, how many students were referred for the following calendar years?

1995\_\_\_ 1996\_\_\_ 1997\_\_\_ 1998 (to date)\_\_\_

11. Do you collect statistical information when alcohol is a factor in calls for service?

YES\_\_\_ NO\_\_\_

If yes, how many alcohol related calls for service did you document for the following calendar years?

1995\_\_\_ 1996\_\_\_ 1997\_\_\_ 1998 (to date)\_\_\_

12. How many fraternities/sororities have been placed on suspension with your university due to alcohol related incidents from 1995 to the present? \_\_\_\_\_

13. Do you allow tailgating type activities where alcohol is consumed before university functions on campus? YES\_\_\_ NO\_\_\_

If yes, what type of monitoring is done by your department?\_\_\_\_\_

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14. If you have a football team, does the team play in a stadium located outside of your jurisdiction? YES\_\_\_ NO\_\_\_ NOT APPLICABLE\_\_\_

15. What steps does your department take to minimize alcohol violations at special events on campus? Please give examples\_\_\_\_\_

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16. Do you assign officers to work special events where alcohol is served? YES\_\_\_ NO\_\_\_

17. How many programs has your agency presented to students on alcohol awareness for the following calendar years?

1995\_\_\_ 1996\_\_\_ 1997\_\_\_ 1998 (to date)\_\_\_

18. Does your department participate in student orientations? YES\_\_\_ NO\_\_\_

If yes, is alcohol awareness discussed specifically? YES\_\_\_ NO\_\_\_

19. Does your department address alcohol awareness with parents of students at orientations?

YES\_\_\_ NO\_\_\_

If yes, identify the types of programs given:\_\_\_\_\_

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Please provide a copy of alcohol awareness brochures provided to parents and students.

20. Would you like a copy of the survey results once the research project is completed?

YES\_\_\_ NO\_\_\_

If yes, please give name and mailing address below.

Please remember to mail this survey by November 6th. Thanks again for your help.