
Higher Education Center for Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention, Newton, MA.; Harvard Univ., Cambridge, MA. School of Public Health.

For related documents on alcohol and drug prevention, see HE 032 555 and HE 032 558.

(1) identifying on-campus locations where underage drinking was occurring and taking meaningful disciplinary action against those serving alcohol to minors; (2) establishing a policy of zero tolerance for the fake IDs students were using to purchase alcohol; and (3) taking firm disciplinary steps, including probation, fines, community service, suspension, and/or expulsion, against students who drive or commit other infractions while under the influence. Appended are a list of resources and other related publications. (CH)
ENFORCING the MINIMUM Age DRINKING LAW: A Survey of College Administrators and Security Chiefs
Enforcing the Minimum Drinking Age Law: A Survey of College Administrators and Security Chiefs

by

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Harvard School of Public Health

Introduction

Is alcohol consumption a major problem at America’s colleges and universities? Most school administrators and security chiefs answer with a resounding yes.

At the same time, however, many of these officials express dismay over the seeming futility of enforcing the minimum drinking age law, which makes it illegal for students under age 21 to buy or be served alcohol.

On the one hand, tougher restrictions on drinking have had little effect on underage drinking, most college officials say, and they are skeptical about whether even tighter controls on student drinking can help.

On the other hand, a detailed examination of how rules against underage drinking are currently enforced reveals a widespread laxity that stands in contrast to the requirements of the Drug-Free Schools and Campuses Act. School administrators and security officials are missing key opportunities for more effective action to enforce the minimum drinking age law.

These are the major conclusions of a recent study of college administrators and security chiefs conducted in 1993 by the Harvard School of Public Health with funding from the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety (see sidebar on "Methodology").

This bulletin reviews the results of the Harvard study and its implications for how postsecondary schools can better prevent underage drinking through firm and consistent enforcement of the law.

Recommendations

The Harvard survey of college administrators and security chiefs suggests three actions colleges and universities can consider in order to strengthen their law enforcement efforts:

1) Identify on-campus locations where underage drinking is occurring and then take meaningful disciplinary action against those who are serving alcohol to minors.

2) Establish a policy of “zero tolerance” for fake IDs that underage students use to purchase or be served alcohol.

3) Take firmer disciplinary steps (e.g., probation, fines, community service, suspension, expulsion) against students who drive or commit other infractions while under the influence.
least 1 student in 10 is a heavy or problem drinker, while nearly half thought that at least 1 student in 5 drinks to excess.

Administrators also reported how often alcohol use contributes to student problems. Figure 1 shows that two-thirds or more of the officials said that three problems are "nearly always" or "in most cases" alcohol-related: sexual assault, unsafe sex, and physical assaults.

These problems have arisen in part because drinking is a central activity in the lives of many college students. Sixty-three percent of the administrators said that drinking is "important" or "very important" to their students, compared to 71 percent of administrators who indicated that athletics is important and 94 percent who said that academic work is important.

### Current Alcohol Education Programs

Administrators inform students of the rules against underage drinking in a number of ways. Ninety-eight percent of the administrators said the rules are listed in the general student handbook. Other common dissemination methods include explaining the rules at meetings or workshops (87 percent) or at large orientation meetings (80 percent). Smaller numbers of administrators reported listing the rules in the college catalog (49 percent), issuing a handbook specifically about alcohol (47 percent), or explaining the rules in classes (16 percent).

Orientation sessions for first-year students have often been incomplete in their coverage of the rules. Only 58 percent of administrators reported that the sessions cover rules against underage drinking in depth, 37 percent said the sessions address the rules against providing alcohol to underage students, and 23 percent said the sessions explain the rules against fake IDs.

### Methodology

The Harvard team selected a random sample of 347 four-year colleges and universities. These schools included a representative mix of public and private institutions and varied widely in enrollment size and location (urban, suburban, rural).

Deans of students and security chiefs at these schools received a mailed questionnaire. The response rate was 86 percent for college administrators and 68 percent for security chiefs.

The final sample of 529 respondents included 304 college administrators and 225 security officials. The 304 college administrators consisted of 256 deans of students and 48 other persons who fulfill the dean's role with respect to substance use issues. Of the 225 security officials, 211 were heads of campus security.

Approximately one-fifth of the administrators reported that their school currently had a prevention grant from the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE), and an additional one-fifth reported that their school previously had a FIPSE grant.

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**Figures and Tables**

#### Figure 1. Report by College Administrators on Alcohol's Contribution to Student Problems at Their Schools

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Problem</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sexual Assault</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsafe Sex</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Assault</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicular Accidents</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drug Abuse</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suicide</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Racial Tension or Conflict</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Percentage of college administrators reporting that alcohol contributes to each problem "in most cases" or "nearly always"*
Table 1. Report by College Administrators on the Consequences of Increasing the Minimum Drinking Age to 21

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reported Consequence</th>
<th>Percent a</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students have become more aware of the problems related to drinking</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Underage student drinking has decreased</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heavy drinking has decreased b</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student drinking has continued but gone off-campus</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students drive after drinking more frequently</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student drinking has continued on-campus, but gone &quot;underground&quot;</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atmosphere on campus has become more conducive to studying</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campus morale has suffered</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enforcement of alcohol policies has become more difficult</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

a Percentage of college administrators reporting that each consequence has occurred since the minimum drinking age increased to 21

b Five or more drinks in a row

About two-thirds of the administrators reported that they offer educational programs on drinking and driving and conduct campaigns promoting the use of designated drivers. Attendance at these sessions is usually voluntary, however. Of the 20 administrators, only 1 reported that every student is required to attend.

Current Alcohol Policies

The survey asked the administrators to say which of several policy statements describe what their schools do about drinking. Seventy-six percent reported that they encourage "responsible drinking," while 55 percent said they tolerate drinking but try to keep students from becoming "drunk and disorderly." Only 41 percent said they discourage or try to prevent all student drinking.

Among the 166 administrators who reported changes in their schools' alcohol policy since 1987, 69 percent characterized their new policies as more restrictive, while only 4 percent said their new policies are less restrictive. Similarly, 62 percent of all administrators reported that, compared to 1987, there has been greater enforcement of their alcohol policy.

When asked which of several factors had led to changes in their school's alcohol policy, most administrators said the changes were prompted by new federal legislation (66 percent) or by specific alcohol-related incidents (52 percent). Other common motivators were the FIPSE grant program (39 percent) and a general increase in student alcohol abuse (47 percent).

"You know, you've got to be consistent with your policies. I mean if there's a policy—and I'm not saying whether I believe it's right or wrong, that's not what I'm trying to get into—but if they have their laws and their policies, I think it's ridiculous for them not to follow them 100 percent of the time . . . . How can a student have respect for an administration that doesn't . . . . back up what it says?"

—A University Student
Seventy-one percent of administrators said that the increase in the minimum drinking age, which was imposed in most states in the late 1980s, led students to become more aware of problems related to drinking. However, as shown in table 1, few administrators reported a drop in either underage or heavy drinking as a result of the age 21 limit.

Most administrators and security chiefs agreed that the legal age limit should be at least 21 years. Perhaps daunted by the challenge of enforcing the current law, 40 percent of the administrators and 17 percent of the security chiefs endorsed a younger minimum drinking age.

**Current Policy Enforcement**

The survey also asked administrators and security chiefs about enforcement of the minimum drinking age law and other campus alcohol rules. Their responses underscore the difficulties that college officials face as they seek to enforce the rules against underage drinking.

Just over half of security officials said that enforcement of the minimum drinking age law is "somewhat difficult" or "very difficult." Enforcing the law, they reported, is especially hard in private settings such as residence halls and fraternity or sorority houses, less so in public places such as intercollegiate sporting events or campus pubs.

As shown in table 2, security officials reported that the largest number of alcohol-related problems take place at student gatherings in dormitories, fraternities, and sororities. Yet, fewer than half of these officials reported that their schools have a no-alcohol policy for these settings, and one-third or fewer stated that their schools' alcohol policies are strictly enforced there.

In contrast, the security chiefs stated that alcohol use is most widely prohibited at sports-related events, and that this is where campus alcohol policy is most often

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE 2. Report by Security Officials on Alcohol Prohibition, Policy Enforcement, and Frequency of Alcohol-Related Problems at Campus Events</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Percentage of Security Officials**  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Type of Event</strong></th>
<th><strong>Alcohol Use Prohibited</strong></th>
<th><strong>Policies Aggressively Enforced</strong></th>
<th><strong>Frequent Problems Due to Alcohol</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Intramural sports</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intercollegiate sports event</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tailgate, pre- and post-game parties</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On-campus dances or concerts</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dormitory social events or parties</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homecoming celebrations</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gatherings of faculty with students</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>&lt;1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student gatherings in dorm rooms</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sorority events or parties</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fraternity events or parties</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Percentage of security officials reporting for each event 1) whether their schools' policy prohibit all alcohol use, 2) whether their schools' policy is "aggressively enforced in all circumstances," and 3) how frequently problems or disturbances related to alcohol use occur.
aggressively enforced. Accordingly, the security chiefs reported having relatively few alcohol-related problems at such events.

Schools have applied a wide range of disciplinary actions when underage students are caught drinking (see figure 2). Nearly three-fourths of the administrators typically have issued an official warning, and just under half usually have referred students to an alcohol education program. A relatively small percentage of administrators typically have applied more severe penalties, including probation, fines, and community service, while fewer than 1 in 20 administrators have imposed the harshest penalties, suspension or expulsion.

How colleges respond to particular infractions is also revealing. For example, when underage students have been found with fake IDs, about two-thirds of the administrators reported they take some type of disciplinary action, but only about half stated that students must surrender the IDs.

Similarly, when a student has been arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol, only 42 percent of the administrators said their schools have taken disciplinary action (see table 3). The more common response has been to refer the student to an educational or counseling program. Seventeen percent have taken no action, leaving the matter entirely to the criminal justice system. When an undergraduate student has required emergency medical treatment for overdosing on alcohol, 80 percent of the administrators said the student has been referred to an educational or counseling program. Just over half stated that disciplinary action results. Less than 1 percent have taken no action in response to this type of incident.

Comparing Schools with Major Versus Minor Alcohol Problems

Two-thirds of the administrators reported a “moderate” or “major” problem with heavy alcohol use at their schools, while 24 percent said there is a “minor” problem and 9 percent said there is “no problem.”

Table 4 shows that administrators from schools with a moderate or major problem were more likely than administrators from schools with a minor problem to have said that they encourage responsible drinking and that they tolerate drinking while trying to keep students from becoming drunk and disorderly.

Administrators from schools with a moderate or major problem were also more likely to have said that their schools prohibit alcohol only for students under age 21, as opposed to having a dry campus or prohibiting alcohol use by all students, whatever their age. These administrators also reported more often that their schools’ alcohol policy does not prohibit drinking at fraternities and sororities.

Whatever the extent of their schools’ alcohol problem, the majority of administrators favored age 21 as the preferred minimum legal drinking age. However, those from schools with a moderate or major problem were more likely to endorse a minimum drinking age below age 21.

One possible conclusion from these data is
"When they trained us, it was stated that it was state law that you have to be 21 to drink, but as long as somebody has their door closed, you don't intervene. So it's the 'official' unofficial policy. I don't know how to explain it."

- A Resident Assistant

that weaker drinking policies lead to greater alcohol problems. It is conceivable, however, that the direction of causality runs the opposite way, that is, colleges where student alcohol use is highest end up having more lenient policies. This might result because school officials became discouraged by the apparent intractability of the problem, or because they anticipated vigorous resistance from students, alumni, or faculty to stricter policies. Whatever the case, all school administrators need to ensure that their policies are consistent with the requirements of the Drug-Free Schools and Campuses Act.

**Implications for College Administrators**

Many schools have made their alcohol policies stricter in recent years, and many have toughened enforcement of their policies. Despite these changes, alcohol consumption rates have continued to be very high, even among students under the minimum drinking age. Especially worrisome is the percentage of college students who are heavy or problem drinkers.

**The Need for Stricter Enforcement**

Enforcement of the minimum drinking age law presents college administrators and security chiefs with a significant challenge, in part because their student bodies are composed both of older students who can legally buy or be served alcohol and underage students who cannot.

**TABLE 3. Report by College Administrators on Most Likely Responses to Alcohol-Related Infractions**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Infraction</th>
<th>Take Disciplinary Action</th>
<th>Talk With Student</th>
<th>Refer to Educational/Counseling Program</th>
<th>Do Nothing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21-year-old buys alcohol for underage friends</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student hosts on-campus party with underage drinking</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>&lt;1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol found in underage student’s dorm room</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Underage student required emergency medical treatment for alcohol overdose</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>&lt;1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open bottle of alcohol found in student’s car</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Percentage of college administrators reporting that they take various actions in response to each situation*
TABLE 4. Report by College Administrators on Objectives of School Alcohol Policies by Extent of Heavy Alcohol Use by Students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy Objective</th>
<th>Not a Problem</th>
<th>Minor Problem</th>
<th>Moderate/ Major Problem</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discourage or try to prevent all student drinking</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tolerate drinking but try to keep students from</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>becoming drunk and disorderly</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encourage responsible drinking</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\* Percentage of college administrators reporting that each statement describes what their school does about drinking

Faced with this complication, some of the survey respondents stated that they favor lowering the minimum drinking age below 21. This is not the majority view, however. In fact, the survey found that most officials anticipated a host of negative consequences if enforcement of the age 21 limit were lessened, including more student drinking, a drop in the college's image, parental displeasure, and a decline in academic work.

Are even stricter policies the answer? Only 12 percent of school administrators seemed to think so. A greater percentage of security officials favored stricter policies, but they also represented a minority among their peers (37 percent).

When asked what difference it would make if their schools did strengthen enforcement of the minimum drinking age law, most administrators and security chiefs said they expected little change, except that parents would be pleased. Most significantly, only 20 percent of administrators thought that stricter enforcement would reduce student drinking.

Doubts about tougher alcohol policies are due in part to a widespread belief that the recent strengthening of these policies has not made any difference in improving the student drinking problem. In the view of many college officials, a strict approach has been tried and failed. What is also clear from this study, however, is that the minimum drinking age law is half-heartedly enforced on many campuses, even when students are accused of serious violations such as alcohol-impaired driving. This lack of diligent enforcement sends students a mixed message about the consequences of breaking the law, thus undermining any possible deterrent effect.

Lax enforcement might also constitute a violation of federal law. The Drug-Free Schools and Campuses Act specifies that students must be informed of standards of conduct that clearly prohibit violations of local, state, and federal laws pertaining to alcohol and other drugs. Having written policies is not sufficient. Whatever those policies are, it is the extent to which they are enforced that defines a school's de facto standards of conduct.

The need for stricter enforcement also emerges from a consideration of case law. The courts do not expect colleges and universities to take extreme measures to control students' conduct, especially in private residences, but if school officials become aware of a potentially risky or illegal activity, they must take action. Not doing so could be construed as a failure to take reasonable measures to provide a safe campus, thereby opening the school to civil liability.

**Recommendations**

School administrators can build broad support for firmer enforcement of the minimum drinking age law by using a problem-oriented strategy that holds students accountable for assault, drunk driving, vandalism, and other infractions committed while under the influence of alcohol. Within this general framework, the Harvard study leads to three key recommendations.

First, school officials can identify on-campus locations where underage drinking is occurring and then take meaningful disciplinary action against those who are serving the alcohol to minors. One way to do this is suggested by the search for "killer bars" in drunk driving prevention: tracking where underage students get access to alcohol.
On many campuses, this will mean taking tougher steps to deal with underage drinking at fraternities and sororities, in extreme instances even terminating the school’s official recognition of houses that fail to correct abuses. According to security officials, the largest number of alcohol-related problems occur at student gatherings in dorm rooms and at fraternity or sorority events. Yet, only one-third or fewer of these officials stated that their schools’ alcohol policies are strictly enforced in each of those settings.

Second, administrators can establish a policy of zero tolerance for fake IDs used by underage students to purchase or be served alcohol. The survey shows that too few colleges make clear to students that fake IDs are prohibited. And when infractions do occur, too few colleges are applying meaningful penalties or even confiscating the IDs. School officials should consider making the elimination of these passports to illegal drinking a higher priority.

Administrators can establish a policy of zero tolerance for fake IDs used by underage students to purchase or be served alcohol.

Third, administrators can take firmer disciplinary steps against students who drive or commit other criminal behavior while under the influence, including use of probation, fines, community service, suspension, and expulsion. Community-level efforts to prevent drunk driving suggest that firm rules, coupled with prompt action and strict enforcement, are the keys to reducing these problems. College administrators need to apply that lesson on campus.

Enforcing the rules will show that school officials are committed to the health and well-being of their students and to creating a safe environment in which all students can prepare for their futures.

Bringing about a change in a school’s drinking environment requires steadfast commitment, plus a recognition that no one policy alone will solve the problem. Unfortunately, too many college officials lack that commitment, either because they are ambivalent about what needs to be done or because they have resigned themselves to the “inevitability” of underage drinking. Thus, while stricter rules against underage drinking have been promulgated, they have not yet been enforced in a firm and consistent way. As concerns about student drinking and its consequences continue to mount, greater numbers of school officials will recognize that having rules but failing to enforce them firmly and consistently is simply bad policy. By contrast, enforcing the rules will show that school officials are committed to the health and well-being of their students and to creating a safe environment in which all students can prepare for their futures.

These recommendations are consistent with a comprehensive and multifaceted approach to prevention that stresses environmental change, that is, change in the social, legal, and economic environment in which students make decisions about their drinking behavior. Making procurement of alcohol more difficult is a key aspect of this approach, as are tougher disciplinary responses to students who are caught engaging in illegal activities related to drinking.

Drug-Free Schools and Campuses Act

While college administrators have long been concerned about student alcohol and other drug use, the driving force behind recent prevention activity has been the passage of the Drug-Free Schools and Campuses Act, codified as Part 86 of EDGAR (34 CFR Part 86). Failure to meet the Part 86 of EDGAR requirements can put a school’s federal funding in jeopardy.

Part 86 of EDGAR requires that every institution of higher education, as a condition of receiving any federal financial assistance, must provide the following information to each student and employee:

- a description of the health risks associated with the use of alcohol and illicit drugs;
- a description of any drug or alcohol counseling, treatment, or rehabilitation programs available to students and employees;
- standards of conduct that clearly prohibit the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of alcohol and illicit drugs by students and employees on school property or as part of any school activities;
- a description of the applicable legal sanctions under local, state, or federal law for the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of alcohol and illicit drugs by students and employees;
- a clear statement that the school will impose disciplinary sanctions on students and employees who violate the standards of conduct; and...
Resources

The Higher Education Center for Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention is a national resource center established by the U.S. Department of Education and managed by Educational Development Center in Newton, MA.

The Center's goal is to assist colleges and universities as they work to change campus cultures, foster environments that promote healthy lifestyles, and prevent student alcohol and other drug abuse.

The Center offers five types of services: 1) information services, 2) technical assistance, 3) training, 4) national meetings, and 5) publications.

These services are available to all institutions of higher education free of charge. For additional information, contact the Center at the following address:

Higher Education Center for Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention
55 Chapel St.
Newton, MA 02158
Phone: (800) 676-1730
Fax: (617) 969-5979
E-mail: HigherEdCtr@edc.org
Internet: http://www.edc.org/hec/

Publications of the Higher Education Center

Student Flyer
Alcohol and Acquaintance Rape: Strategies to Protect Yourself and Each Other

Guides
Preventing Alcohol-Related Problems on Campus: Acquaintance Rape
Preventing Alcohol-Related Problems on Campus: Impaired Driving

Bulletins
Binge Drinking on Campus: Results of a National Study
Enforcing the Minimum Drinking Age Law: A Survey of College Administrators and Security Chiefs
Institutionalizing an Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention Program
Preventing Alcohol-Related Problems on Campus: Vandalism

Newsletters
Catalyst
The Law, Higher Education, and Substance Abuse Prevention

Computer Software
Looking at Binge Drinking

To obtain an Electronic Version of these publications, they can be downloaded from HEC's web site (see address above).

For more information, contact the U.S. Department of Education, Drug Prevention Program, FIPSE, ROB 3, 7th and D Streets, SW, Washington, DC 20202.

Other Publications

The following publications are recommended for additional information on enforcing the minimum drinking age law and developing new policies to change the social, legal, and economic environment in which college students make decisions about their drinking behavior:


Commission on Substance Abuse at Colleges and Universities. Rethinking Rites of Passage: Substance Abuse on America's Campuses. New York, New York: Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, 1994. Available through the Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, 153 West 57th Street, New York, NY 10019.


Department of Education, Office of Educational Research and Improvement, 1990. Available through The Higher Education Center for Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention, 4800 Montgomery Lane, Suite 600, Bethesda, MD 20814.

Other Resources

Network of Colleges and Universities Committed to the Elimination of Alcohol and Drug Abuse
Office of Educational Research and Improvement

U.S. Department of Education
Washington, D.C. 20202
Established in 1987 by the U.S. Department of Education, the Network’s purpose is to provide support to institutions of higher education that are establishing and enforcing policies to prevent the misuse of alcohol and other drugs. The Network has issued a set of standards that operate as criteria for institutional membership in the Network. Currently, over 1,500 institutions of higher education are members.
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