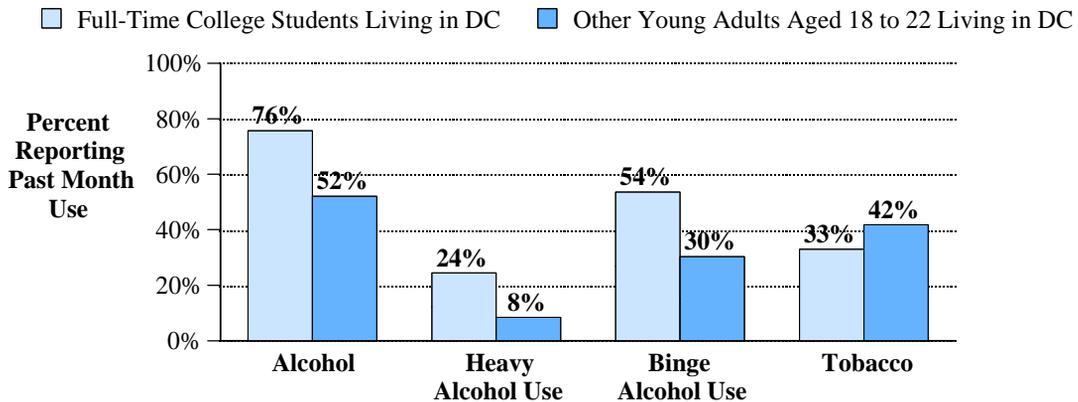


## Do College Students Living in DC Drink and Smoke More Than Other Young Adults?<sup>1</sup>



- Full-time college students living in the District were more likely than other young adults to use alcohol in the past month. They were also considerably more likely to be heavy drinkers and binge drinkers.
- Underage full-time college students (aged 18 to 20) are equally likely to report drinking alcohol in the past month, with prevalence rates ranging from 67% to 76%. White college students are significantly more likely than black students to report past month alcohol use (85% vs. 56%).
- Unlike with alcohol, full-time college students in DC are less likely than other young adults to use tobacco products (33% vs. 42%).

### Alcohol-Related Injury and Death Among U.S. College Students<sup>4</sup>

- Eleven percent of full-time college students—an estimated 599,000—are hurt or injured each year because of drinking, 12% (696,000) are hit or assaulted by another drinking college student, and 2% (97,000) are sexually assaulted or date raped by another drinking college student.
- An estimated 1,825 full-time college students die each year in the U.S. from alcohol-related unintentional injuries.

Data Notes & Sources: <sup>1</sup>Adapted by CESAR from aggregate data from the 2002 to 2008 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Data are of U.S. adults aged 18 to 22 residing in DC. “College students” are full-time college students. “Other young adults” are those not enrolled in school, enrolled in college part-time, enrolled in other grades, or enrolled with no other information available. <sup>2</sup>Brister, HA, Wetherill, MA, Fromme, K, “Anticipated Versus Actual Alcohol Consumption During 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday Celebrations,” *Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs* 71(2):180-183, 2010. <sup>3</sup>CESAR, “Alcohol Use and Binge Drinking Increase in Two Weeks After 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday; Remain at Higher Rates After Turning 21,” *CESAR FAX*, 19(3), 2010. <sup>4</sup>Hingson, R.W., Wenxing, Z., Weitzman, E.R., “Magnitude of and Trends in Alcohol-Related Mortality and Morbidity Among U.S. College Students Ages 18-24, 1998-2005,” *Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs* (S16):12-20, 2009.

### 21 for 21

- One study of students at a large southwestern university found 68% drank more than they anticipated while celebrating their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday and 60% engaged in one or more 21<sup>st</sup> birthday drinking traditions, such as “21 for 21,” drinking 21 drinks to celebrate their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday.<sup>2</sup>
- The already high rates of alcohol use and binge drinking among underage college students increases sharply in the 14 days after their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday, to 77% and 56%, respectively, and remains at higher rates.<sup>3</sup>