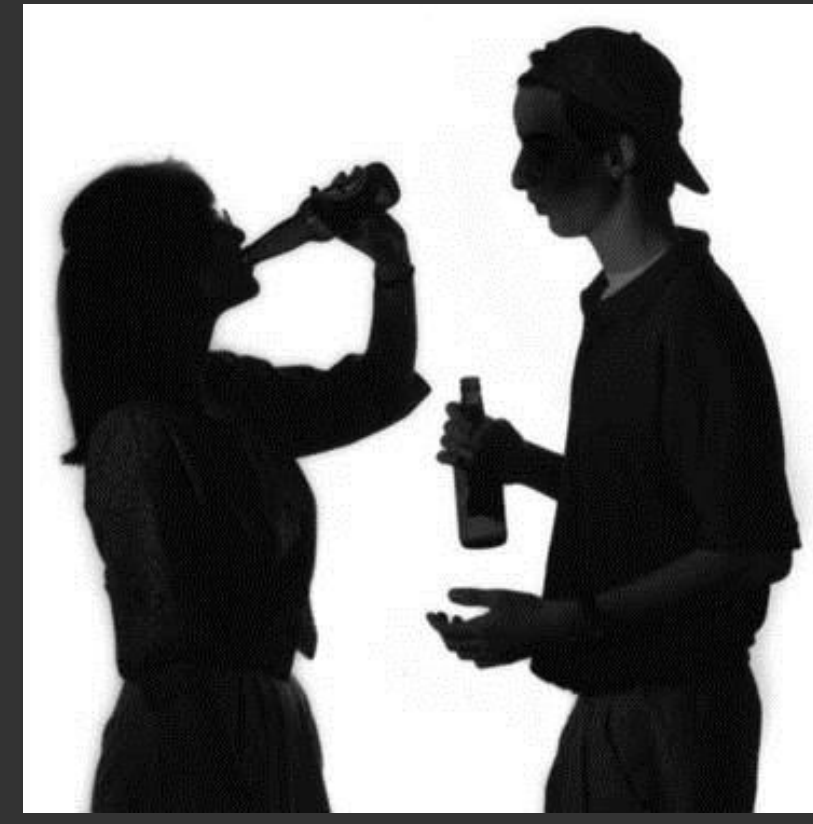


# The Impact of an Underage Drinking Citation

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## RESEARCH PROBLEM:

Underage drinking is a severe public health problem and is directly associated with several negative developmental health effects (Spoth, Greenburg & Turrisi, 2009).

## RESEARCH QUESTION & HYPOTHESIS

"How does receiving an underage drinking citation affect the future drinking behaviors in college students related to gender?"

**Hypothesis:** Males would be more likely than females to not change their drinking behaviors after receiving a citation.

## PURPOSE:

1. To examine attitudes toward underage drinking and receiving an underage drinking citation and compare genders
2. To develop a reliable survey instrument to measure these attitudes
3. To use the results with the intention that it would provide insight and awareness to universities, law enforcement and policy makers for future investigation and research on underage drinking citations and interventions

## THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK:

Social exchange theory suggests that individuals make behavioral decisions based on a cost-benefit evaluation (Moore & Asay, 2013).

According to this theory, it is predicted that there will be a difference in results between genders due to the possibility of variation in how benefits and costs are defined amongst males and females.

## LITERATURE REVIEW:

- Wardell and Read (2012) conducted a three-year study to determine the reciprocal relationship between positive beliefs about alcohol and perceived norms and how that relationship is associated with alcohol use amongst college students.
- Linowski and DiFulvio (2011) provided in their article an insight on what happens when college students binge drink. They discovered that campus and community leaders have a significant influence in the environment and attitudes towards drinking.
- Windle and Zucker (2010) suggest that age, gender and race all play a factor in likelihood of underage drinking and alcohol dependency.
- Spoth, Greenburg & Turrisi (2009) conducted a review of research that considered the effectiveness of existing interventions on underage drinking. Only 1/3 of 127 assessed interventions had evidence of positive outcomes.
- Brown, Matousek & Radue (2009) explored the issue of legal-age students providing alcohol to underage college students using qualitative focus groups. Overall, participants said drinking is an important part of the college culture and the benefits outweigh the risks.

Table 1

Cross Tabulation

CDT

GEN	SD	D	SLD	SLA	A	SA	Total
Male	18.2%	21.2%	12.1%	9.1%	27.3%	12.1%	100%
Female	5.9%	17.6%	19.1%	16.2%	25%	16.2%	100%

Note. (GEN)= Gender; (CDT)= Receiving an underage drinking citation would be a deterrent for me to stop consuming alcohol until I was 21 years of age.

ACC								BDC							
GEN	SD	D	SLD	SLA	A	SA	Total	GEN	SD	D	SLD	SLA	A	SA	Total
Male	15.2%	6.1%	9.1%	12.1%	30.3%	27.3%	100%	Male	3.0%	9.1%	15.2%	12.1%	39.4%	21.2%	100%
Female	7.4%	7.4%	10.3%	41.2%	23.5%	10.3%	100%	Female	4.4%	10.3%	16.2%	26.5%	26.5%	16.2%	100%

CCD								CND							
GEN	SD	D	SLD	SLA	A	SA	Total	GEN	SD	D	SLD	SLA	A	SA	Total
Male	21.2%	6.1%	15.2%	18.2%	27.3%	12.1%	100%	Male	3.0%	9.1%	9.1%	15.2%	30.3%	33.3%	100%
Female	19.1%	17.6%	17.6%	29.4%	13.2%	2.9%	100%	Female	0.0%	2.9%	8.8%	22.1%	44.1%	22.1%	100%

FIT								CPN							
GEN	SD	D	SLD	SLA	A	SA	Total	GEN	SD	D	SLD	SLA	A	SA	Total
Male	27.3%	36.4%	12.1%	15.2%	3.0%	6.1%	100%	Male	9.1%	15.2%	9.1%	24.2%	18.2%	24.2%	100%
Female	38.8%	38.8%	11.9%	9.0%	1.5%	0.0%	100%	Female	4.4%	2.9%	14.7%	14.7%	48.5%	14.7%	100%

CFD								CDT							
GEN	SD	D	SLD	SLA	A	SA	Total	GEN	SD	D	SLD	SLA	A	SA	Total
Male	9.1%	9.1%	6.1%	21.2%	33.3%	21.2%	100%	Male	18.2%	21.2%	12.1%	9.1%	27.3%	12.1%	100%
Female	2.9%	8.8%	5.9%	23.5%	38.2%	20.6%	100%	Female	5.9%	17.6%	19.1%	16.2%	25%	16.2%	100%

FDR								NRH							
GEN	SD	D	SLD	SLA	A	SA	Total	GEN	SD	D	SLD	SLA	A	SA	Total
Male	6.1%	6.1%	9.1%	18.2%	33.3%	27.3%	100%	Male	12.1%	33.3%	12.1%	15.2%	12.1%	15.2%	100%
Female	1.5%	7.4%	4.4%	20.6%	44.1%	22.1%	100%	Female	11.9%	14.9%	17.9%	32.8%	9.0%	13.4%	100%

AAC								MSC							
GEN	SD	D	SLD	SLA	A	SA	Total	GEN	SD	D	SLD	SLA	A	SA	Total
Male	3.1%	6.2%	6.2%	25.0%	25.0%	34.4%	100%	Male	3.0%	15.2%	15.2%	27.3%	33.3%	6.1%	100%
Female	1.5%	1.5%	10.4%	26.9%	38.8%	20.9%	100%	Female	0.0%	7.4%	8.8%	30.9%	29.4%	23.5%	100%

## DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES:

GEN (gender), AGE (age), PAR (I drank underage)  
 NUM (Number of drinking citations received)

## DEPENDANT VARIABLES:

ACC (It is acceptable to consume alcohol prior to the age of 21)  
 CCD (Underage drinking is an important part of the college culture)  
 FIT (Drinking underage is necessary to fit in with peers)  
 CFD (People who I consider my friends drink underage)  
 FDR (People who I consider my friends drank underage)  
 AAC (It is fairly easy to access alcohol while underage)  
 BDC (Binge drinking is common for underage drinkers)  
 CND (It is fair that underage drinking has consequences)  
 CPN (Citations are a fair punishment for underage drinkers)  
 CDT (Receiving an underage drinking citation would be a deterrent for me to stop consuming alcohol until I was 21 years of age)  
 NRH (Drinking has a negative impact in the residence halls)  
 MSC (Authorities play an important role in maintaining a safe environment on campus by enforcing laws and rules, including underage drinking citations)  
 would help foster families better care for foster children)

## METHOD:

**Participants:** 101 male and female college students living in the residence halls at a university in northwestern Wisconsin  
**Research Design:** Non-random pilot study, Cross sectional, Purposive sampling design, Snowball

**Data collection instrument:** IRB approved, informed by literature & theory, implied consent. Administered online using "Qualtrics" and via email sent by the Human Services Lead Worker of the foster care agency with three demographic questions and eleven closed ended questions on a 1-5 Likert scale.

**Procedure:** Sent email invitation s through collaborator with link to online survey to male and female college students living on-campus in the residence halls and Implied consent and confidentiality explicitly stated on email invitation and Qualtrics survey.

**Data analysis plan:** Qualtrics "self-cleaned" & then surveys were coded by investigators. Data was analyzed using Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) and Cross-tabulations, mean-comparisons, independent t-tests, and a reliability analysis: Cronbach's Alpha.

## RESULTS:

Variable CDT supported our hypothesis showing that males were 20% less likely than females to stop drinking after receiving a drinking citation. See table 1  
 Cronbach's Alpha: 0.259

## IMPLICATIONS:

**Practitioners:** The difference between genders, that men will be less likely to stop consumption of alcohol after receiving a citation, suggests that professionals and policy makers in this field need to create intervention methods based on gender, and could use further research. It may inspire law enforcement and policy makers to evaluate and assess their current policies to determine if citations are effective in reducing underage drinking.

**Future Research:** A nationwide study for a larger sample, Random sampling, Qualitative interviews in addition to survey may offer more insight from the lived experience of college students The next step is to look deeper into the effectiveness of underage drinking citations, particularly for men. Continued studies comparing genders will provide useful information in discovering the most effective way to deter underage drinking while paying attention to gender differences.

## CONCLUSION

Conducting this research has opened the door to the under-studied area relating to the impact of underage drinking citations. It has also been made apparent that there is little attention paid to the differences in gender when related to underage drinking; and how that knowledge can be important when assessing preventative measures. The current intervention methods for underage drinking are controversial in their effectiveness; therefore the first place to start is with the policies in place. The laws currently in place concerning underage drinking have not been proven to reduce prevalence. This could suggest that there is a need for a new path to keeping teens and young adults safe and healthy when they are handed their first drink. Emphasis on increasing knowledge and awareness about alcohol and its effect on health and development may be a good place to start. It is important for professionals in mental health and law enforcement to consider all factors when dealing with underage drinking. The current "one-size-fits-all" approach is not benefiting anyone involved.