

Students and Alcohol & Drug Issues

Written by Counseling & Substance Abuse Services & Office of the Dean of Students

➔ We Are in This Together

Twenty-one percent of incoming CofC freshmen self-reported that they already drink in a high-risk manner, compared to 18 % of the national comparison sample (Alcohol Edu® data 2015). Alcohol Edu® is an online tool with a self-assessment survey administered to all incoming students through Counseling & Substance Abuse Services. We have changed vendors and now use the surveys by 3rd Millennium as of Fall 2016. Twenty-nine percent of CofC students self-reported that they are current marijuana users (30 day prevalence vs 19% of a national comparison) (Core data 2016). The Core Survey is offered by the Core Institute houses at Southern Illinois University. The standard Core survey asks questions about students' use, attitudes, perceptions, and opinions about alcohol and drugs.

During the 2014-2015 & 2015-2016 academic years 614 students were found in violation of alcohol and drug policies, which arose from incidents on and off campus. The sanctions these students received included expulsion, suspension, residence hall removal, residential hall probation, deferred suspension, parental notification, alcohol and drug assessment, drug testing, completion of an online course specifically for sanctioned students, a written warning, and/or a verbal warning. Typical sanction for an alcohol offense was a warning with online education, and for marijuana offense was deferred suspension and AoD assessment at CASAS.

➔ What We Are Doing About It



Spotlight

The Alcohol and Drug Working Group (Chaired by Dr. Cabot) recently partnered with the Department of Health and Human Performance to implement a social norms campaign over the next two years. The goal is to disseminate accurate drug use data to students to show that the majority of student do NOT use drugs. Spring 2017 the focus will be on marijuana, with future campaigns addressing cocaine, prescription drugs and designer drugs.

Additional interventions include:

- Stern Night Life & Cougar Activities Board host last night and alcohol-free events
- FYE Synthesis Seminars include peer-facilitated discussion on alcohol and drugs
- Substance free Alternative Fall, Spring & Maymester Break trips
- Alcohol-free graduation ceremony
- Mandated online alcohol and drug education and self-assessment for incoming students
- Evidenced-based individual and group counseling approaches
- A new Collegiate Recovery Program for students seeking support to maintain sobriety—<http://deanofstudents.cofc.edu/collegiate-recovery-program/index.php>
- Joint Department of Public Safety and City of Charleston Police Department task force and patrols including: City of Charleston Police Department Vice Unity performing decoy purchases at local establishments and sharing “Vice” list with the Dean of Students; City of Charleston Police Department performing DUI and fake ID checks.
- Fraternity & Sorority Life implemented a series of requirements for all fraternities and sororities following President McConnell’s ban on alcohol at Fraternity & Sorority Life events. These requirements included member participation in an alcohol education program, a bystander intervention workshop, and a presentation of alcohol and drug policies.
- **Drug Free Schools and Campuses Report** which requires institutions of higher education to establish drug and alcohol abuse prevention programs for students and employees. Students and employees must receive materials annually that contain information on these five points.
 - Standards of conduct clearly prohibit, at a minimum, the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol by students and employees
 - Applicable legal sanctions under federal, state, or local law for the unlawful possession or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol.
 - Health risks associated with the use of illicit drugs and the abuse of alcohol.
 - A list of drug and alcohol programs (counseling, treatment, rehabilitation, and re-entry) that are available to employees and students..
 - A clear statement of the disciplinary sanctions students and employees may face for violations of standards of conduct relating to drugs and alcohol.



over **70%*** of CofC students are **not** current marijuana users

WE MAKE **BETTER** CHOICES THAN YOU THINK



COLLEGE of CHARLESTON

*Based on College of Charleston student responses on the 2016 Core Alcohol and Drug Survey

➔ How to Help

- Send a clear message to your students about alcohol and drug use consequences and campus initiatives to help them make safe choices
- Share CASAS resources with students
- Incorporate alcohol and drug prevention into your curriculum
- Use the FAST report for students of concern or walk them over to CASAS
- Utilize the “Don’t Cancel That Class” program offered by Counseling & Substance Abuse Services

➔ Resources

On Campus:

- Counseling & Substance Abuse Services, Robert Scott Small Bldg, Room 300, 843-953-5640 - Narcotics Anonymous, Robert Scott Small Bldg, Room 319, Saturday at 9:00 PM - Collegiate Recovery Program, Wood Marchant, 843-953-6630
- **Off Campus:**
 - Charleston Center, 843-958-3300
 - MUSC Institute of Psychiatry, Center for Drug and Alcohol Programs, 843-792-9162