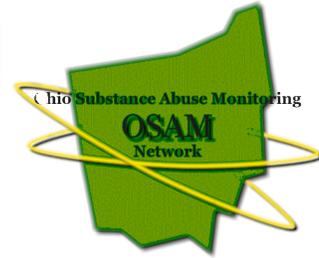




OSAM-O-GRAM

DATE: February 13, 2001
DATELINE: Ohio



Wright State University
The University of Akron

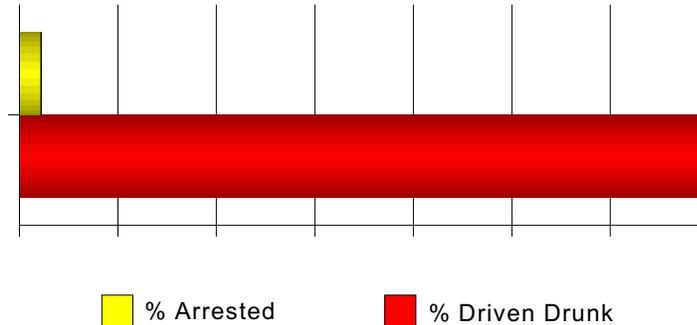
Drinking & Driving Perceived as a Significant Problem Among College Students in Ohio

A recent OSAM Network Rapid Response Initiative investigating drug and alcohol abuse among college students in Ohio suggests that driving under the influence of alcohol is common practice for many college students. Most students perceived alcohol abuse to be the biggest drug problem on their campus, and participants report drinking and driving by college students as a significant concern. As one student commented:

It's like it doesn't matter how drunk you are as long as you're the least drunk and that's who's gonna drive... Just don't get pulled over, go the speed limit.

Because alcohol abuse (including drinking and driving) is so widely accepted on college campuses and the odds of getting arrested for DUI are so low, participants agreed that prevention efforts need to be tailored to address these issues. Otherwise, students perceived alcohol abuse prevention programs to be largely ineffective.

DUI Frequency vs. Actual Arrests*



*Percentages are averages based on the 1999 *Core Alcohol & Drug Survey* from two Ohio colleges.

Based on statewide quantitative and qualitative data from the OSAM Network, alcohol abuse prevention efforts targeting college students should address the highly acceptable nature of alcohol abuse among students. Likewise, stronger educational and prevention measures should be implemented to reduce the extremely dangerous behavior of drinking and driving among college students.

OSAM-O-GRAMS report key findings of the Ohio Substance Monitoring Network (OSAM). Key Informants located throughout the state use qualitative and quantitative data to provide semiannual monitoring of substance abuse trends. The OSAM Network is funded by the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services by contract to Wright State University and by subcontract to the University of Akron. This OSAM-O-GRAM is based on the January, 2001 OSAM meeting.

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