

To The Graduate School:

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Caires, Matthew R., When Do Undergraduate Students Become Responsible for Themselves? The Relationship Between the Perceptions of Underage Undergraduate Students, Alcohol Consumption, and Institutional Legal Responsibilities to Protect Them from Foreseeable Harm, Ed.D., Department of Adult Learning and Technology, May 2009.

This study looks at the perceptions of underage undergraduate students at the University of Wyoming (UW) regarding the institution's responsibility to protect them from foreseeable harm. It also quantifies the extent and nature of alcohol consumption by underage undergraduate students at UW. The research population that was identified for this study are undergraduate students enrolled full-time at the University of Wyoming between the ages of 18-21 years old.

The author collected and analyzed 2,218 survey responses from the research population in this quantitative study.

There were several demographic variables and factors that influenced the research participants' perspectives about university responsibility to protect them from foreseeable harm. Many of these factors influenced the research participants' reported level of consuming drinks that contained alcohol. Nevertheless, the research participants in this study did not overwhelmingly state that the university was responsible to protect them from foreseeable harm.

Since the inception of American higher education in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, campus officials have stood *in loco parentis* and have enjoyed wide latitude to control the lives of students outside the classroom. College faculty and administrators under *in loco parentis* benefited from legal immunity in nearly all aspects of how they ran their institutions, especially in regard to controlling out of class activities and student behavior.

The legal principles used to ensure student safety on the college campus continues to evolve during the early 21<sup>st</sup> century. Today, establishing the appropriate level of legal responsibility that a university has to protect students from foreseeable injury remains unclear. Understanding these responsibilities is vital for higher education institutions, as traditional-aged students continue to injure themselves after consuming high-levels of alcohol.

Based upon this study, several recommendations are made to alter current university policies and resource allocation. Although not a call to return to *in loco parentis*, the data from this study suggests that university officials might consider adopting additional measures that enforce underage and high-risk drinking policies in on-campus living environments with high-concentrations of underage residents.



WHEN DO UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS BECOME RESPONSIBLE FOR  
THEMSELVES? THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE PERCEPTIONS OF  
UNDERAGE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS, ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION, AND  
INSTITUTIONAL LEGAL RESPONSIBILITIES TO PROTECT THEM FROM  
FORESEEABLE HARM

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## Chapter I: Introduction

“The story of the modern American university is one of the gradual emergence from legal insularity into the world of law. The central problem in this evolution has been how to balance university authority with student freedom to achieve a *proper and fair allocation of legal rights and responsibilities that maximizes student safety and promotes the educational mission* of the modern college (p. 215).” – Bickel and Lake, 1999

In the spring of 2001, a 19 year-old undergraduate student at the University of Wyoming (UW) was seriously injured when she fell off an upper bunk bed in her residence hall room after consuming copious amounts of alcohol at a fraternity party. The injured student brought a lawsuit against UW for failing to protect her from this “foreseeable” injury (*Treadway v. Sigma Nu Fraternity, Inc., et al.*, Albany County Docket No. 28369). The court eventually dismissed this lawsuit in favor of the University and ruled that UW did not owe the injured student a duty to protect her from her own underage drinking. Nevertheless, it was clear in the findings that while the courts viewed the injured student as an adult, the plaintiff nevertheless believed the University was at fault for her injury. She claimed that UW was negligent for not acting in a proactive, parental fashion to foresee the danger inherent in allowing fraternity parties to occur where underage students consume dangerous amounts of alcohol.

### *Problem Statement*

Student Affairs administrators often argue that while underage undergraduate students might be legal adults, the institution should act proactively to enforce campus drinking policies to help ensure student safety. On the other hand, university attorneys typically argue that as an institution does more to police the activities of underage

undergraduate student drinkers, the more liability the institution incurs when a student injury occurs. Underage undergraduate students, their parents, university faculty/staff and general tax-payers all may respond differently when asked how much responsibility a university has to protect underage undergraduate students from foreseeable harm.

Accurately defining the level of responsibility a university has to protect an 18-year old and older undergraduate student depends upon the varying perspectives of campus policymakers.

Do underage undergraduate students (20 years old and younger) today perceive themselves as adults with legal responsibility to protect themselves? Do today's colleges and universities have a responsibility to protect underage undergraduate students from foreseeable harm? Should university officials consider underage undergraduate students adults? If so, how much responsibility do these students have for their own safety on a college campus? If not, to what extent is a university responsible to ensure a student's safety from foreseeable injury? The literature (Pearson & Beckham, 2005; Bickel & Lake, 1999) suggests that the level of responsibility a college or university has to protect students from foreseeable harm hinges, in part, on if these underage students are adults. Some suggest that colleges and universities have a duty to protect students from foreseeable risk of injury (Russo, 2006). For others, 18+ year-old individuals are supposed to be functioning adults who are responsible for their own safety. Yet, recent research suggests that young people are increasingly refuting their adulthood status until their mid to late-twenties (Nelson, et. al, 2007; Arnett, 2004 & 2001).

This study looks at the perceptions of underage undergraduate students at the University of Wyoming (UW) for their institution to protect them from harm while under the influence of alcohol. This study also looks at the extent and nature of alcohol consumption by underage undergraduate students at UW. Recognizing that alcohol-related injuries constitute the preponderance of student injuries on college campuses (Busteed, 2005), this study will specifically examine the perceptions of underage college students about the appropriate level of responsibility their university has to protect them from injury while under the influence of alcohol. The research population that was identified for this study are undergraduate students enrolled full-time at the University of Wyoming between the ages of 18-21 years old.

#### *Research Questions*

The research questions to be explored in this study are:

1) What is the extent and nature of underage (20 years old and younger) undergraduate student consumption of drinks that contain alcohol at the University of Wyoming?

2) For underage undergraduate students at the University of Wyoming, what are their perceptions regarding UW's responsibility to protect them from foreseeable harm?

#### *Background*

Since the early 1960s, the legal relationship between undergraduate students and higher education institutions in the United States has been difficult to accurately define (Dodd, 1985). The history of this legal relationship can be described in two very distinct, bifurcated periods: the history prior to the early 1960s and the evolving and shifting

relationship that has existed thereafter (Melear, 2003). Since the inception of higher education in America in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, campus officials have stood *in loco parentis* (literally, in the “place of the parent”) and have enjoyed wide latitude for overseeing out-of-class activities that promote the moral and physical well-being of their students (Stamatakos, 1990). College faculty and administrators during the *in loco parentis* period benefited from legal immunity in nearly all aspects of how they ran their institutions, especially in regard to the level of control exerted on the lives of students outside the classroom.

#### *Campus and Societal Changes*

A pivotal point in the evolution of the student-university relationship can be directly correlated to trends in the broader American society beginning in the 1960s (Hogan & Schwartz, 1987). The legal nature of this relationship shifted during the 1960s to reflect changing societal beliefs and as a byproduct of the social upheavals experienced by the general population during this time (Olivas, 1997). During the late 1960s, and as a result of student unrest and turmoil over the civil rights movement and the protest movement of the war in Vietnam, the legal relationship between a college student and their institution dramatically shifted in favor of more student autonomy and freedom (Kaplin & Lee, 1997).

Also during the 1960s, the demographics of college and university student populations in the United States also changed drastically. After the end of World War II, American higher education institutions went through a demographic shift that they had not experienced since the implementation of the Morrill Act of 1862 that created land-

grant colleges and universities (Stubblefield and Keane, 1994). Starting in 1944, the GI Bill opened the doors of colleges and universities to returning WWII veterans by the thousands, many of whom would have never pursued a post-secondary degree if it had not been for this opportunity (Rudolph, 1962). As a result, the enrollment of higher education institutions across the country exponentially increased. According to Yudof (2007), over two million veterans used the GI bill to attend college after WWII, and veterans made up nearly 49% of all students attending a college or university during this period.

As older, more mature students started to matriculate in the country's colleges and universities, new policies were required to meet the needs of these students. College and university students during the 1960s saw themselves as adults and were accustomed to having control over their actions and behaviors; they were not willing to cede control to university officials or comply with antiquated campus policies that dictated when they had to be in bed or whom they could associate. Students in the post-WWII era started to request new freedoms from traditional *in loco parentis* control.

When student requests to campus officials for new freedoms from atavistic policies went unanswered in the 1960s, students often brought litigation against their institutions – and won (Bickel & Lake, 1999). The 1960s and early 1970s are known as the time when the “constitution came to campus” (Ackerman, et al., 2005). Through the lawsuits students brought against colleges and universities, the courts started viewing undergraduate students as adults rather than children for the first time in the history of American higher education (Kaplin, 1985). This change in the courts' view was

reflected in the broader America society as well, as the general populous started to view traditional-aged college students as adults during this time (Spaziano, 1994; Hirshberg, 1994).

For example, Congress passed several pieces of federal legislation during this era that recognized 18 year-old and older college students as legal adults. Specifically, Congress passed the 26<sup>th</sup> Amendment that lowered the voting age to 18 and the Federal Education Rights to Privacy Act (FERPA – also known as the Buckley Amendment), which helped to redefine the legal status of college students as adults, with rights and privileges to be bestowed on them as such (Szablewicz & Gibbs, 1987). The evolving view of traditional-aged college students as legal adults by the courts, the federal laws and by the general American public was the impetus to start shifting legal responsibility for safety on campus from the institution to the student.

#### *Shifting Legal Responsibilities for Colleges and Universities*

As the tradition of *in loco parentis* and strict control over student behavior dissolved in the 1960s and 1970s, campus officials struggled to redefine a new relationship between the institution and their traditional-aged students. Students in the 1960s asked the courts for new freedoms on their college campuses and to be treated as adults; by the mid-1970s, the courts started to aggressively treat them as such. As a result, the courts created a new *bystander* era of the student-university relationship (Bickel & Lake, 1999). Higher education case law during the 1970s and into the early 1980s has several examples of how state and federal courts denied student requests for judicial relief for negligence due to the student's status as a legal adult. During this time,



the courts routinely upheld the notion that colleges and universities had no duty to protect adult students from injury.

As higher education case law evolved in the 1980s, though, an interesting trend started to emerge when students argued that their university owed them a duty to protect them from harm. In several important cases during the 1980s, student plaintiffs claimed that their institutions owed them a duty to protect them from *foreseeable* harm, an important factor in establishing a legal duty in order to prove negligence (Alexander & Alexander, 1995). Certain courts increasingly supported this argument and began to hold higher education institutions liable for failure to protect students from foreseeable harm. The outcomes of these “cross-current” lawsuits, which held a variety of universities responsible for negligence for breaching their duty to protect students from foreseeable injury, has contributed to the confusion about the level of responsibility colleges and universities have to protect students from harm (Bickel & Lake, 1999).

Throughout the 1990s, the legal relationship between a traditional-aged student and their college or university remained unclear (Bickel & Lake, 1999). Adding to the confusion was the fact that students pursuing post-secondary degrees were older than in any other time in the history of American higher education (Pearson, 1998). According to research by Jeffrey Arnett (2004), “by the turn of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, nearly half of undergraduate students were more than 25 years old (p. 131).”

While many students were starting their post-secondary education at an older age during the late twentieth-century, traditional-aged students were increasingly less likely to consider themselves as adults or willing to accept adult-level responsibilities (Arnett,

1994). According to Arnett (2004), the entire construction of adulthood for 18-20 year old *millennial students* had shifted to later in life, typically after their college experience. Adult behaviors, such as accepting responsibility for self and financial independence from parents, were showing-up in decreasing regularity for traditional-aged college students across the country. As a result, today's underage undergraduate students may be accepting less personal responsibility for their actions, especially while under the influence of alcohol (Bickel & Lake, 1999).

### *Campus Alcohol Culture*

Along with being less likely to see themselves as adults, another important legal factor in the unsettled student-university relationship in the 1990s was the fact that the American college campus was increasingly becoming a dangerous place (Lake, 2007). According to a study by Hingson, et al. (2002), "it is estimated that each year there are more than 1,400 alcohol-related fatalities of college students aged 18-24 and more than a half million alcohol-related injuries among this same group (p. 416)." In 2005, some went so far as to call the dangerous drinking culture on campuses an epidemic public health problem that colleges and universities must confront (Busteed, 2005). Busteed notes,

Alcohol kills 6.5 times more people nationally than all other illicit drugs combined, according to a 2003 report from the National Academy of Sciences. And on the college campus, it is far and away the most commonly used drug. With 80 percent of students drinking in the past month and 43 percent doing so in a high-risk fashion, it is the 800-pound gorilla of health issues (p. 2).

Bickel and Lake (1999) suggest that if college and university administrators do not start recognizing the dangerous drinking climate that exists on their campus and proactively

work to modify this environment, at a certain point they will be held liable for foreseeable student injuries.

### *Current Legal Uncertainties*

Today, establishing the appropriate level of legal responsibility a college or university has to protect students from foreseeable injury remains unclear (Pearson & Beckham, 2005). Legal scholars have tried to establish a model that clarifies to what extent a higher education institution has a duty to protect students in the post-*in loco parentis* era based upon other existing legal models (Pearson & Beckham, 2005; Bickel & Lake, 1999; Szablewicz & Gibbs, 1987; Dodd, 1985). Thus far, no one model seems to fit adequately all of the unique and complex dynamics that make up the realities of this relationship. According to legal scholars Bickel and Lake,

A relationship to any higher education institution, whether commuter community college or four-year traditional college, is a unique and unparalleled experience in a person's life. Teaching is special. Learning in an organized program is special. Experiencing both among similarly situated peers is special.... Courts can say that there is nothing special about the relationship of student and university legally and complicate the law with business rules, but there will always be something different about college. It is a mixture of many things, a dash of family, of personal freedom, of a variety of quasi-commercial services, of voluntary association, of the public good and public interest, of fellowships and friendships, and, of course, of unique educational opportunities (1999, p. 200).

The rights and responsibilities for the modern university and the contemporary college student, and the legal relationship between them, continues to be discussed and debated among faculty, students, college administrators and the courts.

College and university administrators today are cautious to enact policies and procedures that attempt to prevent student injury out of fear of creating additional

liability or returning to the legal doctrine of *in loco parentis* (Bickel & Lake, 1999). For university officials to feel they are on solid legal ground in implementing proactive policies that ameliorate dangerous drinking culture by curtailing certain student freedoms, the courts will need to provide reasonable reassurance that institutions will not be held liable for doing so. While traditional-aged college students' attitudes and behaviors toward alcohol consumption has shifted throughout the past fifty years, little data is currently available regarding how these students today perceive their personal responsibilities while under the influence of alcohol. Further, currently there is little data available about how today's traditional-aged college students from the "Millennial Generation" perceive their college or university's responsibility to protect them from foreseeable harm.

#### *Chapter Summary*

By focusing on students from the University of Wyoming, this study has the potential to fill a gap in the existing research regarding underage students' perceptions for their institution's responsibility to protect them while consuming alcohol on or near campus. The data may be helpful in making policy recommendations to UW administrators about the realities of students taking responsibility (or not) for engaging in dangerous activities. In *Treadway v. Sigma Nu Fraternity, Inc., et al.* (Albany County Docket No. 28369), the underage undergraduate student perceived that UW owed her a duty to protect her drinking and from her injury. Do other underage undergraduate students at UW perceive a similar duty?

## Chapter II: Literature and Case Law Review

### *Historical Background*

Since the inception of higher education in America, an English model of education heavily influenced colleges and universities (Fowler, 1984). During the seventeenth-century, the English model helped to mold American colleges into small residential campuses with young undergraduate students, many of whom started their education at 16 years of age or younger (Jackson, 1991). Many of these institutions were founded on a religious tradition, and the college was responsible for both the student's education in traditional academic pursuits such as math, science, and languages, as well as in the student's religious and character education. According to Jackson, "the college was...a large family in which the intimate nature of residential life demanded strict authority and control. The English model fostered absolute institutional control of students by faculty both inside and outside the classroom (p. 1139-1140)." Faculty members often served as administrators who oversaw the daily operations of the college, lived on campus and served as role models and educators for students outside the classroom.

This English model remained largely unchanged in the United States throughout the next two centuries (Hogan & Schwartz, 1987). One of the first major changes to this model came after the creation of the land-grant institution during the late 19<sup>th</sup> century (Rudolph, 1962). Land-grant colleges and universities started to offer access to post-secondary education to students from lower to middle socio-economic standing (Stubblefield & Keane, 1994). Another important change in America higher education

came at the beginning of the twentieth-century in the founding of research universities based upon a new German model for higher education institutions, such as the University of Chicago and John Hopkins University. This new research model for American higher education focused on the creation and dissemination of new knowledge and had less of a focus on undergraduate education (Jackson, 1991). While colleges and universities evolved due to these changes during the late 1800s and early 1900s, the way college officials treated students remained the constant, as they wielded an incredible amount of oversight and control over them (Hogan & Schwartz, 1987).

The evolution of American higher education institutions helped to shape the legal relationship between students and their universities in the later part of the twentieth-century. Nevertheless, a clear legal paradigm remained consistent in American higher education from its beginning through the 1950s: *in loco parentis*. The legal doctrine of *in loco parentis* was the dominant legal theory defining the relationship between students and colleges in America since its inception (Pavela, 1996) and did not begin to change until the early 1960s (Szablewicz & Gibbs, 1987).

#### *The Era of Insularity (Pre-Colonial Times – Early 1960s)*

The legal doctrine of *in loco parentis*, literally “in the place of the parent,” was established as a legal model for educational institutions in England and was formally adopted as the legal model of early colleges in the United States during the late eighteenth-century (Bickel & Lake, 1999; Stamatakos, 1990). Sir William Blackstone is generally credited with creating the phrase “*in loco parentis*” as a way to describe the relationship between the schoolmaster to his pupil (Bickel & Lake, 1994). Blackstone

commented just prior to the American Revolutionary War that a father “may also delegate part of his parental authority during his life to the tutor or schoolmaster of his child; who is then *in loco parentis*, and has such a portion of the power of the parent committed to his charge, viz. that of restraint and correction, as may be necessary to answer the purposes for which he is employed (Bickel & Lake, 1999, p. 19).” As this legal model would later connote, the father literally transferred his right to discipline his son to the respective college administrators at the institution where his son sought his higher education.

Under *in loco parentis*, the college student had few rights on campus (Hogan & Schwartz, 1987). He or she was placed under the watchful jurisdiction of college officials and subject to the authoritarian rules of the institution, both in the classroom and beyond. Since the beginning of American higher education, students had no specific legal rights on campus such as the freedom of speech, association, or due process (Bickel & Lake, 1999). They especially had no specific legal rights to a safe campus or to any legal recourse in the event of an injury during a school activity or sponsored event. Under *in loco parentis*, students were seen by the courts as children in the custody of the college or university. Since its inception, *in loco parentis* was not about university protecting students from harm, but about university rights and powers to control students (Bickel & Lake, 1999).

The formal legal standing for the doctrine of *in loco parentis* in American law comes from *Gott v. Berea College* (161 S. W. at 206, 1913), a court case at the beginning of the twentieth-century (Bickel & Lake, 1999; Fowler, 1984). In this case, a nearby

tavern owner brought a lawsuit against Berea College for having a policy that forbids students from eating or drinking in off-campus businesses. Clearly, the tavern owner stood to gain financially from the increased business that students would bring to his establishment. The court ruled in favor of Berea College, noting specifically that colleges “stand *in loco parentis* concerning the physical and moral welfare and mental training of the pupils, and ... to that end [may make] any rule or regulation for the government or betterment of their pupils that a parent could for the same purpose” unless unlawful or contrary to public policy. The *Gott* case made it explicitly clear that a college was pretty much free to do as it pleased with its students (Bickel & Lake, 1999).

After codifying *in loco parentis* as a bona fide legal model under *Gott*, college and university administrators often perceived their relationship to students to be built on authoritarian control, as students were in their legal custody. College officials created numerous parietal rules which were often enforced with little regard for privacy, due process, or other constitutionally guaranteed freedoms (Fowler, 1984). Upholding the *in loco parentis* doctrine after *Gott*, other courts provided wide latitude to college and university administrators to create policies and run their institution as they saw fit (Hogan & Schwartz, 1987). Often there was little or no regard by college officials for the legal standing of students as citizens or adults. This deference from the courts created *de facto* legal immunity for colleges and universities. Bickel and Lake (1999) claim,

The most important feature of *in loco parentis* was to place a blanket of security and insularity around university culture such that disputes were not justiciable and university life was not predominately juridical. Under the blanket, a university was free to exercise disciplinary power - or not - with wide discretion and little concern for litigation (p. 18).



The wide jurisdiction of campus officials supported by *in loco parentis* created deeper legal sentiments that universities should generally be able to operate free from any type of legal scrutiny. This legal deference from the courts for how colleges and universities controlled the lives of students helped to usher in what some scholars call the “Era of Insularity” (Bickel & Lake, 1999).

When the dominant legal doctrine governing the relationship between a college and a student was *in loco parentis*, college and universities officials utilized their broad legal deference to control the lives of college students, going so far as to curtail their legal standing as adults. By the post WWII era, however, the age of many college students started to change – drastically. The aging and maturation of the student demographics at college and university campuses, along with other shifts in overall attitudes towards young people, helped to evoke a major change in status of students as adults, both by campus officials and through the legal system.

#### *The Fall of In Loco Parentis (1960s)*

At the end of WWII and as a result of the GI Bill, American colleges and universities went through an unprecedented change (Pavela, 1996). Campus enrollments doubled or tripled during this period, forcing campus officials to scramble to meet the needs of all of these new students, especially providing them adequate housing. In response to these housing needs, one common strategy for cash-strapped colleges and universities was to offer cheap land incentives to national fraternities and sororities and invite them to campus to build student housing.

As the fraternity and sorority movement gained momentum in the 1950s, one of the by-products was that students became accustomed to associating with student organizations (Spaziano, 1994). Although student organizations had existed on college campus since the nineteenth-century (Rudolph, 1962), students never really enjoyed the freedom of association because school officials had ultimate control over these organizations. Under *in loco parentis*, the college or university had omnipotent control over the recognition and affairs of campus student organizations and had the right to limit student association with any group. Meanwhile, students through their fraternal associations came to expect the freedom of association in other aspects of their collegiate experience. The increasing popularity of fraternities and sororities in the 1950s also propelled more and more students into off-campus housing where their college or university had less control over student behavior.

The influx of older students and veterans during this period also increased student's requests for freedoms from antiquated rules and an arcane disciplinary system. Veterans-turned-students returned from fighting wars overseas and were suddenly being told by campus officials they had to abide by their rules. The university controlled how late a student could be out at night, how these students could socialize with their fellow students, especially members of the opposite sex, etc. As it was commonplace for college administrators to treat students as children in their custody, there was little opportunity for students to express their concerns about this type of autocratic control over their lives outside of the classroom. These tensions are some of the factors that led to the student protests in the 1960s (Jackson, 1991).

By the 1960s, other issues started becoming increasingly important to college students and led to student discontent and unrest (Ackerman, et al., 2005). The developing conflicts in Vietnam, coupled with turbulence over civil rights, played out on college campuses across the country. University administrators accustomed to telling students what to do did not look upon student protests fondly. As students started to resist *in loco parentis* control, they started seeking relief through the legal system. The widespread student protests of the 1960s and the student calls for new freedoms forced courts to recognize the fundamental changes that had occurred in campus demographics over the past two decades that made *in loco parentis* an outdated legal model (Jackson, 1991).

The fall of *in loco parentis* in the 1960s correlated with student calls for additional freedoms and the protests over student civil rights (Bickel & Lake, 1999). The revolutions during the 1960s were the catalyst for the downfall of *in loco parentis* and the birth of new student legal rights such as speech, association, due process, expression and press (Gaston-Gayles, 2005). Prior to the 1960s, the relationship between a student and their university was much like that between a parent and a child, and the courts supported that legal model (Szablewicz & Gibbs, 1987). According to professors Bickel and Lake (1999), *in loco parentis* was,

Truly the area of university legal insularity where the collection of legal immunities largely kept university affairs out of the courts. The law had used a combination of various protections afforded to families, charities and governmental entities to insulate university life from justiciability. Yet, in the 1960s and afterward, American law made major changes in the very legal rules which had previously insulated families, charities, and governments from significant legal responsibilities for negligently and deliberately caused injuries....Perhaps most importantly, in the 1960s

large numbers of Americans began to challenge the government itself over fundamental issues like civil rights, the rights to make war and draft citizens to fight wars, the role of police in society, and even the nature of the Presidency itself. American society and law underwent change in precisely those areas that had once protected university affairs. The fall of *in loco parentis* came swiftly and in that context (p. 35).

The demise of *in loco parentis* began once the courts started recognizing students as adults in several seminal law cases in the 1960s (Alexander & Alexander, 1995). These lawsuits altered all facets of the student-university relationship (Stamatakos, 1990).

Arguably the most important case to bring down the era of *in loco parentis* was *Dixon v. Alabama State Board of Education* (294 F. 2d 150, 5<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1961). Fowler (1984) states, “most authorities refer to *Dixon* as sounding the ‘death knell’ of *in loco parentis* (p. 408).” In *Dixon*, a public higher education institution attempted to expel students without offering any type of due process prior to their suspensions, such as prior notification or an opportunity for a disciplinary hearing. In this case, six black students at Alabama State College (ASC) were notified in a letter from the college President that they were expelled for participating in civil rights demonstrations that sought to desegregate a variety of public services. They were not told what specific misconduct they were charged with or for what reason they were expelled. Bickel and Lake (1999) claim, “the letter was a paragon of vagueness (p. 37).” There were references in the President’s letter indicating a “general problem” that existed at ASC as a rationale for their expulsion.

These expelled students sought relief in federal court based upon a claim that their right to due process, as guaranteed by the 14th Amendment in the Constitution, was violated. This case made its way to the Fifth District Court, where this court held that

students at public universities were entitled to at least fundamental due process. Notice and an opportunity for a judicial hearing for students were essential minimums prior to permanent expulsion. The court reasoned that education is so basic and vital in modern society that a public, tax-supported university cannot expel a student for alleged misconduct without meeting minimum constitutional due process requirements (Bickel & Lake, 1999).

The question that was settled through *Dixon* was whether the students had the constitutional right to due process. The *Dixon* case firmly established that students have the right to due process through prior notice and a hearing before being suspended or expelled at a public college or university (Hudgins & Vacca, 1999). This fundamental right to due process for students was protected by the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment. Through *Dixon*, the court ruled that, “the state, operating as an institution of higher education, may not infringe on the constitutional rights of students simply because they are students (Jackson, 1991, p. 1150).” Other courts soon followed the ground-breaking lead of *Dixon* by setting legal precedents for student freedoms such as association and expression.

In *Healy v. James* (408 U.S. 169, 1972), the Supreme Court ruled that a public university may not deny recognition to a student organization solely on the basis of its disagreement with the political views of the organization, or its undifferentiated fear that recognition of the organization will lead to campus disruption. As a result, *Healy* established that students have the constitutional right to associate with groups of their choosing without permission from college officials. *Tinker v. Des Moines* (393 U.S. 503,

1969) firmly established the freedom of expression for high school students, which translated into the freedom of expression on the college campus. These revolutionary principles, that college students were legal adults with freedoms protected by the Constitution, was the beginning of a new era for the student-university relationship.

*The Bystander Era (Late 1960s – 1970s)*

The fall of *in loco parentis* came quickly as a result of these court cases (Hogan & Schwartz, 1987). During *in loco parentis*, college and university administrators were accustomed to running their campuses without any type of oversight from the courts. Bickel and Lake (1999) state, “*Dixon* is a prime example of what many believed *in loco parentis* meant in that period. *Immunity had become impunity* (emphasis added, p. 38).” *Dixon* established that it was no longer constitutionally permissible at a public university to utilize unfettered powers to discipline, regulate or expel students. After *Dixon*, the entire parental rights paradigm for colleges and universities was dead (Bickel & Lake, 1999). Private colleges and universities soon followed in creating similar policies that were court-ordered for public institutions (Cohen, 1968). The impunity that lead many college officials to treat students as children was soon dispelled after *Dixon* and several important court cases.

With their newly minted legal and societal status as adults, the courts provided students various constitutional freedoms including freedom of the press, speech, and association, along with a modicum of due process during campus judicial disputes. Because of the long-standing legal tradition of *in loco parentis* where students historically did not enjoy these freedoms, college and university administrators found

themselves on unfamiliar legal ground in their work with students (Weigel, 2004).

Before this time, university officials had authoritarian control over the out-of-classroom activities of their students. As the tradition of *in loco parentis* crumbled underneath them, campus officials struggled to redefine a new relationship between the institution and their students. If college students were to be considered adults, as proscribed by the courts, university officials had no choice but to release their authoritarian control and restrictive policies over the lives of their students. And, some college and university administrators did just that: they disengaged from campus life, granting students unfettered authority and control over their activities and social traditions (Pavela, 1996).

By the end of the 1960s and early 1970s, the entire legal paradigm that the college was to serve in the place of the parent had ended. As a result, various courts and legal scholars made several attempts to recast the student-university relationship (Stamatakos, 1990). Overall American society supported and upheld this view. Pavela (1996) notes,

*In loco parentis*, especially the variety exercised by the detailed regulation of student life, has now been discredited in theory and, to lesser extent, in practice. The transformation occurred over four decades, and probably started with the enrollment of GIs after World War II. It was advanced by the civil rights movement, the campus rebellions of the 1960s... the lowering of the age of majority, the expansion of adult education programs, and until recently, a distrust of any assertion of general moral standards (p. 2).

The shifting views of the general public, coupled with support offered through the courts, gave students procedural rights and a degree of personal autonomy previous generations had never known (Pavela). Lowering the voting age from 21 to 18 through the adoption of the 26<sup>th</sup> Amendment changed the legal status of most college students from minors to adults. This change to the adult status for students ushered in a new “bystander” arms-

length relationship between a college and their student (Bickel & Lake, 1999). This bystander relationship replaced the traditional parental relationship historically established on university campuses through *in loco parentis* (Spaziano, 1994).

When students began to exercise their new court-supported legal freedoms, college and university officials slowly surrendered their ability and desire to control their out-of-class activities (Malaney, 2006). Without omnipresent parental control, some students shifted their focus from the rigors of academic life to the social aspects of student life, ushering in an era of alcohol and drug abuse unprecedented in the history of American higher education (Ackerman, et al., 2005). Also during the 1960s and 1970s, students became accustomed to bringing lawsuits against their institutions for “wrongs” (Gaston-Gayles, 2005). As student injuries became more frequent as a result of the increased abuse of alcohol and drugs and decreasing university oversight, students often brought lawsuits against their institutions for tort negligence. It seemed that while students did not want their institutions to limit their freedoms or curtail their social life, students still felt that their university ought to be held liable in cases of personal injury.

The courts during this period, however, started to rule in favor of colleges and universities when students brought negligence claims for personal injury. Several courts ruled during the 1970s that since students had sued for their rights as adults and for freedom from university control, students therefore had little legitimacy to argue for negligence against their institution for relinquishing control over student activities. Many court opinions toward students who brought negligence claims against their institution for



not controlling student behavior were, “Tough. You wanted it this way, now you’ve got it” (Bickel and Lake, 1999).

The relationship between a student and their university during the bystander era was rooted in the thought that since students were no longer to be treated as children in the custody of the university *in loco parentis*, the institution no longer had a duty to protect students from injury. As a result, many colleges and universities limited or completely relinquished oversight of student activities and social life. The courts during this time supported higher education institutions in this “disengagement” from student life (ASJA report, 2005).

#### *Duty / No Duty*

During the next period of higher education law, roughly the period from 1970 to the mid-1980s, American courts altered their legal model from custodial and started to recognize tort negligence claims in terms of “duty” and “no duty.” As a result, the courts started to see college and university officials as “bystanders” without a legal duty or responsibility to protect adult students from harm. Bickel & Lake (1999) note,

The dominant image in these cases was that of newly empowered students who were beyond the control of the modern university. To the courts, the university was a helpless “bystander” to such student misconduct; no “duty” was owed to these “adults.” Nor should a duty be owed given the “new” role of colleges (p. 56-57).

Several important court cases during this period have findings and offer rulings that codify the university as a bystander. These courts looked upon this generation of college students with dismay. Bickel and Lake state that “the torch had been passed to a new generation, suffused with alcohol and committed to the notion that they should no longer

ask what their university could do to protect them (p. 57).” This new legal model was a direct result of the student freedoms that were gained in the 1960s and 1970s through student litigation and from the civil rights movement.

Arguably, the most defining case during this time was *Bradshaw v. Rawlings* (612 F. 2d 135 3d Cir. 1979). In this case, an 18-year-old college sophomore, Donald Bradshaw, was injured as a result of an automobile accident that occurred on “dip” street. Bradshaw was riding as a passenger in the backseat of a vehicle driven by an intoxicated student, Bruce Rawlings, when they hit a parked car. Both Bradshaw and Rawlings were returning home from an off-campus sophomore class picnic after consuming copious amounts of beer. It is important to note that this was a university sponsored sophomore class event where most individuals were underage, even though the drinking age was 21 in Pennsylvania.

The picnic, a sophomore class annual event, was planned with a faculty advisor, who co-signed the check that was later used to buy beer by the sophomore class president. Flyers were posted all over campus advising the “wet” event with a full mug of beer on the poster as a logo. Commonsense standards would demonstrate that the university did everything wrong in this situation in providing alcohol to underage drinkers. Nevertheless, the court found that Bradshaw, now a quadriplegic, had no legal standing to bring a negligence lawsuit against the university. The court ruled that after the fall of *in loco parentis*, the university was not the insurer of student safety, nor did it owe the student any duty to protect him from harm.

In this seminal case, the *Bradshaw* court ruled,

Our beginning point is a recognition that the modern American college is not an insurer of the safety of its students. Whatever may have been its responsibly in an earlier era, the authoritarian role of today's college administrations has been notably diluted in recent decades. Trustees, administrators, and faculties have been required to yield to the expanding rights and privileges of their students. By constitutional amendment, written and unwritten law, and through the evolution of new customs, rights formerly possessed by college administrations have been transferred to students. College students today are no longer minors; they are regarded as adults in almost every phase of community life...The campus revolutions of the late sixties and early seventies were a direct attack by the students on rigid controls by the colleges and were an all-pervasive affirmative demand for more rights. In general, students succeeded, peaceably and otherwise, in acquiring a new status at colleges throughout the country.... Thus for purposes of examining fundamental relationships that underlie tort liability, the competing interests of the student and of the institution of higher learning are much different today than they were in the past. *At the risk of oversimplification, the change has occurred because society considers the modern college student an adult, not a child of tender years* (emphasis added, p. 141-143).

It was clearly stated in the *Bradshaw* case that college students should be treated as adults, regardless how much a university, or an agent of the university, contributed to the negligence in providing alcohol to underage drinkers. The university allowed this raucous annual event to occur and even assisted underage students in consuming dangerous amounts of alcohol. Yet, the court refused to hold the university responsible for even a minimal amount of negligence for Bradshaw's injury.

After *Bradshaw*, it seemed as if the courts systematically shifted their view of college students from children in custody of their university to being fully functioning adults. This shift was abrupt, dramatic, and polar (Bickel & Lake, 1999). Other similar outcomes from courts cases during this time soon followed. In *Beach v. University of Utah* (726 P. 2d 413, Utah, 1986), the Utah State Supreme Court dismissed the claim that the University was negligent for a drunk student falling off a cliff and becoming a

quadriplegic during a geology class field trip, even though the faculty member in charge provided the alcohol to the victim. The *Beach* court claimed that it would be impossible for any college or university to “babysit” their students. Further, the *Beach* court claimed that it would be “inconsistent with the nature of the relationship between the student and the institution... and largely inconsistent with the objectives of a modern college education (p. 418).” The *Beach* court went on to state,

We do not believe that Beach should be viewed as fragile and in need of protection simply because she had the luxury of attending an institution of higher education.... *Not only are students such as Beach adults, but law and society have increasingly come to recognize their status as such in the past decade or two* (emphasis added). Nowhere is this more true than in the relations between students and institutions of higher education (p. 419).

In the view of the *Beach* court, colleges and universities are educational institutions, not custodians for student safety.

Two other important cases during this period include *Baldwin v. Zoradi* (176 Cal. Rptr. 806, Cal Ct. App. 1981), where the California Circuit Court of Appeals ruled by “only giving them responsibilities can students grow into responsible adulthood (p. 818); and *Rabel v. Illinois Wesleyan University* (514 N.E. 2d 552, Ill. App. Ct. 1987), where the Illinois appellate court ruled that “it would be unrealistic to impose upon a university the additional role of custodian over its adult students and to charge it with the responsibility for assuring their safety and the safety of others (p. 561).” It was clear from the prospective of the bystander courts: students were to be considered adults and universities did not have a duty to ensure their safety.

The message college and university administrators started to hear from the courts during the bystander era was that the best legal strategy to avoid negligence claims for student injury was to distance themselves from students and student activities. Those university administrators who got involved in overseeing or directing student activities could be sued, and therefore avoiding any type of duty was of paramount importance. Bickel & Lake (1999) state, “college administrators and campus law enforcement officers became motivated by fear of triggering legal liability and were encouraged to pursue strategies in their jobs that would minimize the risks of lawsuits, not necessarily reduce risk or injury (p. 217).” The aversion to establish a duty to protect students is one of the key factors that shaped the student-university relationship in the 1970s and through present day.

As a result, college and university administrators started to “disengage” from overseeing student out-of-class activities or offering any type of proactive supervision to prevent student injury (Levine & Cureton, 1998). Boyer (1987) found through his research during the 1980s a “disturbing ambivalence” from college administrators about their responsibility for student behavior. The job of the university administrator during this period became lawsuit avoidance, not student safety, and the wholesale evasion of establishing any type of legal duty to protect students (Pavela, 1996).

#### *How To Avoid Negligence and What Is Duty?*

One of the ironic outcomes from the case law during the bystander era was that in many ways it perpetuated one of the key features of the *in loco parentis* doctrine – university immunity and insularity from legal scrutiny (Bickel & Lake, 1999; Bickel &

Lake, 1994). Colleges and universities could avoid negligence and had legal immunity from student injury claims as long as they could demonstrate that they had no duty to protect students from harm (Biegel, 2006; Rossow & Stefkovich, 2005).

Duty is one of the key factors to establish in a tort claim for negligence (Bickel & Lake, 1999). Negligence is conduct falling below a legally established standard that results in injury to another person (Alexander & Alexander, 1995). Black's Law Dictionary (2004) defines negligence as "the failure to use such care as a reasonably prudent and careful person would use under similar circumstances (p. 1275)." In order to establish liability in a court of law, a plaintiff must demonstrate that they have been a victim of negligence. To demonstrate that they are a victim of negligence, the plaintiff must assert and prove four elements, the fundamental building blocks for their claim, which include: 1) duty; 2) breach of duty; 3) causation; and 4) damage. If the plaintiff can prove all four elements, they have established a "prima facie" case of negligence (Bickel & Lake, 1999).

Establishing the first element of negligence, duty, is often the most difficult element to prove for a student plaintiff who is suing a college or university for negligence (Bickel & Lake, 1999). Establishing duty is a common issue in higher education case law, especially in disputes that involved alcohol abuse, hazing, suicide, and sexual assault. These types of incidents continue to recur with "troubling regularity" (Biegel, 2006). A variety of lawsuits that have been brought forward in the last 30 years involving student injury have been dismissed through summary judgment because the

plaintiffs could not establish a duty for their institution to protect them for harm (Pearson, 1998).

One of the most important factors in establishing a university duty to protect a student is proving that a special relationship exists between the institution and the student. Generally the law holds that a person is not liable for an omission to act where there is no definite relationship between the parties (Alexander & Alexander, 1995). In other words, if the university can prove they do not have a legal duty to protect students from injuries, they are generally not found liable. The *Bradshaw* court, and its progeny, demonstrated that students are adults and not under the custodial control of their institution and therefore, not in a special relationship. In the view of the bystander era courts, universities were innocent until proven to be in a special relationship with the injured student (Bickel & Lake, 1999).

Furthermore, in the eyes of the bystander courts the role of the college or university was educational, not custodial, and institutions were not the insurer of student safety. Since many of the bystander courts ruled that student plaintiffs were not in a special relationship with their institution merely based upon their status as a student, the institution had no duty to ensure their safety. Without a special relationship there could be no duty, and therefore, no negligence for student injury (Alexander & Alexander, 1995). Higher education institutions successfully avoided negligence claims during the 1970s and 1980s by debunking any notions of having a duty to protect students, thereby creating de facto legal immunity for colleges and universities (Bickel & Lake, 1999).

This trend, however, has slowly shifted during the last 20 years as the courts have recognized that colleges and universities could have prevented *foreseeable* injuries to students. Bickel and Lake (1999) claim,

That when imposing duty, foreseeability is the most important factor. Generally, if the type of harm is foreseeable when a defendant misbehaves, there should be a duty owed to the victim to use reasonable care to prevent that type of harm; but if the type of harm is unforeseeable, strange, or bizarre, a presumption against duty would be appropriate (p. 71).

Several important lawsuits during the 1980s and 1990s have tested the foreseeability element in establishing duty. A few of these lawsuits challenged the notion that colleges and universities do not have a duty to protect students from foreseeable harm. As a result, these cross-current cases debunked many of the precepts that were established during the bystander era and added further uncertainty about the legal relationship between a university and their students.

#### *Cross-Current Cases (1980s – Early 1990s)*

During the bystander era, many college and university administrators decided to pursue a strategy of campus “disengagement” as a means to avoid duty and liability (Pavela, 1996). This disengagement theory eventually failed during the 1980s and 1990s on “educational, public relations and legal grounds (ASJA Law and Policy Report, 2005).” From an outside, public relations perspective, taxpayers and parents refused to believe that a college or university could not do more to end students’ debaucherous behavior and curtail the drinking culture on campus. From the perspective of the courts, judges and juries started to hold universities liable for student injury as more and more



student plaintiffs established a university duty of care through claims of foreseeability (Szablewicz & Gibbs, 1987).

In the late 1980s and early 1990s, student-university legal doctrine that defined the relationship remained confused and frustratingly myopic (Jackson, 1991). One noteworthy legal scholar on the history of higher education law, Theodore Stamatakos (1990), notes “the courts have uniformly failed to elucidate and embrace a coherent legal model for the student-college relationship. (p. 471).” Of all the areas in the realm of higher education law that can be adjudicated in a court, including questions of tenure, academic freedom, or intellectual property, the most common litigation and least understood area of higher education law revolves around the nature of the legal relationship between a university and a student (Olivas, 1997).

Due to various economic factors and other shifting public priorities during the 1990s, colleges and universities experienced a time of profound change (Pavela, 1996). College judicial affairs specialist Gary Pavela notes “there is a sense of rapid acceleration toward an unknown future (p. 1).” As American society has changed during the technological revolution, so have our colleges and universities. The needs of the students pursuing higher education in the early 21<sup>st</sup> century are very different when compared to 50 years ago. Additional needs and demands have been placed upon higher education institutions by students for less paternalism and more accountability for services (Melear, 2003). While students argued for additional freedoms and to be treated as adults during the 1960s, they never suggested that their college or university should not take

responsibility to protect them from foreseeable injury (Bickel & Lake, 1999). Several important cases during this period include the following:

*Mullins v. Pine Manor College* (449 N.E. 2d 331, Mass. 1983) – In one of the most famous cases during the cross-current period (Bickel & Lake, 1999), the Massachusetts Supreme Court acknowledged a university's duty to provide students with safe campus housing. In *Mullins*, a female student was attacked on campus by a non-student assailant. The assailant was able to gain access to the victim's residence hall room, even after several reports were made to the college that the lock on the door to the hall was in need of repair. The *Mullins* court ruled in favor of the plaintiff and established two important points: 1) a college has a duty to provide students access to safe housing; 2) that the campus must make reasonable attempts to prevent foreseeable harm. The court stated,

The fact that the college need not police the morals of its resident students... does not entitle it to abandon any effort to ensure their physical safety. Parents, students, and the general community still have a reasonable expectation, fostered in part by the colleges themselves, that reasonable care will be exercised to protect resident students from foreseeable harm (p. 335-336).

*Mullins* led the way in establishing that a college or university could have a duty to protect students from foreseeable harm. Similar to laws requiring property owners to provide for the reasonable safety of their tenants, universities need to provide a similar level of protection for their students. This duty established parity, not parenting, for the way universities were to treat their students (Bickel & Lake, 1999).

*Furek v. the University of Delaware* (594 A. 2d 506, Del. 1991) – In the late 1970s, physicians in the student health services department at the University of Delaware

started to become aware of students who were injured in fraternity hazing pledging activities. The University responded by writing to their fraternities and by promptly admonished them for hazing. The Dean of Students issued a formal statement that fraternity hazing would not be permitted. Yet, hazing continued to occur on their campus. As the University worked to implement this new anti-hazing policy, a major communication breakdown occurred when the campus police were not properly instructed about this policy.

Jeffrey Furek pledged a fraternity at the outset of his enrollment at the University of Delaware. During his initiation into this fraternity, he entered “hell night” and a fraternity member poured oven cleaner over Furek while he was blindfolded. Furek was chemically burned and severally scarred. As a result, he brought a negligence suit against the fraternity, the University, and the individual member who pour oven cleaner over him.

The Supreme Court of Delaware ruled in favor of Furek and reasoned that since the university knew about hazing problems and created an anti-hazing policy in response to these problems, the university thus assumed sufficient control over fraternity hazing activities to create a duty of care (Spaziano, 1994). This ruling established several important findings: 1) the student-university relationship is unique and clearly more than just educational (a clear rejection of a fundamental finding in *Bradshaw and Beach*); 2) students are not solely responsible for their own safety simply because there were considered to be adults; 3) universities have a unique relationship with their students

because of the high concentration of young people living in close proximity to the campus. Bickel & Lake (1999) note,

*Furek* saw a very different vision of university/student relations than that of the bystander era. Students were often nascent or pre-adults. The university was not powerless. It could act without placing students in custody. It could facilitate and guide students into many of the circumstances which increase or decrease risk. *Furek* did not see the university as a helpless bystander but as guide and co-creator of campus life and student activities (p.129).

The *Furek* court held the University responsible for a student injury during a hazing incident. Several key legal precedents from this case noted above, however, have lasting implications on the legal student-university relationship regarding foreseeable student injury beyond hazing incidents. The *Furek* decision reflected changing societal attitudes towards hazing and suggested that colleges and universities are not free from responsibility to protect their students from foreseeable harm (Pearson & Beckham, 2005).

*University of Denver v. Whitlock* (744 P.2d 54; 1987 Colo.) – Whitlock, a student at the University of Denver, brought a negligence claim against the University for failure to take reasonable measures to protect him from unsafe conditions while using a trampoline that was owned by the fraternity and located on fraternity property that was leased from the University. Whitlock was rendered quadriplegic after he broke his neck while attempting a one and three-quarter flip on the trampoline during a nighttime fraternity party.

The jury in this case returned a verdict in favor of Whitlock and awarded him \$5.26 million. The University moved for judgment notwithstanding the verdict, which

the trial court granted holding that as a matter of law, no duty of care was owed to Whitlock from the University. Whitlock appealed this decision, and the Colorado Court of Appeals reversed the decision by the trial court and reinstated the jury award. The Court of Appeals stated that a duty was owed to Whitlock based upon two principles: 1) that an injury on a trampoline was foreseeable, and 2) the trampoline was located on property that was owed by the University.

In this case, the Colorado Supreme Court reversed the judgment of the court of appeals and remanded it to the original trial court for dismissal of Whitlock's complaint against the University. In an interesting move, this court rejected the court of appeals finding that the injury to Whitlock was foreseeable. Because Whitlock's claim was based upon nonfeasance negligence (failure to act), as opposed to misfeasance negligence (failure to act enough), the court ruled his injury was not foreseeable and therefore, there was no duty for the university to protect him. This decision set forward an important legal precedent that has made a lasting impact on how college and university administrators work with their students (Bickel & Lake, 1999).

It is important to note that the *Furek* court ruled against the University and found it responsible for misfeasance negligence for failure to prevent Furek's injury since the University took action to prevent hazing by implementing an anti-hazing policy but did not act enough to adequately implement this policy and prevent his injury. The *Whitlock* court, however, found in favor of the University because the University did not take any action whatsoever to prevent the trampoline accident. In *Whitlock*, no action equaled no foreseeability and therefore, no duty equaled no negligence. This decision was an

ominous indication that colleges and universities could be held liable when they exercise a degree of supervision and proactive control in order to prevent student injury (Pearson & Beckham, 2005).

The *Whitlock* court used the findings in *Bradshaw*, *Beach*, and *Baldwin* to state that students ought to be considered adults who are responsible for their actions. In language that harkens back to bystander images, the *Whitlock* court stated that,

In modern times there has evolved a gradual reapportionment of responsibilities from universities to the students, a corresponding departure from the *in loco parentis* relationship... In today's society, the college student is considered an adult capable of protecting his or her own interests; students today demand and receive increased autonomy and decreased regulation on and off campus (p. 340).

While the final outcome in *Whitlock* was similar to the case law during the 1970s, it is important to note that both a jury and an appellate court originally ruled that a university was liable for a foreseeable student injury that involved alcohol (Szablewicz & Gibbs, 1987). The trends in these cross-current cases have shifted the student-relationship legal model into a middle ground between *in loco parentis* (total control) and as bystanders (no control).

The courts increasingly recognized the role foreseeability has in establishing a legal duty to protect students in the 1980s and 1990s. Bickel and Lake (1999) claim,

College aged drinking risks are increasingly viewed in different foreseeability terms. In the bystander era, students were presumed to be adults and were capable of understanding and assuming the risks of drug and alcohol use. Nowadays, there is a recognition that many students – particularly young freshpersons and sophomores who are away from home for the first time and relatively inexperienced with alcohol...and may fail to have appreciation of the real dangers ahead...*Beach* and *Bradshaw* called these young victims adults who chose their fate. We now see them as individuals who are foreseeability endangered by the circumstances of

college life and people whom reasonable care might have protected for injury (p. 209-210).

Bickel and Lake further suggest that as general society rethinks how they view college students as adults, the courts will continue to hold universities liable for not making reasonable attempts to prevent foreseeable student injuries.

In reaction to the increasing trend for courts to hold universities liable for failure to prevent foreseeable student injuries, some scholars have claimed that the student-university relationship is shifting back into *in loco parentis* (Biegel, 2006; Melear, 2003; Bickel & Lake, 1999; Hirshberg, 1994; Bickel & Lake, 1994; Jackson, 1991; Szablewicz & Gibbs, 1987). Jackson (1991) claims, “however disguised and reformed, *in loco parentis* survives (p. 1151).” During the 1980s, the student-university relationship began to change as students started to ask for additional protections from their institutions. Szablewicz & Gibbs (1987) state, “though not yet articulated by any court, it seems clear that this is in effect a new *in loco parentis*, under which the college has no right to control students’ moral and character but retains a duty to protect students’ physical well-being (p. 464).” During the early 1990s, the courts held colleges and universities increasingly responsible to oversee the lives and activities of their students (Hirsberg, 1994). Some university officials have responded to these court cases by taking a more active role in the lives of their students (Lowery, et al., 2005).

### *Higher Education in the Twenty-First Century*

One thing that is clear today about the student-university relationship is that it remains increasing unclear (Beigel, 2006). During the last two decades, no new legal model has successfully encapsulated all aspects and complexities of the post-bystander

era student-university relationship (Pearson & Beckham, 2005). The contemporary legal model that makes sense for clarifying the student-university relationship depends upon factors such as type of institution, geographical location, and age of their students (Jackson, 1991). Rossow & Stefkovich (2005) claim that, “school officials clearly have a duty to protect students and employees. The question here is: how far does that duty extend (p. 92-93)?” The extent a college or university has a duty to protect a student from foreseeable harm is largely determined by the extent the institution sees the student as an adult (Biegel, 2006).

This quandary has many higher education officials vexed. On the one hand, undergraduate students need to have the ability to learn, grow, and enjoy the freedoms that autonomous adulthood brings once they become university students. The mission for most higher education institutions endorse the notion that the university strives to create learning environments that are conducive to the intellectual development of their students. If higher education officials regulate and monitor the actions and behaviors of their students in a draconian and omnipresent fashion, it seems to the author that this is counterproductive to fostering that type of academic environment. Yet, on the other hand, as higher education officials have disengaged from monitoring and overseeing the activities and behaviors of their undergraduates, students have proven time and again that they can be a danger to themselves and others. Are 18 year-old undergraduate students capable of making sound, autonomous decisions and do they merit the moniker of adult? Myriad of alcohol-related injuries and deaths on college campuses suggest otherwise.



*Underage Students as Emerging Adults*

Deciphering if underage undergraduate students are truly adults and able to accept responsibility for their behavior is at the heart of this quandary. From a legal perspective, the answer is straightforward: 18 year-old citizens are considered legal adults who are responsible for their actions and behavior (Dodd, 1985). From a human and student development perspective, however, some scholars (Arnett, 2004; Levine & Cureton, 1998) question if the arbitrary chronological age of 18 years-old can or should be an official line of demarcation for adulthood. Research conducted by Levine and Cureton (1998) recognized a disparity between traditional-aged college students and their status as adults. They use the word “tweenagers” to describe the growing number of young people pursuing post-secondary education who are somewhere in between needing parental control and mature adulthood. Arnett (2004) indicates a period of “emerging adulthood” for today’s college students who are between the ages of 18 and 25. Arnett describes three criteria for becoming an adult, including: 1) accepting responsibility for self; 2) making independent decisions; and 3) becoming financially independent from parents. Though students experience profound change and maturation through their college experience, Arnett posits they generally do not demonstrate that they are fully functioning adults until their mid-to late twenties.

*Case Law at the University of Wyoming*

All types of higher education institutions across the country today are struggling to achieve a balance between providing an educational environment that is conducive for student development with policies that help to prevent foreseeable student injuries. The

University of Wyoming is no different in trying to find this balance. An example that highlights this struggle includes the incident that involved Rheanna Treadway, a 19 year-old undergraduate student at the University of Wyoming, who attended a fraternity party in the spring of 2001. Before arriving at this party, Ms. Treadway had consumed approximately five shots of hard alcohol. While at the party, she consumed five to six additional beers. Once Ms. Treadway left the fraternity, she returned to her residence hall and had one or two further shots of hard liquor. Being fairly intoxicated, which led her to make several other bad choices, Ms. Treadway decided to sleep in a friend's room on an upper bunk bed. At some point later that night, Ms. Treadway fell from the top bunk and suffered a serious facial injury.

Ms. Treadway (and her parents) decided to bring a lawsuit against both the fraternity where she had been drinking and against the University for negligence. In *Treadway v. Sigma Nu Fraternity, Inc., et al.* (Albany County Docket No. 28369), Ms. Treadway filed suit alleging that UW was negligent "in their actions or omissions in failing to take steps toward preventing alcoholic beverages being proved and served to Ms. Treadway at a fraternity party." The University filed a motion for summary judgment of the case, claiming that the University did not owe any such duty to protect Ms. Treadway from this injury.

In this lawsuit, the court ruled in favor of the University, claiming that "this court is at a loss to draw a parallel between the statement of policy contained in UniReg 30 (UW's code of conduct) and the imposition of an affirmative duty to protect Treadway, *a legal adult* (emphasis added), from her own underage drinking." The *Treadway* judge

ruled that since there was no special relationship between Treadway and UW and because she was legally an adult, the University did not owe her a duty to protect her and that “without duty, there can be no negligence.” Since the court ruled there was no duty in this case, the court therefore dismissed the claims of causation and foreseeability as “unnecessary” to address. Nevertheless, it was clear in the findings that while the courts viewed Treadway as an adult, she felt that the University was at fault for not acting in a proactive, parental fashion to foresee and prevent her injury.

*When Does an Underage College Student Become an Adult?*

Defining the adult status of traditional-aged college students has evolved significantly in the courts over the last 50 years. Under *in loco parentis*, college students generally were not viewed as adults; they were considered by the courts to be children and under the authority and control of college officials (Biegel, 2006). During the 1960s and through court cases such as *Dixon*, *Healy*, and *Tinker*, college students received legal standing as adults, at least for a variety of constitutionally protected freedoms such as expression, association, and due process. Later, the bystander courts of the 1970s consistently ruled that 18+ year-old college students were adults (Bickel & Lake, 1994). This legal standing was reinforced through court decisions that stated that since students are legal adults, they are generally responsible for their safety on campus. The *Beach* court, for example, stated this status clearly: “the student-plaintiff was an adult and therefore responsible for her actions and injury, even though she was a minor under the legal drinking age.”

For *Beach*, even if a college professor provides copious amounts of alcohol to an underage student and her intoxication causes her to fall off a cliff and become a quadriplegic, the university should not be liable because the victim in this case was an adult. Since students were seen as adults, bystander case law provided legal immunity for colleges and universities from student injury claims by stating they had no duty to protect students (Bickel & Lake, 1999). These cases have similar findings as the *Treadway* case involving the University of Wyoming. The basic premise from these courts was that students are adults, and therefore their college or university did not have an *in loco parentis* duty to protect them (Pearson & Beckham, 2005). Cross-current cases such as *Mullins*, *Furek*, and *Whitlock*, however, started to challenge this view through claims of foreseeable negligence and an argument that students in many cases are not adults since they are under the legal age to consume alcohol (Spaziano, 1994; Bickel & Lake, 1994).

Beyond the courts, major societal changes during the last 50 years have also made impacts on how the federal government viewed the adulthood status of traditional-aged college students. Lowering the voting age to 18 years-old and adopting FERPA were two federal laws from the 1970s that demonstrated how American society viewed 18 year-olds as adults during this period. The Federal Education Right to Privacy Act (FERPA), legislated in 1974, recognized that college students 18 years-old and older are adults and entitled to privacy protection. Under FERPA, colleges and universities are forbidden to share the educational or disciplinary records of their 18 year-old and older students, even if parents or guardians request permission to view these records.

In the 1980s and 1990s, however, the federal government reconsidered this position and passed new laws that reflected a shift in thinking, that 18 years of age might not connote an accurate line of demarcation for adulthood. For example, FERPA was amended in 1998 to allow for colleges and universities to notify parents if their son or daughter had violated the campus alcohol or drug policy. Furthermore, by the end of the 1980s and through pressure from the federal government, all states had passed laws that increased the legal drinking age to 21 years-old.

Congress also passed the Campus Security Act in 1990 with the goal of elucidating the dangers that exist on college and university campuses and calling for school officials to take a more active role in creating a safe campus environment.

Hirshberg (1994) states,

Society has become more concerned with hazing and alcohol use in recent years. Legislatures have imposed anti-hazing laws and courts have imposed greater liability on fraternal organizations and their individual members for hazing injuries. Moreover, society has taken a stricter view of alcohol use in recent decades, as evidence by increased drinking ages and stricter punishments for drinking and driving (p. 212-213).

The undergraduate experience at the end of the twentieth-century was very different when compared to what it was like for students who pursued post-secondary degrees during the mid-twentieth century (Levine & Cureton, 1998). How general society viewed college students had changed over this time, too. While society started to see college students as adults during the 1970s with all the rights and legal responsibilities that accompanies this connotation, the general population shifted their thoughts on the adult status of 18-20 year-olds during the late 1980s and 1990s (Hirshberg, 1994).

The author suggests that few scholars would disagree that the ideal college or university learning environment ought to foster personal and intellectual growth and development for students. The adult education and student development literature supports the idea that people need opportunities to be challenged academically while being offered opportunities to grow autonomously as adult learners.

#### *Adult Education Literature*

For Mezirow (2000), “the human condition may be best understood as a continuous effort to negotiate contested meanings.” He continues by stating, “full development of the human potential for transformative learning depends on values such as freedom, equality, tolerance, social justice, civic responsibility, and education. It assumes that these values are basic to our human need to constructively use the experience of others to understand, or make more dependable, the meaning of our experience (p. 16).” For colleges and universities to function at their full potential, the author posits that the academy must cultivate learning environments that protect students from foreseeable harm *and* that treats them as adults who are capable of making their own autonomous decisions regarding their activities and behavior.

Yet, our educational systems today have altered the way we prepare young people for their future roles as adults. Edmundson (1997) claims that this generation of young people pursuing post-secondary education has been sheltered from the hard knocks of everyday life, creating cautious and over-fragile students not ready to assume their role as adults. Mezirow (2000) states, “an adult is commonly defined as a person old enough to be held responsible for his or her acts. The assumption in a democratic society is that an

adult is able to understand the issues, will make rational choices as a socially responsible, autonomous agent and, at least sometimes, is free to act on them (p. 24-25).” However, Willard Gaylin (1989) saw an alarming trend that young people were accepting less and less personal responsibility. He states,

Our society is creating dependent children well into their twenties, if not their thirties. Yet more and more we’re treating them as though they are autonomous adults. We are taking children and throwing them into a particularly cold and detached environment at major universities... there is, I think, an extraordinary avoidance of the fact that you’re dealing with essentially a not-yet fully-mature population. Universities need to come to grips with the fact that in this autonomous time, paternalism may be unattractive, but necessary (p. 53).

Finding a balance between paternalism and student freedom – offering students the ability to explore, develop, and become adults while also providing for their safety – is the challenge for college officials in defining the legal relationship between undergraduate students and their institutions.

### *The Millennial Generation and Adulthood*

While it is important to examine how the courts and the relevant adult education literature defines adulthood, any discussion on adulthood is left incomplete without reviewing the literature that explores the characteristics of the current generation of students enrolled in American colleges and universities. There are several different theories about when Generation X (also known as GenX, the generation directly after the “baby-boomers”) evolved into the current generation affectionately known as the “Millennial generation.” Several scholars suggest that this transition occurred at the beginning of the 1980s (Howe & Strauss, 2000; Sacks, 1996). When the “millennials” started showing up at colleges and universities at the turn of the century, scholars began

to notice trends and characteristics among these students that differed from past generations.

Howe & Strauss (2000) have arguably conducted the most extensive research into the characteristics of our current generation of young people. Having coined the term “Millennial generation,” Howe & Strauss state that this generation of young people (who are currently pursuing undergraduate degrees in unprecedented numbers) are dedicated to volunteerism, community service, and improving the current problems facing our country. They state, “The Millennials are indeed special, since they are demonstrably reversing a wide array of negative youth trends, from crime to profanity to sex to test scores, that have prevailed in America for nearly half a century (p. 17).” This spirit of change for the better can be attributed to several factors, including a reaction to the most defining moment thus far for the millennial generation, the terrorist attacks that occurred on September 11, 2001 (Howe & Strauss, 2000).

The momentum to improve the social problems facing our country that resides among the millennial generation after 9/11 has certainly been documented on college and university campuses across the country (Twenge, 2006). Nevertheless, several other scholars debate why this positive trend in today’s college students is occurring and note the various downsides this generation brings to higher education institutions today. The Pew Research Center for People and the Press has dubbed this generation of young people the “look at me” generation after a study reported that fame and fortune were the two highest goals for young people today. In research conducted by Jean Twenge, an associate professor of psychology at San Diego State University, she and her associates



found that today's college students are more narcissistic than the members from any other earlier generation. Twenge's (2006) latest book refutes the moniker of the "Millennial generation" and offers the connotation of "Generation Me" to more accurately portray today's generation of college students.

When questioned about the increasing trend for college students to participate in community service, Twenge (2006) refutes the notion that young people today are more empathic and concerned about the needs of others. In a variety of interviews with contemporary college students between the ages of 18 and 25, Twenge claims that what drives young people to serve others is an effort to make themselves feel good or to improve the standing of their resumes. According to Twenge, this generation of college students is used to getting what they want, when they want it, how they want it, for as little effort as possible. This self-centered attitude is reflected even in the activities of today's college student, many of whom commonly promote how great they are through new technologies such as Facebook and YouTube. Regardless of who has the most accurate research about the current generation of traditional-aged students in college today, these generational shifts have made a major impact on the way college and university officials work with this population of undergraduates (Arnett, 2004).

While the legal, adult, and generational perspectives and literature are important sources of research in attempting to accurately define the legal relationship between a higher education institution and their underage students, the author suggests that understanding another perspective is also critical. After an exhaustive search of relevant research in the psychological, student development and adult education databases, the

author was unable to discover any study or research that attempts to quantify undergraduate students' perceptions of their personal responsibility for their actions under the influence of alcohol and how these perceptions relate to the legal responsibility a college or university has to protect them from foreseeable harm. Conducting research that demonstrates if underage students perceive themselves to be adults (or not) and how much responsibility they perceive their institutions have to protect them from injury will assist researchers and practitioners alike in their work with this population of adult learners.

A research study that gathers data to assess if underage college students perceive themselves as adults and willing to accept adult-level responsibilities while under the influence of alcohol will be useful for higher education officials in helping to redefine policies and practices to better protect students from foreseeable harm. The author will attempt to fill this gap in the existing research through the following proposed study.

#### *Existing Research and Instruments*

Several hours were spent reviewing relevant theses and dissertations through the ProQuest database clearinghouse. Throughout this search, this author found several published dissertations that study the legal complexities of American colleges and universities with regard to their duty to protect students from foreseeable harm. For example, Tischler (1989) reviewed student injury claims and demonstrated that institutions that implement risk management programs in order to reduce student injury may curtail the number of negligence suits brought against the institution. Johnston (1989) explored the concept of foreseeability in university residence hall lawsuits. His

research showed an incongruity between an institution's legal duty to protect students while maintaining policies that considers them adults. Hannum (1994) conducted a legal analysis of the doctrine of *in loco parentis* and demonstrated that state and federal legislation has created a new legal paradigm regarding the duty for higher education institutions to protect students. Pearson (1998) reviewed relevant higher education case law from four distinct periods throughout the history of higher education. He noted common themes that existed during these distinct periods and studied the events and seminal cases that caused the courts to shift their perspectives. Pearson concluded by making suggestions for higher education administrators on how to reduce institutional liability.

Three other important studies have attempted to clarify the legal relationship between undergraduate students and their higher education institutions from the perspective of college officials. Bishop (1993) surveyed university presidents and chief student affairs officers during the early 1990s about their perceptions of the most plaguing legal problems facing colleges and universities. His research showed that alcohol and negligence for student injury continue to be among the most paramount issues facing colleges and universities. Elleven (1996) modified Bishop's legal survey and focused his research specifically on metropolitan higher education institutions. He concluded that most chief student affairs officers were not prepared to confront many of the legal issues that stand to be litigated in the future. One recent study (Shepardson, 2004) attempted to quantify the perceptions of students who were suspended from institutions of higher education for disciplinary matters. In what was no surprise,

Shepardson found that many of these students perceived their relationship to the institution to be adversarial, not educational.

These studies are helpful in reviewing the various legal issues currently facing colleges and universities. However, these studies further the perspective that college students are legal adults once they reach 18 years of age. It is important to consider other studies that indicate that underage college students are increasingly less likely to accept adult-like responsibilities or demonstrate adult-like characteristics. The author was able to identify several studies that attempt to quantify young people's perceptions of what it means to be an adult and their perceptions of adulthood. Arguably, the most prolific scholar conducting this research is Jeffrey Arnett, a psychologist who has held professorships at a variety of colleges and universities. Arnett has attempted to define if college students are adults (1994), specific criteria for adulthood (1997 & 2001), and has conducted in-depth case studies of four young people as they wind their way through their late teens and early twenties and struggle to become adults (2004). One of the consistent findings throughout Arnett's research is that young people today are entering adulthood later in life when compared to 30 years ago.

Arnett (1997) suggests that adulthood is a social construct that is occurring later in life for young people in our society, usually not until their late twenties. While traditional-aged college students assume less responsibility for themselves as adults, a variety of legal scholars (Bickel & Lake, 1999, et al.) suggest that higher education officials need to reengage into the lives of their students to curtail the high-risk drinking culture and other dangerous behaviors that exist on college campuses today. In the

meantime, the courts continue to influence college officials to implement policies that recognize students as adults once they reach 18 years old.

After an exhaustive search, the author was unable to identify any study that attempted to quantify the perceptions of underage undergraduate students about their university's responsibility to protect them from harm. Many of the existing studies were helpful, however, in shaping the author's thoughts about a potential research study at the University of Wyoming. The aforementioned studies were particularly helpful in identifying what demographic variables to include in a future study. The development of the research instrument for the author's future study will be discussed later in this chapter.

Chapter III: Methodology and Survey Development

*Research Problem at the University of Wyoming*

The author discussed the problem of when traditional-aged undergraduate students become adults and how the law defines adulthood at length with two staff attorneys from the University of Wyoming's General Counsel Office. Rod Lang and Susan Weidel have collectively nearly 40 years of experience working with higher education legal matters. Throughout their discussion with the author, both attorneys noted an alarming trend in the last decade in regard to the legal relationship between traditional-aged college students and the University. According to Weidel, "we have become more *adversarial* and less *educational* in our work with traditional-aged college students" (personal communication, January 11, 2008). Weidel (2008) continued by stating, "it is assumed that when 18+ year old individuals enroll in our academic community, a community of scholars that values individual rights such as the right to free speech and association, that they are legal adults and are expected to act as such. While the University will offer them room to grow and to make certain types of mistakes without the threat of being thrown off campus, it is not our (the University's) job to protect students from harm. Our mission is to educate students, not to police their activities out of the classroom."

While it is presumed that students who 18 years old and older are legal adults and responsible for their actions as such, Weidel (2008) suggests that the institution can offer activities and educational programs that help students to learn about the potential harms of college life. Weidel noted current UW programs such as SafeRide, Late Night

alternative programming offered on Friday nights, and the AWARE Program, that provide education and activities to help students learn about the various potential harms of contemporary college life.

When asked how she would react to a study that gathers data regarding underage student perceptions of the responsibility colleges and universities have to protect them from harm, Weidel reacted that the institution can, and should, continue to do a better job of educating students about their rights and responsibilities as adult members of our academic community. She suggested two possible programmatic and policy outcomes to such a study, including updating the current UW *Student Code of Conduct* with an appropriate definition of the adult and legal responsibilities for students regardless of age and developing an educational session for students (and their parents) during the UW Summer Orientation about the responsibilities students have to conduct themselves as adult members in our academic community.

After the conversation with the staff in the General Counsel's office, it became evident that a research problem may exist between how underage undergraduate students perceive the University's responsibility to protect them and existing policies that consider these students legal adults with responsibility to protect themselves. New research would be helpful in guiding University officials as they develop policies and programs to better educate students about their adult and legal responsibilities.

Because the vast number of injuries on college campuses today involve students who have consumed alcohol (Busteed, 2005), it may be helpful to focus any new research on student populations who are most at risk for consuming alcohol at dangerous levels.

Strano, et al. (2004) showed that students under the age of 21 years old are the most at risk population for over-consuming alcohol and engaging in the most dangerous behaviors on college campuses. Therefore, it may be helpful to concentrate additional research on undergraduates who are 18 years old and older and considered legal adults, but also under the legal drinking age of 21 years old. Moreover, because a majority of the emerging adult literature (Arnett, 2004, 2000, 1997 & 1994; Nelson, et al., 2007) focuses on research populations between the ages of 18-25 years old, it would be helpful to narrow this existing research by concentrating on a research population between the ages of 18-21 years old.

### *Research Questions*

As stated in Chapter #1, the research questions to be explored in this study include:

1) What is the extent and nature of underage (20 years old and younger) undergraduate student consumption of drinks that contain alcohol at the University of Wyoming?

2) For underage undergraduate students at the University of Wyoming, what are their perceptions regarding UW's responsibility to protect them from foreseeable harm?

### *Research Instrument Development*

Based upon the research questions, the researcher proposed to conduct a study that gathers data about the extent and nature of underage alcohol consumption for underage undergraduate students at the University of Wyoming. This study also collects data about the research respondents' perceptions of their institution's responsibility to



protect undergraduate students from foreseeable injury. With the help of a variety of existing research studies (noted in Chapter 2), the researcher created a research instrument to assess the research participants' reported alcohol consumption as underage undergraduate students. This research instrument also includes questions to assess the research participants' perceptions of their institution to protect them from foreseeable harm. The research instrument that was developed for this study is included as Appendix A.

While developing the proposed research instrument, the author consulted surveys from existing research about adulthood by Arnett (2004, 2000, & 1997) and Nelson, et al. (2007). The author reviewed Arnett's (2001) criteria for adulthood, which was helpful in identifying what specific demographic variables to collect in the study.

In developing the research instrument, the author also consulted surveys and recent research on campus alcohol consumption. A number of national groups, including the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), help to sponsor annual research that gathers data about alcohol consumption on college campuses. Some of those annual research efforts are conducted at the University of Wyoming. For example, the National College Health Assessment (NCHA) is conducted bi-annually at UW. The NCHA study collects data about a number of high-risk student behaviors, including college student drinking behavior. The author reviewed the NCHA research instrument and incorporated several similar questions from this survey into the research instrument for this study. The author also included several of the demographic variables from the NCHA survey into his research instrument.

*Research Instrument*

The author's research instrument includes three sections (Appendix A). In the first section, the research participants are asked to read a case study. The case study outlines a scenario where a student is injured after consuming large quantities of alcohol at an on-campus fraternity party. This case study is based upon an actual lawsuit where a college student sued the university, a fraternity and a sorority after she consumed large quantities of alcohol at a fraternity party and later sustained serious injuries from falling out a window. After reading the case study, the research participants are then asked to answer a series of questions about their perceptions of who was responsible for the student's injury.

The second section of the survey asks the research participants questions about the extent and nature of their alcohol consumption as underage undergraduate students. The first question in this section asks the research participants to indicate if they have ever consumed a drink containing alcohol as an underage undergraduate student. If the research participant answers "no" to this question, they continue to the next section of the survey. If the research participant answers "yes" to this question, they are then asked to answer a series of questions about their level of alcohol consumption. These questions are specifically asked using questions modeled from the NCHA research instrument.

After answering the questions about the extent and nature of their alcohol consumption, the research participants are then asked questions about their perceptions of the university's responsibility to protect students from injury while under the influence of alcohol. These questions explore how a variety of variables, such as the legal drinking

age of the student and where the drinking occurs (i.e., on-campus, off-campus, in a fraternity, etc.) influence the research participants' perceptions of their institution's responsibilities.

The third section of the research instrument collects demographic data from the research participants. Demographic variables that will be gathered in this study include:

1. Gender
2. Age
3. Transfer status
4. What state the research participant was from
5. International or domestic student
6. Marital status
7. Where the research participant lives
8. If the research participant was a member of a religion, faith, or nation that prohibits the consumption of alcohol.

These demographic factors have been modified from Arnett's (2000) research instrument, along with the demographic data gathered from the NCHA research survey.

After creating a draft of his research instrument, the researcher asked both Dr. Jeffrey Arnett, a national expert on the trends in emerging adulthood and Dr. Suzie Young, an expert on social research from the University of Wyoming, to review the proposed research instrument. Both national experts provided feedback on the proposed research instrument. A variety of members of the researcher's dissertation committee, along with officials from the Division of Student Affairs and the General Counsels office at the University of Wyoming, also provided helpful suggestions in finalizing this research instrument.

*Definitions*

Throughout the author's researcher instrument, several important terms are used to gather data about the extent and nature of the survey participants' alcohol consumption and their perceptions' of university responsibility. A few of the important terms used throughout the research instrument are defined below. These definitions derive from Black's Law Dictionary (2004).

*Adult* - An adult is a person who has attained the age of majority. The age of majority is the legally defined age at which a person is considered an adult, with all the attendant rights and responsibilities of adulthood. The age of majority is defined by state laws, which vary by state, but is 18 in most states. Rights acquired upon reaching the age of majority include the rights to vote and consent to marriage, among others. However, the right to vote is 18 nationwide under the 26th Amendment to the Constitution, regardless of the state laws.

It is the age at which one becomes a legal adult and gains full legal rights. It is also the age at which a person is liable for their own actions, such as contractual obligations or liability for negligence. In general, a parental duty of support to a child ceases when the child reaches the age of majority.

The age of majority may be relevant in matters, among others, such as guardianships, defining the head of households, legal standing to bring lawsuits, foster care, alcohol purchases, emancipation, licensing, and marriage. For example, in banking and investment accounts, the financial institution may provide that in any account established by a minor, the institution reserves the right to require the minor account to be

a multiple party account with an owner who has reached the age of majority under state law, who shall be jointly and severally liable the institution for any returned item, overdraft, or unpaid charges or amounts on such account. Rules vary by institution.

*Foreseeable*- is a concept used in tort law to limit the liability of a party to those acts which carry a risk of foreseeable harm, meaning that a reasonable person would be able to predict or expect the ultimately harmful result of their actions. Under negligence law, the duty to act reasonably to avoid foreseeable risks of physical injury extends to any person. In contract law, the concept of foreseeability is used to limit the award of special or consequential damages to those that are the predictable consequence of the breach of contract.

*Intoxication* - Intoxication is defined by state law, which varies by state, for purposes of defining drunk driving, driving while intoxicated, or driving under the influence laws. It is the condition of being drunk as the result of drinking alcoholic beverages and/or use of narcotics. The legal standard of intoxication as it applies to drunk driving (DUI, DWI) varies by state between .08 and .10 alcohol in the bloodstream, or a combination of alcohol and narcotics which would produce the same effect even though the amount of alcohol is below the minimum.

Intoxication is defined by a more subjective standard for purposes of determining public drunkenness. Public intoxication means the person must be unable to care for himself, be dangerous to himself or others, be causing a disturbance or refuse to leave or move along when requested. Intoxication may be a defense in a criminal case in which the claim is made by the defendant that he/she was too intoxicated to form an intent to

commit the crime or to know what he/she was doing. Unintentional intoxication can possibly reduce the possible level of conviction and punishment for crimes in which criminal intent is a necessary element of the crime, such as reducing voluntary manslaughter down to involuntary manslaughter.

### *Research Population*

Based upon the literature (Arnett, 1994; Nelson, et al., 2007), the research population that was identified for this study included 18-21 year-old undergraduates enrolled full-time at the University of Wyoming in the fall 2008. The literature indicates that additional research is needed that gathers data specifically about the perceptions of students who are under the legal drinking age of 21 years old (Strano, et al., 2004). Full-time undergraduate students who are 21 years old were also included in this research population since they are only recently the age to legally drink alcohol and might provide interesting or different data about their perceptions after becoming “of age.” Additional research is needed to study this population, as the literature indicates that these students are emerging adults, or “tweenagers,” and are transitioning to adulthood after reaching the legal definition of adulthood at 18 years old, and yet are still considered minors under the legal age to purchase alcohol.

It is also important to note that the case study in the research instrument is modeled after an actual lawsuit that involves an injured student who mirrors this research population (full-time, underage undergraduate student).

The research population was identified to help make specific policy recommendations to officials at UW who encounter the challenges identified with this

research problem. However, the author posits that results from this study might be applicable for other public, residential, four-year research higher education institutions with students with similar demographics. Therefore, the findings from this research study might be helpful for other university officials at schools that are similar to the University of Wyoming.

*Institutional Review Board Approval*

The researcher submitted an Institutional Review Board (IRB) proposal in May 2008. This proposal included the researcher's proposed research methodology, proposed research population, and proposed research instrument. The IRB committee reviewed the researcher's proposal during summer 2008 and approved this proposed research design and instrument in late July 2008.

#### Chapter IV: Data Analysis and Findings

In this chapter, the frequency data gathered from the research survey is outlined. The chapter begins with a description of how the research survey was administered and the survey response rate. Then, the chapter describes the research population through a variety of demographic data. Next, the research data is presented as it corresponds with the two research questions. The chapter concludes with a summary of the findings according to the data that is described throughout the chapter.

##### *Survey Administration*

The research survey was administered during the third week of the academic year in September 2008. The research population for this study included all full-time undergraduate students who were between the ages of 18-21 years old on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the academic year. The emails and first names for this research population were provided by the University of Wyoming's Office of the Registrar. The first names were included in this data as a means to personalize the email request to complete the survey. In total, this research population included 5,231 undergraduate students.

The survey was conducted through the internet with the assistance of the University's StudentVoice assessment software. The author emailed the research population (included in Appendix A) a request to participate in the study and encouraged them to spend the requisite ten minutes to complete the survey. For those students who did not complete the survey after receiving the original email, three additional emails were sent to encourage them to complete the survey. Based upon the recommendations



from a assessment consultant at StudentVoice, data collection concluded three days after the fourth and final email was sent to the research population.

In total, data was collected for 18 days. With the help from the email reminders, 2,367 responses were generated from the research population, producing a 45% response rate. Survey responses were kept confidential. After completing the survey, the respondents had an option to enter their name into a drawing to win a prize.

Of the overall 2,367 survey responses, several participants did not answer certain demographic questions. Therefore, the survey responses that were missing demographic data (N = 84) are not included in the data analysis. Because of the nature of certain specific variables and this specific study, several responses were not included in the data analysis. For example, survey responses from participants who indicated their gender as transgender (N = 6) or did not choose a specific gender (N = 14) were not included in the data analysis. The researcher also did not include survey responses from participants who indicated they were younger than 18 years old (N = 1) or older than 21 years old (N = 44).

In total, the researcher analyzed N = 2,218 survey responses from the research survey. The demographics of these survey responses are described in the next section of this chapter.

#### *Research Population Demographics*

The UW Office of Institutional Analysis provided actual demographic data for the research population. These data are outlined in Appendix B. As demonstrated below, the

demographics of the actual research population are similar to the demographics of the survey respondents in this study.

### *Survey Sample Demographics*

Based upon the existing research instruments discussed in Chapter III, the survey collected data for eight (8) demographic variables from the research participants. These variables included:

1. Gender
2. Age
3. Transfer status
4. What state the research participant was from
5. International or domestic student
6. Marital status
7. Where the research participant lives
8. If the research participant was a member of a religion, faith, or nation that prohibits the consumption of alcohol.

Of the eight (8) demographic variables gathered in this study, three (3) demographic variables were identified for specific data analysis. These demographic variables included: 1) gender; 2) age; 3) residential location.

### *Gender*

Of the 2,218 survey responses included in the data analysis, 1,300 of the respondents were women (59%) and 918 were men (41%). The survey respondents by gender were similar to the actual research population of 54% women and 46% men, as listed in Appendix B.

### *Age*

Of the 2,218 survey responses included in the data analysis, 617 of the respondents indicated that they were 18 years old (29%). 528 survey respondents were

19 years old (24%), 526 were 20 years old (25%), and 511 were 21 years old (23%). The research respondents mirrored the research population in the breakdown of age, as outlined in Appendix B.

#### *Residency*

Of the 2,218 survey responses included in the data analysis, 872 of the respondents reside in the residence halls (39%). 1,052 survey respondents reside in off-campus apartments (47%), 97 live in on-campus apartments (4%), 106 live in fraternities or sororities (5%), and 91 live off-campus with family (4%).

The Office of Institutional Analysis at UW could not provide actual data on where the research population lived. However, the Office of Greek Life provided data to support that nearly 4% of all UW undergraduates are members of fraternities and sororities.

Comparing this data to the data gathered in this survey does not take into account all of the students who are members of fraternities/sororities and not in the research population age group (18-21 years old). However, it seems to indicate that the data gathered through the survey is fairly representative of the actual student population who live in fraternities and sororities. The University of Wyoming requires all first-year undergraduate students to reside in the residence halls their first year on campus. This may account for the high number of survey respondents who indicate that they live in the residence halls.

#### *Other Demographic Variables*

The survey asked the respondents to indicate if they were U.S. citizens (98%) or international students (2%). This response is similar to demographics of the actual research population of 97% U.S. citizens and 3% international students, as outlined in Appendix B. The survey also asked for the respondents to include where they are from. 1,341 research respondents indicated that there were from the Wyoming (60%), with 413 respondents coming from Colorado (19%), and 464 coming from other states (21%). These response rates are similar to the actual demographic data listed in Appendix B, with 58% of students coming from Wyoming, 19% from Colorado, and 23% coming from other states.

The survey also asked the research participants to indicate if they were a transfer student (16%) or not (84%), if they were married (2%) or single (98%), and if they were a member of a religion, faith, or nation that prohibits the consumption of alcohol (9%) or not (91%). Unfortunately the Office of Institutional Analysis at the University of Wyoming does not collect comparative data for these demographic variables. Therefore, the researcher was not able to compare the survey response data to the actual demographic data of this research population for these variables.

#### *Data Analysis*

Certain demographic variables were not included in the final data analysis for this study, including:

1. International students
2. What state the research participants are from
3. Transfer status
4. Marital status
5. Membership in a religion, faith or nation that prohibits the consumption prohibits alcohol.

There are several reasons why these demographic variables are not included in the final data analysis. First, two variables did not generate a large enough sample size to conduct valid statistical analysis (i.e., only 2% of the research participants indicated that they were international students or married students, etc.). Second, data analysis on certain variables did not yield significant results. For example, statistical analysis conducted on variables such as transfer status and what state the respondents are from did not generate significant results. Finally, the variable on the membership in a religion, faith, or nation that prohibits the consumption of alcohol was not germane to this study. The primary focus of this study is to look at the responses from students who consume alcohol.

Three (3) demographic variables are included when the survey responses are described in the upcoming sections of this chapter. These demographic variables include:

1. Gender
2. Age
3. Residency

The data and analysis that addresses the two research questions are described in the next sections of this chapter.

#### *Research Question #1*

The data presented next in this chapter corresponds with the first research question. The first research question asked: What is the extent and nature of underage undergraduate drinking at the University of Wyoming (underage is defined as younger than 21 years old)? This research question was addressed by collecting data through survey questions #10-15. These questions asked the respondents about the frequency and

extent of their consumption of alcohol. While the survey started with questions #1-9, the data collected from questions #10-15 are presented here first since this data corresponds with the first research question.

*Consumption of Alcohol by Underage Undergraduate Students*

Question #10 asked the research participants if they had ever consumed a drink that contained alcohol as an underage undergraduate student. Of the 2,218 survey responses that were analyzed in this study, 1,712 answered “yes” (77%), while 506 answered “no” (23%). If the survey respondent answered “yes”, he/she was then asked to answer a variety of additional questions about the extent and nature of their drinking. If the survey respondent answered “no”, they skipped the remaining questions about alcohol consumption and were directed to the next section of the survey. The data from question #10 is outlined in Table 1.

**Table 1. Survey question #10: As an undergraduate student 20 years-old or younger, did you ever consume a drink that contains alcohol?**

Factor	Yes		No		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b>Gender</b>						
Male	695	31%	223	10%	<b>918</b>	<b>41%</b>
Female	1,017	46%	283	13%	<b>1,300</b>	<b>59%</b>
<b>Age</b>						
18	396	18%	221	10%	<b>617</b>	<b>28%</b>
19	397	18%	131	6%	<b>528</b>	<b>24%</b>
20	490	22%	72	3%	<b>562</b>	<b>25%</b>
21	429	19%	82	4%	<b>511</b>	<b>23%</b>
<b>Residence</b>						
Residence Hall	579	26%	293	13%	<b>872</b>	<b>39%</b>
On-campus apt.	70	3%	27	1%	<b>97</b>	<b>4%</b>
Fraternity/Sorority	95	4%	11	1%	<b>106</b>	<b>5%</b>
Off-campus apt.	907	41%	145	7%	<b>1,052</b>	<b>47%</b>
Off-campus apt. w/ family	61	3%	30	1%	<b>91</b>	<b>4%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,712</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>506</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>2,218</b>	<b>100%</b>

(N = 2,218; SD = .42 )

Survey respondents who answered “yes” to question #10 (N = 1,712) were directed to answer survey questions #11-15. These questions asked the research participants to indicate their typical frequency and the risk associated with their drinking when they consume alcohol. Question #11 asked the research participants to indicate how often they consume alcohol per month. 371 respondents indicated that they consume alcohol once a month (22%), while 653 indicated they consume alcohol 2-4 times a month (38%). 365 research respondents indicated they consume alcohol twice a week (21%) and 52 indicated they consume alcohol more than 4 times a week (3%). 271 research participants indicated “other” for their level of drinking per month (16%). Further data analysis by demographic factor was not done on this question after reviewing the data that produced 276 “other” responses.

Question #12 asked the research participants to describe their typical consumption of drinks that contain alcohol. This question was open-ended and designed to see what type of responses would be generated when the research participants could openly describe their drink behavior. 1,535 research participants offered responses to this question. Approximately 25% of the responses to this question indicated high-risk drinking, with a corresponding 75% of the responses indicating medium to low-risking drinking. The actual survey responses to this question were recoded into similar responses and can be found in Appendix C.

Question #13 asked the research participants to indicate how many drinks they consumed during a typical day when they consumed alcohol. Of the 1,712 survey responses that were analyzed for this question, 318 research participants responded that

they consumed 1 drink per day on a typical day when they were consuming alcohol (19%), while 646 responded that they typically consumed 2-3 drinks per day (38%). 461 research participants indicated that they consumed 4-5 drinks per day (27%), and 279 responded that they consumed 6 or more drinks on a typical day (16%). 13 survey respondents did not answer this question. These data are recorded in Table 2.

**Table 2. Survey question #13: How many drinks do/did you consume during a typical day when you consumed alcohol?**

Factor	1 drink		2-3 drinks		4-5 drinks		6+ drinks		Missing	N
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%		
<b>Gender</b>										
Male	90	13%	191	28%	214	31%	196	28%	4	<b>695</b>
Female	228	22%	455	45%	247	24%	78	8%	9	<b>1,017</b>
<b>Age</b>										
18	87	22%	147	37%	111	28%	50	13%	1	<b>396</b>
19	84	21%	148	37%	102	26%	62	16%	1	<b>397</b>
20	82	17%	184	38%	134	27%	84	17%	6	<b>490</b>
21	65	15%	167	39%	114	27%	78	18%	5	<b>429</b>
<b>Residence</b>										
Residence Hall	140	24%	221	36%	151	26%	74	13%	3	<b>579</b>
On-campus apt.	15	21%	36	36%	12	17%	6	9%	1	<b>70</b>
Fraternity/Sorority	9	10%	37	39%	34	36%	15	16%	0	<b>95</b>
Off-campus apt.	137	15%	338	37%	253	28%	171	19%	8	<b>907</b>
Off-campus apt. w/ family	17	28%	24	39%	11	18%	8	13%	1	<b>61</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>646</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>461</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1,712</b>

(N = 1,712; SD = .97)

Question #14 asked the research participants to indicate how often they generally become intoxicated after consuming drinks that contain alcohol. Of the 1,712 survey responses that were analyzed for this question, 233 research participants responded that they *never* become intoxicated (13%), while 408 indicated that they *rarely* become intoxicated (24%). 609 of the research participants responded that they *occasionally*



become intoxicated (36%), while 375 responded that they *frequently* become intoxicated (22%). 87% responded that they *always* become intoxicated (5%). These data are recorded in Table 3.

**Table 3. Survey question #14: How often do/did you generally become intoxicated after consuming drinks that contain alcohol?**

Factor	Never		Rarely		Occasionally		Frequently		Always		N Total
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
<b>Gender</b>											
Male	70	10%	145	21%	257	37%	185	27%	38	6%	695
Female	163	16%	263	26%	352	35%	190	19%	49	5%	1,017
<b>Age</b>											
18	70	18%	101	26%	136	34%	69	17%	20	5%	396
19	61	15%	98	25%	129	33%	91	23%	18	5%	397
20	60	12%	111	23%	183	37%	114	23%	22	5%	490
21	42	10%	98	23%	161	38%	101	24%	27	6%	429
<b>Residence</b>											
Residence Hall	109	19%	14	25%	197	34%	99	17%	29	5%	579
On-campus apt.	10	14%	21	30%	27	39%	11	16%	1	1%	70
Fraternity/Sorority	7	7%	17	18%	42	44%	23	24%	6	6%	95
Off-campus apt.	94	10%	202	22%	328	36%	235	26%	48	5%	907
Off-campus apt. w/ family	13	21%	23	38%	15	25%	7	12%	3	5%	61
<b>Total</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>408</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>609</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>1,712</b>

(N = 1,712; SD = 1.08)

Question #15 asked the research participants whether a variety of consequences had occurred to them as a result of underage consumption of alcohol. 225 of the research participants indicated that they had physically injured themselves as a result of their drinking (13%), and 41 responded that they had injured another person as a result of their drinking (2%). 120 research participants indicated that they had been involved in a fight as a result of their drinking (7%), while 507 responded that they later did something they regretted as a result of their drinking (28%). 426 research participants responded that

they forgot where they were or what they did as a result of their drinking (24%) and 368 reported that they had failed to do what was normally expected of them as a result of their drinking (20%). Additional high risk behavior indicated by the research participants includes that 368 had engaged in unprotected sex as a result of their drinking (11%) and 148 had a relative or friend tell them they were concerned about their drinking (8%). Finally, 1,000 of the research participants indicated that none of these consequences had occurred to them as a result of their drinking (56%).

*Summary of Findings for Research Question #1*

Of the 2,218 survey responses that were analyzed in this study, 1,712 research respondents (77%) answered “yes” to having consumed a drink that contained alcohol as an underage undergraduate student at the University of Wyoming. Research questions #13 and #14 yielded the most useful data in addressing the first research question about the extent and nature of the consumption of alcohol by underage undergraduate students at the University of Wyoming. The author specifically looked at demographic variables such as gender, age, and residential location and the impact they made on the data. Of the variables and specific factors analyzed in this section, most responses yielded data along a standard distribution curve. The two variables that consistently influenced alcohol consumption rates were *gender* and *residential location*. The analysis on the variable of *age* produced inconclusive results.

When the responses from question #13 were broken out by gender, it showed that the male respondents indicated higher levels of “binge” drinking when compared to females. In question #14, the male respondents also reported higher levels of intoxication

when compared to female respondents. The data showed that students who lived off-campus with family reported lower levels of “binge” drinking and levels of intoxication. The data also showed higher levels of “binge” drinking and intoxication for the research respondents who lived in either an off-campus apartment or in a fraternity/sorority when compared to other locations. Both locations of fraternity/sorority and off-campus apartments are living environments that do not receive university resources to monitor or enforce underage drinking laws.

These findings, along with a definition of “binge drinking,” will be discussed in Chapter V. In the next section of this chapter, the data that addresses the second research question is described. These data come from survey questions #1-9 and #16-37.

#### *Research Question #2*

The data that addresses the second research question are presented in this section of Chapter IV. The second research question asked: What are the perceptions of underage undergraduate students for their university to protect them from foreseeable harm?

To address the second research question, the data collected from questions #1-9 are presented first. These data included the survey participants’ responses after reading the case study about an underage undergraduate student who was injured after drinking alcohol at a fraternity party. Next, the data collected from survey questions #16-20 and #21-25 are presented. These questions explore the research participants’ perceptions of university responsibility to protect students from harm when the factors of *age* and *location* are included.

Then, the data from questions #26-29 are presented, which investigate the research participants' perceptions when location is a factor and age is held as a constant. The data from questions #30-33 are presented next, which explore the research participants' perceptions of the university to offer services that help decrease injury when students consume alcohol. Finally, the data collected from questions #34-37 are presented. These data indicate the respondents' perceptions of the university to offer consequences for underage students when they are caught consuming alcohol. These data include both factors of *location* and *age*.

The data from questions #16-37 are analyzed by comparing means with two demographic variables, including: 1) gender; and 2) residency. The demographic variable of age is not included in these data analyses since the data analyses on this variable in the previous section were inconclusive.

#### *Student Perceptions – Case study*

In the first section of the survey, the research participants were asked to read a case study about an underage undergraduate student who was injured after drinking alcohol at a fraternity party. The case study outlines a fictitious scenario where a student is injured after consuming large quantities of alcohol at an on-campus fraternity party. This case study is based upon an actual lawsuit where a college student sued her university, a fraternity and a sorority after she consumed large quantities of alcohol at a fraternity party and later sustained serious injuries from falling out a window. The case study in its entirety is presented in Appendix A.

After reading the case study, the research participants were asked to answer a variety of questions about their perceptions of who was responsible for injury to the student in the case study. In questions #1-9, the survey participants indicated who was responsible for the student’s injury. Responses could include: 1) the injured student; 2) sorority; 3) fraternity; 4) university. The survey participants were asked to indicate their level of agreement with nine different statements (questions #1-9) on a five-point Likert scale from “strongly agree” to “strongly disagree.” Table 4 outlines these data.

**Table 4. Survey Section I, questions #1-9, responses to the case study who was responsible for the student’s injury.**

Questions	Strongly disagree		Disagree		Neutral		Agree		Strongly agree	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
1. Suzy is completely at fault for her injuries.	67	3%	544	25%	530	24%	790	36%	287	13%
2. It would be irresponsible for Suzy to bring a lawsuit for this incident.	77	4%	429	19%	556	25%	744	34%	412	19%
3. Suzy’s sorority is responsible for her injuries because her “guardian angel” went home early.	235	11%	785	35%	513	23%	625	28%	60	3%
4. Suzy’s sorority is responsible for her injuries because she was required to sleep on the sleeping porch.	260	12%	738	33%	529	24%	610	28%	81	4%
5. The University is responsible for Suzy’s injuries because they knew about the history of the problems at the fraternity.	527	24%	804	36%	467	21%	345	16%	75	3%
6. The University is not responsible for Suzy’s injuries because they assigned staff to attend and monitor the party.	140	6%	560	25%	695	31%	651	29%	172	8%
7. Since the fraternity provided Suzy’s alcohol, they are to blame for her injuries.	392	18%	900	41%	537	24%	347	16%	42	2%
8. Nobody forced Suzy to consume alcohol, so she is responsible for her injuries.	13	1%	110	5%	273	12%	1,061	49%	761	34%
9. Suzy should sue her sorority, the fraternity, and the University for not protecting her from this injury.	965	44%	820	37%	338	15%	71	3%	24	1%

**N = 2,218**

A number of important findings were generated from the responses in this section of the research survey. For example, a majority of the research respondents perceived that the injured student was responsible for her injury. In question #1, nearly half (49%) of the research respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that the injured student was completely at fault for her injury. In response to question #8, 1,822 research participants (83%) either agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, "Nobody forced [the injured student] to consume alcohol, so she is responsible for her injuries." Only 123 research participants (6%) either disagreed or strongly disagreed with this statement.

A significant proportion of the research participants perceived that the other parties involved in the case study had less responsibility for the student's injury. From questions #3, only 31% of the research respondents indicated that they either agreed or strongly agreed that the sorority was responsible for the student's injury. From question #5, only 19% of the survey respondents indicated that they either agreed or strongly agreed that the university was responsible for the student's injury. Another similar example includes the research participants' perception that the fraternity was not responsible for the student's injury, even though she was drinking at the fraternity. From question #7, only 18% of the survey respondents indicated that they either agreed or strongly agreed that the fraternity was responsible for the student's injury.

Reviewing the data from questions #1-9, it becomes clear that the research participants perceived that the injured student had the highest level of responsibility for her injury. The research participants perceived that the sorority, university, and fraternity all had less responsibility for the student's injury.

Additional statistical analysis was conducted on the data from questions #1-9 by comparing the means data with two demographic variables, including gender and place of residence. The only variable that showed statistical influence on the data was *gender*. The male research participants indicated that the injured student was more responsible for her injury when compared to the female research participants. The female research participants were more likely to attribute the responsibility for the student’s injury to other groups when compared to the male research participants. These results are slight, however. The other variable of residency did not make a statistically significant difference on the data gathered from questions #1-9. These data are outlined in Table 5.

**Table 5. Survey questions #1-9, Comparing Means by Factors**

Factors	Survey questions #1-9								
	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.
<b>Gender</b>									
Male	3.49	3.62	2.74	2.73	2.30	3.17	2.43	4.18	1.78
Female	3.18	3.32	2.79	2.81	2.45	3.00	2.44	4.05	1.84
<b>Place of Residence</b>									
Residence Hall	3.32	3.40	2.93	2.92	2.44	3.15	2.53	4.14	1.85
On-campus apt.	3.57	3.66	2.77	2.58	2.46	3.07	2.57	4.31	1.81
Fraternity/Sorority	2.96	3.35	2.58	2.52	2.29	2.81	2.32	4.02	1.67
Off-campus apt.	3.31	3.47	2.66	2.72	2.34	3.04	2.35	4.06	1.80
Off-campus apt. w/ family	3.26	3.53	2.74	2.71	2.40	2.88	2.52	4.10	1.82
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.31</b>	<b>3.44</b>	<b>2.77</b>	<b>2.78</b>	<b>2.39</b>	<b>3.07</b>	<b>2.44</b>	<b>4.10</b>	<b>1.84</b>
<b>N = 2,218</b>									

The results from these data analyses that compares the means between variables are also represented in bar graphs located in Appendix E.

*Student Perceptions – Location and Age as Factors*

The next set of data gathered from the survey included the perceptions of the research participants for the university to protect students from harm based upon specific factors such as the *location* and *age* of the student drinker. Questions #16-20 asked the research respondents to indicate their level of agreement with the statement, “The university is responsible for protecting undergraduate students from harm who *are 21 years and older* when they are consuming alcohol (in a specific location).” Survey respondents answered this question with regard to the following specific locations, including: 1. on campus; 2. off campus; 3. residence halls; 4. fraternities; and 5. Wyoming Union. The data from these questions are outlined in Table 6.

**Table 6. Survey questions #16-20: “The university is responsible for protecting undergraduate students from harm who are 21 years and older when they are consuming alcohol (in a specific location)”**

Factor	Strongly disagree		Disagree		Neutral		Agree		Strongly agree	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b>On campus</b>	381	17%	511	23%	411	19%	674	30%	241	11%
<b>Off campus</b>	1,155	52%	818	37%	198	9%	33	2%	14	1%
<b>Residence Halls</b>	345	16%	432	20%	368	17%	706	32%	367	17%
<b>Fraternities</b>	469	21%	615	28%	511	23%	447	20%	176	8%
<b>Wyoming Union</b>	345	16%	379	17%	326	15%	698	32%	470	21%
<b>N = 2,218</b>										

Survey questions #21-25 were identical to survey questions #16-20, with the exception that the *age* of the student drinking was altered to *under the age of 21*. In questions #21-25, research participants were asked to indicate their level of agreement with the following statement, “The university is responsible for protecting undergraduate students from harm who are *younger than 21 years old* when they are consuming alcohol

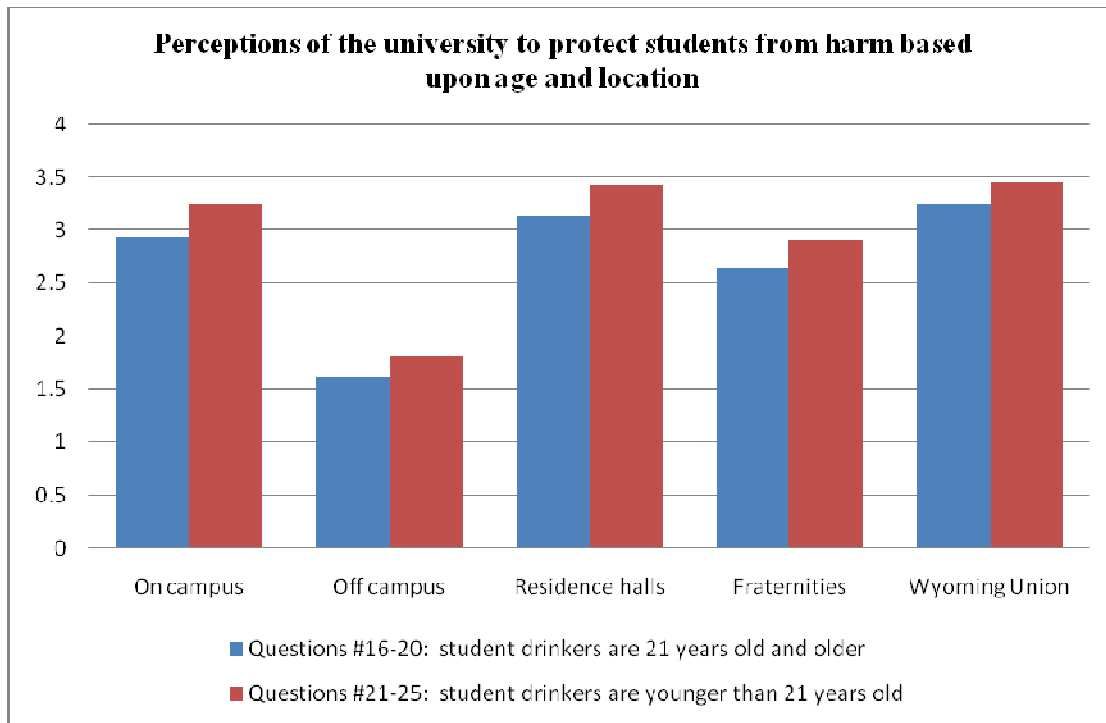


(in a specific location).” Again, survey respondents answered this question with regard to the following specific locations, including: 1. on campus; 2. off campus; 3. residence halls; 4. fraternities; and 5. Wyoming Union. The data from these questions are outlined in Table 7.

**Table 7. Survey questions #21-25: “The university is responsible for protecting undergraduate students from harm who are younger than 21 years old when they are consuming alcohol (in a specific location).”**

Factor	Strongly disagree		Disagree		Neutral		Agree		Strongly agree	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b>On campus</b>	335	15%	384	17%	321	15%	737	33%	441	20%
<b>Off campus</b>	984	44%	841	38%	254	12%	99	5%	40	2%
<b>Residence Halls</b>	303	14%	319	14%	297	13%	729	33%	570	26%
<b>Fraternities</b>	424	19%	475	21%	479	22%	527	24%	313	14%
<b>Wyoming Union</b>	315	14%	323	15%	268	12%	676	31%	636	29%
<b>N = 2,218</b>										

These data are important because they demonstrate that the perceptions of the research participants were influenced by the *age* the *location* of the student drinker. For example, the research participants perceived that the university had more responsibility to protect students who were younger than 21 years old when compared to students who were 21 years old and older. Further, the research participants perceived that the university had less responsibility to protect students when their drinking occurred off campus than when the drinking occurred on campus. The researcher took the means of these data and created a graph to demonstrate these outcomes. These mean data are presented in Figure 1.



*Figure 1.* The mean comparisons by factors for questions #16-20 & #21-25.

*Student Perceptions – Location and Age Not as Factors*

In the next section of the research survey, the author asked questions about the research participants’ perceptions when the location for student drinking and the age of the student drinker were not factors. In question #26, the research participants indicated their level of agreement with a statement about the university’s responsibility for *student injuries* when they consume alcohol. In question #27, the research participants indicated their level of agreement with a statement about the university’s responsibility for the injuries *caused by students* when they consume alcohol.

In significant fashion, the research participants indicated that they did not perceive the university to be responsible for the either student injuries or for the injuries caused by students when they consume alcohol. 1,778 research participants (81%) in

question #26 and 1,741 research participants (80%) in question #27 either disagreed or strongly disagreed that the university was responsible for the student injuries or for the injuries caused by students when they consume alcohol. These data are reported in Table 8.

**Table 8. Survey questions #26-27: “Regardless of the student’s age, the university is responsible for...”**

Factor	Strongly disagree		Disagree		Neutral		Agree		Strongly agree	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
26. Injuries that happen to students when they drink alcohol	855	39%	923	42%	341	15%	82	4%	17	1%
27. Injuries caused by students after they drink alcohol	838	39%	903	41%	354	16%	105	5%	18	1%

**N = 2,218**

These data demonstrate the research participants’ perceptions of university responsibility when the *age* and *location* of the student who is drinking are not factors. These data indicate strong perceptions from the research participants that the university is not responsible for student injuries or for injuries caused by students when they consume alcohol when age and location are not factors.

*Student Perceptions – Location as a Factor, Age Not as a Factor*

Also in this section of the research survey, questions #28-29 asked research participants about their perceptions of the university’s responsibility to protect them when a specific location *was* factored into the question. Age was not included as a factor in these questions. These data are helpful when compared with the data gathered in questions #26-27 when a specific location *was not* included as a factor.

In questions #28-29, the survey asked the research participants to indicate their level of agreement with statements about the university’s responsibility to protect undergraduates from injury when they consume alcohol in *specific locations*, regardless of the age of the student drinker. The data gathered from this section of the research instrument is shown in Table 9.

**Table 9. Survey questions #28-29: “Regardless of the student’s age, the university is responsible for...”**

Factor	Strongly disagree		Disagree		Neutral		Agree		Strongly agree	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
28. Injuries that happen at fraternities when students drink alcohol	485	22%	733	33%	428	19%	469	21%	103	5%
29. Injuries that happen downtown when students drink alcohol	1,166	53%	851	38%	159	7%	29	1%	13	<1%

**N = 2,218**

Question #28 asked the research participants about their perceptions of the university’s responsibility to protect undergraduate students when they drink alcohol in *fraternities*. 1,218 research respondents (55%) either disagreed or strongly disagreed that the university was responsible for student injuries that occur when students drink alcohol in fraternities. This finding indicates that the perceptions of the research participants shifted when compared to their responses when the location for the student drinking was not a factor. Consider the responses to question #26, when 1,788 of the research respondents (81%) either disagreed or strongly disagreed that the university was responsible for student injuries when a location was not a factor. It is clear that the

research participants' perceptions shifted when the fraternity location was factored into the question.

Another important shift occurred to the research participants' perceptions when an off-campus location was factored into the question. Question #29 asked the research participants about their perceptions of the university's responsibility to protect students when they drink alcohol downtown. When the location of the student drinking was downtown, the survey responses indicated that the research participants did not see the university to have much responsibility for student injuries. An overwhelming 91% of the research participants (N = 1,967) either disagreed or strongly disagreed that the university was responsible for student injuries when students drink alcohol downtown.

These data demonstrate that the perceptions of the research participants are influenced by the location of where student drinking occurs. The research participants perceived the university to have much less responsibility when student drinking occurred in a downtown location. The research participants also perceived that the university has more responsibility to protect students from injury when their drinking occurs at a fraternity house.

#### *Student Perceptions – University Services*

Also in the third section of the research survey, the research participants were asked to indicate their perceptions about the university's responsibility to provide a variety of services to protect students from injury when they consume alcohol. Survey questions #30-33 asked the research participants about their perceptions for the university to provide specific services, including:

1. SafeRide programs
2. Alcohol education programs
3. Training for students about the safe uses of alcohol
4. Residence Assistants (RAs) to monitor student use of alcohol in the residence halls

The frequency data from these questions are outlined in Table 10.

**Table 10. Survey questions #30-33: “The university is responsible to provide...”**

Factor	Strongly disagree		Disagree		Neutral		Agree		Strongly agree	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
30. SafeRide programs to decrease injuries after students drink alcohol	66	3%	127	6%	269	12%	917	41%	839	38%
31. Alcohol education programs for students	63	3%	109	5%	292	13%	1,106	50%	648	29%
32. Training for students about safe uses of alcohol	68	3%	133	6%	351	16%	1,099	50%	567	26%
33. Residence Assistants (RAs) to monitor student use of alcohol in the residence halls	81	4%	139	6%	338	15%	1,038	47%	622	28%
<b>N = 2,218</b>										

In these questions, the research participants indicated that they perceived the university had a responsibility to provide services to help prevent student injuries. In these questions, 75%-79% of the research participants indicated that they either agreed or strongly agreed that the university had a responsibility to provide these types of services to help prevent student injuries.

*Student Perceptions – Consequences for Underage Drinkers*

Finally, the research survey also asked the research participants to indicate their perceptions of the university’s responsibility to provide consequences for underage students who are caught consuming alcohol. Question #34 specifically asked the research participants about their perceptions of the university’s responsibility to provide

consequences for underage students who are caught drinking alcohol *on campus*. From this question, 1,730 research participants (79%) responded that they either agreed or strongly agreed that the university has a responsibility to provide consequences for underage students who are caught drinking alcohol *on campus*.

Question #35 asked the exact same question, but changed the location of where the underage students who are caught drinking to *off campus*. When the location was changed to *off campus*, only 622 research participants (28%) responded that they either agreed or strongly agreed that the university has a responsibility to provide consequences for underage students who are caught drinking alcohol. Again, it is clear that the research participants' perceptions were influenced by the location of where the student drinking occurred. The frequency data from these questions are outlined in Table 11.

**Table 11. Survey questions #34-35: “The university is responsible to provide...”**

Factor	Strongly disagree		Disagree		Neutral		Agree		Strongly agree	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
34. Consequences for underage students who are caught consuming alcohol <u>on</u> campus	73	3%	113	5%	302	14%	920	42%	810	37%
35. Consequences for underage students who are caught consuming alcohol <u>off</u> campus	509	23%	682	31%	405	18%	358	16%	264	12%
<b>N = 2,218</b>										

The final two questions asked the research participants to indicate their perceptions of the university's responsibility to provide notice to parents when underage students are caught consuming alcohol. Question #36 specifically asked the research participants about their perceptions of the university to provide notice to parents for underage students who are caught drinking alcohol *on campus*. 907 research participants

(41%) responded that they either agreed or strongly agreed that the university has a responsibility to provide notice to parents for underage students who are caught drinking alcohol *on campus*.

Question #37 asked the exact same question as question #36, but changed the location of where the student is caught drinking to *off campus*. When the location was changed to *off campus*, only 423 research participants (19%) responded that they either agreed or strongly agreed that the university has a responsibility to provide notice to parents for underage students who are caught drinking alcohol. The frequency data from these questions are outlined in Table 12.

**Table 12. Survey questions #36-37: “The university is responsible to provide...”**

Factor	Strongly disagree		Disagree		Neutral		Agree		Strongly agree	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
36. Notice to parents when underage students are caught consuming alcohol <b>on</b> campus	400	18%	506	23%	405	18%	540	24%	367	17%
37. Notice to parents when underage students are caught consuming alcohol <b>off</b> campus	737	33%	683	31%	375	17%	220	10%	203	9%
<b>N = 2,218</b>										

Again, these data show that the research participants’ perceptions shifted when the location of the student drinking changed. These data also indicate that while the research participants perceived the university has a responsibility to provide consequences for underage students who are caught consuming alcohol, they also perceived the university has less responsibility to notify the offending students’ parents of their violation. This finding is consistent when the locations of the student drinking are compared between on campus and off campus.



*Student Perceptions – Anecdotal Data*

Finally, survey question #38 asked the research participants if there is anything else they would like to add about their consumption of alcohol and the university's responsibility to protect them from harm. This question generated 413 "yes" responses (19%) and 1,805 "no" responses (81%). As expected, the answers to this question generated a wide variety of responses from the research participants. Interestingly, over 90% of the responses had a theme of high personal responsibility and a limited view of university responsibility to protect students from harm. To review the actual research participant responses, please see Appendix D.

*Student Perceptions - Comparing Means with Demographic Variables*

Based upon the data above, the perceptions of the research participants for the university to protect students from harm were influenced by the two factors: 1) the *age* of the student who is drinking; and 2) the *location* of where the student is drinking. Two demographic variables were tested that may have influenced the perceptions of the research population. These two demographic variables included: 1) gender; and 2) residency.

To review the outcomes from the analyses of comparing means between variables, please see the tables and graphs in Appendix E. Reviewing these tables will show a variety of findings regarding how the different demographic variables may have influenced the perceptions of the research participants.

*Student Perceptions - Personal Responsibility (PR) Variable*

From the responses generated through survey questions #1-9, the researcher recoded the data and took the means of those data to compute a new variable called “Personal Responsibility” (PR). Survey responses were recoded on a five-point scale. A one (1) or two (2) score indicated the research participants’ perception of personal responsibility as “very low” or “low”, respectively. A three (3) was recoded as “medium” personal responsibility. A score of either four (4) or five (5) was coded as either “high” or “very high,” respectively.

The PR variable that was created from survey questions #1-9 was then compared with the means data from questions #16-37. The analysis and graphs from these comparisons are located in Appendix E. Reviewing these tables will show an obvious finding regarding how the level of the research participants’ personal responsibility may have influenced their perceptions of university responsibility to protect students from harm.

*Summary of Findings for Research Question #2*

A variety of findings come from the data that addressed the second research question. From questions #16-20 and #21-25, two factors influenced the perceptions of the research participants. The first factor was the *age* of the student who is drinking alcohol. The second factor was the *location* of where the student is drinking alcohol. The factors of age and location also influenced the research respondents’ perceptions as shown in the data gathered from questions #26-37.

The data from questions #16-37 was analyzed by statistically comparing the means data with two demographic variables, including: 1) gender; 2) residency. Gender was the only demographic variable that influenced the perceptions of the research participants. In all questions #16-37, female research respondents indicated that they perceived that the university had a higher responsibility to protect students from harm when compared to male research respondents. This finding is consistent, regardless of the age or the location of the student drinker. Further, female research respondents indicated that the university had a higher level of responsibility to provide services and to offer consequences for underage student drinkers when compared to male research respondents.

#### *Chapter Summary*

In conclusion, this chapter described and analyzed data gathered from the research survey. The chapter began with describing how the survey was administered and the survey response rate. The chapter continued with a description of the demographic data from the survey respondents. These data indicated that the demographics of the research participants were similar to the actual demographics of the research population.

The data gathered through the research survey were presented next as it corresponded with the two research questions. The data that corresponded to the first research question about the extent and nature of underage drinking at UW was presented first. The data that corresponded to the second research question about the perceptions of the university's responsibility to protect students from harm was presented next.

A number of findings came from the analysis of these data. Regarding the first research question, over three-quarter of the research participants (77%) indicated that they had consumed a drink that contained alcohol as an underage undergraduate student at the University of Wyoming. Of the students who indicated that they had consumed alcohol as an underage student, two demographic variables influenced the extent and nature of their consumption of alcohol.

First, the *gender* of the research participants influenced their alcohol consumption. Male research participants indicated that they consumed more alcohol and indicated higher levels of intoxication when compared to females. Second, the *place of residence* for the research participants influenced the extent and nature of their alcohol consumption. Research participants who lived in either fraternities or in off-campus apartments indicated higher levels of alcohol consumption and intoxication than research participants who lived in other locations. The research participants who indicated that they live off-campus with their family reported the lowest levels of alcohol consumption and intoxication.

These findings are discussed further in the next chapter. Implications of these findings on the University of Wyoming are also explained in the upcoming chapter. Finally, implications on future research based upon this study are discussed in the upcoming chapter.

## Chapter V: Discussion, Implications, and Future Research

This chapter summarizes and discusses the findings from the data analysis as outlined in the previous chapter. First, the researcher will discuss the data and findings that correspond with the first research question: What is the extent and nature of underage drinking at the University of Wyoming? Next, the author will discuss the data and findings that correspond with the second research question: What are the perceptions of underage undergraduate students regarding UW's responsibility to protect them from foreseeable harm? The researcher then discusses the implications of these findings for the University of Wyoming. There are several possible policy and resource allocation recommendations that may help decrease UW's exposure to future liability. Finally, the researcher will discuss what future research is necessary to continue to add to this body of knowledge.

### *The Extent and Nature of Underage Undergraduate Drinking at UW*

The data gathered from question #10 should be discussed first to address the first research question that asked, "As an undergraduate student 20 years or younger, did you ever consume a drink that contained alcohol?" 77% of the research participants indicated "yes" that they had consumed a drink that contained alcohol as an underage undergraduate student. 23% of the research participants answered "no" to this question. According to this data, nearly one-quarter of undergraduate students at UW in this research population have not consumed alcohol while under the legal drinking age of 21 years old. It is assumed that these students have made the decision not to drink alcohol

for a myriad of reasons, including religious, health, taste or simply because it is illegal to consume alcohol under the age of 21 years old.

This finding is similar to the data collected at the University of Wyoming through the National College Health Assessment (NCHA) survey. Since 2001, this survey has been conducted three times at the University of Wyoming. According to the data collected in the most recent NCHA survey (2007), 17% of all UW students do not consume drinks that contain alcohol. However, comparing the NCHA data with the data collected from the author's research survey can be misleading. The research population for the NCHA survey included all UW undergraduate students, regardless of age. The research population identified in the author's study included only undergraduate students who are 18-21 years old.

Without comparable data from similar research populations, it is difficult to accurately compare the extent of underage drinking rates at UW with other higher education institutions. However, the nature and extent of high risk drinking for underage undergraduate students at UW can be discussed from this study. For example, question #13 in this study asked, "How many drinks do/did you consume during a typical day when you consumed alcohol?" The data collected from this question helps to describe the high risk or "binge" drinking rates at UW for underage students.

The National Institute for Alcoholism and Alcohol Abuse (NIAAA) National Advisory Council has adopted the following definition for "binge" drinking: "A binge is a pattern of drinking alcohol that brings blood alcohol concentration (BAC) to 0.08 gram-percent or above. For a typical adult, this pattern corresponds to consuming 5 or more

drinks (male), or 4 or more drinks (female), in about 2 hours.” According to this definition and the data gathered from survey question #13, 43% of the research participants who consumed alcohol as an underage undergraduate student “binge” drink when they consume alcohol. As a corollary to this finding, 57% of the students at UW in this research population are not considered “binge” drinkers when they consume alcohol.

These data are helpful in addressing the first research question. Yet, there is no comparable data on underage undergraduate drinking rates from other institutions or similar research populations at UW from the past. Therefore, it is difficult to ascertain if there is a statistically significant higher rate of binge drinking among this population of undergraduate students at UW when compared to other populations or with undergraduates at different institutions.

To further address the first research question about the nature and extent of underage undergraduate drinking at UW, it is probably more helpful to review the data gathered from questions #14 and #15 in the author’s survey. Question #14 gathered data about the level of intoxication reported by the research respondents on a typical day when they consumed alcohol. From reviewing this data, over one-quarter (27%) of research participants who admitted to consuming alcohol as an underage undergraduate student are considered “high-risk” drinkers. Specifically, these research participants indicated that they “frequently” or “always” become intoxicated when they consume alcohol. Consequently, nearly three-quarters (73%) of research participants indicated that they “never,” “rarely,” or “occasionally” become intoxicated when they consume alcohol. For

the purposes of this research study, these research respondents are considered low risk drinkers.

Question #15 asked the research participants to indicate if they experienced a variety of negative consequences as a result of their drinking as an underage undergraduate student at the University of Wyoming. The frequency data from the research respondents to this question are listed in chapter #4. They indicate that while a small portion of the research respondents engaged in high risk and dangerous activities while under the influence of alcohol, most students report that there are few negative consequences associated with their drinking.

Demographic variables such as gender, age, and residential location were analyzed to see the impact they made on the responses from question #13 and #14. Of the variables analyzed in this data, most factors showed statistical results along a standard distribution curve. However, there were two variables that had factors that consistently influenced the reported alcohol consumption rates. These variables included *gender* and *residential location*. The gender of the research participants and where they lived influenced the alcohol consumption and intoxication levels reported in this study. The analysis on the variable of *age* produced inconclusive results for 18-21 year olds.

When the responses from questions #13 and #14 are broken out by gender, the male respondents indicated higher levels of “binge” drinking when compared to females. The male respondents also self-reported higher levels of intoxication when compared to female respondents. The data also showed higher levels of “binge” drinking and intoxication for the research respondents who lived in either an off-campus apartment or



in a fraternity/sorority when compared to other locations. Both locations (fraternity/sorority and off-campus apartments) are living environments that do not receive university resources to monitor or enforce underage drinking laws. It is also important to note that the data showed students with the lowest levels of “binge” drinking and levels of intoxication were those who lived off-campus with their family.

These findings help to confirm what the literature (Busteed, 2005; Hingson, et al., 2002) indicates about male drinking rates being traditionally higher than female drinking rates and drinking among fraternity/sorority students. The author is unaware of any literature that identifies concerns about student drinking specifically in off-campus apartments. The data from this study, however, indicate that students who live in locations that are not supervised by either an RA or by a family member consume alcohol at higher levels than students in supervised residential campus locations. The implications of these findings for the University of Wyoming will be discussed later in this chapter.

### *Perceptions of Underage Undergraduate Students*

The second research question in this study asked, “What are the perceptions of underage undergraduate students regarding their institution’s responsibility to protect them from foreseeable harm?” This question was developed from the research problem that became evident after an undergraduate student at UW was injured after drinking in a fraternity house and brought a lawsuit against the University of Wyoming in 2000.

### *Case Study*

To address the second research question, data was collected from the research respondents about their reactions to a case study where an underage undergraduate student is injured after consuming alcohol at a fraternity party. The details from this case study come from an actual lawsuit at the University of Idaho (*Coghlan vs. Beta Theta Pi, 1999*). After reading the case study, the research participants were asked to indicate their level of agreement with a series of statements about the injured student's personal responsibility for her injury. The data gathered from these questions are described in chapter #4.

From the data gathered from questions #1-9, the research participants indicated that overall the injured student was most at fault for her injury. They also indicated that the other groups in the case study had less responsibility for the student's injury. For example, the research participants perceived that the sorority had less responsibility for the injury than the injured student. The research participants also perceived that the fraternity and university had even less responsibility for the injury than the sorority or the injured student.

Additional statistical analysis was conducted by comparing the means of the responses from questions #1-9 with two demographic variables including: 1) gender; and 2) residency. The only variable that made an impact on the research participants' perception of responsibility was *gender*. The male research participants indicated that the injured student was more responsible for her injury when compared to the female research participants. On the other hand, the female research participants were more

likely to attribute the responsibility for the student's injury to others when compared to the male research participants. It is important to note that the results from comparing gender factors of the research participants were minor. The results from comparing means of this data with the variable of residency were inconclusive.

Finally, the data from questions #1-9 were then recoded and computed into a new variable that indicated the level of personally responsibility for each research participant. The author called this new variable "personal responsibility" (PR) and the details on how this new variable was calculated are described in chapter #4. The PR variable is helpful in testing how the research participants' individual level of personal responsibility may influence their responses to questions #16-37 (this is discussed further below).

#### *Age and Location as Factors*

The next data to review in addressing the second research question comes from the responses from survey questions #16-20 and #21-25. These questions asked the research participants to indicate their perceptions of university responsibility for student injuries that occur in a variety of locations, including on campus, off campus, fraternities, residence halls, and off-campus apartments. Questions #16-20 specifically asked the research participants to indicate their perceptions about the university's responsibility the university has to protect students who are *21 years or older* from harm when they consume alcohol in the variety of locations. Questions #21-25 asked almost identical questions, with the variation being that the research participants were asked to indicate their perceptions about the university's responsibility to protect students who are *younger than 21 years old* when they consume alcohol in the variety of locations.

There are two important findings that come from these data. First, the research participants indicated that their perceptions of the university's responsibility to protect students from foreseeable harm changed depending upon the *location* of where the drinking occurred. The data are consistent in that the research respondents perceived that the farther away the drinking occurs from campus, the less responsibility the university has to protect students. For example, 41% of research respondents indicated that they either agreed or strongly agreed that the university has a responsibility to protect undergraduate students from harm who are 21 years or older when they consume alcohol *on campus*. However, only 3% of the research participants indicated that they agreed or strongly agreed that the university has a responsibility for protecting undergraduate students from harm who are 21 years old or older when they consume alcohol *off campus*.

There are similar and consistent results for the other locations identified in the study. The research participants indicated that they perceived the university has more responsibility to protect undergraduate students from harm when their drinking occurs in the fraternities, residence halls, or the Wyoming Union than when compared to their perceptions of when student drinking occurs off campus.

The second important finding in reviewing these data has to do with the *age* of the student who is consuming alcohol. Regardless of the location where the drinking occurs, the research participants indicated that they perceived the university has more responsibility to protect undergraduate students younger than 21 years old when compared to students 21 years old or older. For example, 41% of research respondents stated that they either agreed or strongly agreed that the university is responsible to

protect undergraduate students from harm who are *21 years or older* when they consume alcohol on campus. However, more than 53% of research respondents stated that they either agreed or strongly agreed that the university has a responsibility to protect students who are *younger than 21 years old* from harm when then they drink on campus. From these data, it is clear that the age of the student drinker influenced the research participants' perceptions of university responsibility. This finding is consistent, regardless of the location where the student drinking occurs.

Another example that supports this finding is the perceptions of the research participants about undergraduate students drinking alcohol in the residence halls. 59% of the research respondents stated that they either agreed or strongly agreed that the university has a responsibility to protect students from harm who are *younger than 21 years old* when they consume alcohol in the residence halls. However, only 49% of the research respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the university has a responsibility to protect students from harm who are *21 years and older* when then they consume alcohol in the residence halls. While these percentages are only slightly different, it is important to note that the data indicates that research participants consistently perceived that the university had a higher responsibility to protect drinkers younger than 21 years old when compared to their responses to student drinkers above the legal drinking age of 21 years old.

In summary, these findings show how the perceptions of the research participants were influenced by both the *age* of the undergraduate student who was drinking and the *location* of the drinking. These findings are important for drawing conclusions on how

these data can help influence future policy decisions and resource allocation at the University of Wyoming.

*When Age is Not a Factor*

In addressing the second research question, another set of findings are important to discuss that are generated from the responses in the next section of the survey. The questions in this section explored the research participants' perceptions of the university's responsibility for student injuries after consuming alcohol, regardless of age. Questions #26 and #27 asked the research participants to indicate their perceptions about the university's responsibility for both *student injuries* and *for injuries caused* by students when they consume alcohol. What differentiates the questions from this section of the survey and the previous section is that age and location were not factors.

When age and location were not factors, a significant proportion of the research participants indicated that they perceived that the university was not responsible for student injuries or injuries caused by students when they consume alcohol. For example, over 81% of research participants responded that they either disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement in question #26, "Regardless of the student's age or location, the university is responsible for injuries that happen to students when they drink alcohol." Only 5% of the research respondents agreed or strongly agreed with this statement. Similarly, 80% of research participants either disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement in question #27, "Regardless of the student's age or location, the university is responsible for injuries caused by students after they drink alcohol." Only 6% of research respondents agreed or strongly agreed with this statement. These findings

are important because they demonstrate that when age and location are not considered factors, a significant proportion of the research participants did not perceive that the university was responsible for injuries that occur to undergraduate students when they consume alcohol.

Also in this section of the survey, the researcher explored how a specific location where an undergraduate student consumes alcohol influenced the research respondents' perceptions of university responsibility to protect students from injury. Questions #28 and #29 included similar themes as questions #26 and #27, but factored in specific locations where the student drinking occurred.

In question #28, the research respondents were asked to indicate their level of agreement with the statement, "Regardless of the student's age, the university is responsible for injuries that happen at *fraternities* when students drink alcohol." With the fraternity location factored into this question, the perceptions of the research participants shifted when compared to the data when location was not a factor. For example, the majority (55%) of research respondents either disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement about injuries in fraternities. However, over a quarter (26%) of the respondents either agreed or strongly agreed with this statement. The author would like to remind the reader that 81% of the research participants either disagreed or strongly disagreed with a similar statement about student injury but did not factor in a specific location. Factoring in the location of a fraternity as the place where the drinking had occurred clearly influenced the survey respondents' perceptions of the university's responsibility for student injuries.

Another interesting change occurred when the research participants were asked about their perceptions of the university's responsibility to protect students from injury when the student drinking occurred in an off-campus downtown location. Question #29 asked the research participants to indicate their level of agreement with the statement, "Regardless of the student's age, the university is responsible for injuries that happen downtown when students drink alcohol." In response to this question, an overwhelming 91% of research participants indicated that they disagreed or strongly disagreed with this statement. Only 2% of the research participants indicated that they agreed or strongly agreed with this statement. Similar to the findings from the questions #16-25, the perceptions of the research respondents suggest that when student drinking occurred off-campus, the university has less responsibility to protect them from harm.

#### *University Responsibility to Provide Services*

To answer the second research question about university responsibility, the next set of questions asked the research participants about the services provided by the university to reduce the risk of student injury. Questions #29-32 asked the research participants to indicate their level of agreement with statements about the university's responsibility to provide specific programs and services such as SafeRide, Resident Assistants (RAs) in the residence halls, and alcohol education and training for students. A range between 75%-79% of survey respondents indicated they either agreed or strongly agreed that the university had a responsibility to offer these types of programs.

These findings are consistent with much of the literature regarding the millennial generation of students attending college today (Howe & Strauss, 2000; Arnett, 2004).



According to Arnett (2004), today's generation of college students have high expectations for the university to provide "customer service" on campus. Bickel & Lake (1999) discuss at length the "consumer" mentality of many of the students (and their parents) who were attending college at the turn of the century. According to Bickel & Lake, many of the lawsuits involving injured college students in the last 20 years centered on the perception that the institution did not meet the needs of the "consumer." The implication here is that if UW altered or removed these types of services, a perception may exist in the student body that the institution is not doing enough to prevent student injuries while under the influence of alcohol.

*University Responsibility to Provide Consequences for Underage Drinkers*

The final section of the author's survey asked the research participants to indicate their perceptions of the university's responsibility to hold underage students accountable for consuming alcohol. These questions included both on-campus and off-campus locations as factors. Survey question #34 asked the research participants to indicate their level of agreement with the statement, "The university has a responsibility to provide consequences for underage students who are caught consuming alcohol *on campus*." 79% of research participants responded that they either agreed or strongly agreed with this statement. Only 8% of research participants responded that they disagreed or strongly disagreed with this statement.

Question #35 asked the exact same question as #34, with the exception that the location where the student was caught drinking was changed from *on-campus* to *off-campus*. When the location was changed, the research participants' responses shifted

dramatically. Only 28% of research participants responded that they either agreed or strongly agreed that the university had a responsibility to provide consequences for underage students who are caught consuming alcohol *off campus*. A higher number of research participants (54%) responded that they disagreed or strongly disagreed with this statement. Similar to the findings listed in the previous section of this chapter, the location of where the student drinking occurred influenced the research respondents' perceptions of the university's responsibility to offer consequences for underage student drinking.

Research questions #36-37 asked the research respondents to indicate their level of agreement with statements about the university's responsibility to provide notice to parents when underage students are caught consuming alcohol. Again, these questions included both on-campus and off-campus locations as factors. Similar to the findings listed above, the research participants' perceptions changed when the location of the drinking changed. For instance, 41% of the research participants indicated that they agreed or strongly agreed with the statement that the university had a responsibility to provide notice to parents when underage students are caught consuming alcohol *on campus*. 41% of the respondents indicating they disagreed or strongly disagreed with this statement.

In contrast, only 19% of research participants agreed or strongly agreed that the university had a responsibility to provide notice to parents when underage students are caught consuming alcohol *off campus*. 64% of the research participants disagreed or strongly disagreed with this statement. Similar to the findings above, changing the

location of the student drinking affected the research participants' perceptions of the university's responsibility to enact consequences for underage student drinking.

### *Comparing Data by Variables*

In reviewing the data and discussion above, two findings become evident: 1) the *location* of student drinking influenced the research participants' perception of the university's responsibility to protect students from harm; and 2) the *age* of the student influenced the research participants' perception of the university's responsibility to protect students from harm. Beyond these findings, comparing the same data gathered from questions #16-37 with a variety of demographic variables also lead to a number of important findings.

### *Gender*

When the researcher compared the means from the data with the variable of gender, an interesting finding became apparent. That is, female research participants perceived the university to have a higher responsibility to protect students from harm than male participants. This comparison by gender is consistent for how female participants answered all of the questions #16-37. This included their perceptions regardless of the age of the drinker, the location of the drinking, university responsibility to enact consequences for underage drinking, and the services provided by the institution. This finding can be reviewed when the means of these data are compared by gender in the graphs listed in Appendix E.

*Place of Residence*

When the means of the data collected from questions #16-37 are compared with the variable of where the research participants lived, there are less consistent results than when compared with the variable of gender. Nevertheless, a variety of important findings should be noted. For example, in nearly all of the questions, the research participants who lived in on-campus apartments indicated the lowest perceptions of university responsibility to protect students from harm. The research participants who lived in off-campus apartments indicated the next lowest perception of university responsibility to protect students from harm.

Interestingly, students who lived in either fraternities/sororities or in the residence halls had almost identical responses for their perceptions of the university's responsibility to protect students from harm. The perceptions of the students who lived in fraternities/sororities or in the residence halls were higher when compared to those research respondents who lived in either on-campus or off-campus apartments. One last important finding from these data is that the research participants who lived off-campus with family had the highest perceptions of university responsibility to protect students from harm when compared to the answers from all other research participants.

*Personal Responsibility (PR)*

Arguably, the variable that produced the most obvious finding was found when the Personal Responsibility (PR) variable was compared with the means from the data gathered from research questions #16-37. The variable PR was computed from the answers generated from questions #1-9 that asked the research participants to indicate

their perceptions of personal responsibility after reading the case study where an underage undergraduate student is injured after drinking at a fraternity party. Based upon their answers to these questions, the level of personal responsibility of the research participants were then coded into five different factors: 1) very high; 2) high; 3) medium; 4) low; and 5) very low. When recoding these factors only generated an N = 1 for research participants with “very low” (<.01%) personal responsibility, the researcher disregarded this factor from his data analysis.

Not surprisingly, the research participants’ perceptions of university responsibility to protect students from harm directly correlated with the research participants’ own level of personal responsibility. This finding is consistent regardless of the age of the student who is drinking or the location of where the student is drinking. This finding is also consistent for the research participants’ perceptions of the university to provide services for students and for the university to provide consequences for students who are caught drinking underage. This finding shows that as the research participants’ own sense of personal responsibility increased, their perceptions’ of the university’s responsibility to protect them decreased. The opposite also occurred, that as the sense of personal responsibility for the research participants decreased, their perceptions of the university’s responsibility to protect them from harm increased.

#### *Implications for the University of Wyoming*

There are several implications for the University of Wyoming based upon the data from this study. In answering the first research question about the extent and nature of underage undergraduate drinking at the University of Wyoming, it is difficult to discuss

implications without comparison data from similar institutions and similar research populations. For example, UW has participated in the National College Health Assessment (NCHA) every other year for the last six years. The results from the NCHA survey indicate that high-risk drinking at UW is slightly higher than the national average, causing concern for UW administrators. However, it should be noted that the research population in the NCHA survey included all undergraduate students at UW, regardless of age.

In contrast to the age of the research population included the NCHA survey, the author's research study specifically targets undergraduate students who are 18-21 years old. The author is unaware of any alcohol consumption research study that specifically targets 18-21 year old undergraduate students as the research population. Without comparison data that specifically quantifies the alcohol consumption and risk for undergraduates between the ages of 18-21 years from other institutions, it is difficult to accurately depict the nature and extent of underage undergraduate drinking at UW.

Nevertheless, the data collected in this study and the subsequent findings about the extent and nature of underage undergraduate drinking at the University of Wyoming should be reviewed and discussed by campus policymakers. Upon reviewing the results from this study, campus policymakers can then determine if there is any cause to be alarmed about the extent and nature of underage undergraduate drinking at UW.

Furthermore, the data collected in this study is helpful in creating baseline data that could be used to compare future studies that specifically target 18-21 year old undergraduate students.

The data from this study also confirms much of the literature and common thought about drinking culture on college campuses today (Hingson, et al., 2002). That is, that male students drink alcohol at higher levels and report higher levels of intoxication when compared to female students. And, that students who reside in unsupervised locations drink alcohol at higher levels than students who live in supervised residential campus locations (Bickel & Lake, 1999).

While it was difficult to discuss the implications about the extent of underage undergraduate student drinking at the University of Wyoming without other data, this study was certainly helpful in quantifying the perceptions of underage undergraduate students for their university to protect them from harm. Do full-time undergraduate students between the ages of 18-21 perceive the University of Wyoming to have responsibilities to protect them from harm? Inconclusive evidence and varying responses lead the author to believe that a definitive answer is difficult to find. In general, the data from the research respondents indicate that they were less likely to perceive the university to have a high responsibility to protect them from harm than previously thought. Furthermore, the data from this study demonstrate a variety of factors that influence the research participants' perceptions about the extent of university responsibility to protect students from harm.

Based upon the data and findings from this study, it is clear that the variables that most heavily influenced the research participants' perception of the university's responsibility to protect students from harm are the *age* of students who drink and the *location* of where the student drinking occurs. For example, a majority of the research

participants indicated that they perceived that the university has a higher responsibility to protect students when their drinking occurs on campus, especially in the residence halls or in the fraternities. Since a majority of the students who reside in the fraternities/sororities and the residence halls at UW are under the age of 21 years old, it is important to review and assess how the university currently provides services and enforces underage drinking laws in these locations.

The data and findings also indicate that the research participants believed that the university has more responsibility to protect students under the legal drinking age of 21 years old than students 21 years old and older. Therefore, the Department of Residence Life & Dining Services (RL&DS) might consider bifurcating the UW residence halls into units that house residents who are either 21 years old and older or residents who are younger than 21 years old. That way, RL&DS could offer additional resources, training, and enforcement for the halls with residents who are under the age of 21 years old.

RL&DS currently provides and requires Resident Assistants (RAs) to live on every floor in the residence halls. These RAs help to provide educational training for the residents on the safe uses of alcohol. They also provide enforcement for the department's alcohol policy and underage drinking laws by monitoring alcohol consumption and notifying the UW Police Department when violations occur. The Office of Greek Life at UW, however, currently does not provide for nor require the fraternities or sororities to have live-in RAs. Many UW sororities currently have traditional "house mothers" who live in the sororities and may provide support and resources about high risk alcohol consumption. Many of the UW fraternities provide "house mentors" for similar



purposes. These house mentors are commonly graduate students or law students at UW. These house mentors reside in the fraternity houses and have experience working with the issues associated with college fraternities; many of the current house mentors were members of college fraternities during their undergraduate experience.

Nevertheless, these house mentors and house mothers are not provided to the fraternities and the sororities by the university. Therefore, the university is not responsible for providing training, education, or financial support for the house mentors or house mothers. Furthermore, the university cannot require the house mothers or mentors to provide any level of enforcement, monitoring, or accountability for high risk or underage alcohol consumption. As a result, some administrators on campus have gone so far as to call the current house mentor/mother system ineffective in providing education and accountability for underage and high risk drinking in our fraternities and sororities.

Based upon these data and findings, it might be time for the university to consider requiring and providing live-in RAs or graduate students to reside in campus fraternities. These RAs or GAs could help monitor underage drinking violations, educate students about the risk of binge/illegal alcohol consumption, and enforce the consequences of underage and high risk drinking violations in our fraternities. Some might argue that this change would be reminiscent of the days of *in loco parentis*, when the university provided oversight for the activities and behavior of students far beyond the scope of the classroom.

However, based upon the results from this study, a proportion of current undergraduate students at UW perceive that the university has a responsibility to protect them from harm when drinking occurs in fraternities. Providing live-in RAs or GAs who enforce and monitor underage and high-risk drinking might be one way that UW attempts to account for its responsibility to protect underage undergraduate students from harm. Based upon the current literature (Lake, 2007; Pearson & Beckham, 2005), providing for higher levels of accountability and enforcement of underage and high risk student drinking in the fraternities might reduce liability for UW.

#### *Implications on Future Research*

This study helps to create baseline data about the extent and nature of underage drinking at the University of Wyoming and the perceptions of undergraduate students between the ages of 18-21 years old of their institution's responsibility to protect them from harm. Although this study was helpful as a beginning point in collecting this data, future studies are required to track the changes to student perceptions and drinking behaviors. Tracking those changes in the future would create stronger arguments to alter university policies or resource allocations.

This study collects data from undergraduate students between the ages of 18-21 at the University of Wyoming. However, many of the findings in this study might be useful for other four-year, public, residential land-grant higher education institutions. Additional research is needed that collects data from similar research populations at community colleges, private schools, and other public higher education institutions that have students who primarily commute to school. It would be helpful to compare data

about UW student perceptions and drinking culture to the data from students at these other types of institutions.

Finally, while the focus of this research study was to collect data from underage undergraduate students, it would be helpful in the future to collect data from other constituency groups about their perception's for the university to protect underage undergraduate students from harm. The parents of undergraduate students, for example, might offer unique insights about how much institutional responsibility a college or university should have to protect underage undergraduate students from harm. Gathering data about the perceptions of parents would be helpful in reviewing current UW policies and programs that work to ameliorate dangerous and underage drinking culture on campus. This data would also be helpful in learning more about how to reduce campus liability for student injuries.

Also, internal university constituencies might disagree on how much responsibility UW has to protect undergraduates from harm. For instance, the members of the university's Office of General Counsel might have a different view on the institution's role for protecting students from harm when compared to UW Student Affairs or general university faculty. Collecting data that quantifies how these varied constituency groups see the institution's responsibility to protect students from harm might be helpful in creating and implementing new policies that decrease dangerous campus drinking culture while also limiting the institution's exposure to liability.

*Conclusion*

In conclusion of this study, there are two parting thoughts the author would like to offer. First, at the start of this study, the author assumed that a high percentage of underage undergraduate students at UW would share a similar perspective on university responsibility with the injured student who sued UW in 2000. That is, that students would claim that the university is responsible to protect them from harm. Instead, the data showed that the research participants more often than not believed that they were responsible for their own safety. Second, the author originally thought that the students in this study would say that they wanted all the freedoms that come with being an “adult” on a college campus, but did not want to accept any of the adult-level responsibilities that accompany these freedoms. The author was fond of calling this the “wanting your cake and eat it, too” perspective.

However, the research participants in this study did not share these perspectives. Yes, there are several demographic factors and other variables that may have influenced the research participants’ perspectives on university responsibility. Nevertheless, the research participants in this study did not overwhelmingly state that the university was responsible to protect them from harm.

One reason the research participants may have taken more ownership for their behavior may be due to the fact that the majority of research participants in this study were from Wyoming, a state with a strong libertarian bent. Many of the research participants from Wyoming may have grown up in rural settings, on farms or ranches, or

in small towns where they learned at an early age that accepting personal responsibility for their actions was a value held high among their community.

In the opening chapter, a lawsuit was discussed where an underage undergraduate student at the University of Wyoming sued the institution for negligence. This student was injured from falling off her bunk bed after she returned from drinking at a fraternity house on campus. This student clearly perceived that UW owed her a duty and a higher level of responsibility to protect her from injury, even though she consumed alcohol of her own volition.

This research study gathered data from current underage undergraduate students at the University of Wyoming regarding the extent and nature of underage drinking on campus. This research study also gathered data from current underage undergraduate students about their perceptions of the university to protect them from harm while consuming alcohol. Reviewing this data will hopefully be helpful for UW policymakers as they work to improve the drinking culture for underage students on campus. At the end of the day and at the end of this study, the author hopes that this dissertation has added to the legal and educational literature for college and university administrators, especially those at the University of Wyoming.

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### **Appendix A - Research Instrument and Email Request**

Dear {FIRSTNAME},

Thank you for your interest in my research project. My name is Matt Caires and I am collecting this data as a part of my doctorate degree. By taking this short survey, your answers could help to influence UW's policies and practices on student consumption of alcohol. Answering this survey may help you reflect on your current choices regarding how often you drink alcohol.

This survey has three sections and should only take about 10 minutes to complete. Since I have no way to know who is answering my survey, I would highly encourage you answer each question as truthfully as possible. Your responses are completely anonymous and confidential. Only my committee and I will have access to your responses.

***After completing this survey, you will have a chance to enter a drawing to win 2 iPods! Do a survey and win free music! Pretty cool.***

Please complete this survey by September 19, 2008. If you have any questions about this research, please feel free to contact me or my chair (Dr. John Cochenour, [johncoc@uwyo.edu](mailto:johncoc@uwyo.edu)) in the Department of Adult Learning and Technology, University of Wyoming.

Thank you for your time!

Matt Caires ([caires@uwyo.edu](mailto:caires@uwyo.edu))

**Section I** - After you read the following two paragraphs, please answer the questions listed below:

Suzy, a 19 year-old student at State University (SU), recently joined a sorority during fall recruitment. At the conclusion of “Rush Week,” the sorority members attended a fraternity party known as “50 ways to lose your liver.” Prior to going to this party, all new members of sorority were assigned a “guardian angel” to accompany them during the fraternity party.

Because of a history of problems during the fraternity’s wild parties, two university Greek Advisors were assigned to attend the party. Both advisors congratulated Suzy and the other new members on their decision to join the sorority as they entered the party. While at the party, Suzy was served copious amounts of beer and whiskey. Her “guardian angel” decided to go home early but advised Suzy that she should stay at the party for as long as she’d like. Later that evening, Suzy became very intoxicated. Members of her sorority escorted her to the sorority house and put her into bed on the third floor “sleeping porch.” Sometime later that night, Suzy woke up, walked in the wrong direction, and fell out an open window onto the basketball court outside. She sustained permanent injuries as a result of her fall.

**Please answer the following questions based upon the 1-5 scale of strongly disagree or strongly agree based upon your opinion about facts listed above:**

- Strongly disagree – 1
- Disagree - 2
- Neutral - 3
- Agree - 4
- Strongly agree - 5

1. Suzy is completely at fault for her injuries.	1	2	3	4	5
2. It would be irresponsible for Suzy to bring a lawsuit for this incident.	1	2	3	4	5
3. Suzy’s sorority is responsible for her injuries because her “guardian angel” went home early.	1	2	3	4	5
4. Suzy’s sorority is responsible for her injuries because she was required to sleep on the sleeping porch.	1	2	3	4	5
5. The University is responsible for Suzy’s injuries because they knew about the history of the problems at the fraternity.	1	2	3	4	5
6. The University is not responsible for Suzy’s injuries because they assigned staff to attend and monitor the party.	1	2	3	4	5
7. Since the fraternity provided Suzy’s alcohol, they are to blame for her injuries.	1	2	3	4	5
8. Nobody forced Suzy to consume alcohol, so she is responsible for her injuries.	1	2	3	4	5
9. Suzy should sue her sorority, the fraternity, and the University for not protecting her from this injury.	1	2	3	4	5

**Section II.–Please answer the following questions.**

**\*\*\*Please note: the term “underage” is defined as someone who is under the legal age to consume alcohol of 21 years-old.**

10. As an undergraduate student 20 years-old or younger, did you ever consume a drink that contains alcohol?      Yes      No

**If you answered NO, please continue to Section III of this survey.  
If you answered YES, please answer the questions below.**

While an underage undergraduate student:

11. How often do/did you consume a drink containing alcohol per month?
  - a. Once a month
  - b. 2 – 4 times a month
  - c. Twice a week
  - d. More than 4 times a week
  - e. Other
  
12. How would you describe your level of consuming drinks containing alcohol?
  
13. How many drinks do/did you consume during a typical day when you consumed alcohol?
  - a. 1 drink
  - b. 2-3 drinks
  - c. 4-5 drinks
  - d. 6 or more drinks
  
14. How often do/did you generally become intoxicated after consuming drinks that contain alcohol?
  - a. Never
  - b. Rarely
  - c. Occasionally
  - d. Frequently
  - e. Always
  
15. After you consumed alcohol as an underage undergraduate student, did you experience any of the following as a consequence of your drinking? (Please check all that apply)
  - a. Physically injured yourself
  - b. Physically injured another person
  - c. Been involved in a fight
  - d. Did something you later regretted



- e. Forgot where you were or what you did
- f. Had unprotected sex
- g. Failed to do what was normally expected of you
- h. Had a relative or friend concerned about your drinking or suggested you cut down

**Section III. - This section of the survey asks questions specifically about your perceptions of the university's responsibility to protect undergraduate students from harm when consuming alcohol.**

**Please answer the following questions based upon the 1-5 scale of strongly disagree or strongly agree.**

Strongly disagree	-	1
Disagree	-	2
Neutral	-	3
Agree	-	4
Strongly agree	-	5

The university is responsible for protecting undergraduate students from harm who are 21 years or older:

16. When consuming alcohol <u>on</u> campus	1	2	3	4	5
17. When consuming alcohol <u>off</u> campus	1	2	3	4	5
18. When consuming alcohol in the residence halls	1	2	3	4	5
19. When consuming alcohol in fraternities	1	2	3	4	5
20. When consuming alcohol in the Wyoming Union	1	2	3	4	5

The university is responsible for protecting undergraduate students from harm who are younger than 21 years:

21. When consuming alcohol <u>on</u> campus	1	2	3	4	5
22. When consuming alcohol <u>off</u> campus	1	2	3	4	5
23. When consuming alcohol in the residence halls	1	2	3	4	5
24. When consuming alcohol in fraternities	1	2	3	4	5
25. When consuming alcohol in the Wyoming Union	1	2	3	4	5

Regardless of the student's age, the university is responsible for:

26. Injuries that happen to students when they drink alcohol	1	2	3	4	5
27. Injuries caused by students after they drink alcohol	1	2	3	4	5
28. Injuries that happen at fraternities when students drink alcohol	1	2	3	4	5
29. Injuries that happen downtown when students drink alcohol	1	2	3	4	5

Regardless of the student's age, the university has a responsibility to provide:

- |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 30. SafeRide programs to decrease injuries after students drink alcohol                 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 31. Alcohol education programs for students   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 32. Training for students about safe uses of alcohol                                    | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 33. Residence Assistants (RAs) to monitor student use of alcohol in the residence halls | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

The university has a responsibility to provide:

- |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 34. Consequences for underage students who are caught consuming alcohol on campus           | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 35. Consequences for underage students who are caught consuming alcohol off campus          | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 36. Notice to parents when underage students are caught consuming alcohol <u>on</u> campus  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 37. Notice to parents when underage students are caught consuming alcohol <u>off</u> campus | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

38. Is there anything else you would like to add about your consumption of alcohol as an underage undergraduate student?

**Please answer the following:**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| Your Gender?  | Male / Female  |
| Your Age?   | 18 / 19 / 20 / 21 / Other  |
| Are you a transfer student?   | Yes / No   |
| Where are you from?   | All states listed  |
| Are you an International Student?   | Yes / No   |
| Are you married?  | Yes / No   |
| Where do you live?  | Residence Hall / Fraternity/Sorority / On-campus Apt. / Off-campus Apt. / Off-campus with family |
| Are you a member of a religion, faith, or nation that prohibits the consumption of alcohol? | Yes / No   |

Thank you for your time to complete this survey!

Sincerely,

Matt Caires [caires@uwyo.edu](mailto:caires@uwyo.edu)

**Appendix B - Actual Research Population Demographic Data**

**Fall 2008 - Day 15 Laramie Campus**

**Full-time Students Ages 18-21**

AGE	# of Students	% of Students
18	1,384	26%
19	1,334	25%
20	1,328	25%
21	1,227	23%
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,273</b>	<b>100%</b>

GENDER	# of Students	% of Students
F	2,787	53%
M	2,486	47%
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,273</b>	<b>100%</b>

CITIZENSHIP	# of Students	% of Students
International	146	3%
Permanent Residents	13	0%
US Citizens	5,114	97%
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,273</b>	<b>100%</b>

RESIDENCY	# of Students	% of Students
Alumni Rate	176	3%
In state Resident	3,258	62%
International	133	3%
International 150% Rate	2	0%
International Resident Rate	10	0%
Out of state Resident	1,694	32%
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,273</b>	<b>100%</b>

STATE	# of Students	% of Students
Alabama	4	0%
Alaska	45	1%
American Samoa	1	0%
Arizona	14	0%
Arkansas	2	0%
Armed Forces - Pacific	3	0%

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Armed Forces -Europe	2	0%
California	80	2%
Colorado	995	19%
Connecticut	5	0%
Delaware	1	0%
Florida	17	0%
Georgia	7	0%
Hawaii	8	0%
Idaho	23	0%
Illinois	40	1%
Indiana	14	0%
International	147	3%
Iowa	7	0%
Kansas	14	0%
Kentucky	2	0%
Louisiana	3	0%
Maine	3	0%
Maryland	13	0%
Massachusetts	5	0%
Michigan	12	0%
Minnesota	23	0%
Mississippi	1	0%
Missouri	10	0%
Montana	43	1%
Nebraska	215	4%
Nevada	12	0%
New Hampshire	5	0%
New Jersey	11	0%
New Mexico	11	0%
New York	10	0%
North Carolina	4	0%
North Dakota	8	0%
Ohio	21	0%
Oklahoma	7	0%
Oregon	27	1%
Pennsylvania	23	0%
Puerto Rico	1	0%
Rhode Island	1	0%
South Carolina	6	0%

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South Dakota	105	2%
Texas	36	1%
Unknown	58	1%
Utah	12	0%
Vermont	3	0%
Virginia	17	0%
Washington	30	1%
West Virginia	1	0%
Wisconsin	25	0%
Wyoming	3,080	58%
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,273</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Appendix C – Research Answers to Survey Question #12**

Count	
2	1 per hour
40	1-2 drinks per night when I did drink
55	2-3 drinks
11	7 to 8 drinks
24	A beer here and there
55	A buzz
14	A couple drinks
30	A few drinks
84	A lot; drink to get drunk; binge
35	A low level of drinking
30	Average
2	Acceptable
18	Never
1	Alcohol affects me fast
2	All day every day
1	Appropriate
14	Around 4-5 drinks in a night
1	Around twice a month I drink enough alcohol to become intoxicated.
1	As much as I feel comfortable drinking.
1	As much as I felt like.
1	As much as I have to, to get by
148	Moderate
1	At first, I drank way too much; I was learning how to gage myself. I learned over time how to stop at a certain point.
1	At first, in high school I drank to "fit in" and be popular. But as the years have gone on, I have grown out of that stage. I know my limits and I do not let myself get drunk to the point where I can't stand up, I can't remember anything at all, and I black out. I do not allow myself to get that intoxicated.
1	Beer Pong. Depends how often I lose.
2	Beer, straight shots, mixed drinks
1	Below average, don't like it that much.
1	Between 10% to 35%
1	Cans of beer
1	Carefully planned around my schedule and who I will be with.
35	Casual drinking
1	Conservative
17	Controlled.
2	Copious
4	Depended on the situation
1	Don't know when to stop or feel as if I don't need to stop
1	Drink a little bit each time
1	Drink at parties but not to get drunk
1	Drink every weekend
1	Drink somewhat heavily on the weekends but not during the week.
1	Drinking at parties
1	Drinking during the weekends with friends is part of my college experience, if the USA would smarten up they would realize that and change the legal limit to 19 and fewer college kids would get hurt from drinking due to they would not have to hide it so much
2	Drinking games.
1	drinking on weekends
1	During my first semester of college, I drank between three and five times per week. Since then, I haven't drunk more than once a month and only with close friends in comfortable situations (read: NO

	ragers, benders, keggers, etc).
1	During the week I drink a beer with dinner here and there, the weekends when I go to parties I get drunk
1	Easy going
4	Extreme!
1	Fairly high
3	Fine
1	First few years of college was heavy drinking, slowly tapered off second and third year.
1	Fun
1	Going to a University it has become pretty frequent, but not high in number.
3	Good
1	Having fun with friends playing drinking games
12	High
1	highly educated on the consequences
1	Holiday drinking around family and friends, and never more than one drink. If I will be driving, no drinking AT ALL.
1	I almost never drink. I don't like drinking and the only one time I actually drank was just to know what is like.
1	I always knew/know my limit.
1	I always remember everything that happened afterward, and I definitely spread my drinks out and have water
1	I am from central Wisconsin where underage drinking isn't frowned upon. Both my parents gave me alcohol whenever I asked for it. I have drunk during off hours at my high school and here at college as well.
32	I am responsible when drinking
1	I am usually the DD so slim to none.
1	I am very aware of how much is okay for me to drink to stay aware of my surroundings. I never overdue it.
1	I am very careful with mixed drinks when I haven't been able to watch them being made. I usually don't drink those.
1	I barely ever consume drinks that contain alcohol. When I do, I never consume enough to get drunk.
4	I can hold my alcohol pretty well when I drink
1	I can't drink very much without getting amazingly drunk, so I only have a couple drinks usually.
1	There are of course exceptions to this, but I've only ever gotten so drunk that I vomited two or three times.
1	I consume alcohol at a slow pace and drink to drink but watch what I do.
1	I consumed drinks by sipping on them and making them last for as long as possible.
1	I could function and make decisions that were careful.
1	I didn't do it very often and never drank very much because I had no interest in being drunk.
1	I didn't drink that much and never really put my self in a situation where I might be in trouble.
1	I didn't drink to get drunk
1	I do not consume that many.
6	I do not drink
1	I do not drink that often, and when I do I only drink a little because I do not like hangovers. It ruins my whole day the next day.
4	I don't consume enough to be drunk so very low consumption.
1	I don't drink after the first time.
1	I don't drink enough to get slammed every time I drink. I just enjoy a drink with dinner or while chatting with friends every once in a while
1	I don't drink hardly at all
26	I don't drink much
1	I don't exactly consume drinks, but I take a couple sips to try it out. I definitely watch what I consume, because alcohol isn't something I enjoy drinking, but once in a while a little sip won't hurt.
1	I don't get drunk. I simply do it recreationally and in small amounts
1	I don't not consume at a fast rate because I know that it's dangerous to your body to consume a lot of

alcohol and it gives you unwanted calories. I avoid drinking games as much as possible and I pace myself if I do decided to drink.

1	I don't really drink that much and it is not that important to me
1	I don't really. I have drank things with alcohol, but never often and always safely
1	I drank alcohol in high school, and, as a result, when I got to college I never felt the need to "go crazy". (meaning I never wanted to drink just because it was an excuse for something to do)
1	I drank on the weekends when I knew I didn't have class and always drank with people I knew that would respect my choices and not push anything on me.
1	I drank very little--not even enough to equate a full beer. It was mainly at family gatherings.
1	I drank when I was around friends...slowly though.
1	I drink almost every Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings
1	I drink at parties or at the bar. Usually about once a week.
1	I drink less then my folks drink.
1	I drink not to get " Fucked up".
1	I drink on a fairly regular basis. I won't drink heavily if I have something to do the next day. I also enjoy a beer after dinner every now and then.
1	I drink somewhat frequently, though I didn't as much before I was 21, but I make sure I don't drink enough to go beyond self-control, get sick, or black out.
1	I drink them fast
1	I drink until I don't feel like drinking anymore.
1	I drink when I feel like it; which is becoming less often
1	I drink when I go out
1	I drink when I want to and when I feel comfortable and safe doing so.
1	I drink, but never so much that I throw up or am ever without a somewhat clear mind. I have made that mistake before and would rather have fun than make a fool of myself, which is what happens when you consume too much.
1	I enjoy a good drink every once in a while celebrating something, or enjoying it with friends and family.
1	I gave up drinking. While I did drink I would have 10-15 drinks over 6 hours twice a week.
1	I hardly do it. It is not a big thing or means anything to me. One beer every now and again in my opinion is not bad.
1	I hardly even consider myself a drinker. I will have one drink in one night, no more than two times a semester.
1	I hardly ever drink but have.
1	I hardly ever drink, but when I do it is very minimal. Not even one beer.
1	I have a high tolerance
1	I have been drunk once. Otherwise I only have 1 or 2 drinks.
1	I have drunk very little alcohol in my life.
1	I have drunk, but I do know my limit and when to stop myself.
1	I have never been drunk. I've only ever consumed one drink at a time.
1	I have never thrown up from drinking... so fairly low if you're asking my amount I generally drink. If you are talking about tolerance, then medium.
1	I have not and do not plan to since my senior in high school and will not start drinking in college.
1	I have tried alcohol three times total.
1	I honestly don't drink alcohol that often.
1	I just have a couple with some friends sometimes.
1	I just know how much I can take then I stop.
1	I kept it to a minimum, I wasn't really into getting wasted like a few of my friends were.
1	I know my limit when consuming alcohol.
1	I know my limits so I usually stop around five beers.
1	I know when to stop drinking and don't ever push my limit.
1	I know where my limit is and I don't start off with hard alcohol, so I pace myself.
1	I like a cold brew with dinner, so whatever level that is.
1	I like to go to the bar and I like to get my drink on.



1	I like to have just a couple or so.
1	I like to pace myself and keep count of how many drinks I've had and know where my limit is.
1	I make sure no to drink too much and that I am able to take responsibility of what I am doing.
1	I might have a couple of beers every now and then; I don't get drunk.
1	I mostly drink microbrew beers, so whatever the content on them is.
1	I never black out or get sick from my consumption
1	I never drink enough to be people have to take care of me. I always remember what happens and I am able (for the most part) make the best discussion for myself
1	I never get plastered drunk. And if I were to get drunk I'd never do it w/o people I trust that I know would never leave me for ANY reason.
1	I only consumed alcoholic drinks once during the year and it was just a couple of drinks.
1	I only do it every once in a while, in places that are safe environments
1	I only drank at parties thrown by close friends, and those happened at Halloween, Valentines, Christmas, and New Years. And even then I didn't drink really hard drinks. Mostly Wine Coolers or Mikes hard. Most of my drinks were containing 5% alcohol.
1	I only drink beer, but I don't chug it.
1	I only had three drinks that contained alcohol (not at the same time). I have made a promise to myself to never drink alcohol again. That was one year ago and I still have kept that promise.
1	I only really drink with family at dinner, only a glass of one usually
1	I pace myself throughout the night
1	I personally don't like the taste of alcohol so it is very minimal.
1	I really don't. I think it is pretty much pointless and I think it is a lame excuse to make dumb mistakes.
1	I think that the level at which I consume drinks is not a serious level I never go over my limit of what I can handle
1	I tried them. I never had much. I was never a partier or any of that. I am 21 and 2 months, and to this day have never been drunk, had a buzz, etc.
1	I tried twice and I hated the experience both times so I stopped.
1	I try to consume a medium level of alcohol either at the beginning of the night, or dispersed throughout.
1	I typically drink 2-5 drinks a night over the span of the evening.
1	I typically go out and party Friday and Saturday nights, and usually consume at least some alcohol.
1	I used to drink now I'm in the season and am not drinking.
1	I used to not be able to control myself when I started drinking, so I decided that I should quit for a while.
1	I usually don't drink very much very often, however when I do drink I tend to drink too much.
1	I usually drink once a week or every other week, depending on activities that go on. I usually consume more than one drink on the night I decide to drink. I usually go out with friends to the bar when I choose to drink.
1	I usually just consume what I feel is right and when I hit the fun part and try not to go overboard.
1	I usually just drink till I feel it then stop.
1	I was aware of all my surroundings and always had a DD.
1	I was not drunk like Suzy but I would have considered myself intoxicated.
1	I was safe and never went overboard.
1	I was smart about drinking.
1	I was very aware of my intake of alcohol and would make sure I didn't drink too much!!
1	I will drink on weekends when it is viable, otherwise school takes precedence.
1	I will go out with my friends on a Friday for a couple beers and then be home before 2am.
1	I would consider the level at which I drink to be low
1	I would consume alcoholic drinks regularly, but not reach a point of heavy intoxication (above 0.15 BAC) regularly (once a month).
1	I would consume roughly 8-12 beers when I'd drink.
1	I would drink on weekends with friends typically.
1	I would drink with my friend but not enough to blackout
1	I would say I consumed quite a bit of alcohol when I was 20 years or younger.

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1	I would say I don't have a level. I personally choose not to drink do to personal reasons. I have seen what it can do to a family, and finances. Like I said in the previous question I have 1 to 2 beers a year. I have never been drunk.
1	I would say that I don't drink. I have tried a few things, but never more than 1 drink
1	I would say that it is low compared to some other people. I usually don't drink to the point to where my judgment is impaired.
1	I would take a sip of a girl drink and be done I don't like drinking it scares me
1	I would usually drink pretty large levels of alcohol on the weekends, but nothing that ever put me in any danger.
1	I wouldn't drink that much. I would probably drink a couple beers than a shot.
1	I'll sometimes drink with friends, but usually I'm the DD. I truly don't find drinking all that exciting, so it's just not that big of a thing to me.
1	I'm not an alcoholic
1	I'm pretty good I know when to stop
1	Infrequently and not too much
1	It depended on if I had something that I was responsible for doing the next day.
1	It depends on the situation, sometimes more than others.
1	It has been limited only to small tastes of wine that my parents have claimed is "amazing." I plan to keep it this way.
1	It is not a problem. I was raised in a family that drank wine at dinner. I still do the same thing.
1	It is not excessive. I like knowing what goes on around me.
2	It varies
1	It was like a job I took very seriously, but only on the weekends.
1	It was minimal- I only drink maybe 4 times when I was underage.
1	It's at parties for fun but I'm always with friends we watch out for each other
1	It's not a big deal to me because I have been doing it for a long time, illegally. I know my limits and I know how to handle myself accordingly.
1	I've had a total of about four or five beers in my lifetime.
1	I've maybe done it once or twice in my life. I'm not a partier.
1	I've only consumed alcohol at low amounts like twice
1	Just beer
2	just enough
3	just on weekends
1	just partying
1	Just Sips, a couple times shots
1	Kind of high
1	know your limit
1	lame
1	Leisurely
5	Less than average
1	like Pringles, once you pop you cant stop
51	low
1	Many drinks in a relatively short period of time.
1	maybe a beer with dinner or a glass of wine
1	Maybe a bit too much sometimes. But I do know my limits, and what can be done with them (driving, walking, ect)
1	Maybe one but only when I'm at home not planning to leave. If I drink anything its just one over a long period of time.
24	Minimal
1	Mixed drinks
1	More than one drink a night
1	more than I drink now - I was a fish
1	More than the average underage college student
1	Mostly on weekends, not really heavily.
1	my body cant really handle it

1	My first semester of college I drank about once a week. However I have quit and drink about once a month or every few months and I don't get drunk anymore.
1	My first year I was drunk, or even to the point of throwing up two or three times a week.
1	My freshman year I drank three times, my sophomore year I didn't drink at all, and I've had two drinks throughout my junior year.
1	My level is very low when it comes to consuming alcohol. I do not have a high tolerance for alcohol, so I do not drink excessive amounts at a time. I have to pace myself and know my limit. I do not drink too often for that reason.
1	My level was never very high and it was not a frequent occurrence.
1	My room might as well have been a distillery
1	Never at parties, only adventurously with friends who were of-age and provided a safe environment.
1	NEVER DRANK PAST 3 DRINKS AND HAVE NEVER BEEN TOO INTOXICATED TO NOT BE IN CONTROL
1	Never enough to be drunk and spaced out throughout the night
1	Never getting drunk.
81	Not much
1	Nothing copious, sipping, not even finishing a half drink
1	Novice
1	Numerous but always with discretion
64	Occasional
1	Ok
1	On a scale of 1-10 I would say a 3. I'm not a heavy drinker and I do not do it on a regular basis. I do every once in awhile to have fun with friends, totally my choice.
1	On the weekends I probably consume on average at least four drinks a night.
1	On weekends
1	Only on the weekends and not that much that I knew I couldn't handle, I knew my limits
1	Only once in a while
1	Only to a small extent
2	Out of control. Completely irresponsible!
1	Party Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights and Saturday mornings during football games
1	Parties.
1	Perfect amount
1	Pretty high but not very often.
1	Pretty small I contain myself and look to making sure my friends don't do anything dangerous.
1	Probably below average compared to most underage drinkers.
1	Professional
1	Proficient
3	Quite a bit
1	Raddest mother fucker around
1	Random
1	Ranges from a beer with dinner to getting drunk with my friends
64	Rarely
4	Recreational
9	Relaxed, non-party atmosphere
1	Safe
1	Same
1	Several but it were over a long period of time.
2	Shots of liquor
1	Since I am 21, my level isn't really high or anything because I really don't like the ending result after a night of shots.
2	Sip one beer
4	Small
109	Socially
1	Spaced regularly
1	Sustainable

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1	The question seems a little ambiguous and is not specific enough to indicate its meaning.
1	The time in which alcohol drinks were consumed was in six months duration but the drinking was pretty heavy to the point of having alcohol poisoning a few times. The alcohol consumption was not while attending the university of Wyoming but another school.
1	There would be one week that we went out three times or so, but then we wouldn't party for weeks after that. It was more for big events, parties.
10	This is not a clear question.
4	Too much
1	Trying drinks, only with sips from people I know and trust.
1	Twice a month, each time enough to get drunk but never reaching a point of intoxication that would prove dangerous
1	typically 5 or 6 drinks when I do drink which is about once a week
1	I usually let every drink settle in before I take another. I do drink somewhat kind of often but I make sure that is does not interfere with any of my other responsibilities.
1	They were drinks.
1	Under average
1	Usually high, enough to be at a .15 or .2 BAC Level most times.
1	Usually with small group of friends but almost always hard liquor.
2	Varied
1	Very fun
89	Very little
1	Very potent
1	We all usually drink when we go out on the weekends.
1	Weekends at parties.
1	Went to parties just like every other kid does.
1	What the hell does this question mean?
1	When I personally was the one drinking I would be sure to count my drinks at all times and ensure that I did not have too much in once specific time period. At the end of the night I would balance out the number of drinks that I consumed with an 8 oz class of water per drink.
1	When I was in MS and HS I would drink with my parents every now and then. I drank once without them and now I have decided not to drink for a few years.
1	With friends on weekends
1	Within reason
1	Your question is worded as poorly as the email you sent out requesting the completion of this survey.
Respondents	

**Appendix D - Research Answers to Survey Question #38**

Count	
1	"Consumption", during the entire course of this survey, is an ambiguous term. As previously mentioned, my consumption of alcoholic beverages has been extremely limited, though in the strictest sense, I have "consumed" alcohol.
1	A person is responsible for their actions regardless of intoxication.
1	A student is responsible for their own activities and for their own education. No one but the student should be held accountable for student's choices. It is tragic what happened to "Suzy" at the fraternity, but it would have been preventable had she known her limits and realized the atmosphere she was exposing herself to at the beginning of the night. People have choices and should have to live with the consequences of their actions.
1	Alcohol education programs were very helpful. As much as we all complained about it being part of our class, it was very helpful later when caring for my friends who had had too much.
1	Alcohol is bad.
1	Alcohol should be banned from the University completely. It does nothing but cause problems, injuries, and increase tax dollars for the dumb asses that drink in the first place. Banning alcohol would be the best thing the University could do to protect the students from themselves.
1	Alcohol was not consumed here, besides the university is not responsible for stupidity of students. Please leave things alone and allow natural selection to take place.
1	ALL I WANT TO SAY IS THAT PEOPLE THAT ARE UNDERAGE THAT DRINK ARE STUPID AND ACTUALLY SHOULD BE EXPELLED FROM SCHOOL BECAUSE OF THEIR STUPIDITY, THAT WAY THEY DO NOT CAUSE HARM TO THE STUDENTS THAT ARE TRYING TO KEEP GOOD GRADES AND GET THEIR DEGREE.
1	All part of the big problem -- alcohol is too taboo in this country. I have heard from foreigners that they drank with their parents, and so know their limits and don't have a problem with binge drinking. Lower drinking age to 18 -- if you can go to war and kill someone you should be able to have a beer.
1	Alcohol can be enjoyed responsibly regardless of age between 18 and up responsibly. There are many people above the age of 21 who abuse alcohol. If alcohol is legal, cannabis should be legal too.
1	Although I never sustained any injuries, I know people that have. I turned 21 here in Laramie and was blessed with Safe Ride. I also believe that as an underage drinker, i grew out of that party till you puke mentality. I am not saying that is right, but Casper which is where I drank underage is not filled with the nicest people who decide to get drunk as well.
1	Anyone who checks that parents should be notified is an idiot and you should discard his/her data...
1	Anyone who gets hurt or otherwise receives ill-effects from alcohol overconsumption and claims its someone else's responsibility is a moron. No one is out there tying people up and forcing the beer-bong into their mouths, misplacing responsibility is the real problem here, not morons thinning their gene pool.
1	Anything that takes place off campus or things not associated with the university should not be taken into affect with the university and kept off university records. most college students drink....and they drink a lot
1	As a college student I took full responsibility for anything I did while drinking, I do not think it is the university's job to protect me when I am an adult and make my own decisions.
1	As an adult over the age of 18 I take full responsibility for my actions and it is in no way the University's responsibility to babysit me. I do not like having overly rigid rules for the observation and discipline of an adult.
1	As an underage undergraduate I have seen what can happen when people drink too much and I don't think the University should be responsible for the actions of the individual who decides to drink because it is that individual's choice alone, but the University should enforce the consequences heavily for the individual(s). I also believe in making all individuals aware of the risks of consuming alcohol, not just freshman.
1	As an underage undergraduate, I consider it my personal responsibility to ensure that I take care of myself physically and academically, by not consuming alcohol in ways that would endanger either aspect. For those who make that mistake, it is wholly on them to accept the consequences.
1	As an underage undergraduate, I only became severely intoxicated once, and it was a very eye-opening experience. I puked my guts out, had a terrible hangover, and came to the conclusion that I never wanted to do that again. After that experience, when I was underage, I only had a few drinks on nights that I did drink (which were few and far between). In my case, I had to learn from my own

mistake. Luckily, I had people who were sober to take care of me. You can have all the education and information out there, but in the end, you are responsible for your decisions. In my case, I only needed to learn once.

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|---|---|
| 1 | As an undergrad student, yes I drink. But honestly I think that the programs that UW put on are a joke. People don't take it seriously at all. At any campus students will drink period. Its part of college  |
| 1 | As far as notifying parents about underage alcohol consumption, that would be completely uncalled for. The students, although not old enough to drink, are still adults and responsible for themselves. The university does not and should not notify parents when students get bad grades and some parents see the latter as the greater offense.  |
| 1 | As high school graduates enter college, in my mind, I regard them as adults starting the process of standing on their own two feet. Many of the alcohol education programs blame "peer pressure" but in this context the excuse of peer pressure is as misapplied as it is overplayed. I am a junior this year and have frequented many "parties" and never once have I been peer pressured into drinking. As far as kids deciding to get dangerously drunk, I put the blame on their shoulders; they are adults now, so with drinking and everything else they will be facing you must decide your level of involvement and know your limits.  |
| 1 | As long as I can control myself and I am drinking with my family (parents should teach knowledge about alcohol), I think that is okay.  |
| 1 | As long as you are responsible about it and not harming yourself or others. I don't think that the university should get involved.  |
| 1 | As long as you know your own limit, you should be fine and unless you get completely belligerent then nothing serious will happen.  |
| 1 | As the United States law, it's prohibited to drink under 21 years old. However, depends on countries, they can drink much younger age. So that it's kind of ok to drink underage, just need to be responsible, which is true to over 21 years old.  |
| 1 | As usual, the plan needs to be to teach the fact the alcohol is NOT the problem, but rather a person's self-control. I believe the university's approach to drinking should be to show how to drink responsibly, because a college campus will NEVER be an alcohol-free zone.   |
| 1 | At the age of 18 we are all old enough to make our own decisions. If one chooses to drink illegally then he or she should answer to the law, never to a) parents or b) the university. The individual is after all, 18 years old and their parent's involvement should no longer be a factor. It is not the university's job to monitor a student's personal choices unless they affect the university or another individual at the institution.  |
| 1 | AWARE doesn't work. Students are going to drink illegally even after they get a citation until they get tired of it. I got tired of it when i turned 21. Weird, huh?  |
| 1 | Beer is good  |
| 1 | Being Australian, I have been of the legal age (18) for almost 3 years now...so I have been exposed to alcohol for a lot longer than most of the people my age, and i believe I am a responsible drinker and as a result of that take responsibility for the things that happen to me when i choose to drink (whether its getting caught, or getting hurt).   |
| 1 | Being from the mid west I was raised having the idea that I'm am responsible for myself more so than others. When I drink alcohol, I have the ability to recognize when I've had to much, usually when I feel like total crap and I might die, and then I can easily STOP drinking. I don't believe that it IS someone else's responsibility to make me stop drinking, especially when the person who will know my limits best, is me. I am very grateful that the university has provided educational programs about safe alcohol consumption, as opposed to the usual high school crash course of just don't drink. This has helped me to monitor how much I've had, and drink responsibly. |
| 1 | By the time you get to college you know what you're getting into and nobody, including the University should be held responsible for what you do while drinking on or off campus. We're adults by the time we're 18 so we should be held responsible for anything we do. No one else is to blame.   |
| 1 | College is a time when kids move away from home and experience new things in life. Almost everyone who is underage drinks alcohol whether they are doing it to experiment, fit in, or for some other reason it is a part of the college experience.   |
| 1 | Coming to college we are considered legal adults and a notification to parents is not needed. The university should provide opportunities for students to understand alcohol and alcohol abuse through programs.  |
| 1 | Consuming alcohol is a social activity. Those who take it to the extreme are the exception. Drinking is a personal choice, therefore no one is to blame for what happens to some one who is drinking than   |

	that person themselves.
1	Consuming alcohol is not bad. Its a great way to meet new people. It just turns bad when one is reckless.
1	Crack down on students acting like idiots when they are drunk. When students have been drinking and return to the dorm quietly and don't disturb anyone and aren't loud and obnoxious, leave them alone. They aren't hurting anyone. If people are caught driving drunk, take them in. Students being safe and smart should be left alone. Don't call parents because if it were any other crime the cops wouldn't call the parents if someone was 18 or older because that is the age of legal adulthood so it's up to the adult to make the decision. The reason for saying this first is that it's not fair to me being 20 and drinking and having a good time with my friends, being safe, and smart about my consumption to be arrested when idiots of legal age are out driving cars and committing illegal acts are out screwing around putting other lives in danger. We have one person sober every time. We keep to ourselves, are quiet and mind our own business, so why should I go to jail when I really wasn't doing anything wrong? Sorry for the long answer, but I think that my opinion needs to be heard. When I turn 21, not much will change. All I'll be able to do is buy my own and drink in public. But no matter if I've had 1 beer or 10, I will never operate a motor vehicle because a good friend was hit by a drunk driver. No matter what age kids are, they will find a way to get alcohol. Fraternities are a joke. Why aren't UW cops there keeping underage kids out? People can drink there but in no other dorm except hill? That to me is a joke. It seems the University is so worried, but what are they doing about it? I bet if the cops cracked down on underage drinking on campus and resident halls, underage drinking would drop drastically. I don't really agree with stopping quiet drunks, as I've said, but if the university wants it to stop then that's what needs to happen. My opinion. Keep away from small private parties and take out the large loud ones. I know I'm repeating myself but this is a serious issue. Here's the last thing I have to say. Is it really wrong to kill a known evil person? To kill a serial killer that was proven to kill who they killed? So is it right to take an underage drunk to jail when all they were doing was walking home? Laws say yes. Does that mean it's right to let a legal age person drive when they drunk? People fool the tests all the time but they are let go. So what is wrong with me having a few beers at the end of the week? What have I actually done wrong?
1	doing anything that involves a students parents is dumb unless they are a minor
1	Don't do it! It sucks because people have to take care of you once you are drunk and then you have to suffer the consequences, such as obtaining injuries and legal consequence.
1	Drinking alcohol is a personal choice. If anything happens to a person who decides to drink alcohol, they should be solely responsible for whatever happens. I don't think that its any of the university's business if a student decides to drink because the students are adults and they are capable of making their own choices.
1	Drinking is a choice. Not a choice involving the university either, however if caught the university shouldn't call the police, but issue warning the first time
1	Drinking is a mature activity that requires mature choices. Each person makes their own decisions regarding how much and when they drink. It is each person's own responsibility to make sure that they are doing this in a safe manner and if conducted off campus is not the problem or business of the university.
1	Drinking is not bad, but abusing alcohol is. While the University is responsible for protecting students, students are ultimately responsible for their own behavior; we are adults now and need to act it. Regardless of age, where, or when alcohol is consumed, people need to take responsibilities for their own actions and the consequences of those actions.
1	Drinking on campus should warrant greater penalties: the students are here to learn and represent America (minus exchange students) as this country's innovating generation, not to just have a good time and act irresponsibly.
1	Due to my personal and religious beliefs I do not consume alcohol and am happy with my choice. It is upsetting to me to see so many people relying on alcohol to have a fun time, and by doing so make some ridiculous mistakes.
1	Each person is responsible for their own actions, therefore, I don't think the University should be held responsible for their actions. All the University can do is educate the students and then it's up to the student.
1	Ethically, the university should not turn an eye to underage drinking and should punish students for drinking on campus, but is in no way legally responsible for damage to a student from alcohol.
1	Even though I don't think the university is required to provide Safe Ride I think that it is a great service that tons of students like and use on a regular basis that would other words drive without the service.
1	Even though it is against the law, it is not generally looked down upon by the majority of the student

	populace. Perhaps if it cannot be more readily contained, there can be more done to educate about alcohol and the potential for problems to students in order to help deter the behavior. It has become a norm in the college society and i feel the consequences are rather minimal.
1	Even though the university should provide full prevention to harms regarding alcohol consumption, they have no jurisdiction to do so outside of the campus.
1	First I'm not underage and second people are responsible for their own choices. Underage drinking should be handled by the cops not every prick who sticks there nose in other people's business.
1	For the most part I believe individuals are responsible for their actions regardless of age. The university, organizations, and friends are not responsible for a person's injuries during consumption because everyone has the right to say "no." As well, considering students are 18 years of age for the most part when attending college I do not believe parents should be contacted by the university. College students 18 years and older are adults and should be treated as so.
1	For the most part I believe most of our country's issue with underage drinking derives from the "Forbidden Cookie" effect. I personally believe that alcohol consumption should be legalized for persons 18 years old or younger so that they are able to experience drinking while having a responsible figure around. I think most people drink to rebel and that a lot of binge drinking occurs because when underage students drink..."they might as well get drunk" so that they are not "wasting" their illegal activity. If the drinking age was lowered, I think this country would see binge drinking reduced with a rise in people who are consuming lower levels of alcohol on social occasions. Also, with this I think we could lover the nationwide DUI rate by making it more unacceptable and enforcing harsher punishments for those who do Drink and Drive. (I would like to received credit if any of the above statement is used...Sarah Gregory)
1	For the most part, drinking is not a huge matter or pressure with others who are drinking. Most people are responsible and when someone does become intoxicated, it is part their responsibility and the friends they are with.
1	Fraternity men and sorority women are often blamed for irresponsible drinking behavior and face stricter punishments for violation for infractions and problems but they are the best educated about responsible behavior and provide a much safer environment for their members and guests then students who party off campus. I think this is generally ignored by the university. The University should hold all of its students to the same standards it holds the Greek men and women to. They should also recognize that the Greek men and women are a valuable resource for educating other students about responsible behavior and looking out for yourself and your friends when partying. They are the only group of students who are required to get any alcohol training and who actively work to mitigate risk and protect their members and guest from harm when alcohol is or is not involved.
1	Freshmen should be required to take an alcohol awareness class when they enter college and have to sign a form saying that if they were to be caught consuming alcohol anywhere as a minor there will be some form of consequence from the university. I think that would have swayed me away from underage drinking when I was a freshmen. It would be like when you're in a sport. When you're caught you have to sit out games and not participate.
1	Got a DUI after wrecking my truck... not a good deal. changed my opinion a lot
1	Having the fraternities that close is kind of a bad thing because if there is a big party, and you're invited most likely there will be copious amounts of alcohol and it will be offered to you. It's your choice to go to the party and your choice on how much to drink, but if you're young and don't know how much you can handle, things may get out of hand. There should probably be some more alcohol awareness stuff around.
1	How is this going to stop underage drinking? It wont.
1	I am a rare exception to consuming alcohol as an underage undergraduate. I always looked after friends, and drove people home before ever thinking about drinking. When I was going to drink, I knew my own limit, and always had a ride home, or knew I could walk. I have seen many stupid things done by intoxicated students, but many of the students causing trouble were actually over 21 and lived off-campus. Seeing what I've seen leads me to believe there are just some people whose personality is such that they cannot control themselves, and alcohol just adds fuel to their uncontrollable fire.
1	I am currently underage and I have never drank at all. However all my friends are 21 and over so they do drink, and I have repeatedly driven for them so they would not be driving while drunk. I think this is a responsibility for friends to make sure no one gets hurt and that everyone stays safe, no matter what their choices about alcohol are.
1	I am in support of the Amethyst Initiative.
1	I am no longer an underage student and the University should not be responsible for the actions of



legal adults attending class and thus the student or student's parent should not be able to bring a lawsuit up against the university. Just because the University is not responsible for the actions of a legal adult doesn't mean they can't provide the things that they do provide, but in providing them they do a great service and for that I am grateful.

1	I am not against everyone drinking and I don't necessarily mind being around it, but i am adamant about my own drinking abstinence. I don't preach to others i just choose not to
1	I am not underage so my opinion has changed a bit. My freshmen year of college though I was a bit more careless and consumed more alcohol. Now I rarely drink, maybe three times a year because I am of age and I have a family now, even though I am still working on my undergraduate degree.
1	I am now 21 and I have never ( and don't plan to) drink alcohol.
1	I am over 18- an adult, so therefore I feel that the actions I take are my sole responsibility. Neither the university nor my parents need to be held accountable for my poor choices, nor should they be involved in the consequences I may have due to these actions.
1	I am safe, and the alcohol education programs have taught me a great deal.
1	I am underage and I don't drink. Period
1	I am very careful and responsible
1	I believe it is the student's choice to drink alcohol. So they should suffer the consequences for their actions
1	I believe at this point parents shouldn't be notified we are old enough to pay our own living and school so we are able to make a decision about drinking.
1	I believe everyone is responsible for their own actions.
1	I believe having healthy outlets is a great alternative to drinking. If the school provided more programs that were easy to involve yourself in, such as more recreational sports, co-ed and BOTH female and male teams, it would take time away that could be spent trying to find, and consuming alcohol. I understand that the University does offer these, but they are MINIMAL at best. Also the last part of the survey, should the parents be contacted...NO! If the student is under 21, but 18 or older, the whole point of going to school is to take responsibility as an adult...This also includes the University...the school should hold no responsibility for other students bad decisions, regardless of the circumstances or situation.
1	I believe that age is a number. I turned 19 one month ago, and feel that I treat alcohol with more responsibility than some people of age 21. It depends upon the person however, age is a number and the number is 21. It is illegal to drink alcohol if you are not of that age. There is no reason for the university to protect underage drinkers because one the federal level should not be drinking.
1	I believe that any injury or consequence of drinking, whether underage or of age, is solely the responsibility of the student consuming alcohol. They choose to consume alcohol regardless of where they are or their age; anyone consuming alcohol makes their own decision regarding this matter and thus the outcome of their choice.
1	I believe that consumption of alcohol as a minor is a fairly typical occurrence in the College setting. I think that making students aware of the dangers of alcohol is a good idea, but not always a fix.
1	I believe that drinking was a choice I made, however, when in certain circumstances like fraternity or sorority parties for instance there is a significant amount of pressure to drink. Whether it actually be physical force, peer pressure, or the threat of discussion upon not doing so. I personally have never sustained injury or injured another person but i do feel that it is the universities responsibility to protect innocent bystanders from negligent drinkers. I can recall plenty of times that people i know have put countless people in danger because of their drinking but had they been banned from campus or told to stay in a specific area and rendered substantial punishment when they did not do so, plenty of incidents could have been prevented.
1	I believe that it is a person's personal choice to drink and their responsibility to take care of themselves.
1	I believe that younger teens need to have more education regarding alcohol, because from personal experience I drank and partied before I even got out of high school, and some of the surveys I've taken before just seem ridiculous to me, because it seems like they are trying to imply that college students have never had alcohol before and or have learned anything about it. I believe they need to target high school kids a lot stronger than they do college students, by the time i got to college i had learned and seen about all of it before leaving high school
1	I believe the university is responsible for upholding consequences for those students who are caught drinking on campus, but should not notify parents. The police should be involved, but once a student is over 18 years old they should be held accountable.
1	I believe underage students are going to consume alcohol no matter the consequences as it is

	considered the "college way of life." I just hope that the University provides educational programs about alcohol and safe ride programs to cut down drinking and driving. I also believe that underage drinkers need to be held accountable for their decisions, and thus reasonably punished.
1	I believe we need to hold people responsible for their decisions. If someone wants to drink regardless they will find a way to drink... there is a difference between responsible drinking and drunk
1	I believe I drank responsibly, but in the past year I have decided not to drink while I am underage.
1	I blame the city of Laramie. Mostly cause there is nothing to do in this town so its pretty much just party, alcohol, and party. Also we're the reason police officers in Laramie even have a job so be a little more lenient next arrest.
1	I can honestly say i have not had a drink in my entire life and even though opportunity has come up here for that i still did not do it.
1	I can see how it would be a good idea to be stick with some people but I know with me when I drink I am still able to make ok decisions I think you could have I get out of jail free card
1	I consider myself to be a good kid, but i occasionally drink when I'm at a social gathering with my good friends. We don't drink to get drunk, we don't drink just because other people our age are drinking, and we're drinking for sheer enjoyment and a good time. Not that we need alcohol for a good time, but it can help!
1	I didn't drink anything until I was 21. So far since then, I've had one drink a month.
1	I disagreed in all of the classes for underage drinkers because non of them well listen they might listen but won't do it no one is going to stop them from drinking. So the classes and internet thing do not work.
1	I do believe that the university is responsible for alcohol consumption that is on campus, outside of that it should not be there problem or responsibility.
1	I do not believe it is the responsibility of the university to manage the consumption of alcohol because students are going to find a way to drink if they really want to do so. I do think it is in the best interest of the university to make knowledgeable to the students the consequences and affects that alcohol can have on their life and everyone around them.
1	I do not consume alcohol and I do not believe that any one, except the person consuming alcohol, should be responsible for a person's actions while under the influence of alcohol.
1	I do not drink and I feel that students who make the decision to drink are mainly responsible for their actions, particularly if their actions injure others. It is wise for the University to try and minimize any incidents, but I do not feel the university should be held solely responsible for the decisions of the students.
1	I do not drink much. But everyone makes mistakes, and one thing that I do not think gets enough attention is how DIFFERENTLY people react to alcohol. For example, some people can drink quite a bit of hard alcohol while others are sick for one shot. It is just scary how it can affect you one way and your friend another way. I think this really needs to be stressed more in alcohol education classes.
1	I do not drink, and have absolutely no desire to drink. However, I think it is okay for people to drink as long as they do it responsibly, and don't put themselves in a situation where they could get hurt. It is unfortunate though, that in my experience here so far, there are a lot of students who drink in order to have fun, and that is not necessary. My friends and I have proven it is possible to have loads of fun without being under the influence of any substance besides wholehearted laughter.
1	I do not drink, so I am not an underage undergraduate student
1	I do not drink. Other people can make the same choice and if they chose to drink, they are primarily responsible for anything that should happen.
1	I don't believe drinking while under age is a problem as long as you are not stupid about it. Be safe, trust the people around you, and know your limit. Don't drink to get drunk. If your going to drink do it to loosen up and have some fun...if it is a long night and you end up drunk ok, but don't go out on a mission to get drunk. Just don't drive or do something to endanger you or anyone else.
1	I don't believe getting drunk is a good thing, but drinking shouldn't be kept till the age of 21. You can fight for you country you can drive you can do many things. You are considered an adult. I don't believe drinking needs to be around to have a good time, but i do believe if it is your choice to drink, then you should be able to without getting into trouble. By keeping the drinking age at 21 it makes drinking appear cooler therefore making people act irresponsibly. Thanks
1	I don't believe that it is the responsibility of the student to drink responsibly. When you head to college you should be responsible for your own actions including any consequences of drinking.
1	I don't believe that the university should be sued etc for student's behavior while drinking. It is their own personal choice and they should know what to expect.

1	I don't believe the university has any responsibility when it comes to the consequences of alcohol, drinking is a personal choice and as adults we can decide to do whatever we would like I think the university should offer education and safe options but should not distribute consequences or be responsible
1	I don't consume alcohol.
1	I don't do it because I am underage but because it is part of the customs that my family celebrates, and have shown responsibility for my action and it is always so little hat there is never a risk of me getting injured.
1	I don't drink a lot now, in my early twenties, but I know I did drink a lot more when I was younger. You won't stop anyone from drinking underage, but it is wise to offer them the knowledge of how to be responsible while drinking.
1	I don't drink and feel that the UW police and campus are overly tolerant of underage drinking. Our society in general is ass backwards about drug use, intoxication and brain cell destruction.
1	I don't drink because I feel that I don't need alcohol to have fun, but I do have friends that do and they are always responsible about it, and we all look out for each other.
1	I don't drink but I do see a difference in just a social drink and drinking to get drunk; which is irresponsible.
1	I don't drink except one time a year, so this is kind of useless for me. I don't feel there is immense pressure to drink, its a personal choice. The entire problem would be alleviated if less attention was paid to the issue and the drinking age reducing. Until the incentive for drinking because its illegal is removed, all these efforts are futile.
1	I don't drink very often, and it's mainly because I am underage. I also don't feel like I have to drink in order to have a good time. I have lots of fun with my friends and we don't drink. I don't plan on going out and getting trashed when I do turn 21. I think that underage drinking is going to continue...I don't really think that there is a way to completely put a stop to it. I think the most important thing is to educate people about how to drink responsibility.
1	I don't drink, and I never will. I think drinking is a bad idea. Alcohol is a drug that can harm your body. You may have a good time doing it every now and then, but why hurt yourself to have fun. There are many ways you can have fun without drinking involved. This is where I stand on the issue.
1	I don't drink, but if I did, regardless of my age, its my responsibility to look after myself. We are legally adults its not the university's job to monitor our behavior off campus, and on campus setting and enforcing rules regarding alcohol and behavior is as far as their responsibility reaches.
1	I don't drink. Ultimately, I believe that the choice is the persons and the consequences are there own to bare.
1	I don't feel like parents should be notified because you are in college now.
1	I don't feel that the university is responsible for students who disobey the rules and get themselves hurt. when students know that they are not supposed to be drinking on campus and they do anyway and they get themselves hurt they have no one to blame but themselves, the university should nit be responsible for college kids acting stupid
1	I don't feel that the university should be responsible in enforcing anything but the law on campus. They are not responsible for the decisions of the students. We are old enough to make our own decisions. That said, I do think that the support groups and optional education is good. If it is not optional, then people will still not learn it if they don't want.
1	I don't go to parties and get drunk. The only time I've ever had an alcoholic drink was at my house. I never had more than two at a time.
1	I don't hold anybody else responsible for things that may or may not happen when I drink. It was my choice to drink so I can deal with whatever happens myself and take full responsibility for it.
1	I don't really know anyone that hasn't consumed alcohol before they turned 21. I don't feel the university is responsible in most cases because it's not under their control. Some people just don't know how to handle their alcohol and end up abusing it.
1	I don't see underage drinking as a problem when you are not an idiot! As long as you know your own limits and can control yourself I don't have a problem with underage drinking.
1	I don't think it is such a big deal. If we as a student are allowed to decide to pay to go to school we should be allowed to make our own decisions about alcohol.
1	I don't think the university has any jurisdiction to punish students who are consuming alcohol off campus, nor do they have any responsibility for the student's actions, they are acting of their own accord and the school shouldn't be involved. I also don't agree with the parents being sent a notice when their child is caught drinking on or off campus. It's not high school, we are all adults and need to learn how to be responsible for ourselves, if it's becoming a problem I'd hope their friends would

	inform them but the school doesn't have the right to
1	I don't think the University has the right to notify parents of their child's drinking but they do have the right to notify the Laramie Police Department as the underage student is breaking the law when consuming alcohol and should be held accountable
1	I don't think the University is responsible for students injuries or any actions for that matter when they have consumed alcohol because it was the individuals decision to consume so therefore they are responsible for their own actions and don't have the right to blame anyone else. I do however feel that the University should provide education programs about alcohol use and safe ride. Also, the decision to notify parents when a student gets into trouble with alcohol should not be that of the University but that of the students.
1	I drank maybe once every one or two months my freshman year, but after that it was very rare
1	I drank one alcoholic drink ever before turning 21 so most of the underage things don't apply to me.
1	I drank the most as a freshman and achieved my 2nd highest GPA that semester, preceded only by a semester when I dropped a class.
1	I drank 'underage' (i.e. 18+) in England where it was not illegal
1	I enjoy alcohol as an enjoyable beverage, not as a means to get drunk.
1	I enjoy it because it gives me more time to hang out and have fun with friends, but we are not stupid about it, we keep everyone in check and out of harms way by not letting them drive and cutting them off when needed.
1	I feel as an adult 18 and over you are responsible for yourself. The University should not be responsible for you or have to babysit you.
1	I feel I am of the minority of underage undergraduate students who drink because I drink so little so infrequently and don't binge drink at parties.
1	I feel it is any person's responsibility to control how much they drink. In the real world there is nobody to babysit you and no convenient institution to sue if something goes wrong. Drinking large amounts of alcohol is similar to driving 95mph without a seatbelt: the chances of something going wrong are very good and when they do you will be injured, and it was entirely your choice to do so. Students should be able to weigh the risks involved whenever they do anything.
1	I feel like the university has a responsibility to provide education about and a safe place for students to return to (residence halls etc) regardless of their age. It should promote awareness about date rape and alcohol consumption and do all it can (safe ride) to prevent the occurrence of date rape. I feel that if someone gets hurt while consuming alcohol its their own fault
1	I feel that personal responsibility is the single most important right an adult has, I also believe that this responsibility means a person must accept their actions as their own fault when and if they are injured or make "alcohol related" mistakes.
1	I feel that the legal drinking age should be reduced to 18.
1	I feel that the university should not be responsible. I am going to speak freely in the next few sentence and don't want to offend but i probably will. I am getting tired of the its not my fault world. Ok if you drink, it is your fault and you are responsible for everything that happens. The only way somebody should be held accountable is if they like spiked your drink and you did not know it. YOU MADE THE CHOICE! IT IS TIME TO START BEING RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR ACTIONS!!!! I think the world has become to sue happy and not my fault and it needs to change. I choose not to drink and I can have just as much fun. Why cant drinking be like having a beer here and there. Why is it always got to be smashed. The habits that you set now will follow you all your life. I feel we have a generation of alcoholics coming on. The divorce rates area going be high. Everything is going to be high I believe. I know that is very opinionated. IT IS TIME TO RISE UP AND START TAKING RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR ACTIONS!!! YOU ARE CONSIDERED AND ADULT NOW!!!! BE ONE. Thank you for letting me give you my mind on the subject. feel free to contact me with any other questions you might have
1	I feel that under age drinking is a problem we are never going to be void of. It is an integral part of having the freedom that comes with being a college students. Many people use that freedom and decide not to drink at all, while others take it to extreme. I don't think we are ever going to find a middle ground between these two extremes.
1	I feel that you may need to experience drinking at an underage person, however, the responsibility is on the person solely they choose to do it they should be strong enough to say no, no matter what. They have responsibilities and if they choose not to do them then there should be consequences.
1	I feel the university should protect its students when it comes to alcohol. I am torn on if the university is responsible for students off campus because it is not university property but it is the university students. I really don't know when it comes to this.

1	I fully admit that I drank while underage. But I was smart enough to have responsible over age friends who made sure we all had places to sleep and DDs. I never got drunk around people I did not know and always made sure to leave if I no longer felt safe.
1	I had many friends who got drunk many times a week and decided I didn't want to be like that so I would leave my consumption to one drink every once in a while... I have better things than alcohol.
1	I had only drank alcohol very rarely. Really only twice my freshman year. But that was all it took for me to greatly regret it.
1	I had to go through AWARE, and they screwed me out of my \$20 deposit. I've known this to happen to many pal, so I'm not a big fan.
1	I had to take the alcohol awareness program at UW and it was outstanding and I think every student entering the University of Wyoming should be required to take the class because it protects you in the long run and strongly changed my drinking habits.
1	I have actually made a lot of decisions afterwards that have helped me be smart and make great choices instead of making horrible decisions and will never drink irresponsibly due to the ideology I now have.
1	I have been in many situations like Suzy's (though I sustained no injuries) and feel that, though other people used things like "peer pressure" and alcohol to influence Suzy's decisions, and though she did get "ditched", she is COMPLETELY responsible for her actions. Even if you could say there was shared responsibility, I do not believe anyone did anything worth any type of lawsuit. People make their own decisions and alcohol and the results of drinking it were Suzy's. It had less to do with Sororities or Fraternities than it did with college and not being sure of who you are.
1	I have just turned 19 years old and have yet to consume alcohol. It is not that I am against it, I just do not want to become an alcoholic like many people in my family have gone through. When I am of age I will be more likely to social drink. Anyway, I think college is a really bad time to drink because of the amount of fraternities on campus.
1	I have learned my lesson, I have not been drinking long, since January. And ever since then I have realized that I have had more bad experiences with drinking than good ones. So, I DO NOT regularly drink anymore, and when I do drink I hardly 'get drunk'. I think I needed to learn this on my own however. Nothing anybody could have told me or made me read or anything will ever help as much as the actual experience did.
1	I have lived abroad for many years. Place that have lower dinking age have more responsible drinks. I believe we need to fight to lower the drinking age. I believe that would eliminate many problems, Also problems that do arise underage students would feel comfortable going to the police instead of worrying about getting in trouble. If safety is what we are really after then we need to lower the drink age. The US has the highest drink age in the world and from what I see the most problems.
1	I have made the choice to not drink at all and i never have. I think that when students consume alcohol it is their responsibility to look out for themselves. If they think they are responsible enough to drink, then they are responsible enough to know their limits take care of themselves.
1	I have made the conscious decision not to drink while I am underage, not only because it is illegal but because of the very dangerous effects alcohol can and does have on people. I really appreciate the lengths the University goes to in providing programs such as SafeRide or the requirement for AlcoholEDU to try to educate students about the dangers of alcohol and a safe option to return to campus if someone does make the decision to drink.
1	I have never and plan to never drink alcohol my whole life.
1	I have never consumed alcohol and hope i won't too.
1	I have never consumed alcohol here on campus, off campus, or before I came here.
1	I have seen first-hand the effects of alcohol. For me, that experience taught me to be responsible. For others, that does not happen. The university should see to it that on their premise they provide knowledge as to the dangers of drinking as well as a no tolerance policy for those caught drinking on campus. Beyond that boundary, the campus cannot be responsible for anything off its premises.
1	I haven't drank even at the University since I've been here.
1	I honestly feel that a person is at their own risk while consuming, kind of like smoking a cigarette. Just don't effect the people around while doing it.
1	I just know from others, that they would like to use saferide. But there were many stories of how the police would pull over saferide. Or give tickets to underage students as they got out of saferide. I think there needs to be a way to make safe ride safe for anyone one who is drinking regardless of age. They are trying to be safe but this makes it unsafe.
1	I knew the consequences and responsibilities from my parents. They mainly told me horror stories from their college days from it. I also didn't drink in high school, so my enjoyment of alcohol didn't

	really appear until I turned 21.
1	I know that drinking underage isn't right, and even though I do drink underage on occasion, I would expect that if I got caught I would receive the appropriate punishment.
1	I know that in drinking while underage, I have broken the law. But I believe that in this case, the law is wrong. 21 is an arbitrary number to declare someone of age. Everything else that is important in life, voting, going to war, being considered an adult, happens at 18. Now 18 are just as arbitrary, but if you're going to have an arbitrary number dictating rights, keep it to one number. When I have consumed alcohol, I have consumed it responsibly, and always with a family member. But the drinking age being 21 has only increased binge drinking, secretive drinking, and other dangerous behaviors in the students around me.
1	I like it.
1	I marked that I don't drink and it still asks this??
1	I never drank underage. I think it's stupid to get drunk at all, honestly, and if you do, you should take FULL responsibility for the consequences. Anything can happen when you're drunk and you should be aware of that.
1	I never gave in to peer pressure and drank under age. I was generally praised for this personal decision and very rarely pressured after explaining my decision.
1	I never have consumed alcohol and I never will.
1	I never saw the point in getting tanked. It's my responsibility to limit my own drinking, no one else's. It's nice to have someone around to keep an eye on you, but it's still my responsibility to know my limits and take care of myself. No matter who supplies the drinks or where I am.
1	I only drank once as an undergrad. I will not drink again until I am of age
1	I personally believe that we are adults coming to college so people ought to be more responsible for themselves and things like these examples wouldn't happen. Once you're in college, you should grow up and realize there are consequences for every action.
1	I personally do not drink. I find it to be a really stupid thing to do, not only because it is against my religion, but because it is harmful. I do believe that all college students are responsible for themselves and have the ability to choose whether or not they drink alcohol.
1	I personally do not think that drinking at 19/20 or 22 makes a difference ... but that is only my exchange student point of view of USA's legal drinking age
1	I personally feel that a person is responsible for their own actions and the consequences of those actions.
1	I rarely drink any alcohol at all. But the services and programs related to drinking and safety are pretty effective.
1	I rarely ever do it and I don't let it interfere with school
1	I really believe that drinking as a whole in college is what gets kids into trouble. The idea of getting "wasted" during the weekend appeals to incoming freshmen students who don't know better, and the egging on of the older students that they drink with closes the deal. I would just call it ignorance that gets these kids into bad situations, and I really agree with the alcohol awareness programs that the incoming freshmen are being made to fill out.
1	I really believe that the saferide program is the best thing possible. Regardless, underage drinking happens. And the fact that there are safe options to get places is very responsible of the university.
1	I still like to get my drink on. I still really like to party with beverages that get me drunk!!!!
1	I strongly feel the University has taken many steps for not only protecting students but also making us aware of what is safe and what is not. In the past three years I have noticed a positive significance change in Greek life, alcohol programs and safer drinking. I also believe that students come out of high school either unprepared for the real life or not sure of themselves so they drink to get drunk. I think as a campus we need to now start getting events and fun activities to do ALL WEEK long that are non-alcoholic. Laramie is unique that we are small, but I find this a HUGE disadvantage. Lastly I want to say that the kids who want to drink underage are going to, so why not support it but in a SAFE MANNER! Good Luck!
1	I support drinking but answered the questions from a common sense point of view, the university should be held somewhat accountable for frats since they provide the charter and sponsorship for these organizations
1	I think a lot of students do it because in high school they didn't and so they are sort of rebelling now. Also some (like guys) think that if they can go to a class the next day and brag about how much they drank, how they blacked out, and what happened that it makes them seem cooler and tougher because they ca out drink their classmates.

1	I think by the time a person starts college, they know most of the dangers and risks associated with drinking. Therefore they should be able to make their own decisions about drinking and be held totally responsible for everything they do, or happens to them. I also think it is great that the university provides safe rides, even though it is not really something they are obligated to do.
1	I think drinking alcohol is really stupid, and there are better things to do then waste your time doing that.
1	I think everyone needs to take care of themselves and that no one is responsible for anything but themselves.
1	I think if someone wants to drink it is not the universities job to keep them safe. If you blame the school personal responsibility goes out the window.
1	I think if something happens to someone while intoxicated it is there own fault because they made the chose of drinking
1	I think if underage students are consuming alcohol on campus the university has a right to step in. However, if they are consuming alcohol off campus I think the university, while they can provide alcohol information programs, should not be involved in punishment for these students, it should be left up to the city police.
1	I think if you take the responsibility of drinking everything is on you. I feel that if you are not doing anything irresponsible than they should be left alone. It is the idiots that do stupid crap that ruin it for everybody else.
1	I think it is a tricky situation. There is no easy answer, for sure. Where does responsibility lay? Technically, an 18 year old is an adult, but the law says one must be 21 to drink. Are there irresponsible adults? Absolutely. But is the University obligated to monitor these adults' behavior? I am unsure. If it is on-campus, it makes more sense to me. Off-campus behavior, however, shouldn't be considered by the University, unless it directly involves the University. I don't think being a student at a given university is strong enough a tie to warrant monitoring off-campus activity. Leave that to the state.
1	I think it is nice of them to provide safe ride just not their responsibility.
1	I think it is the responsibility of families to educated students about alcohol. I then think that people should take responsibility for themselves. Perhaps it would help some people to know what situations are the most risky...when someone is obviously trying to get you drunk, it's not a good idea to get drunk, on or off campus and in or out of houses.
1	I think its out of control
1	I think it's someone's choice if they want to party and all that. They should be responsible for themselves. People think that they have to party when they come to college but I disagree with that.
1	I think kids should only get in trouble if they are dangerously drunk. If a student is able to keep it under control it is their responsibility to do that. If they lose that power, then they should be reprimanded. Safe drinking shouldn't be. not that i have ever been ticketed
1	I think that almost every undergraduate student is going to drink under age. I think that a lot of responsibility is on the person consuming alcohol. They should know their limits and be able to take care of themselves. People should not get in trouble because you could not control how much you drank.
1	I think that drinking in college is your own choice and the university has no responsibilities concerning alcohol consumption whether on or off campus.
1	I think that drinking is something that, regardless of age, should be done with safety in mind. Many underage students do not consider the ramifications of their actions when they drink. They need to have at least one person they trust and not put themselves in risky situations. I think more should be done to increase common sense.
1	I think that education is important but at the same time we need to remember that these students are adults and they need to learn to responsible.
1	I think that in the end it is the person who chooses to drink responsibility, but if they are caught on campus they should face consequences.
1	I think that it is a personal choice to drink and the university should not be held accountable for people's stupid decisions.
1	I think that it is very sad and unfortunate when people injure themselves while drinking but I don't think that others, especially an organization that has nothing to do with the actions of the individual should be held responsible or think they need to oversee individual's actions. Especially if those actions are held off campus. I think its GREAT that the university provides saferide because there is NOTHING more excusable than drinking and driving, but then again, it is NOT the university's responsibility if individuals choose to drink and drive. If someone is drunk enough or dumb enough

to drink and drive and they get hurt, it is NOTHING but their own fault. ESPECIALLY if they hurt someone else. Inexcusable. Also, as for classes and such, sure they are great but I don't think I've ever talked to a peer who takes any of that close to heart. They are needed I think to an extent, but they are by no means going to stop underage drinking.

1 I think that people drink because they think it is cool and if that notion could be stopped less injury would happen. I also think that having a beer with friends every once in a while is ok as long as you don't drink just to get drunk.

1 I think that regardless of the location of school a majority of underage students are going to drink. I believe that instead of providing information on not doing it, there should be help and information on preventing it.

1 I think that students should not have to go through the university's judicial system if they get an underage, it's not really the universities responsibility to do that, it is really the law enforcements domain.

1 I think that the legal drinking age is an infringement on the rights of adults in the United States. I believe that if somebody at the age of 18 can be tried as an adult in the court of law, can join the military to fight and possible die for their country, adopt a child, take out loans, buy a house, and vote then it is ridiculous to impose a drinking age. I think that many of the problems that we currently face with al (i.e. over consumption and abuse) are due to the restrictions attached to the drink. I think that if people are taught reason as opposed to abstinence then people would actually listen.

1 I think that the States has a very messed up idea of alcohol. Alcohol should not be viewed as so incredibly evil, as it often is in the states. In Europe, there is a much more relaxed attitude about it, and while 'kids will always be kids,' and get stupid and drunk at times, the Europeans are much more relaxed and natural about alcohol. (Grammar/spelling/pronunciation books have 'wine' and 'beer' in them). I think if alcohol were seen as something to consume in moderation, and enjoy, just like chocolate or soda, then the undergraduate drinking program would not be such a problem. I realize the University can't change Wyoming laws, but maybe if it were more relaxed, it would see the problems decrease a little bit.

1 I think that the University is responsible for students under 21 and living on campus. What happens off campus is beyond the scope of the university's business. I'm over 21 and if I drink too much off campus and fall and hurt myself I know I'm not going to attempt to find the college at fault. At some point personal responsibility has to take the lead

1 I think that the university should promote alcohol awareness, but not hold responsibility for injuries caused by students drinking

1 I think that there should be a higher punishment rate for those that do violate the drinking rules at the University of Wyoming. Because they are not strictly enforced, students know that they can get away with drinking and not get in large amounts of trouble. I think no one should be above the law and that all the rules should be strictly enforced on and off campus.

1 I think the University really only has a responsibility when it comes to drinking on campus. Off campus should be left to the authorities.

1 I think there should be some leniency on underage students who are drinking moderate amounts of alcohol just to fit in. It's one thing if an underage student is being completely irresponsible and drinking way too much, which could lead to bad decisions. But if an underage student is trying to fit into the crowd responsibly (i.e. drinking one beer), that should be held into account.

1 I think when I consumed alcohol underage, I knew my limits, morals, and values. This is very rare and I don't think a lot of people who drink underage, know their limits and respect their morals and values like I did.

1 I thought to just let you know that i have never been the partygoer my first years of college. i transferred here just this fall and the only party i went to was when i graduated from the community college i went to (i was 21 in may, i turned 21 in nov'07). i stayed at the friends house that night i drank, they gave the option to everyone

1 I totally disagree with underage drinking and believe that those doing it should understand there are consequences and ought to learn from their mistakes. I think that it is an individual's (age 21 or older) responsibility to make wise decisions when consuming alcohol since they are in control of their body. If they do not have the capability to turn down peer pressure, they should not assume that others will take care of their situation.

1 I understand that there are residence halls for students age 21 years or older. I believe the only responsibility that the university has in this case is to monitor students in that hall that are allowed to bring alcoholic beverages on campus. Other than that, I would see it being the student's responsibility if they feel they are mature enough to drink and act responsibly when doing so.



1	I understand there are risks associated with the over consumption of alcohol, but not all of us are binge drinkers and are quite capable of drinking responsibly.
1	I unfortunately had to learn the hard way about alcoholism. While I am not/was not an alcoholic, I am genetically prone to manifest the disorder. I disappointed not only my family and friends, by myself. Because of my lack of a conscience while intoxicated I had several encounters of unprotected sex which lead to lower self-esteem than normal. I suspect that I became pregnant and had a miscarriage. Also, I had a rude awakening and realized that the only reason I drank was to be social which allowed me to be more "myself" without immediate consequences. Drinking may be so entertaining, but for those that are not prepared for the repercussions and who are not mature enough to handle the effects, it causes worthless and avoidable situations.
1	I used to drink to be social. Keep providing other alternative activities for students to do. Get out the message that you don't have to drink to be cool. Too many people do it to fit in, and are forever changed sometimes. I was fortunate to find the love of Jesus, my life has never been better. He has honestly given me the strength to never drink again. It's way easier to bring my problems to God than try to solve them with alcohol.
1	I usually never drink. The only one time when I was a minor and did drink was under the supervision of my parents, and just a very small amount only to know what it feels like after drinking so that I can at least be sure that a person has been drinking when I can recognize the smell and signs of they having consumed alcohol, that's all.
1	I was caught for consuming alcohol on campus and received a ticket, took a alcohol education class, but this didn't hinder me from drinking alcohol anymore it just helped me be smarter about the amount of alcohol i consumed and where i consumed that alcohol.
1	I was fully aware that it was my decision, rules and regulations cannot monitor individual behavior and it is an interesting perception people have that age dictates what we may do. To me it is obvious, at times even painfully so, that individuals do "not" have similar maturities and everyone progresses at their own personal rate. I felt no spectacular change from when I was 20 years and 354 days old to when I became 21 years of age. The idea that human laws can regulate this type of behavior represents the true ignorance of society; we are responsible for ourselves.
1	I was in Germany, 18 while the legal age is 15, and never got drunk. I hate the taste of beer and never could stand to be around drunks.
1	I was pressured into it, and it only happened one time in eighteen years. I realize the mistake and will prevent it from ever happening again because I saw the harm I did the first time
1	I was pretty much a "good" girl, didn't start drinking at all for six months or so after I got to school, then only at my best friend's boyfriend's house once a month or so. Whenever I was binge drinking I was at home, not intending to go anywhere at all, and stayed safe.
1	I was responsible because I was educated. I feel as though the company I kept while drinking was responsible as well. You aren't going to stop underage drinking entirely, so education on how to be safe is a great alternative.
1	I was taught from an early age what to do and what not to do with alcohol. My alcohol consumption/responsibility comes from that upbringing and alcohol will never become a "substance" to use and abuse in special situations.
1	I would just like to know when Universities became more than just places to learn. The universities job, in my opinion is to provide an education for its students, not a whole lot else! I think it is a major flaw of our generation that on the whole people tend to believe that they need "protection" from everything. People need to learn how to take care of themselves, even if the consequences of not doing so are severe. The problems happen when people rely on the "protections" that society sets up and they are not there.
1	I would just like to say that I have drank alcohol underage and even though I am 21 now I have always taken responsibility for what I do and what happens to me. Unless there is a designated driver, "guardian angel", or something along those lines. People need to be responsible for their actions unless they believe that there is someone there looking out for them and then the responsibility has passes to them.
1	I would like to explain my answers, actually. I feel that a person, regardless of age or whether or not they are a student, should have to deal with the consequences of drinking, should they choose to do so. Holding anyone but the drinker responsible is not a good way of handling the situation. Yes, I am underage, and yes, I consume alcohol, but if I were to injure myself I would claim responsibility for having done so and hold no one else accountable.
1	I would like you to take into consideration that my experiences have mostly been small celebratory shots here or there, usually one at a time or one beverage at someone's house where I'll be staying and don't have to worry about driving or involvement in incidents so I don't really have first hand

	knowledge of bad things happens do to too much to drink.
1	I would rather be the designated driver on nights that my friends decide to drink. When I choose to drink it is normally to feel relaxed, not to get "tanked".
1	I'd just like to clarify the fact that the university is not responsible for anything that occurs off campus. Nor are they responsible for a student's decision to drink. However, I do feel they are responsible for protecting Students safety and health. We are adults we must all learn to take responsibility for our own actions, but its nice when preventative measures are taken by a third party.
1	If a person chooses to drink, it shouldn't be the university's responsibility. It's a personal choice that doesn't need to involve the university. The university shouldn't be liable for anything a student does while intoxicated.
1	If a person consumes alcohol, they have made a personal decision and they will accept the consequences. The university shouldn't get involved.
1	If anything needs to be taught, it is that students need to learn to take responsibility for their own actions. The university can educate and enforce rules all they want, but if students always think there is someone else to blame for their actions (i.e.: the frat that supplied booze, the bar where they drank, the RA who forgot to check on them), they will never make behavioral changes.
1	If I decide to drink alcohol (off campus), that is my choice and has not part to do with the University, so they should not be responsible for me, or my actions, until I come onto the campus, then they need to permit alcohol in the dorms or other areas.
1	If I were to choose to drink I would choose to do so in a safe environment. The safest place on or off campus to do so would be at a Fraternity. The gentlemen are very protective of guests in their houses and are committed to taking care of those who choose to come over. I would not feel safe drinking off campus at a random house party where there are no rules or regulations like there are at a Fraternity. Fraternities have registered events and have sober members looking out for the safety and well being of all guests.
1	If somebody chooses to drink than they are just as responsible for themselves as if they were sober.
1	If somebody makes the decision to drink they are responsible for the consequences. It is not a good idea for the university to take away the responsibility of the student by being responsible for the consequences of a bad decision
1	If someone feels ready to consume alcohol, they should also be able to accept the consequences of things that happen because of it. The university is not here to babysit us and force us not to drink. It's our choice it's our responsibility.
1	If someone wants to consume alcohol it's their own problem not everyone else's and they should know when to stop so they don't hurt themselves or put themselves in danger.
1	If the consumption of alcohol by underage students in on campus, or the return of the intoxicated underage student to campus results in a serious problem, that is the universities responsibility. Otherwise, if an underage student is drinking off campus, and does not return to campus, that is not the responsibility of the university. The university is not at fault for what happens off campus. Nor does the university have to provide services such as alcohol education or SafeRide. These are general courtesies the university provides for all students.
1	if the students are dumb enough to get drunk underage on campus they should have to eat whatever punishment they get whether from the university or from the local law enforcement. If they want to drink be responsible about it. People nowadays need to learn they are responsible for themselves and if they want to do something stupid than they should know it's their fault if they get caught and have to deal with the punishment.
1	If they didn't want to drink it they would have. Sending out a notice to ones parents is just stupid. The individual getting caught is not living with them any more so it should their deal if they don't want to tell their parents or not. A mandatory drinking awareness class is also really dumb.
1	If they're 18 it is at their discretion if guardians are protected.
1	If we can educate young people on how to responsibly consume alcohol, the consequences, and present them with reliable, trustworthy evidence, I think we can reduce injuries, alcoholism, and just plain bad events when drinking. Once I learned how, when, and why I drank, I controlled and understood I use it only for social purposes. Once you let people understand the truth behind alcohol they can maybe understand that we shouldn't have it in the first place. Really its a complicated issue, but we really do need to shoot for high education and responsibly with alcohol
1	If you are considered an adult and can fight in a war wouldn't you think you could also have a drink???????????
1	If you drink it is your own decision and your own responsibility to monitor yourself or have someone who you can trust to not drink heavily monitor your drinking if you are incapable. If you are

	incapable of monitoring yourself on a regular basis and are under age; you are a moron but also probably shouldn't be drinking. The university is responsible for what happens to an extent. If no one is there to babysit college kids that's fine. But if the U knows about an even and doesn't take care of it could be their fault esp. if a campus sponsored group has a reputation. But A PERSON HAS ULTIMATE RESPONSIBILITY OF THEIR OWN BODY. NOT ONE FORCED THEM TO DO IT!! The university should take some action and precautions but should not be sued unless they are completely ignorant of what is going on, on their campus.
1	If your 18 you can serve your country but you can't sit back and enjoy a beer...that doesn't make sense to me
1	I'm afraid I could write forever in an attempt to convey how i feel the hypocrisy of adults, pertaining to drinking underage, leads young adults to feel quite a bit "taken for a ride" at times. It seems as though, you all suck... and you try and find more and more ways to make it apparent that you do. Unfortunately, you (superiors) or (adults) are quite oblivious that the measures you take to "limit" underage drinking derive from one or two motives. First of which, would be the oldest trick in the book, quite literally, and that is fear. Don't be bad, or you'll burn in eternal hellfire. Don't drink; you'll die a horrible tragic piss-ridden death. And the other, would be to fulfill a hollow obligation to parents or (your money) that this super duper drinking class will definitely put an end to any of your child's pesky drinking at this college!! (however if anything should occur to your son or daughter as a result of drinking, we regret to inform you, due to your fulfillment of aforementioned class, we have met all requirements necessary to relinquish liabilities, and we are not in any instance able to pay restitution of any kind)
1	I'm an adult parents are no longer needed kids will drink when they want and where but it is the responsibility of the university to make sure things stay safe and provide things to make sure this happens
1	I'm fairly certain I am "average" when it comes to my consumption of alcohol. If students are honest in surveys, then the recent stats show that most students consume around 3-4 drinks when they party, which is around the same much I consume, though I would like to comment that I rarely attend parties, for various reasons. So I could possibly be slightly below average, as well.
1	I'm not quite sure where people get this idea that a larger organization should have control of anyone's lives, or be responsible for anyone. If someone chooses to consume alcohol (there is ALWAYS a choice), that is their choice and therefore their responsibility. If they do it on a location where it is forbidden (UW Campus, Dorms, Frats, Sororities, etc) then they should be reprimanded, but if they cause themselves harm, whether it be because of alcohol poisoning, rape, falling out of a window, etc, the university or anyone else shouldn't be to blame. Had they not drunken the alcohol, nothing like that would have happened.
1	I'm not sure if this is relevant, but I feel the 21 law is age discrimination. I feel that if I am liable for my own debts and other actions at 18, then I should be judged responsible enough to decide my own drinking habits.
1	I'm not underage
1	I'm not underage =)
1	I'm not underage, but I would have to say that if people make the decision to drink, their actions are their responsibility. It's not the university's job to babysit, and if parents can't allow their children to make mistakes, the kids will never grow up.
1	I'm of age and never really drank prior to that. I feel that an event where alcohol is consumed by an underage student while on campus should be a good fault of the university (along with the student for making such a poor judgment). Similarly, injuries caused by this event should also share equal blame of the student and the university. When it comes to sororities or fraternities, I feel alcohol should not be allowed due to the fact that they are university-related groups. If an underage student makes the mistake of drinking off-campus whether it is downtown or elsewhere, he/she should suffer the full legal consequences without university involvement.
1	I'm the person that people call when they need a ride home. I would much rather go get someone then have them stay there where they could drink more or try to drive/walk home.
1	In my country it is legal to drink at 18 and we don't fall out of windows when we drink.
1	In the end the best the University can do is advocate the dangers of over-consumption of alcohol, it is the individual's responsibility to take care of themselves and take responsibility for their actions. College is a time to become independent and alerting parents every problem a student has diminishes that ability to become an independent adult. The alcohol awareness the university provides is a great service, but in the end students are the ones responsible for their actions.
1	Individuals under the age of 21 will drink alcohol. Period. This is a cultural, social norm of college. The focus is to get those students to drink safely; you can not deter them from doing it, so encourage

	them to do it safely.
1	It depends, to me, if the University is to be responsible for injuries obtained after or during drinking. If it is mechanical then it is the university's fault, if it is the person's lack of mental capability a function at the time then it is the person's fault. Also, once a person is 18 years old, the university has no right to send anything to their parents. They are adults now and they can tell their parents if they want. Also in no way should the university get involved in incidents that happen off campus! It is none of their business what people do off of their property!
1	It is a personal choice and with so many students it is improvable to think that a university should be held responsible for each student's actions. They can contribute to the community by making programs and information available about alcohol, but they should never call a parent everyone here is an adult and can take care of themselves.
1	It is a personal choice and you live the consequences. You are an adult now considered by the law.
1	It is a personal choice to drink regardless of age. Therefore, the responsibility should be personal and not of the University. Unless the drinking is on campus, then the University is responsible for regulations. Accidents should not be the Universities fault.
1	It is a student's own choice if he wants to consume alcohol. If he is injured while drinking, it is his own fault. While the University should try to protect its students, it has to take into account whether or not the situation requires it. In the situation above, the line is fuzzy however because there where supposed to be staff and "guardian angels" watching the students.
1	It is a student's responsibility to care for themselves. Drinking copious amounts of alcohol is not caring for yourself. If an individual does not care for themselves, how can we expect the University of Wyoming to care for them?
1	It is an individual responsibility to accept consequences for actions so parental notice is not needed. If and when the individual gets caught, and they are issued a ticket, that is when the parents may be notified anyways. The story about sorority girl, it is her responsibility to accept her consequences but fault also lies on the frat for giving her the alcohol, the school for having representatives there who watched underage drinking take place, and the sorority because her "angel" left her and enabled her to drink like she did.
1	It is irresponsible to consume so much alcohol that you are unaware of the situation and no one should be responsible for that except you.
1	It is my belief that drinking is the consumer's choice and they have the responsibility to make decision when they are with their peers. I am underage and I drink in my home and occasionally with friends. For me to drink at my home is 100% legal and people who are living on campus should have the same rights. I think it is the university's responsibility to not judge people on age and NEVER compromise their rights.
1	It is my choice to drink. I am old enough to die in the military and to kill in the military, but i can't enjoy a drink with my friends? I think that is the dumbest thing ever!
1	It is no one but the individual who decides to drinks responsibility. They made the choice so it is their responsibility.
1	It is not a matter of responsibility; it's a matter of doing it to help the students.
1	It is not the responsibility of the University to provide services like SafeRide and Alcohol Education, but I think it is very smart and helpful.
1	It is really hard to blame people for underage drinking. I think change will come only when our society and culture change.
1	It is the kid's choice, the university can only do so much to help them, but it all comes down the choice that is made when consuming alcohol.
1	it is the students own responsibility to take care of themselves the university is not a babysitter and students are legal adults they should be responsible for their own actions
1	It is very important for the University to take an active role in ensuring the safety of students in relation to the topic of alcohol and its use by providing programs and information that can educate the student body on the consequences of consuming too much alcohol or any alcohol in general.
1	It is vital that each person makes a personally responsible decision. Anything they choose to do on or off campus should be something they can write home about (i.e. Dear Mom, College is fun at UW. I'm glad I have gotten involved on campus already... I had dinner with friends that live a couple blocks away from the dorms. We made mimosas with our chicken then watched a movie. And yes, after one and a half of them I walked home :-). Have you seen Game Plan? It's cute; we'll go when I'm back home. Love.) We are very FORTUNATE to have UW give us so many resources but it is not their RESPONSIBILITY (def. chargeable with being the author, cause, or occasion of something). We are in college and need to hold ourselves and our friends accountable for our/their actions.

1	It isn't the university's business if students consume alcohol off campus. However, I don't consider frats and sororities off campus since they are around a university parking circle. Therefore, I believe it is the university's responsibility to interrupt these parties and make sure that underage consumption is not going on.
1	It largely depends on the group of friends you hang out with. To my knowledge, none of my friends have alcohol on a regular basis or attend alcohol parties.
1	It seems like this University is cold and apathetic towards everything about their students aside from their drinking habits. I wish UW would just back off or actually care about its students. Quite frankly, I'm tired of them being able to raise tuition and spend my money on stupid crap that makes them look better, while at the same time acting concerned about us when it comes to our safety. Either treats this University like a business or a school, because spanning both just makes it a joke to anyone who cares to look.
1	It was a learning experience and I wouldn't change a thing I've done
1	It was my choice and i accepted all of the consequences, i wouldn't change a thing.
1	It was stupid. Beer tastes gross and it's bad for you, so why drink it. I think that it's hyped up to be something grand when, in fact, it's really not.
1	It would be helpful if you had one of these boxes after every set of questions if we wanted to explain what we meant. In all sections except the last section I disagreed, because I think it is solely the individual's responsibility, NOT the University's.
1	It would be nice to see a university take on the burden of caring for its students above and beyond the standard level of responsibility. Providing SafeRide is one such burden, which i can say is greatly appreciated on behalf of the community at large. That being said, however, I don't feel that it is the role of the university to do anything beyond taking care of residential students in any way necessary while they are on campus. Accidents that happen there however, do not imply any level of failure by the university until they become intolerably frequent or outrageous. The "Suzy" incident is an example of where the University is not at fault, but ought to still do whatever is in its power to provide care for Suzy.
1	It's a choice and a poor one at that for anyone to be getting trashed on or off campus i see no need for it and the university shouldn't be responsible. the programs made available by UW are a good way to help
1	its a personal choice that the university shouldn't be held responsible for and only have repercussions when someone is being a loud and unsafe
1	It's a semi-expected event to happen. But the university in a sense has no control over it. They should provide measures to help reduce the amount of drinking on campus, but in fraternities the university should have little to no say. That's my opinion.
1	It's important that students understand the consequences of excessive alcohol use. In fraternities in particular, if students are educated by the University of the dangers of binge drinking, than I believe the University can not be held responsible. Without this education, it seems that fraternities (as sanctioned University programs) could hold the University responsible for injuries received while intoxicated.
1	It's just too darn fun.
1	Its legal in Mexico
1	its my choice and my consequences no one else's if I drink
1	It's my choice to drink, but I think that everyone is responsible. Also it's just really nice to have choices of programs to utilize
1	It's my own choice to drink; therefore I'm responsible if something bad happens.
1	It's not an age issue, it's a maturity issue.
1	It's not the universities problem if underage kids are drinking that is a choice they made and knew the possibility of consequences for doing it
1	It's ridiculous to make the University liable/responsible for anything alcohol related that happens OFF campus. Also, Although SafeRide is awesome....I don't think UW has a responsibility to provide it as in question #30
1	it's the person's responsibility to drink responsibly and if they live off campus, the university should have no involvement with drinking but on campus grounds is a different story they should be involved with that
1	It's the student's choice of being responsible or not being responsible, until they are putting someone else's life in risk. Students aren't naive of what alcohol does and doesn't do.
1	its their personal choice the university or another should never be help accountable or another's

	actions
1	It's their own responsibility but the school can influence better habits. Education is vital and Safe ride saves lives.
1	I've never done anything like that before. So, better to leave it and live this way.
1	Just be smart about it, and then nobody gets hurt.
1	Laramie police harass college students and need to be held responsible for their own actions. They seem to think that they can treat college students however they please with no consequences. They think that they can give people MIP's when they are sober. The police force threatens college students in this town and there is nothing any of us can do to stand up to them.
1	lighten up
1	Like I said, not all underage drinkers are idiots about it. And for the last part of the test...why would it be right for the school to contact the parents of the kid who got caught? Correct me if I'm wrong, but isn't college a time where people start to grow up on their own? Students are trying to learn to cut the umbilical cord, why are dumb rent-a-cops trying to re-attach it? So there are risks, yes, I don't disagree there, but that's life. Live a little.....lives too short to be worried about the worst case scenario always happening to you.
1	More about the tone of the survey in general: It isn't the University's responsibility to stop students from living their lives, but the University should offer support whenever asked. There's a difference between being held accountable when someone gets injured (the University cannot be the sole protector of the welfare of the students) and failing to help and educate students (the University is a valuable network which can help people). In particular, SafeRide is the single best student service provided, since even though I've never used it I feel like the streets of Laramie are safer with the associated reduction of drunk driving. But that doesn't mean it is the University's fault if some student doesn't utilize SafeRide and gets in an accident.
1	Most of the time i do not attend the raging parties, it is usually about 10-15 of my friends at a house and we hang out, talk with each other, have a few drinks and that's about it.
1	most people drink only on weekends and only once in a while and 21 is to old it should be 18
1	most people that want to drink will drink and those who don't want to drink will not
1	Most times I drank at school it was at a Fraternity and I would get out of hand drunk. They need to be VERY MONITORED. Like I said I don't drink much at all anymore. I am an RA now and I have had residents already come back so drunk they puked all over the hall, bathroom, and bedroom and DO NOT remember it. I think our Frats are a HUGE problem on campus.
1	My first year at UW I drank almost everyday. Since then I have cut back by more than 80% of what I used to drink. Now I will have an occasional drink but not usually enough to get me drunk.
1	My freshman year, I consumed excessive amounts of alcohol at a fraternity on campus, and there were no institutions in place to regulate the fraternity when it came to who they were giving alcohol to and how much they were giving. I saw a lot of people to a lot of stupid and dangerous things as a result. It seems if there were more regulations, everyone would be much more safe.
1	My group of friends may drink, but we never do it to get drunk.
1	My opinions may be biased due to being a resident assistant and living on the substance free floor when I was underage. Nearly all of my alcohol experience was freshman year before I turned 21.
1	Never did anything illegal. It was always in a country where drinking under the age of 21 was legal. (i.e. France)
1	No one is responsible for drinking except for the individual making these choices. In the example of Suzy, she should know that sorority's have a history of excessive drinking, and at the very least she could have told her sorority that she did not want to drink. There were plenty of options to prevent the incident, but she did not choose to take any of those. On the side of the university, once again it is not their obligation to provide different programs to help prevent or promote safe drinking. While I would agree that the SafeRide program does provide a helpful solution to drinking and driving, the individual drinking should know that if he is going to drink it very easy to go over the legal BAC level. Knowing this, you should have a plan so that you can avoid any future problems. Once again, I would like to reiterate that we all have personal responsibility. I'm sure that legally Suzy could find some way to bring up a lawsuit against the sorority, but ultimately it was her fault for not taking the proper pre-cautions. Judgment is very clouded when drinking, so she should of taken the proper steps before hand to prevent any conflicts. If she would have taken personal responsibility, she could have avoided this situation. Blaming your problems on others will get you nowhere, and it is the same principle that holds back human advancement in everyday life.
1	No.
1	Nobody may believe me, but I have never drank before in my life so I feel that nobody should drink,

but if they're going to drink anyway to do it responsibly and they are responsible for their own actions.

1	No one puts a gun to someone's head and say's "drink or die" the choice 99% of the time is yours. Peer pressure or not.
1	Not all people when they drink under age or not go out to parties and drink irresponsibly the majority of the time when i do consume any amount of alcohol its at my house or a friends house with only my friends.
1	Not everyone is a complete dumbass about consumption of alcohol.
1	Not quite about that, but I don't think parents should be notified, by the time we get to the University we're 18 or older, making us adults and responsible for our own choices. Why then would you go and call mommy and daddy?
1	Nothing I'd like to add about the consumption of alcohol, but I do have to say, that for a lot of people this survey will be very difficult to answer. The University as an institution should have very little responsibility for the consequences of anyone's drinking as the University did not make that decision for them. However, ethically, every individual should help prevent someone from injuring themselves, being in a bad situation, causing harm to others, etc. and as an institution which employs responsible and ethical employees, the University should expect and require that kind of responsibility from everyone in their employ. Food for thought. ^-^
1	Nothing is going to stop people from drinking, the only thing that could help is more safety precautions
1	on campus the university may have a say but off campus we are just living our lives and this is out of your jurisdiction and their is no write to enforce fines, classes and tell parents and if you find out it is likely they have already been punished and I have never received any alcohol related ticket, warning this is just how I feel
1	On campus, the university has every right to regulate it. Off campus, it's my business.
1	One should not drink to become drunk. Just as a way of lowering some social barriers and allowing everyone to have a nice, safe, fun time after school.
1	Only drink alcohol about once a month, but drink with the intention of getting drunk.
1	Only that, the only time that I ever consumed alcohol underage is when supervised by an adult, and only then when it was a special occasion like a wedding.
1	People (regardless of age) are responsible for their own actions and are responsible for the consequences. I hate it when people blame alcohol or someone else...that is ignorant
1	People are responsible for themselves, if a person drinks or not is none of the university's business, and we don't need baby sitters. In general RA's and university employees should not be looking to catch students drinking and an open door policy on alcohol, even in the freshmen dorms would be safer and smarter than the current policy that drives students to try and hide drinking.
1	People do it to have fun and a good time and relax. If that's their way of doing it that's their way but they still need to do it safely. I do believe that people need to realize that you can have parties, fun times, and all that good stuff without alcohol though.
1	People have the right to make their own choices. If they want someone to hold their hand then they should stay home and not go to college. Everyone knows what happens at college and the University does not say to do any of the stupid things people do when they consume alcohol. It is a person's choice and not for others to control. It's not allowed now and saying it can't be done will only increase the urge to get drunk and then because it will have to be hidden more it will cause more accidents as people avoid getting into trouble.
1	people need to be taken accountable for their actions
1	People need to take more responsibility for their own actions. An institution is not to be blamed for an individual's poor life decisions.
1	People should always hold themselves accountable for their actions, whether or not they are of age and regardless of their setting. Unless you are forced into a situation that has alcohol present (which is rare) then you have chosen to be there and should also make wise decisions once you are there. These decisions should include how much you consume and whether or not you are responsible enough to handle yourself while under the influence.
1	People that WILL NOT/REFUSE to drink alcohol should be allowed to attend parties with drinking in order to have the ability to care for friends and strangers that cannot be diverted from drinking. If documents must be signed to distinguish those that will be sober, fine. But being punished for attending an underage drinking party when only there to care for the intoxicated, seems wrong. When drunk, people don't have the ability or sense to call a friend and quietly wait on the front lawn for them to get there--instead, they will feel fine and get themselves injured, etc.

1	People who are underage and consume alcohol are doing at their own risk so the University should not be held liable for anyone's actions. If people do engage in such activity, they should be able to face the consequences, good or bad. Therefore, if you fall and hurt yourself because you were drinking, it's your own damn fault.
1	People who consume a large amount of alcohol are responsible for themselves. If they are completely intoxicated, and something happens to them, they are completely responsible for their own actions! It makes me very mad when people try to blame friends, or the university (they are doing everything they can to help us out, and most don't realize it's for their own benefit), or the people who supplied alcohol at the party (they didn't make anyone drink, people choose to.) People, especially underage drinkers need to think about their actions and be ready to take responsibility for what they did, instead of always looking for a scapegoat.
1	Personally I consume alcohol now just as I did when I was underage.... I just used my head, and didn't drive drunk or act like an idiot. I think UW should spend more money on educating underage drinkers instead of writing them tickets.
1	Personally, I believe that if a person, underage or not, willingly become intoxicated then they themselves are responsible for what happens to them when intoxicated. Friends and family are there to help when a person is exceptionally drunk, but it is not the responsibility of the University at all to monitor and take responsibility for these situations.
1	Personally, I think that it is not a very big deal as there are countries through out the world that do not follow the U.S. legal drinking age but manage to do well.
1	Please tell everyone that alcohol is best dealt with in moderation. Also, I believe that the university has the full right to execute the maximum penalty for underage students caught drinking on campus.
1	Responsibility rest on the shoulders of the infidel.
1	Safe ride is a huge help in keeping people on the roads safe. Thanks to safe ride!
1	safe ride transportation is a very nice thing to have but not a necessity
1	Since Fraternities serve alcohol to underage individuals, they should be punished to the full extent of the law.
1	Since I'm actually not underage in Canada, I guess as the saying goes, "Been there, done that"; I really don't see the need to get hammered especially when I'm trying to pursue big dreams. I just really don't want to mess up and disappoint myself first of all and my friends. People expect big things from me and I intend on doing them, there's no alcohol in the world that tastes as good as victory my friend.
1	Some answers vary depending on the different types situation
1	Sometimes we can get out of control because it is more readily available and we don't have our parents to tell us what to do, therefore, we drink more and get more out of control then we normally would.
1	Step into my shoes for a minute. You graduated from high school at age sixteen, have been in college two years, have been married and divorced, work full time and attend school full time. You are underage. You are an adult; you can vote and be charged with criminal offense just like an adult. With all these responsibilities on your shoulders and decisions to make there is yet one that is made for you: you cannot consume an alcoholic beverage. Tell me that this is not silly and absurd. We are adults. Minors do consume alcohol and making it illegal does not help the situation.
1	Students who are underage are usually considered adults therefore parents do not need to be notified of alcohol incident.
1	Students are going to drink. The University needs to be sure to have plenty of safe rides available for students who choose to drink so they can have a ride back or to their home.
1	Students are legal adults when they turn 18. It is there responsibility to take care of themselves, if they choose to drink; it is there full responsibility for their actions. Blaming the University for their own choices, 21 or younger, is an outlet to not taking full responsibility to the consequences of their decisions.
1	Students grow up knowing the risks of using alcohol. They choose to do it so why would the University take responsibility over it. I mean yes maybe they should try to do what they can to keep it out of residence halls for a couple reasons. If you live in a dorm, chances are you are under 21. And dorms are on campus. Really i do not think that the University should try and get caught up into it too much because kids are in college and they are going to want to drink. Cool its their decision, and they know it can be harmful and that it may have negative outcomes. However, I do think the college should offer some classes or meetings to inform students. If they are going to drink they can be more wise about the whole thing. I however, do not drink. Why? Well I have better things to do and I can have fun with out being drunk and killing my body slowly. So people should drink at their own risk,



	and face whatever happens.
1	Students regardless of there age will drink Alcohol and will find a way to get it no matter what the University does.
1	Students should be at the university for educational purposes, and that needs to be stressed...too many people at this school ruin their education by drinking and partying excessively. Moderation is fine, but there is no reason to be attending parties three or four times a week.
1	Students should be given a break when it is their first offense and they should be let off with a warning also I think that parents should not be notified and that the school does not need to be notified after a first offense.
1	Students should be held responsible for their personal decision to drink, and designated drivers should always be encouraged.
1	Students will drink regardless of consequences. It is whether or not they have been brought up to handle the alcohol or not that is the issue. I drank too much my freshman year and do so on occasion now, but I never drink and drive, never get in fights, never harm myself or anyone else and my life and school are never affected by my decisions. Responsibility, drinking is a privilege.
1	That I have more important things to do in my life and high aspirations and alcohol just holds you back. I haven't had any alcohol at all in about two months and I've been in situations that have offered it. If you don't want to drink it's easy to not do it.
1	The alcohol education programs should be optional for students and not required. It's always the student's responsibility when they start to consume alcohol.
1	The biggest mistakes I made were as a freshman. I partied often and hard. As a sophomore I cut down and now as a junior I hardly ever drink.
1	The choice to consume alcohol is purely that of the individual not of the university. although the university should do as much as it can to prevent accidents and protect its students, the university should no be directly responsible for students who are hurt due to the consumption of alcohol unless it is a health hazard that they over looked. In the case of this story, her friends should have stepped in or the faculty should have stepped in and told her to stop. It would have been nice if her sorority sisters had been looking out for her, but in the end it was she and she alone who drank that much and it was she who was too intoxicated to make responsible and safe choices.
1	The current steps taken by the university provide useful knowledge to both underage and of age students, and allows them to make their own decisions. The programs informing students about alcohol are effective in giving the individual the opportunity to make an educated decision when considering to consume alcohol.
1	The drinking age is ridiculous. Should be at the MOST 18. Like in Europe
1	The fact that Frats are a safe haven for underage drinkers is horrible. If a group receives university funding than they should be held accountable for their actions and breaking of the law. The fact that the university knows that alcohol is given to and consumed by underage students and does nothing, but students that pay their tuition and are caught consuming alcohol are fined for just walking home across campus is ridiculous. Frats that are to receive university funding should have to adhere to university guidelines and have UW police at all parties.
1	The fact that whoever consumes alcohol should be responsible for their actions
1	The first two years of college usually seem to be the years that undergrads tend to drink the most. It's almost a rite of passage anymore in many students' eyes. Most students mature and realize they don't like being hung-over all the time and need to take more responsibility as they progress in school.
1	The key to alcohol is just to be responsible. Every party needs a few sober people. There are a lot of us who are willing to fill this role.
1	The level of alcohol consumption at the University of Wyoming is no different than at any other University, but I do think that our University has less of a pro-active approach to the situation than most. While we do have "Safe-Ride" and a freshman "alcohol orientation" class, freshman aren't the only one's drinking. All students need access to more education and more options for alternative activities. Also, as an employee of the Emergency Room, the numbers of intoxicated students visiting the E.R. has only risen and is continuing to do so as the year progresses.
1	The majority of freshman entering college are going to drink at some point during their first year. It is not the University's job to try to stop this. It is simply not possible. The University should only intervene when the negative consequences of someone drinking is affecting more than just themselves, and when said consequences affect the individual on a continual basis.
1	the online alcohol ed program I had to do as an incoming freshman was fairly useless and carried on much too long
1	The only time that i have ever done anything that i regretted or anything like that, was off campus, in

	the fraternity house is where i feel that safest drinking. Also, i don't feel the university should extend its power to anything off campus.
1	the only way I would say you could help is by offering supportive programs such as safe ride otherwise, especially in Laramie, I think that kids need to learn the consequences that drinking on their own.
1	The people who create problems are the ones who have never been around it. When they get to college away from their parents, they feel the need to go crazy and do all the things that they never did. This is what causes the problems, the morons who cannot handle themselves due to a lack of maturity, responsibility, and self control.
1	The sole responsibility for the actions of an individual who is drinking is the individual drinking. If it is at a school related event in which alcohol is served, it is the responsibility of the University to make sure no alcohol is served to minors. Individual students need to take responsibility for their own actions, even the actions that are taken while they are drunk (excluding sex, because I believe if someone is unable to give consent, that is rape).
1	The state should lower the drinking age to 18 binge drinking would decrease dramatically. I PROMISE
1	The underage person, be they an undergraduate or otherwise, is at fault for the consumption of alcohol. It is not an obligation for fraternity life and I have never had any problems staying away from it. The imbiber is totally at fault for their own mishaps. I believe that the University should STRONGLY enforce STRICT consequences on ANY underage drinkers they are involved with in some way. I agree with the programs, but I believe they need to stress the abstinence of alcoholic use until legal age, not how best to drink without damage to yourself or other things.
1	The University is not a babysitter that we as students go to once we leave home. I believe that in order to prevent lawsuits against UW, the school should take care to advise students on alcohol, but they are in no way responsible for anything that happens off campus.
1	The university is not responsible but they should provide education and consequences for people that do drink.
1	The university is not responsible for students and drinking directly, such as taking responsibility for injuries etc because it is the individual's choice, but they should offer programs to limit it and try to offer safe options for students.
1	The University must concern itself with what happens on campus property, but never outside of it's boundaries
1	The university needs to lighten up a bit and stop screwing over students just TO SAVE THEIR OWN BEHINDS!
1	The University should not be held responsible if you are dumb enough to drink.
1	The University should not be held responsible, the student should. I was their choice to consume alcohol.
1	The university should only be responsible for taking steps to keep college students from drinking. It's the student's choice whether or not to get drunk (and ignore the university/law); therefore anything that happens to them as a result of drinking is, in most cases, their own fault.
1	The University should stay away from the student's alcoholic life when they are off campus. In the dorms it is understandable if alcohol consumption is occurring. But if a student comes in to the dorms intoxicated, but can still walk and function normally, they should be left alone. We are here to learn not to be tattled on if we are caught drinking off campus. This isn't much of an issue, but it shouldn't become one.
1	The university shouldn't be protecting students who consume alcohol legally or illegally because it is not their responsibility but, it should not be allowed at all. It is against the LAW!
1	The university shouldn't be required to baby sit us while on campus or off campus. The choices a person makes once they are over the age of 18 should be their own responsibility.
1	The use of alcohol by students regardless of age is not the responsibility of the universities unless it is involved in directly supplying the alcohol.
1	There are fuzzy lines to be drawn once a person comes of age, but before that rules should be enforced strictly.
1	There are people who drink with caution and responsibly. There are few, though, who do not. Its hard not to get wrapped into that statistic when you do consume alcohol on occasion.
1	There is FAR too many people drinking here at college. We need to inform people of the likelihood that their drinking will most likely lead to SOMEONE OTHER THAN THEMSELVES getting hurt or killed. People need to stop being so selfish and start thinking of how their actions impact others.
1	There is noting that anyone can do to stop students from drinking and if they do it irresponsibly it is

	their own fault.
1	There is too much ignorance when it comes to underage drinking. Especially with girls. They are trusting and think they are safe when they are not.
1	There needs to be a more severe crack down on underage drinkers as well as functions on campus i.e. fraternities and sororities and other parties that are on campus that get out of control and/or have a great deal of drinking at them.
1	There should be a total ban of alcohol in the residence halls, as it disturbs students who don't drink, and those who drink are totally responsible for themselves. It is that person's choice to drink, and no one else should be held accountable.
1	This is a very difficult subject. As a legal adult we should be held accountable for our own actions, not the university. But I believe that there should be some consequences and liability when alcohol is involved in a University establishment, whether the union hall or the fraternities.
1	This is the second university that I have attended, transfer student, and UW's policy on underage drinking is disliked all around. At the other university I attended if you were underage and were caught consuming alcohol on campus you would be given a fine and required to take a class, no outside police involvement at all, along with no MIPs or anything that goes on a police record, just on the school record. If students came on campus intoxicated they were fine unless they were overly destructive, then campus security would come take care of the problem, everything was taken care of by the school. I feel that UW should adapt a similar policy as I heard of students having the cops called and given MIPs for having a beer in their dorm room. If UW had a safer environment for those underage that choose to drink, then I feel fewer problems would arise. I know many people that would rather take the fine from the police than the fine and a 9-midnight class that if they skip would lead to being expelled from the university.
1	Treat them as adults and let them make their own decisions. Offer alternatives but do not force them.
1	Underage consumption of alcohol occurs more often than not due to a SERIOUS lack of activities to participate in on and off campus. For a college town, Laramie lacks in the facilities and activities available to ALL students, particularly those under the age of 21.
1	Underage drinking can not be stopped by underage consumption tickets and other forms of penalties. What a student does off campus should not be the concern of the University and students 18 and older attending the university should not have to have their parents notified. At age 18 a person is legally considered an adult.
1	Underage drinking is going to happen. Although I do not think it is the responsibility of the university to take care of this problem, I am impressed at the lengths the university goes to at least make it safer (safe-ride ect...)
1	Underage drinking is illegal, no matter how you look at it. People can sugar coat that any way they want, but the law should not support underage drinking in lawsuits. Even underage drinking should be strongly cautioned, because even though alcohol can make a person unaware of a situation, you are still responsible for drinking and therefore for your actions under the influence.
1	Underage students are going to drink regardless of the consequences. The university is not responsible for those who decide to drink, and make decisions. I don't think the university is responsible for safe ride, but it is an awesome program they have started.
1	Underage students who consume alcohol are doing so under their own risk. The University has no responsibility to get involved unless perhaps the goings on are on campus. It is the individual's responsibility
1	Was not do to peer pressure and it was a one time deal. I do believe when I turn 21 I will drink on special occasions
1	We are all adults in college, if a student decides to consume alcohol then he/she should be responsible enough to handle it and make smart decisions. I think that the university should take education measures and preventative measures to things like injuries and accidents. Alternative entertainment provided by the university is always a good idea too.
1	We are responsible for ourselves. If we choose to drink alcohol it is our own decision there for the university should not be held responsible and if the university has rules we should be responsible enough to follow them or not get caught.
1	Well I am 21 now, but when I was underage I went to a party off campus and ended up breaking my hand. I was held fully responsible, I suffered my own consequences because of my actions. I think I learned a valuable lesson from it. I now drink more safely and I enjoy myself because of the responsibility I took on.
1	well I am an undergrad but I am of age, but I would say that just take it easy and don't do anything that will cause you to regret the next morning

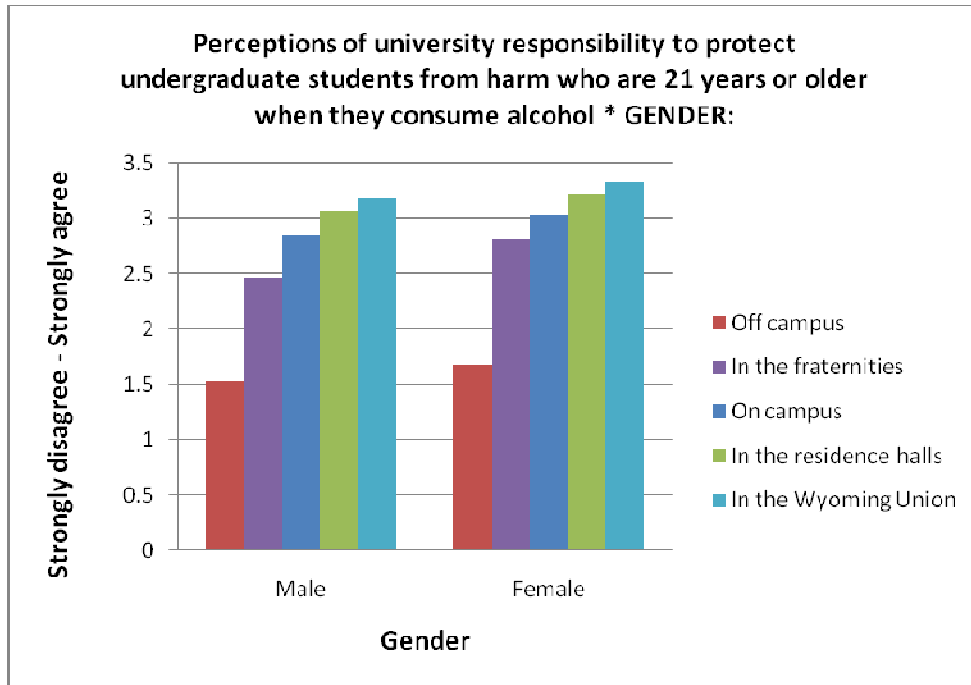
1	Well I've never personally consumed alcohol, and I had plenty of fun without it. I remember all of my most fun experiences, I've never spent a morning puking up last night's fun, and I think that's a very good way to spend college. If people do choose to drink, they should just be responsible about it.
1	Well what the hell else are you supposed to do on the weekends in a town like this where there's nothing to do. i mean there's not even a mall in Laramie or anything
1	Well, I am not actually an underage undergrad student. I am 21 as of this past June. However, alcohol is a dangerous substance and no one should be held accountable for the decisions you make in your life. You risk your own safety once you become even the slightest bit intoxicated. Now, it's not to say that some people in this situation aren't morally at fault by leaving someone alone who was obviously intoxicated beyond control. However, if she had not been drinking excessively she would have been able to guide herself back to her room and not be left on a balcony somewhere. No one else can take responsibility of your actions and if this situation had been worse and the girl would have been drinking and driving and heaven forbid injured or killed someone else she would be held accountable, not the university for her choices. It's all different when we think we're the victims isn't it.
1	Well, I don't drink, but I think the people who do are solely responsible for the results. In my opinion, the university has very little business policing alcohol consumption because doing so only fuels the fire. If students want to drink, they're going to do it, especially if people tell them not to.
1	What ever happens should be between the student. There should be no need to involve the University or parents. We should be able to handle the situation ourselves.
1	When coming to UW I was afraid that I'd be one of the only people who didn't drink on the weekends, but luckily I was wrong.
1	When I do consume alcohol I do not want to get injured. I do not want to get in trouble with the law, school, or with friends. Plus, I do not want to suffer consequences, which is a strong possibility when drinking, therefore I try to drink responsibly and be safe about it. Even if someone is doing something that i see as unsafe or something that is just asking to get caught, I try to say something for the good of everyone present. Therefore, I like the idea of alcohol awareness and ideas about being safe, because I believe if everyone was safe and responsible about drinking there would be less injuries, less drunk drivers, and less hassle with dealing with the court system.
1	When I drink I am the one who makes the choice to drink. Therefore, I am responsible for my actions, not the University.
1	When I was a freshman in college, i became a "binge drinker" and many other students did as well, I think that at orientation the university should strongly talk about the dangers of drinking, and how much it IS accessible to students, because as a freshman you don't have self control, that is later learned, and now that I am a junior in college, I don't drink nearly as much, and can manage my own alcohol intake, but many students don't know how to say no, or that when people tell them enough, they don't listen.
1	When you drink it is your responsibility to be safe.
1	Where I come from it was legal to drink at my age.
1	While I agree that underage drinking is a problem in this town, I also understand that a large part of growing up and maturing involves having fun and making mistakes, both of which usually happen when consuming alcohol. I don't necessarily believe that the University should be responsible for actions that occur off campus. The authority of the campus should have limits. Having said that, I do feel that the educational programs offered by the University regarding the smart use of alcohol are beneficial and should continue to be used.
1	While I have never had alcohol and do not plan to, I do not believe it is the universities responsibility to monitor alcohol of students whatever their age. I hate drinking, but it is people's right to drink. I am against all restrictions on drugs and alcohol even though I personally have never tried anything. I believe it is a right to be able to consume what you want and it is no one else's business until you interfere with their rights.
1	Yes, people make their own choices, they should take the responsibility and not blame others
1	You just have to be responsible about it. You cannot let it have any affect on the rest of your life.

**Appendix E – Data and Graphs from Questions #16-37**

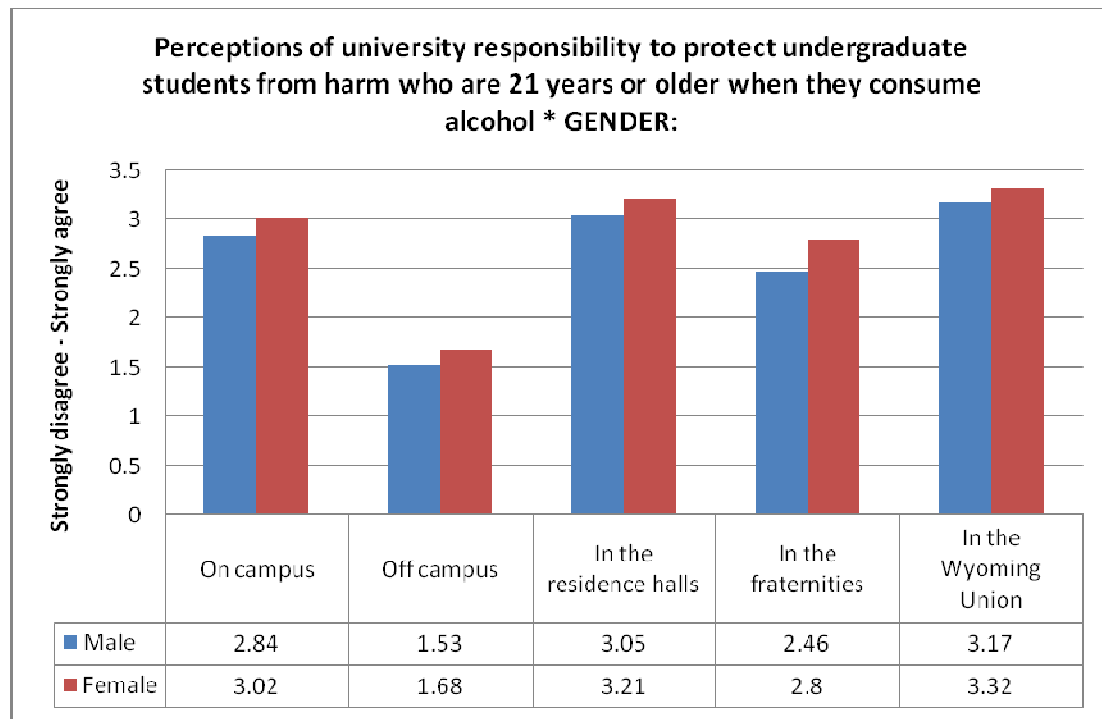
**Table E-1. Mean perceptions of university responsibility to protect undergraduate students from harm who are 21 years old or older when they consume alcohol, by factors.**

Factor	Location					N	Graph
	On campus	Off campus	Residence halls	Fraternities	Wyoming Union		
<b>Gender</b>							
Male	2.84	1.53	3.05	2.46	3.17	920	E-1, E-2
Female	3.02	1.68	3.21	2.8	3.32	1,298	E-1, E-2
<b>Residential Location</b>							
Residence Hall	3.00	3.00	3.05	2.88	3.14	876	E-3
On-campus apartment	1.76	1.76	1.76	1.56	1.59	94	E-3
Fraternity/Sorority	3.23	3.16	3.20	3.05	3.37	103	E-3
Off-campus apartment	2.68	2.63	2.25	2.65	2.98	1,055	E-3
Off-campus with family	3.41	3.21	3.20	3.12	3.46	90	E-3
<b>Personal Responsibility</b>							
Low	3.58	1.81	3.79	3.50	3.90	117	E-4
Medium	3.28	1.81	3.47	3.02	3.56	943	E-4
High	2.73	1.49	2.92	2.38	3.06	1,002	E-4
Very high	1.90	1.15	2.13	1.60	2.18	155	E-4
<b>N = 2,218</b>							

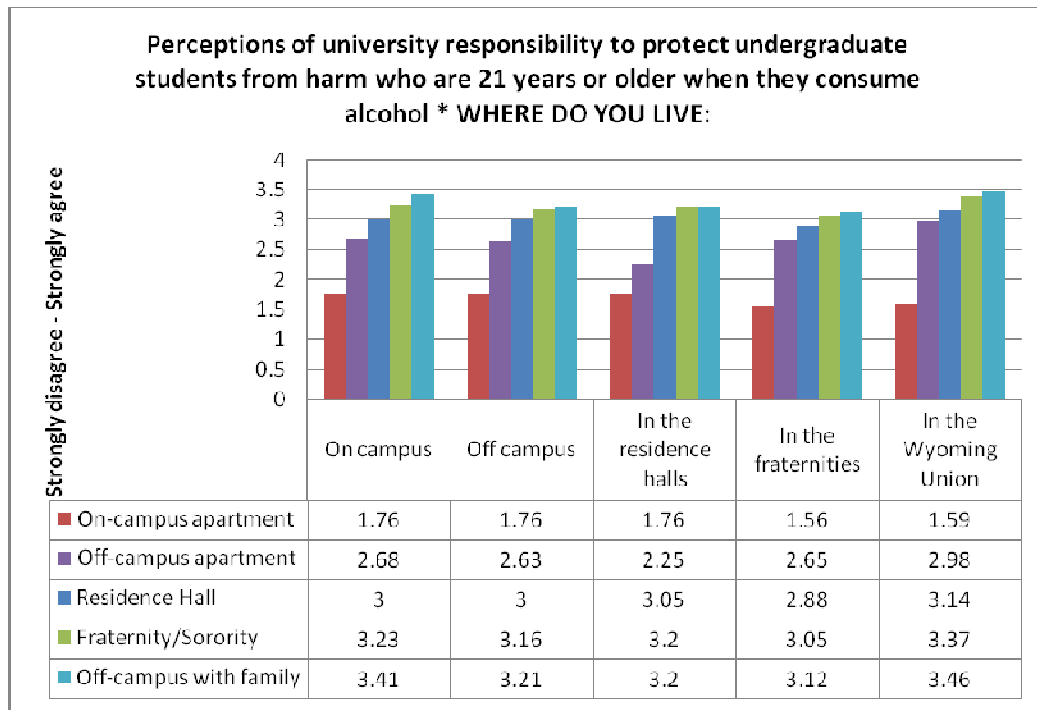
*The graphs below listed E-1 – E-4 show these data*



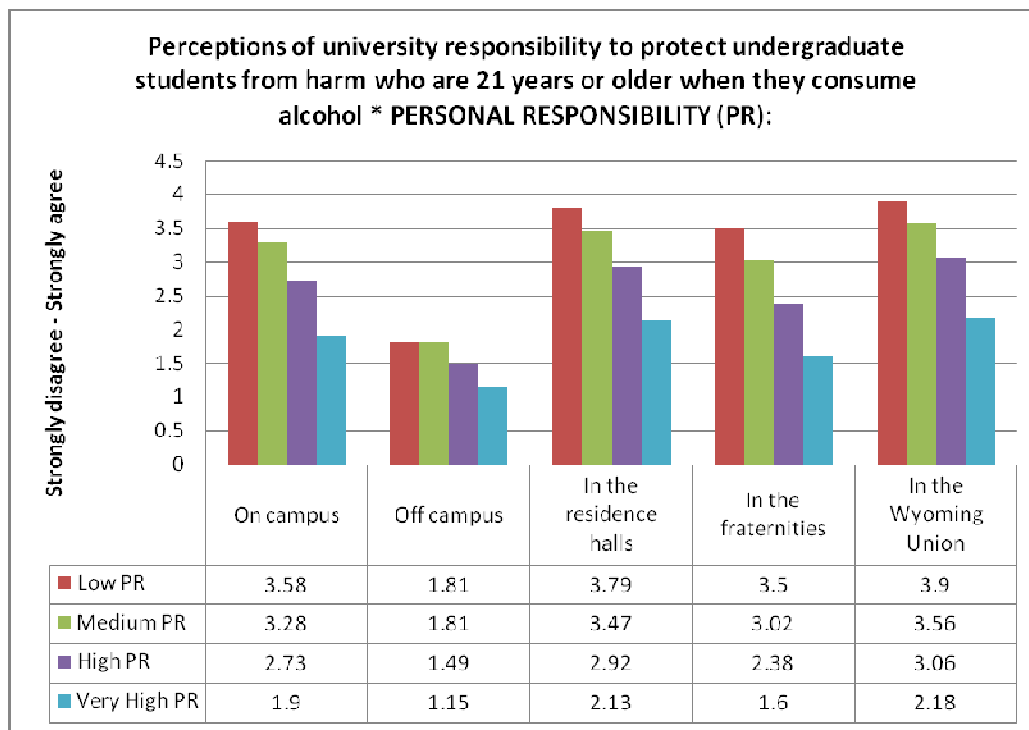
*Figure E-1.* Survey responses to questions #16-20 by the factor of GENDER



*Figure E-2.* Survey responses to questions #16-20 by the factor of GENDER



*Figure E-3. Survey responses to questions #16-20 by the factor of PLACE OF RESIDENCE*



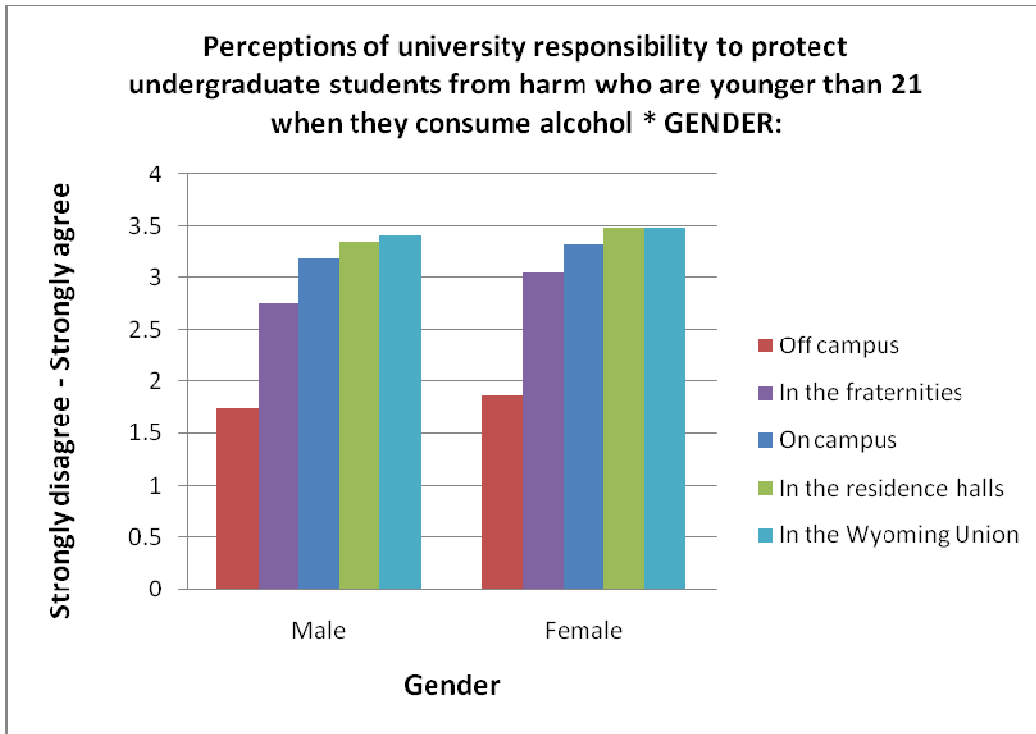
*Figure E-4. Survey responses to questions #16-20 by PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY*

**Table E-2.** Mean perceptions of university responsibility to protect undergraduate students from harm who are younger than 21 years old when they consume alcohol, by factors.

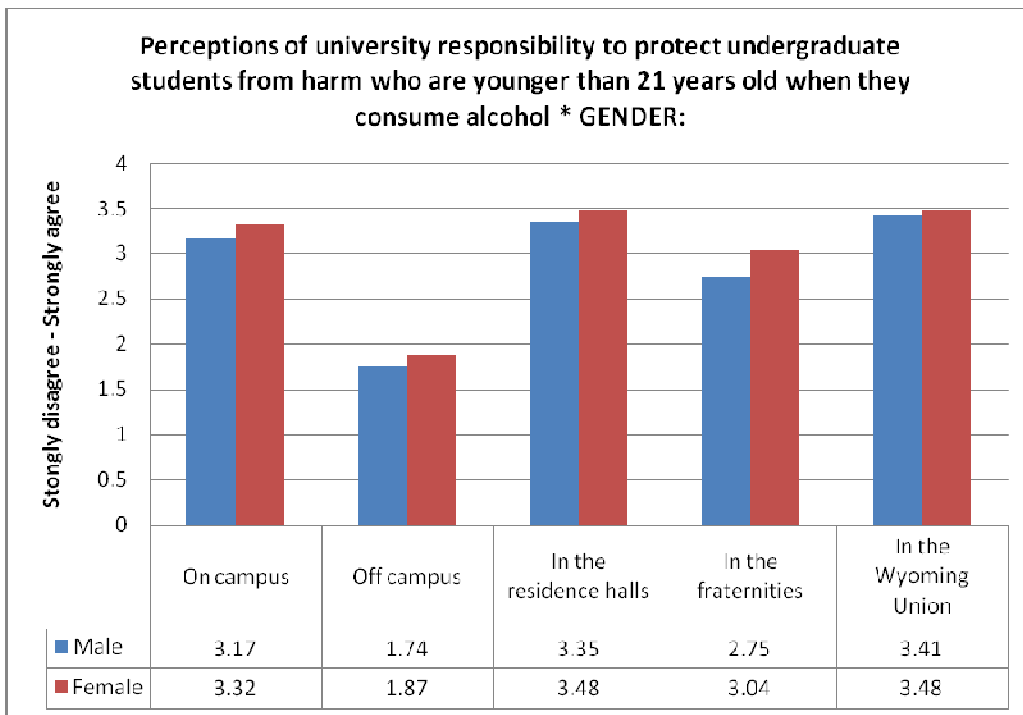
Factor	Location					N	Graph
	On campus	Off campus	Residence halls	Fraternities	Wyoming Union		
<b>Gender</b>							
Male	3.17	1.74	3.35	2.75	3.41	920	E-5, E-6
Female	3.32	1.87	3.48	3.04	3.48	1,298	E-5, E-6
<b>Residential Location</b>							
Residence Hall	3.34	3.31	3.09	3.20	3.33	876	E-7
On-campus apartment	1.92	2.00	1.91	1.72	1.78	94	E-7
Fraternity/Sorority	3.50	3.45	3.49	3.34	3.46	103	E-7
Off-campus apartment	2.94	2.97	2.31	2.95	3.06	1,055	E-7
Off-campus with family	3.57	3.43	3.44	3.35	3.46	90	E-7
<b>Personal Responsibility</b>							
Low	4.01	2.32	4.18	3.97	4.21	117	E-8
Medium	3.59	2.03	4.18	3.30	3.75	943	E-8
High	3.00	1.66	3.18	2.62	3.22	1,002	E-8
Very high	2.22	1.19	2.44	1.76	2.43	155	E-8
<b>N = 2,218</b>							

*The graphs below listed E-5 – E-8 show these data*

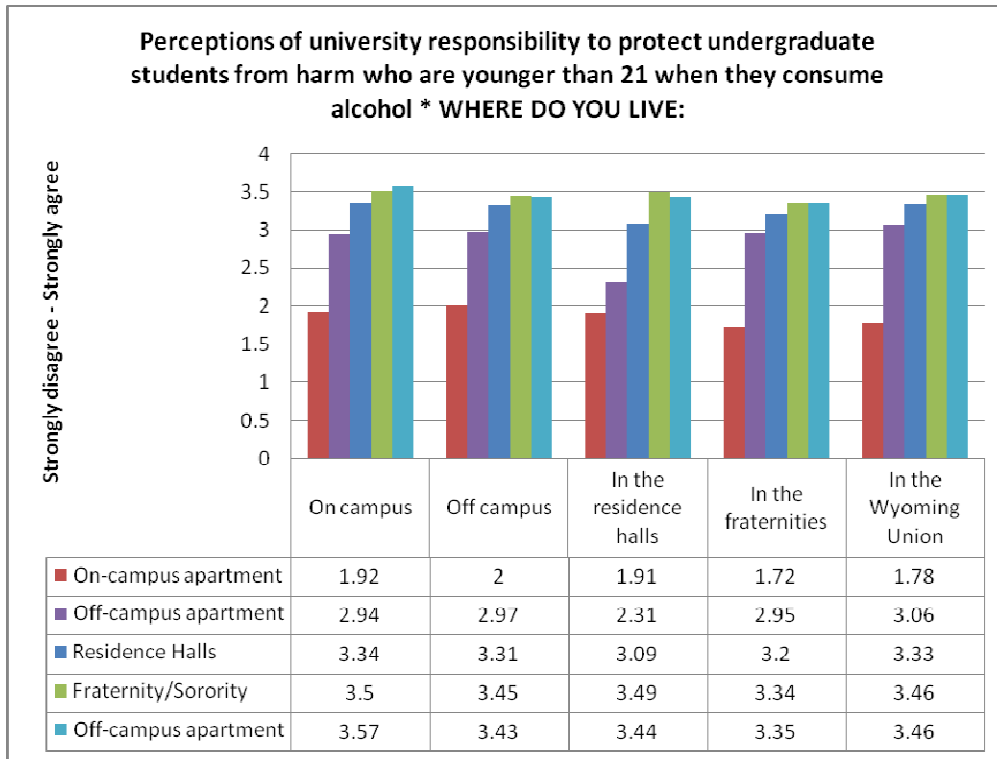




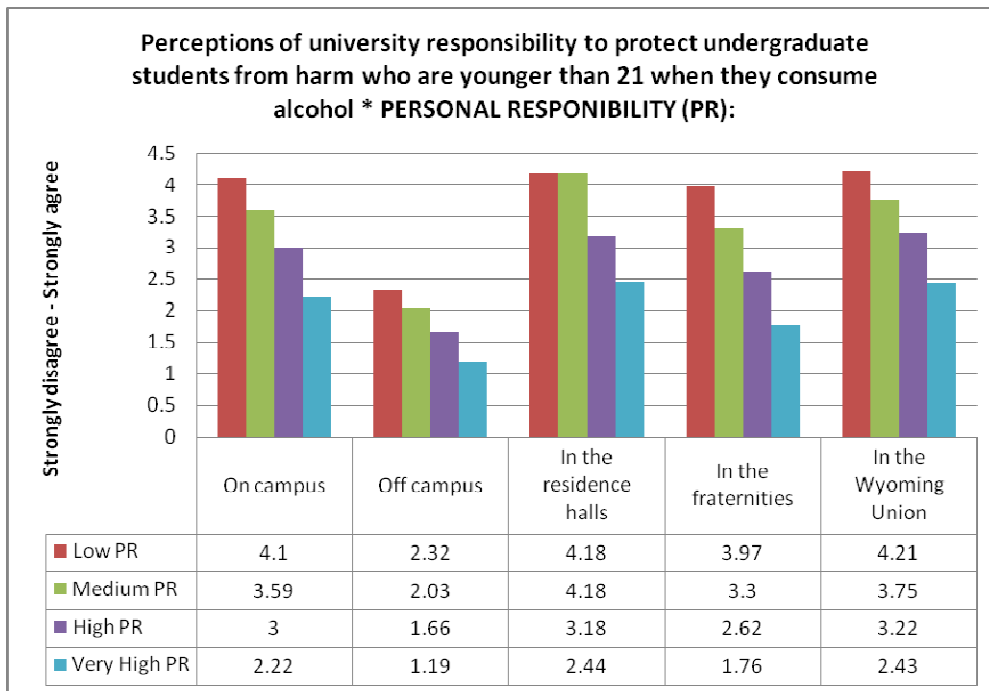
*Figure E-5. Survey responses to questions #21-25 by the factor of GENDER*



*Figure E-6. Survey responses to questions #21-25 by the factor of GENDER*



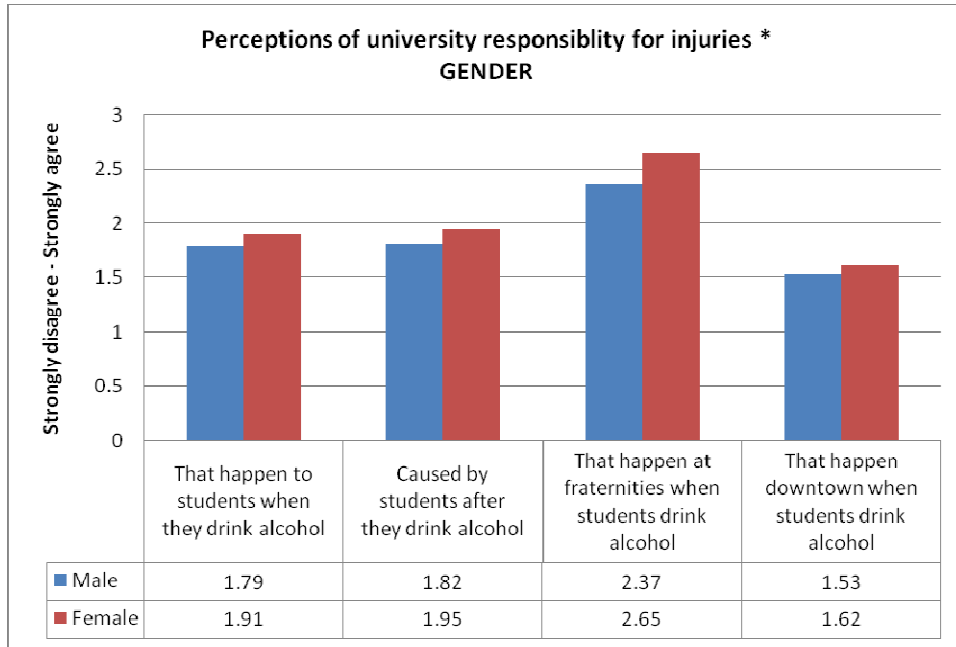
*Figure E-7. Survey responses to questions #21-25 by the factor of PLACE OF RESIDENCE*



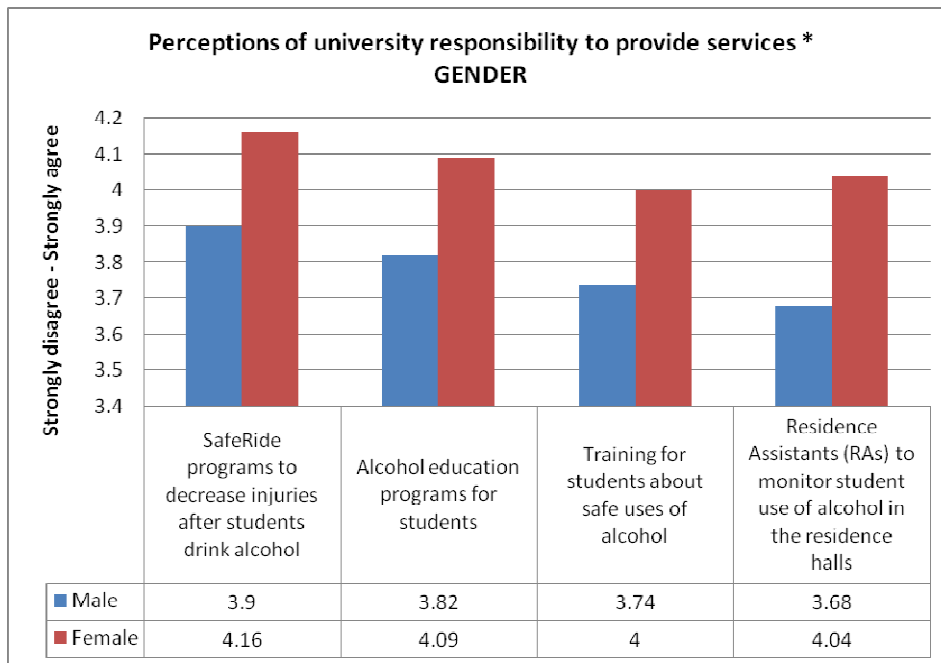
*Figure E-8. Survey responses to questions #21-25 by PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY*

**OTHER USEFUL GRAPHS COMPARING MEANS DATA AND VARIABLES**

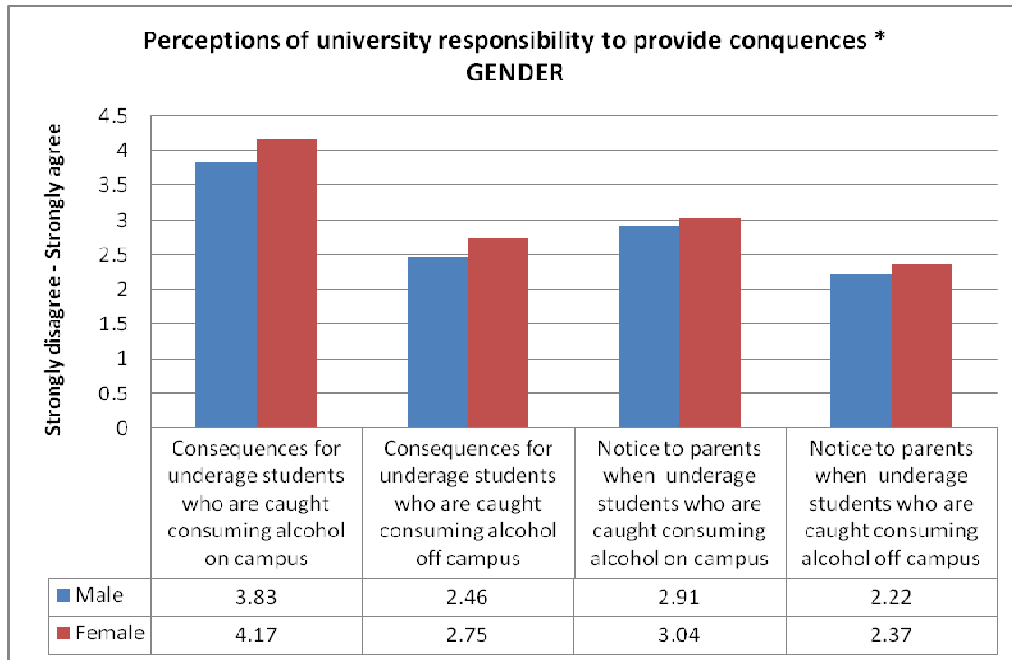
**Gender**



*Figure E-9. Survey responses to questions #26-29 by GENDER*

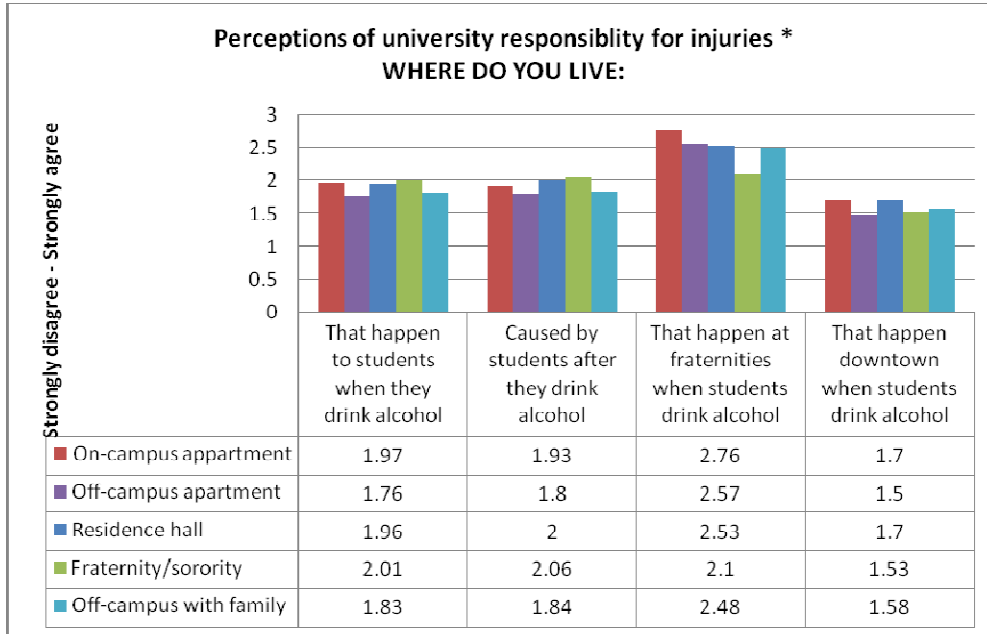


*Figure E-10. Survey responses to questions #30-33 by GENDER*

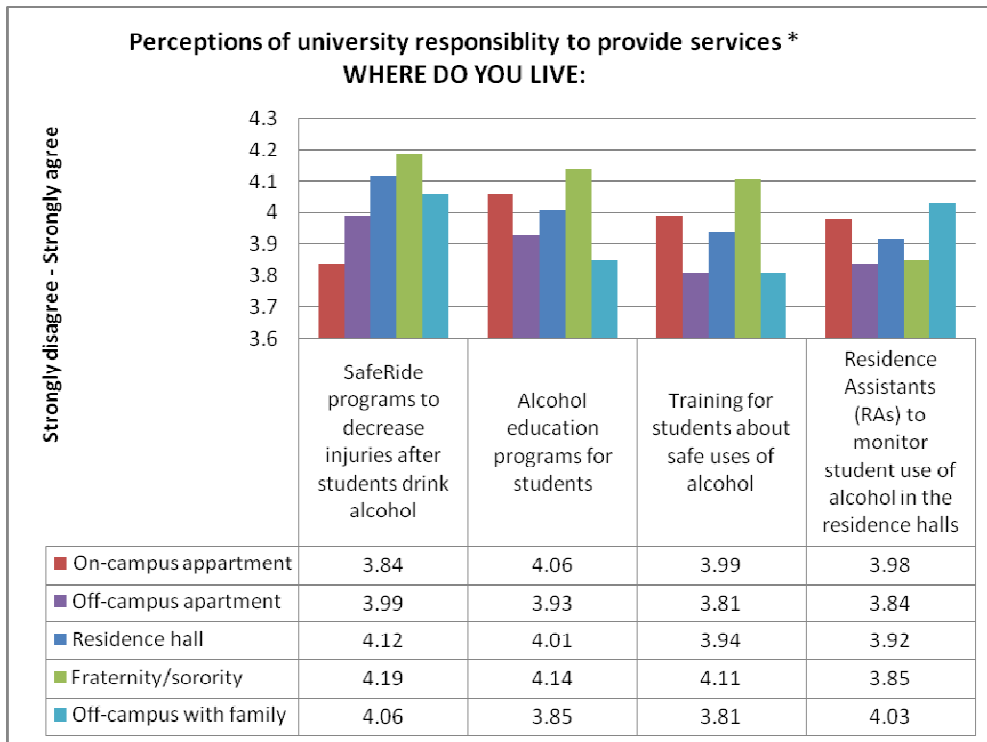


*Figure E-11. Survey responses to questions #34-37 by GENDER*

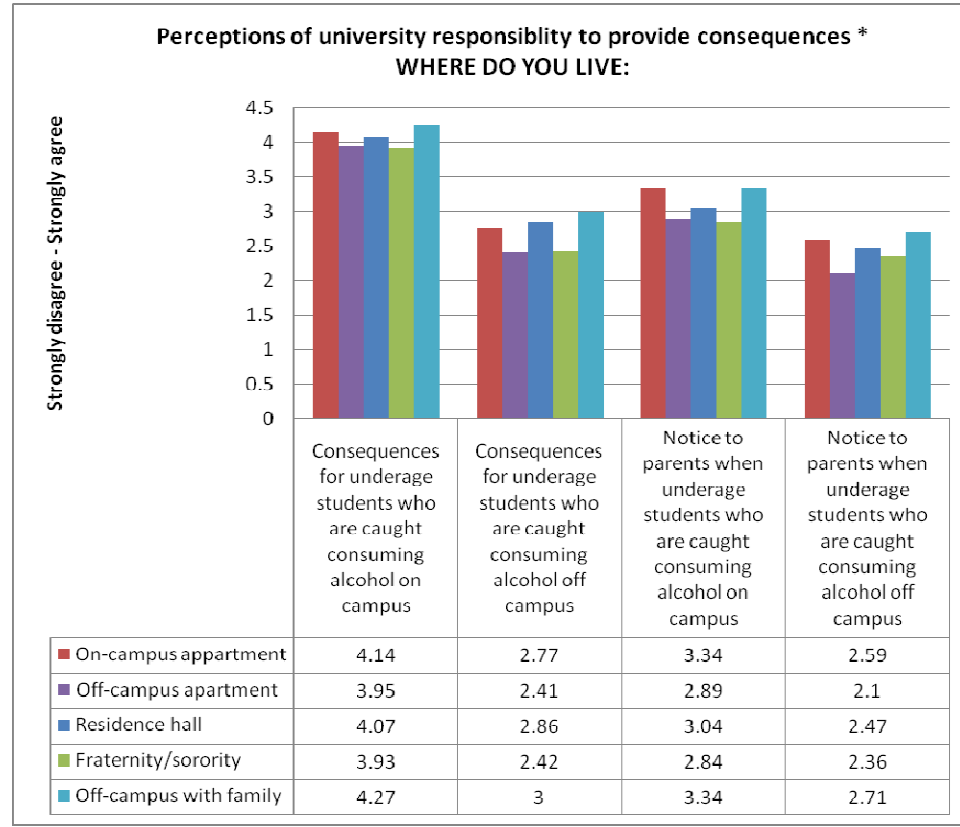
**Place of Residence**



*Figure E-12. Survey responses to questions #26-29 by the factor of PLACE OF RESIDENCE*

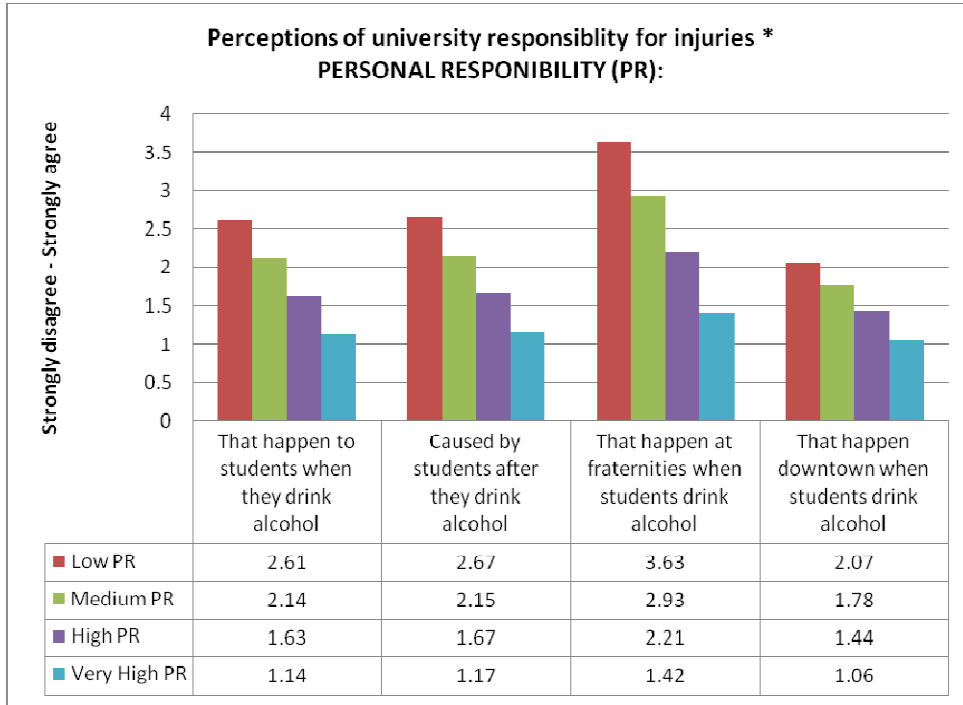


*Figure E-13. Survey responses to questions #30-33 by the factor of PLACE OF RESIDENCE*

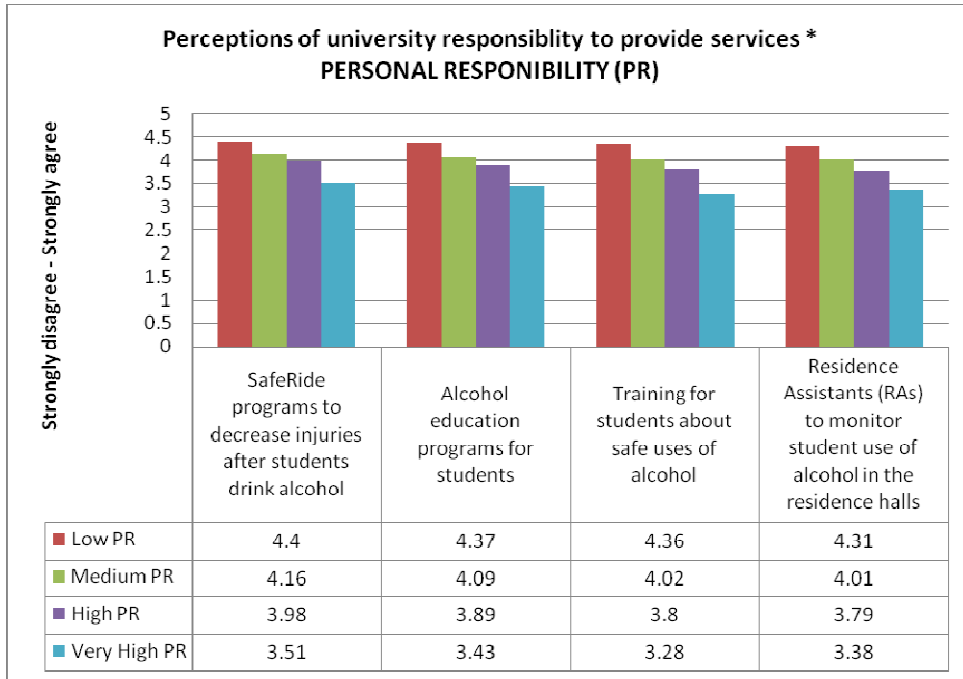


*Figure E-14. Survey responses to questions #34-37 by the factor of PLACE OF RESIDENCE*

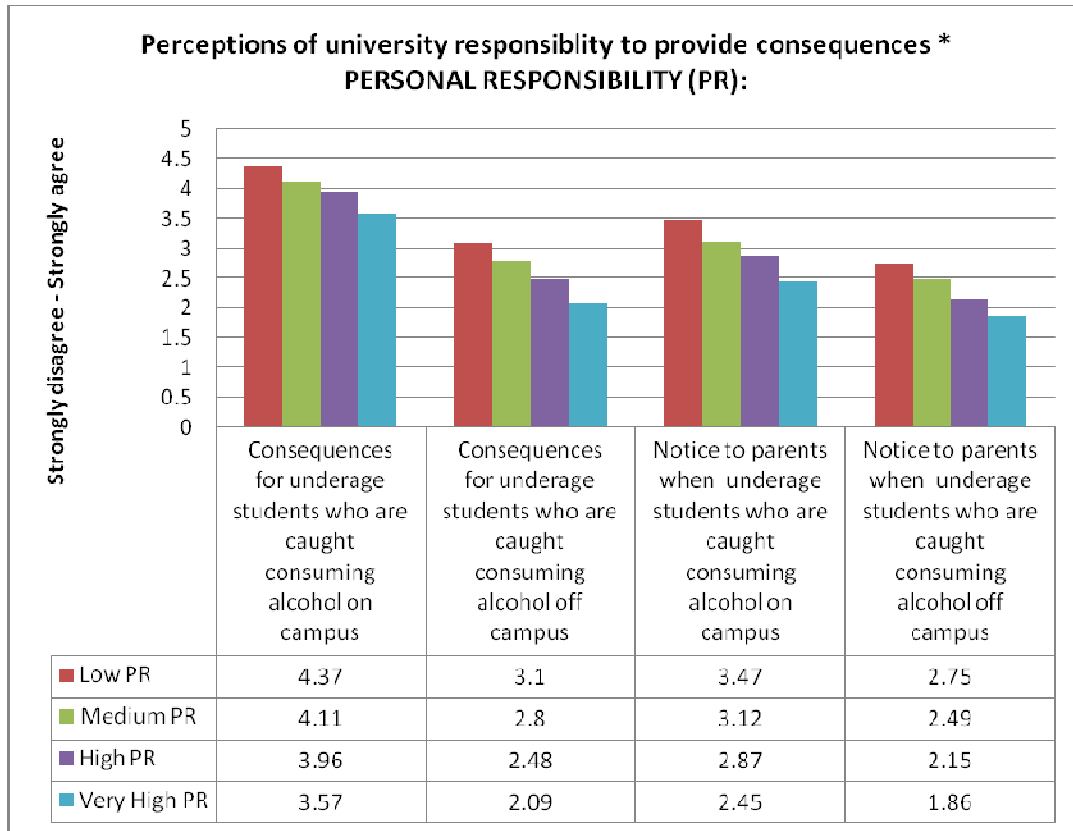
**Personal Responsibility**



*Figure E-15.* Survey responses to questions #26-29 by PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY



*Figure E-16.* Survey responses to questions #30-33 by PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY



*Figure E-17. Survey responses to questions #34-37 by PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY*