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Greeks Compared to Non Greeks and Alcohol Consumption

Melani Saito

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*For my experiment, I studied the difference between students who are involved in a Greek organization compared to those who are not. Forty undergraduate students from Lindenwood University were used. They filled out a survey that I have prepared about Alcohol Consumption, asking a variety of questions such as, how many nights a week they go out, how much money they spend on an average week on alcohol, and where they go when they want to go drink. Results show that there is no significant difference between those students involved in Greek organizations compared to those who are not, but there was a significant difference found that males who are not involved in Greek organizations and how much money is spent on alcohol in an average week.*

For my experiment, I will research the drinking habits of college students. I will compare students who are in Greek organizations (sororities and fraternities) to students not involved in a Greek organization. Other factors that will be taken into account are, what year the student is in, and the gender of the student. My hypothesis is that there is a difference in the amount of alcohol consumed between the two groups.

Drinking among college students is a major concern that many people are interested in. This study will inform people about the drinking habits of undergraduate Lindenwood University students.

Heavy drinking is not a concern for some students, however. According to Kuo, Lee, Nelson, & Wechler, sixty percent of college students across that United States say

that they drink in moderation or do not drink at all. In contrast, Brower states that, “college students have been drinking excessively since colleges began, so the best thing for a university to do is just get out of the way.”

In another related study, Clements stated that there heavy drinking in college does have some prevalence in alcohol abuse later on in life.

Another study done by Keeling, states that colleges do try to educate it’s incoming freshmen on the dangers of alcohol, and how to say no when peers are saying, “everybody does it.” But what it really comes down to is the students conforming to the social norms.

My study will inform people of the drinking habits specifically of those who attend Lindenwood University. It will also bring up to date statistics of the amount of alcohol consumed by students in Greek organizations on Lindenwood’s campus.

## Method

### *Participants*

Forty undergraduate students were recruited from Lindenwood University. Twenty of the students will be from a Greek organization and twenty will not. From each group ten will be male and ten will be female. I recruited them by using my personal contacts and just by asking random people if they would like to participate.

### *Materials*

Materials that will be used for my experiment include surveys that I will pass out to all of my participants and pens so the subjects can fill them out. Various rooms were also used such as my dorm, the cafeteria, and a classroom in Young Hall. For a sample of my survey, see Appendix A.

### *Procedure*

Over the course of five days, I passed out surveys to students that were willing to participate in my study. The survey was very short and they all filled them out in less than five minutes in my presence. After all of my data were collected, I then started to analyze the results using SPSS.

### Results

A univariate analysis of variance test was conducted to test my hypothesis. To test my hypothesis, three different dependent variables were taken into account: the number of drinks consumed on an average night, the number of days a week alcohol is consumed, and, how much money is spent on an average week. For the number of days a week a student consumes alcohol the mean for Greeks was 2.9 days compared to the non Greeks whose mean was 3.5 days a week. The average number of drinks that is consumed in one night for Greeks compared to non-Greeks is a very small difference: the mean for Greeks is 4.8, and the mean for the non-Greeks is 4.75. For the amount of money that is spent on alcohol for these two groups, there is a very significant difference. Greek students state that in a given week approximately \$28 is spent on alcohol, where non-Greek students declare that they spend \$37. This information supports my hypothesis because in each category, there is a difference between the two groups of students and what was being studied.

For a copy of the ANOVA tests that were run on my experiment, see Appendix B.

### Discussion

As I hypothesized, there is a difference in the drinking habits of students involved in Greek organizations compared to those students who are not. Other factors such as sex

differences was also found. The male scores were significantly higher than females in all variables concerning how much money is spent on alcohol, how many days a week they go out, and how many alcoholic beverages are consumed in an average night of drinking.

Another finding was the grade that the students are in. Normally freshmen and sophomore students are not of the legal drinking age, but since alcohol is so easily available, there are some statistics that include this group of underage students. Students who are in their senior year are most likely to have the highest average of the three dependent variables.

Surprisingly, of the forty students surveyed, six of them do not have jobs, but the results show that there is little difference in the amount of money that is spent on alcohol in an average week. Students who stated that they did not have a job spend approximately \$27.50 on alcohol, but those who do have jobs declared that \$33.38 in a given week.

The four choices that were given in the surveys for the different kinds of alcohol that is being consumed, the only two options that were chosen were beer and hard liquor. Over 67% of the participants say that for the most part, they just drink beer.

For the option of where to drink, students mostly said that they enjoy going to a bar to drink. This statistic is mainly concerns the older students such as the juniors and seniors. For the younger ones of the group, they say that they like to stay at home, or go to a friends house. Unexpectedly, quite a few seniors say they would rather stay home and drink than go to a bar.

Binge drinkers are defined as a male having more than five drinks in one night and a female having more than four. From both groups in my study, the Greeks and the

non-Greeks, and the males and females, more than half of them would be considered by definition, binge drinkers.

#### References

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## Appendix A

### Alcohol Consumption

1. Year in School: Freshman    Sophomore    Junior    Senior
2. Sex: Male    Female
3. Are you involved in a Greek organization?: Yes    No
4. Do you have a job?: Yes    No
5. Do you enjoy drinking?: Yes    No
6. On average, how many nights a week do you consume alcohol? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Approximately, how many alcoholic beverages do you consume on an average night of drinking? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Where do you usually go to drink?
  - a. A bar
  - b. A friend's house
  - c. Home
  - d. Other – Please Specify \_\_\_\_\_
9. On average, how much money do you spend on alcohol in a week?: \_\_\_\_\_
10. What kinds of alcohol do you usually consume?
  - a. Beer
  - b. Hard liquor
  - c. Wine
  - d. Other – Please Specify \_\_\_\_\_

**Appendix B****Univariate Analysis of Variance****Between-Subjects Factors**

		Value Label	N
Sex	F	Females	20
	M	Males	20
Greek or Non Greek	G	Greek	20
	NG	Non Greek	20

**Tests of Between-Subjects Effects**

Dependent Variable: Number of days a week, consuming alcohol

Source	Type III Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Corrected Model	5.400(a)	3	1.800	1.580	.211
Intercept	409.600	1	409.600	359.649	.000
Q2	.900	1	.900	.790	.380
Q3	3.600	1	3.600	3.161	.084
Q2 * Q3	.900	1	.900	.790	.380
Error	41.000	36	1.139		
Total	456.000	40			
Corrected Total	46.400	39			

a R Squared = .116 (Adjusted R Squared = .043)

**Between-Subjects Factors**

		Value Label	N
Sex	F	Females	20
	M	Males	20
Greek or Non Greek	G	Greek	20
	NG	Non Greek	20



**Tests of Between-Subjects Effects**

Dependent Variable: Number of drinks consumed in one night

Source	Type III Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Corrected Model	1.875(a)	3	.625	.424	.737
Intercept	912.025	1	912.025	618.322	.000
Q2	.625	1	.625	.424	.519
Q3	.025	1	.025	.017	.897
Q2 * Q3	1.225	1	1.225	.831	.368
Error	53.100	36	1.475		
Total	967.000	40			
Corrected Total	54.975	39			

a R Squared = .034 (Adjusted R Squared = -.046)

**Between-Subjects Factors**

	Value Label	N	
Sex	F	Females	20
	M	Males	20
Greek or Non Greek	G	Greek	20
	NG	Non Greek	20

**Tests of Between-Subjects Effects**

Dependent Variable: How much money is spent in one week on alcohol

Source	Type III Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Corrected Model	2340.000(a)	3	780.000	6.091	.002
Intercept	42250.000	1	42250.000	329.935	.000
Q2	1440.000	1	1440.000	11.245	.002
Q3	810.000	1	810.000	6.325	.017
Q2 * Q3	90.000	1	90.000	.703	.407
Error	4610.000	36	128.056		
Total	49200.000	40			
Corrected Total	6950.000	39			

a R Squared = .337 (Adjusted R Squared = .281)