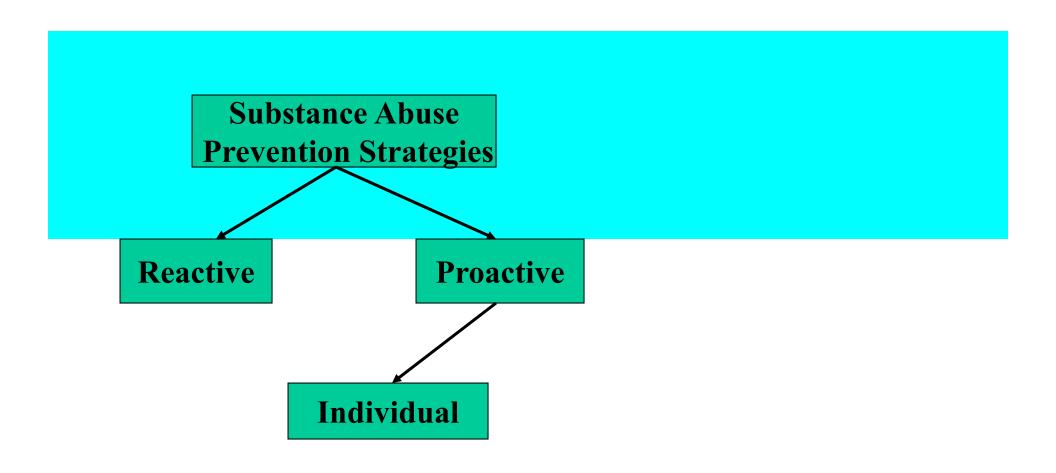
**BD295 Spring 2018** 

# Traditional Prevention Strategies and the Social Norms Approach to Reducing Youth Substance Abuse

#### H. Wesley Perkins, Ph.D.

Professor of Sociology
Hobart and William Smith Colleges
Geneva, New York

www.EducationProject.org





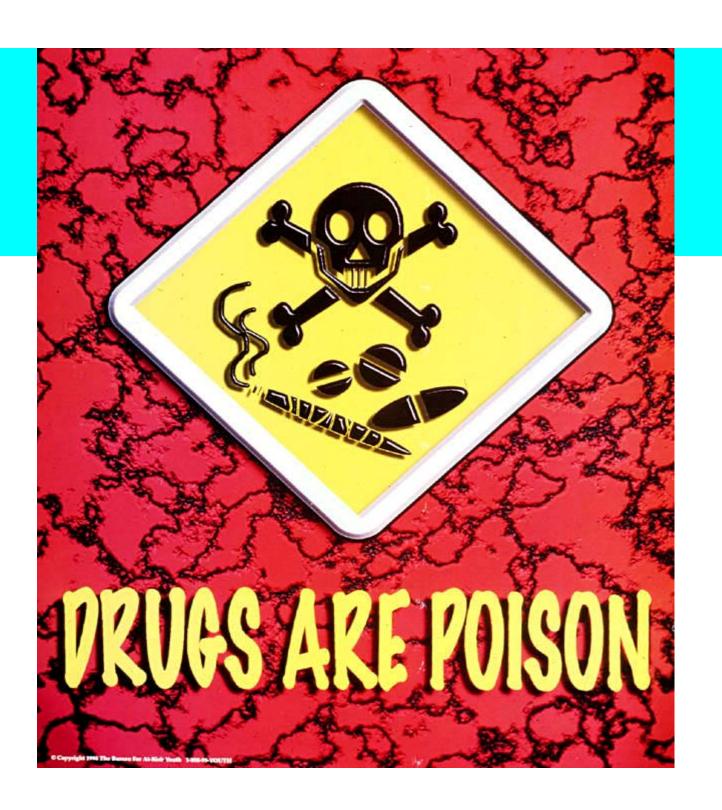
Make the choice to make a change.

FACE

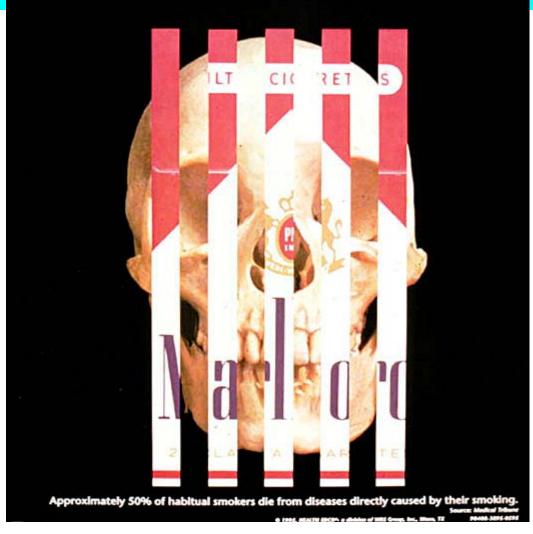


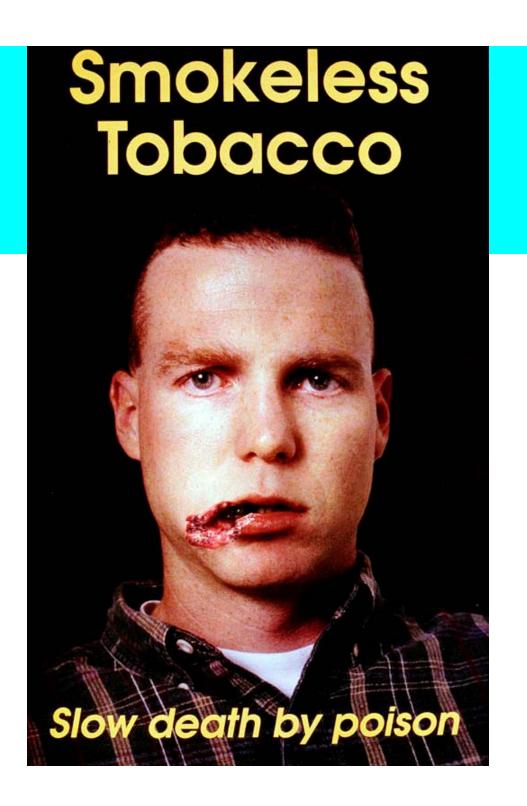


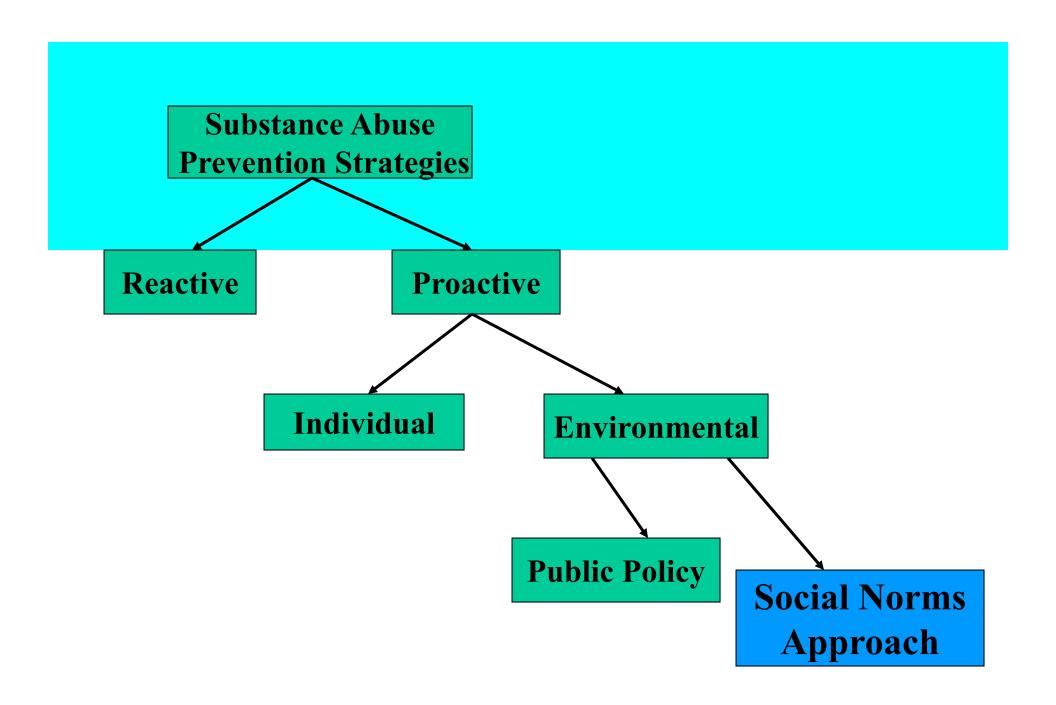
Make the choice to make a change,



# HALF OF SMOKERS DIE FROM HABIT







Source: HW Perkins, Alcohol Education Project

## Prevention Today Requires Science Based Strategies

1. Good Theoretical Reasoning

2. Good Data (Evidence Based)

# Current Theoretical Models for Substance Abuse Prevention

- Health Education
- Health Terrorism
- Social Control
- Social Norms

# Psychological Models of Health and Safety Promotion Usually Focus on Individual Self-Interest

- Health Education
- Health Terrorism ("death education")
- Social Control and Reward Incentives

#### **Starting Point for Social Norms Approach**

Humans are group oriented.

We are largely influenced by and conform to peer norms.

## Long Tradition of Theory and Research on Peer Influence and Conformity to Peer Norms

What about Perceptions of Peer Norms?

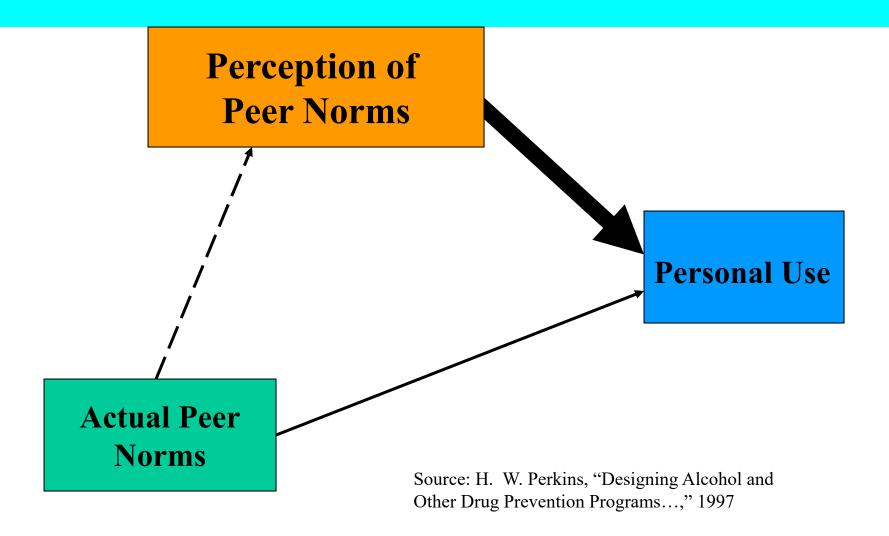
## First came observations

Personal Attitudes and Perceived Norms about Alcohol Use among College Students (Source: Perkins and Berkowitz, 1986)

| Items                                                                                                                                                         | Personal<br>Attitudes | Perceived<br>Norm |  |  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|--|--|
| 1) One should not drink,<br>2) never get drunk, or 3) never<br>drink to an intoxicating level<br>that interferes with academics<br>or other responsibilities. | <b>81</b> %           | 37 %              |  |  |
| 4) Occasional drunkenness interfering with academics or responsibilities is OK, or 5) a frequent drunk is okay.                                               | 1<br>9<br>%           | 63<br>%           |  |  |



### Peer Influence on Substance Use





### **ALCOHOL**

• Actual Norm - Drinking Twice/Month or Less Often (60%); only 5% drinking daily

 Perceived Norm - 89% Believe the Typical Student Drinks at least Weekly.
 25% Believe Daily Drinking is the Norm.

#### **TOBACCO**

- Actual Norm No Use (54%) with only 26% using daily
- **Perceived Norm** 94% Believe the Typical Student is a User. 69% Believe Daily Use is the Norm.

#### **MARIJUANA**

- Actual Norm No Use (66%) with only 13% using weekly
- **Perceived Norm** 92% Believe the Typical Student is a User. 65% Believe Weekly Use is the Norm.

#### **HALLUCINOGENS**

• Actual Norm - No Use (91%)

• **Perceived Norm** - 61% Believe the Typical Student is a User . 15% Believe Weekly Use is the Norm.

### **COCAINE**

• Actual Norm - No Use (95%)

• **Perceived Norm** - 61% Believe the Typical Student is a User . 16% Believe Weekly Use is the Norm.

#### **STEROIDS**

• Actual Norm - No Use (99%)

• **Perceived Norm** - 56% Believe the Typical Student is a User. 17% Believe Weekly Use is the Norm.

## Students' Misperceptions of the Norm for the Number of Drinks Consumed the Last Time Other Students "Partied"/Socialized at Their School

(NCHA Nationwide Data from 72,719 Students Attending 130 Schools, 2000-03)

Source: HW Perkins, M Haines, and R Rice, Journal of Studies on Alcohol, 2005.

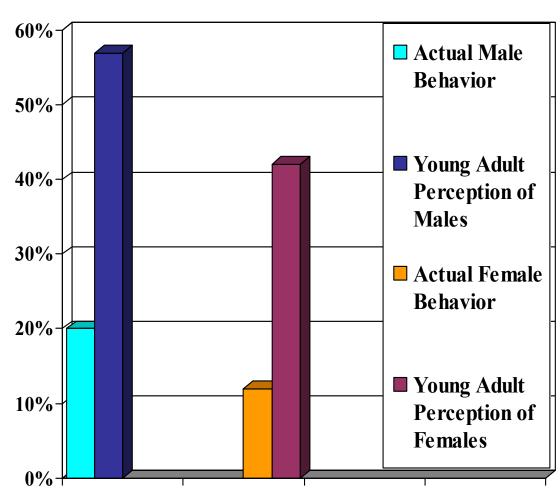
| Accuracy of Perceived Drinking Norm |                                     |                      |                                    |                                   |  |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| Under-<br>estimate by<br>3+ Drinks  | Under-<br>estimate by<br>1-2 Drinks | Accurate<br>Estimate | Over-<br>estimate by<br>1-2 Drinks | Over-<br>estimate by<br>3+ Drinks |  |
| 3%                                  | 12%                                 | 14%                  | 32%                                | 39%                               |  |

71% Overestimate Peer Drinking!

## Actual Gender Norms vs. Young Adult Perceptions of Gender Norms

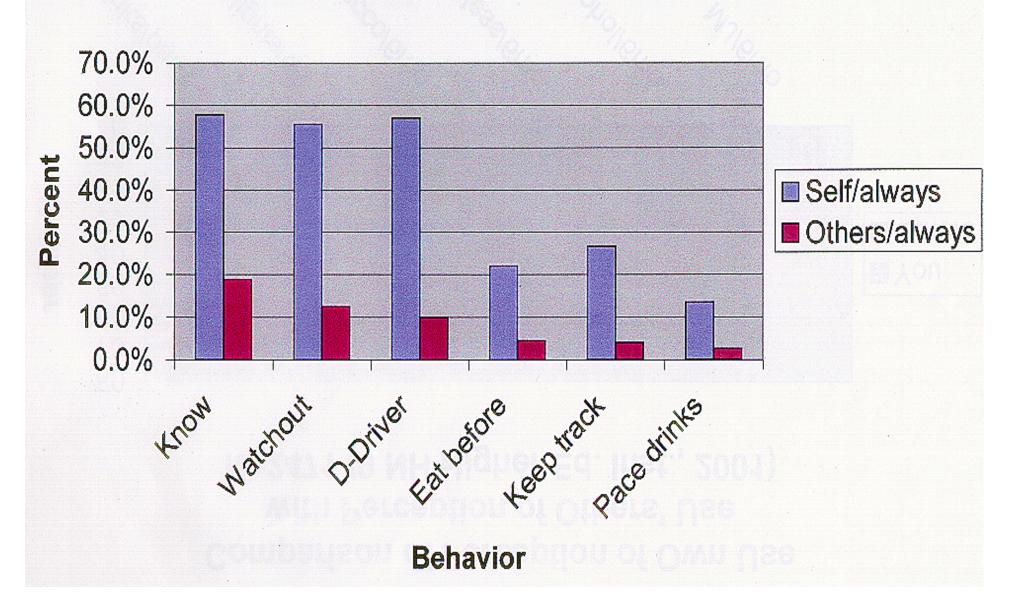
(1998 Survey of 18-24 Year Olds, N=500)

Percent who drove within one hour after drinking 2+ drinks in the past month.



Source: JW Linkenbach & HW Perkins, 2003

### Comparison of Perception of Behavior of Self with Perception of Behavior of Others N=2471 (9 NH Higher Ed. Inst.,2001)



## Typical Pattern of College Student Support for Campus Policies about Alcohol Use

|            | <b>ACTUAL</b> | <b>PERCEIVED</b> |  |  |
|------------|---------------|------------------|--|--|
| FAVOR      | 50%           | 10%              |  |  |
| OPPOSE     | 25%           | 80%              |  |  |
| DON'T CARE | 5%            | <b>5%</b>        |  |  |
| DON'T KNOW | 20%           | <b>5%</b>        |  |  |
|            | 100%          | 100%             |  |  |

## Web Surveys Online

#### Social Norms Surveys Online © Copyright 2008, H. Wesley Perkins and David W. Craig. All rights reserved. For permission to reprint or use this online survey please contact Social Norm Surveys Online Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Geneva, NY 14456 http://www.socialnormsurveys.org **Survey of Student Norms Español** Please login. Username: Password: login

## Drinking Norm and Perceived Norms Among 9th Graders in a Secondary School in Central New York State

7. How many alcoholic drinks, if any, do you think each of the following students on average typically consume at parties or social occasions? Just give your best estimate of what is most typical for each category (a through h).

|                              | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7+ |
|------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| a. Yourself                  |   | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0  |
| b. Your Friends              | 0 |   | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0  |
| c. Students in your<br>Grade | 0 | 0 |   | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0  |
| d. Males                     | 0 | 0 | 0 |   | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0  |
| e. Females                   | 0 | 0 |   | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0  |
| f. Juniors and Seniors       | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |   | 0 | 0 | 0  |
| g. Drop Outs                 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |    |
| h. High School<br>Athletes   | 0 |   | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0  |

Median Response

# Myth and Reality at Midwest High School:

Results from a Fall 2005 Survey of Student Norms Conducted at a Midwestern School

http://alcohol.hws.edu

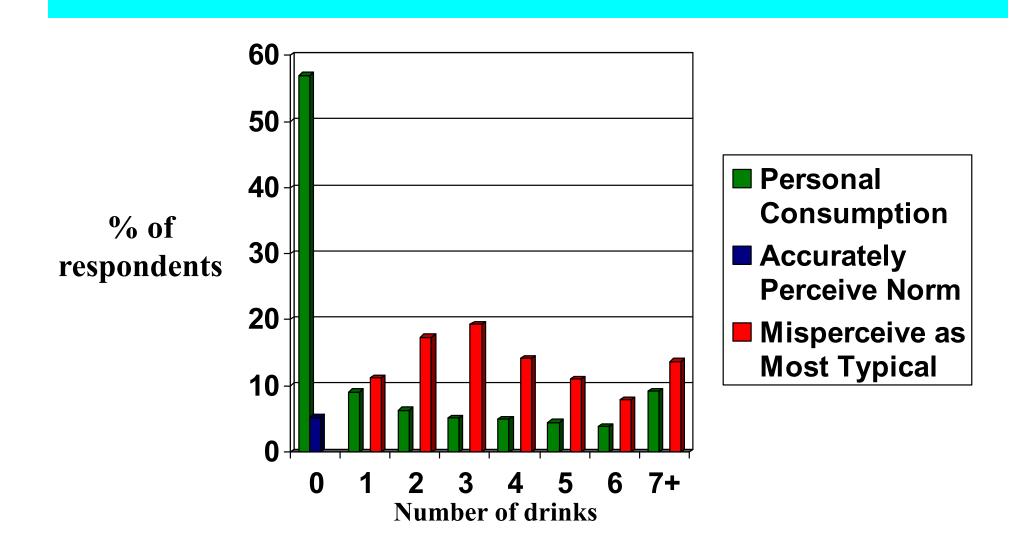
## Who Participated?

Almost Everyone!

1,116 students took the survey

96% of the entire student body

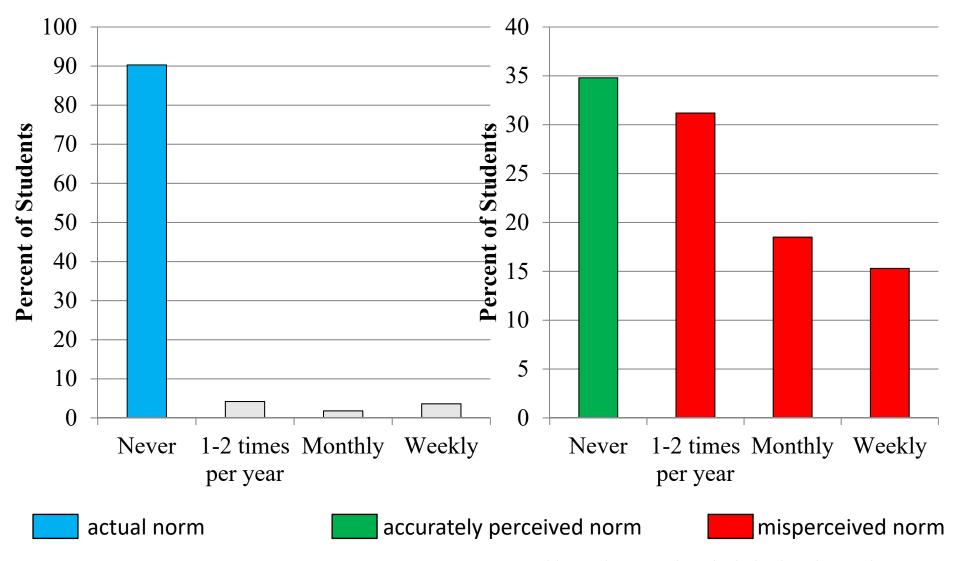
## Quantity of Alcohol Typically Consumed at Parties and Social Gatherings



## Sample Secondary School Data

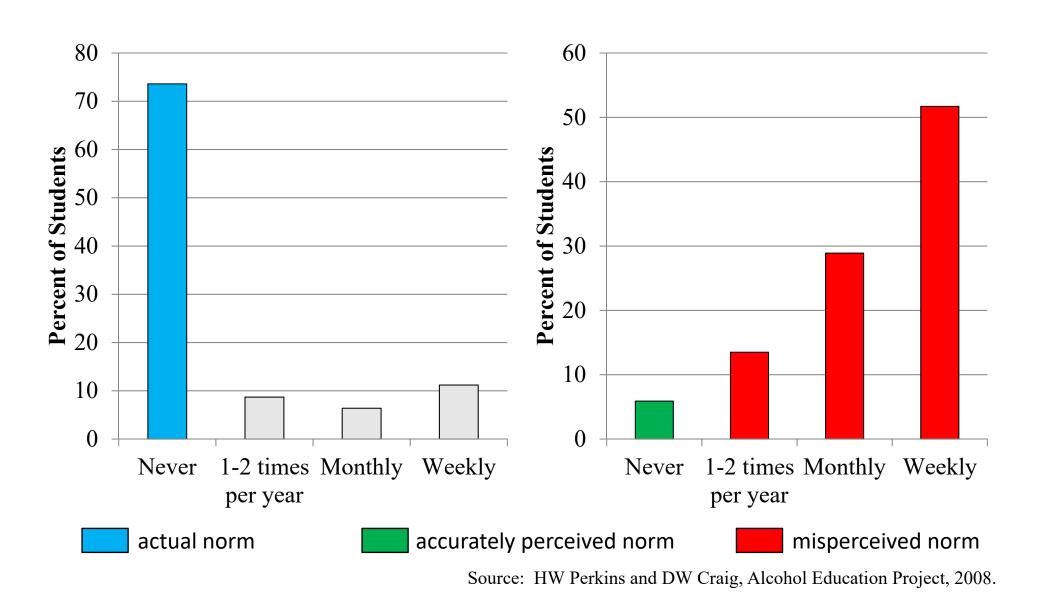
119 School Cohorts Surveyed
Grade (Year) Levels Ranged from 6 -12
12 States across the USA
52,462 Respondents

Grades 6 - 8
Personal Tobacco Use and Perceived Norm

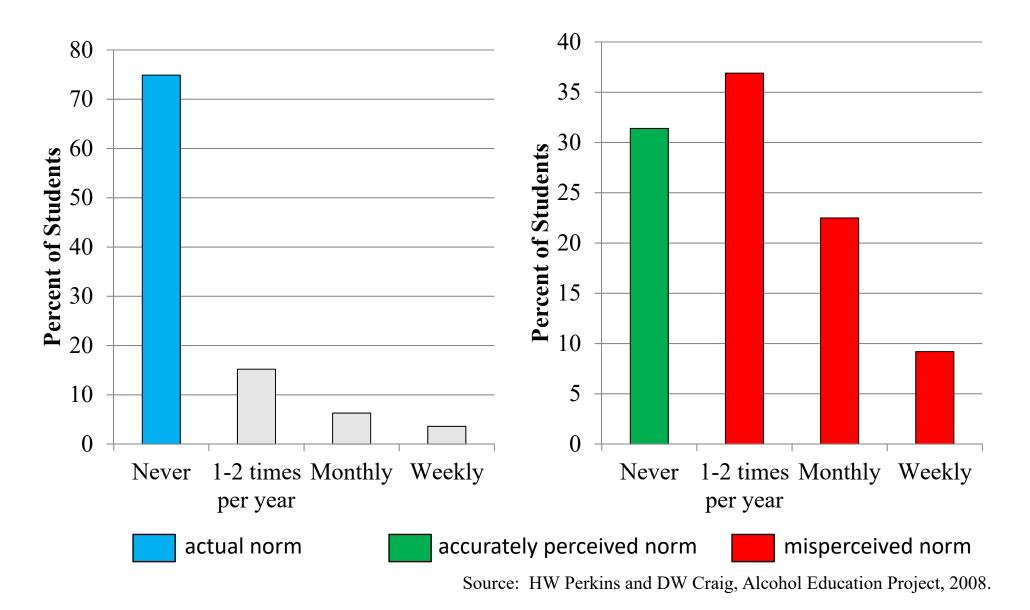


Source: HW Perkins and DW Craig, Alcohol Education Project, 2008.

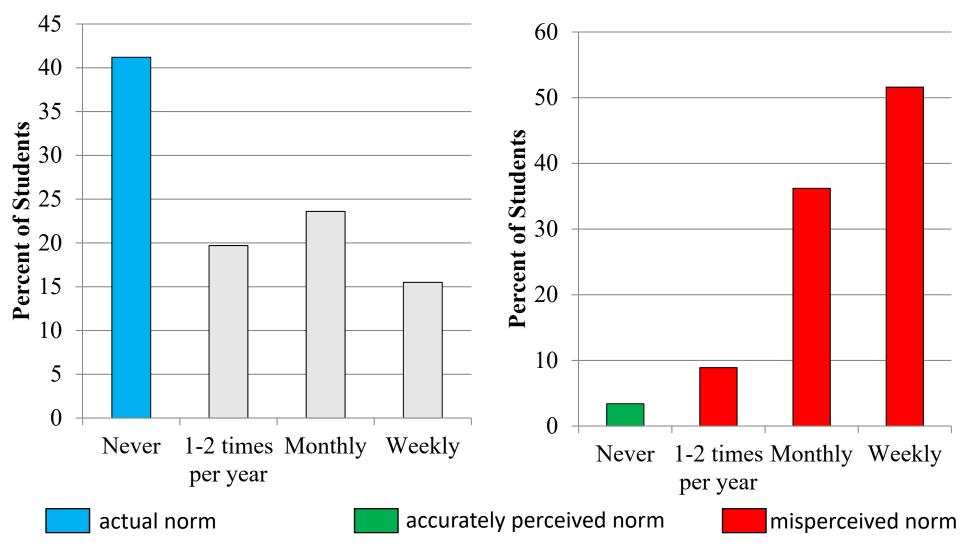
## Grades 9 - 12 Personal Tobacco Use and Perceived Norm



Grades 6 - 8
Personal Alcohol Use and Perceived Norm



Grades 9 - 12 Personal Alcohol Use and Perceived Norm



Source: HW Perkins and DW Craig, Alcohol Education Project, 2008.

# Two indisputable findings in the research literature:

- 1. The peer norm is one of the strongest predictors of personal behavior.
- 2. Peer norms about substance use and other risk behaviors are grossly misperceived in the direction of overestimated behavior and permissiveness in attitudes.

# Research Shows Misperceived ATOD Norms Exist

- In All Types of Colleges (Regions, Size, Programs, Actual Norms)
- In Primary and Secondary Schools
- Across Subpopulations of Youth
- In a State-wide Population of Young Adults
- For Attitudes, Use, Policy Support, and Protective Behaviors
- For All Types of Drugs

# Back to Theory

## Cause of Misperceptions

- Psychological mental attribution processes
- Social psychological memory and conversation patterns
- Cultural entertainment, advertising, news and health advocacy media

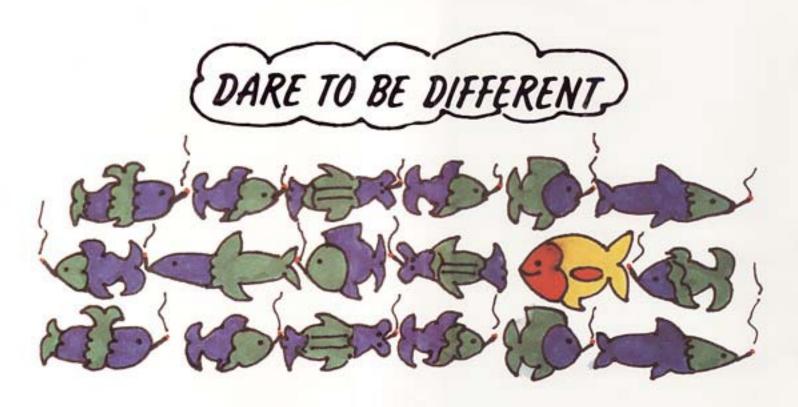
### The quotable file



Rocker Courtney Love says her much publicized drug problems are not unusual:

"Every woman in

America is on Xanax (an anxiety reliever). You can go to a taco stand in L.A. and get it. It's the No. 2 drug in America, and it's completely addictive."



#### PLEASE DON'T SMOKE!



Illinois Attorney General Jim Ryan & Illinois Association of Park Districts



## Consequences of Misperceptions

- Definition of the situation produces a "Reign of Error"
- Actual Use and Abuse Increases
- Layers of Misperceptions Compound
- Opposition is Discouraged from Speaking
- Intervention by Others Declines
- "Carriers" of Misperception Contribute to the Problem

Source: H. W. Perkins, "Designing Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention Programs...," 1997

# Translating Social Norms Theory into Prevention Strategies

## The Social Norms Model

Baseline
Identify Actual &
Misperceived Norms

Intervention
Intensive Exposure to
Actual Norm Messages

Less Exaggerated
Misperceptions of Norms

Predicted Result
Less Harmful or Risky
Behavior

# A <u>HEALTHY</u> Dose of Reality...

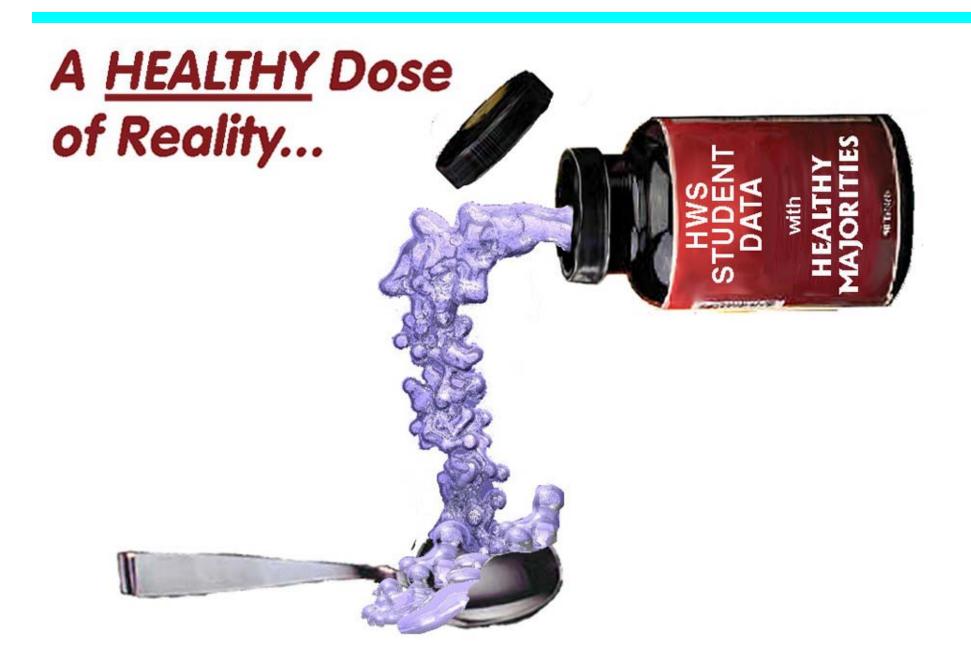




# A <u>HEALTHY</u> Dose of Reality...







A HEALTHY Dose of Reality...



The majority of entering students in 1999 reported never smoking cigarettes.

Students most typically drink

Among athletes, 87% never miss or due to drinking 3 perform poorly in an athletic contest due to drinking.3

# Examples of Strategies to Reduce Misperceptions and Strengthen Positive Norms

Print media campaigns



SOURCE: Spring 2013 Survey of all HWS students with 913 respondents, conducted by BIDS 295

# www.hws.edu/JustFacts

This missage is part of a program presenting facts about HWS students. These facts which may be personally suprising, affirming or disturbing, are insended to distingly commissing the major of the HWS community. Research demonstrates that people triguently misperceive peer adultions and between and may be influenced by these misperceptions. Only the most accurate information swelled based on representative data should HWS students is provided from. For more information about this fact, and the survey from which it was drawn see "BIOS Survey" at www.hws.edu/Jus Facts.



The majority of HWS students (54%) typically consume four or fewer drinks or no drinks with alcohol when partying.



**SOURCE**: Spring 2011 Survey of all HWS students with 836 respondents, conducted by BIDS 295

#### www.hws.edu/JustFacts

This message is part of a program presenting facts about HWS students. These facts which may be personally surprising, affirming or disturbing, are intended to challenge commonly held misperceptions and generate conversation about actual characteristics of the HWS community. Research demonstrates that people frequently misperceive peer attitudes and behaviors and may be influenced by these misperceptions. Only the most accurate information available based on representative data about HWS students is provided here. For more information about this fact and the survey from which it was drawn see "BIDS Survey" at: www.hws.edu/JustFacts.



90% of HWS studentathletes believe that students should not drink to an intoxicating level that affects academic work or other responsibilities.

SOURCE: Spring 2010 web survey of 334 HWS student-athletes.





This message is part of a program presenting facts about HWS students. These facts which may be personally surprising, affirming or disturbing, are intended to challenge commonly held misperceptions and generate conversation about actual characteristics of the HWS community. Research demonstrates that people frequently misperceive peer attitudes and behaviors and may be influenced by these misperceptions. Only the most accurate information available based on representative data about HWS students are provided here. For more information about this fact and the survey from which it was drawn see "Athlete Survey" at: www.hws.edu/JustFacts.

# What is your protective strategy?

of HWS students usually or always

EAT BEFORE
ORDURING A

PARTY

where they may be
consuming alcohol
or they do not drink at all.

#### SOURCE

Fall 2010 National College Health Assessment Survey conducted anonymously online with 389 HWS respondents.

#### www.hws.edu/JustFacts

This message is part of a program presenting facts about HMS students. These facts which may be personally surprising, affirming or disturbing, are intended to challengs commonly held misperceptions and generate commension about actual characteristics of the HMS community. Research demonstrates that people frequently misperceive peer attitudes and behaviors and may be influenced by these misperceptions. Only the most accurate information available based on representative data about HMS students is provided here. For more information about this fact and the survey from which it was drawn see "SIDS Survey" at: www.hea.edu/JustFacts.



# What is your protective strategy?

# of HWS students always use a DESIGNATED DRIVER when they have been drinking at a PARTY or they do not drink at all.

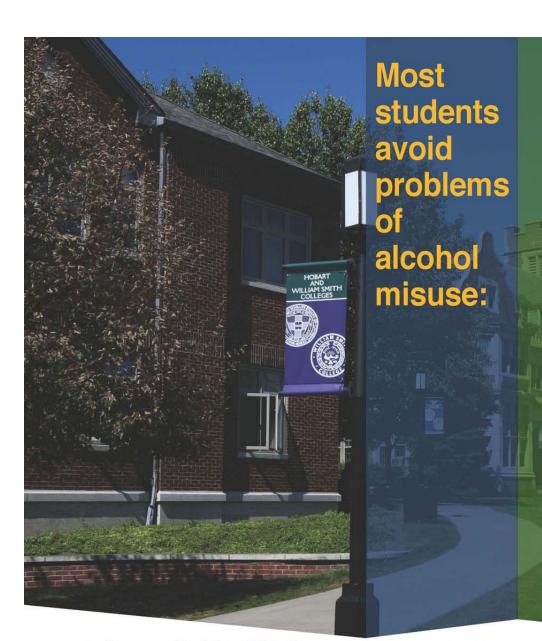
#### SOURCE

Fall 2010 National College Health Assessment Survey conducted anonymously online with 389 HWS respondents.

#### www.hws.edu/JustFacts

This message is part of a program presenting facts about HMS students. These facts which may be personally surptaing, affirming or disturbing, are intended to challenge commonly held misperceptions and generate conversation about actual characteristics of the HMS community. Research demonstrates that people the period mispercelve peer attitudes and behaviors and may be influenced by these misperceptions. Only the most accurate information available based on representative data about HMS students is provided here. For more information about this fact and the survey from which it was drawn see "SIDS Survey" at www.line.edu/JustFacts.





92% of HWS students NEVER submit late papers or exams as a result of drinking during the academic year.

87% of HWS students
NEVER cause property damage
as a result of drinking during
the academic year.

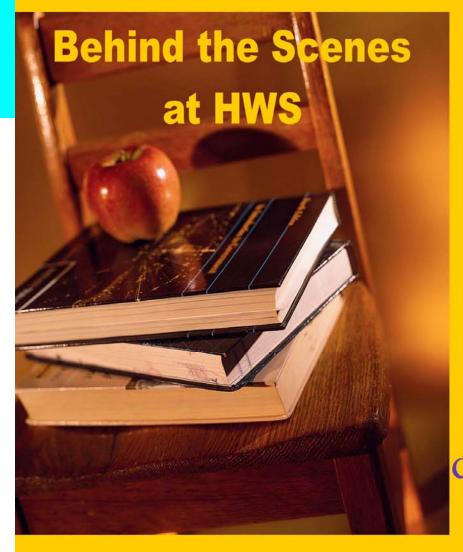
81% of students NEVER cause damage to relationships as a result of drinking during the academic year.

#### www.hws.edu/JustFacts

This message is part of a program presenting facts about HWS students. These facts which may be personally surprising, affirming or disturbing, are intended to challenge commonly held misperceptions and generate conversation about actual characteristics of the HWS community. Research demonstrates that people frequently misperceive peer attitudes and behaviors and may be influenced by these misperceptions. Only the most accurate information available based on representative data about HWS students is provided here. For more information about this fact and the survey from which it was drawn see "BIDS Survey" at: www.hws.edu/JustFacts.



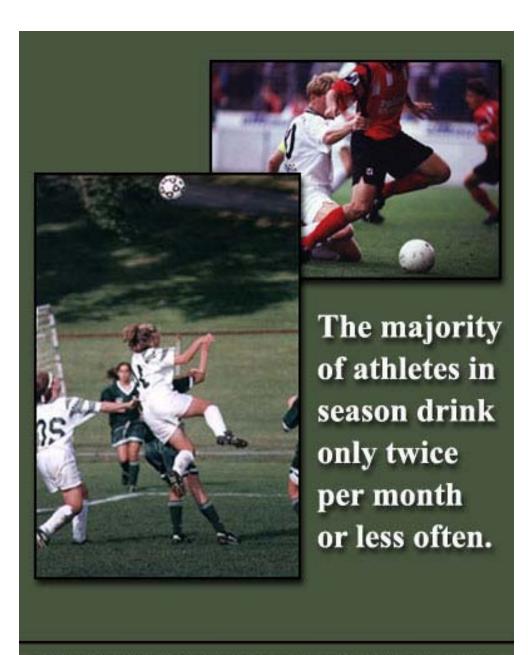
**SUURGE:** Spring 2011 Survey of all HWS students with 836 respondents, conducted by BIDS 295



88%

of HWS students
NEVER submit
late papers or exams
as a result of drinking
during the academic year.

Data drawn from a Spring 2005 survey of a representative cross-section of HWS students with 272 respondents.



Source: Data drawn from all intercollegiate athletes (N=99) participating in a Spring 2000 mail survey of a representative cross-section of HWS students.

#### Did you know that...

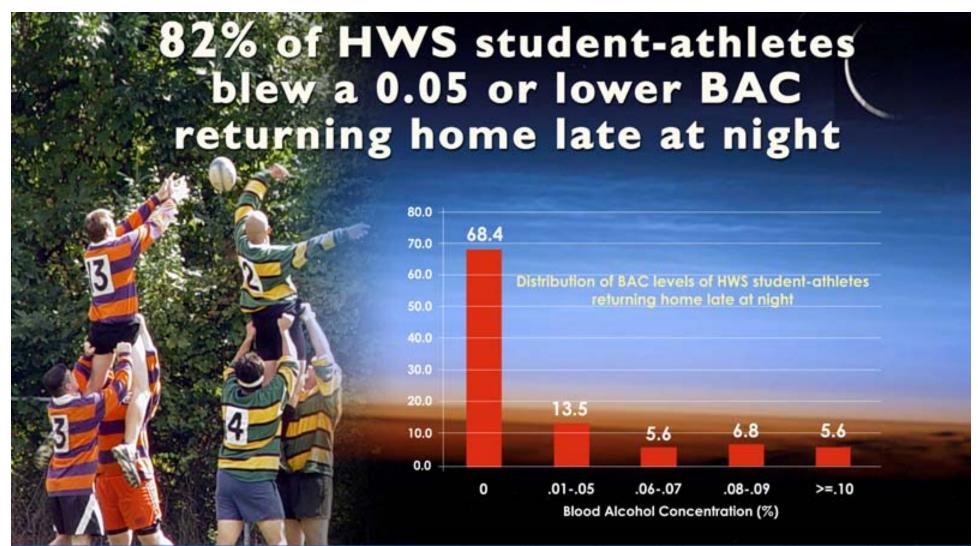


7 out of 10 HWS student-athletes (70%)

believe one should never use tobacco

state of 10 HM2 24mg sus-91ms (822)

Source: Fall 2005 Web survey of all HWS student-athletes with 369 respondents (79% of all student-athletes on campus).



Source: Data collected from 194 randomly selected student-athletes returning to residence halls late at night between 11pm and 3am every night of the week during Fall '04, Spring '05, and Fall '05.

These results were obtained from chemistry department independent study and honors students advised by Professor David W. Craig: Jeffrey Quinto (H05), Lauren Gianniny (WS05), Andrew Stern (H05), Adam Bordonaro (H06), John Bowie (H06), Patrick O'Brien-Gorman (H06), Sam Breier (H06), Alana Braren (WS06), and Lia Blue (WS06)

82% of HWS student-athletes never injure themselves or others as a result of alcohol consumption during the academic term.



Source: Data drawn from a November 2001 survey of 414 HWS student-athletes (86% of all athletes on campus).

# **Most HWS Student-Athletes**



Source: November 2006 web survey of 345 HWS student-athletes (71% of all intercollegiate athletes on campus).



## T United We Stand

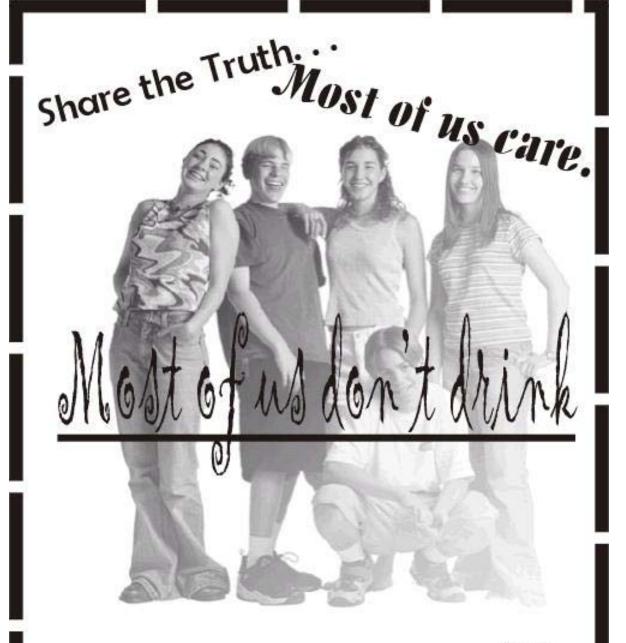


#### Most of Us

4 out of 6

Dekalb & Sycamore Study, DCP/SAFE, (N=1172, 2001)

Haven't used alcohol during the past 30 days



DeKalb & Sycamore Study, D CP/SAFE, (N=654, 2000)

Funded in whole or in part by IDHS and the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention

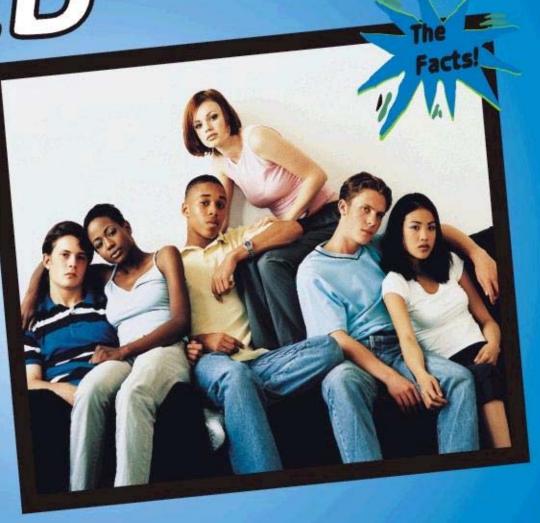
UKITED

Most of Us
Most of Us Are Healthy
Most of Us Don't Drink
Most of Us



DeKalb & Sycamore Study, DCP/SAFE, (N=1172, 2001)





Funded in whole or in part by IDHS and the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention

# 8 out of 10 don't smoke!



#### Health tools to share:

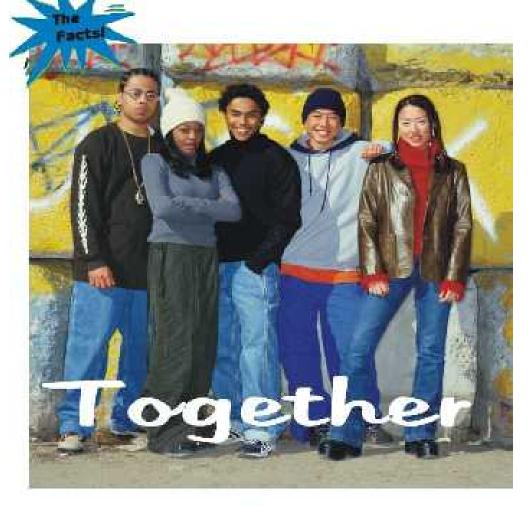
- 1. Leave places where people are smoking
- 2. Say "No thanks" if someone offers you tobacco
- 3. Avoid places where people are smoking

DeKalb & Sycamore Study, DCP/SAFE, (N=654, 2000)

Funded in whole or in part by IDHS and the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention

## Most of Us Don't Smoke

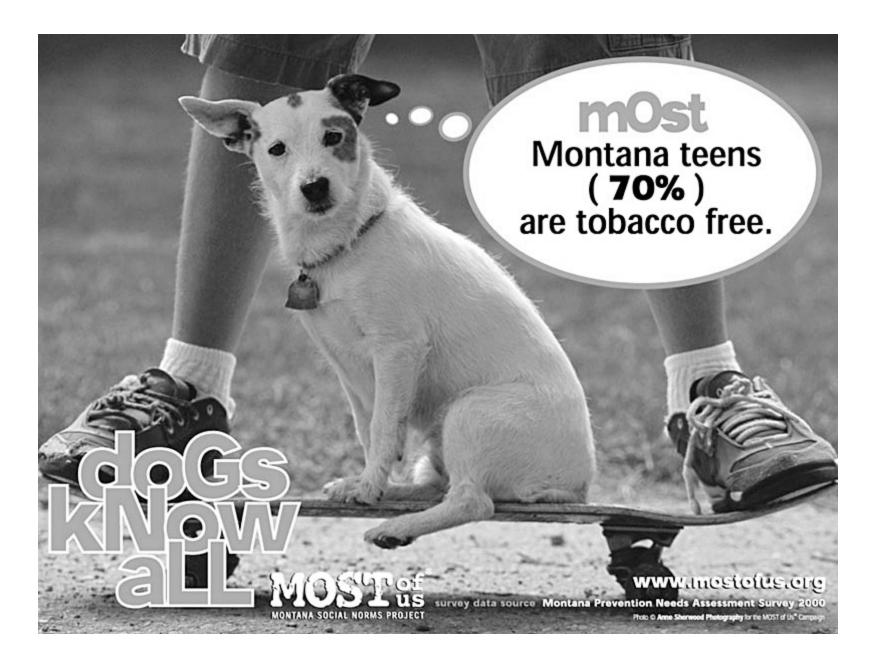
DeKalb & Sycamore Study, DCP/SAFE, (N=1172, 2001)



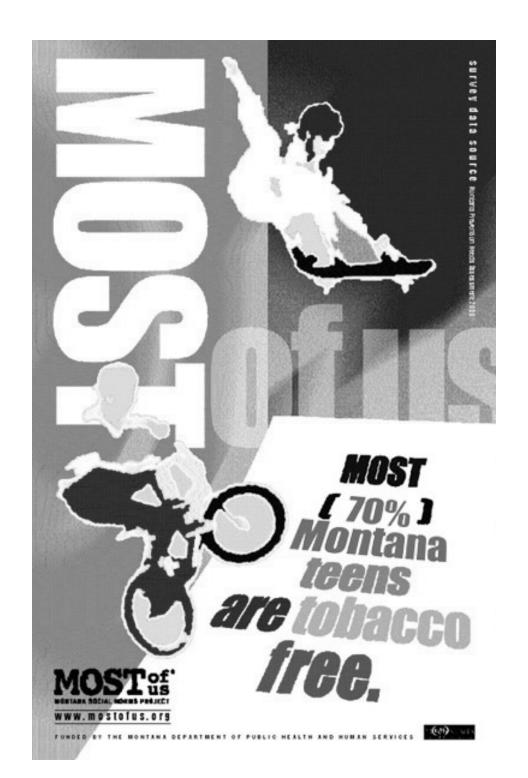
83 % choose not to



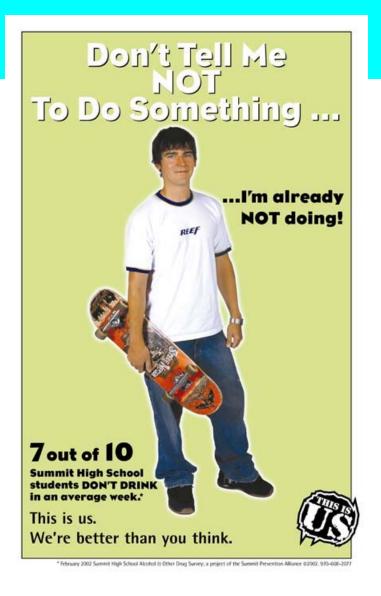




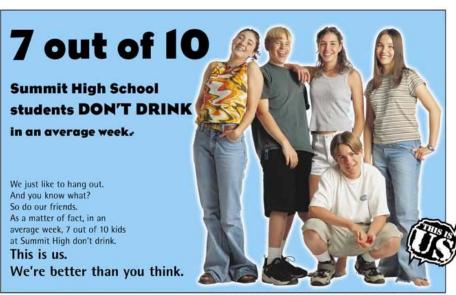




### Sample Print Media – Summit, CO







### strength in Numbers

#### Just the Facts:

When Grand Canyon High School South students were asked about their last 30 days in a Fall 2006 survey, the majority—

...had NOT used tobacco (84%)

...had NOT used alcohol (67%)

...had NOT used marijuana (87%).

Results are based on a Fall 2006 anonymous survey of 806 Grand Canyon High School South students from all grades.







# Most Cascade County Young Adults (82%) Don't Drink and Drive

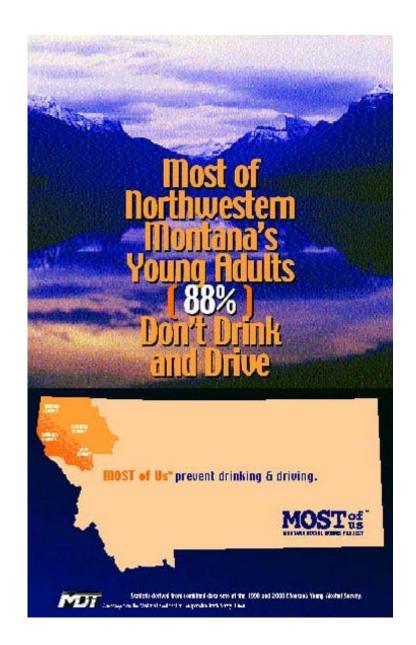
MOST of Us™ prevent drinking & driving.



A message from the Montana Department of Fansportation and the **Caseade County D.W. Task Force.** Statistic derived from combined data sets of the
1998 and 2000 Montana Young Adult Alcohol Survey.

Any amount of alcohol may be illegal or dangerous. \$9% of the young adults (18 through 24 surveyed reported not driving after consuming 2+drinks within one hour in the month before the survey.





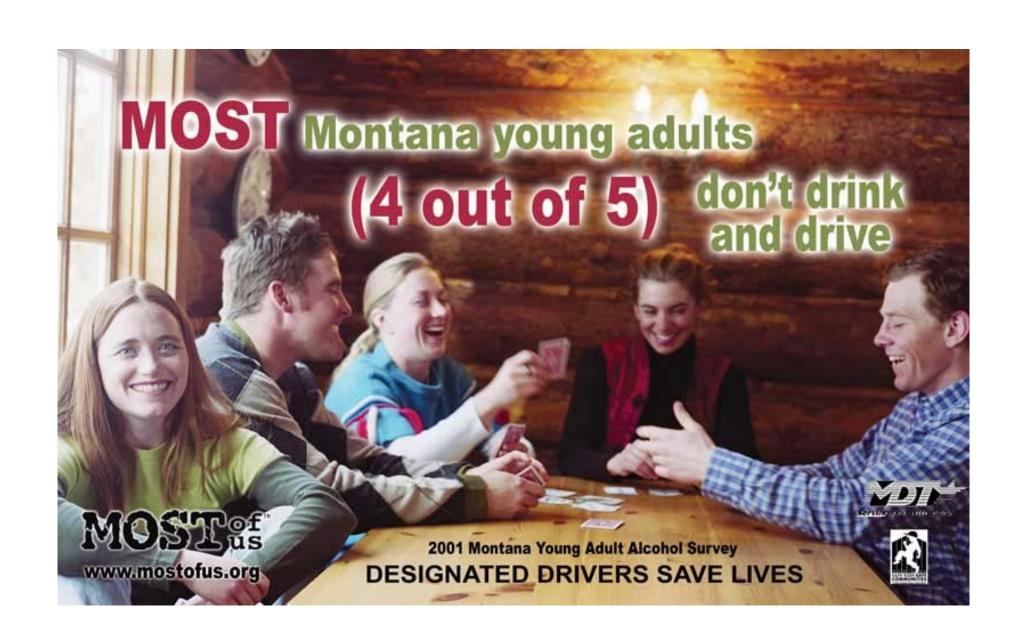


Campaign support from Montana Department of Transportation • Montana Safe Kids Safe Communities

\*Data source: 2001 Montana Young Adult Alcohol Survey

ANY AMOUNT OF ALCOHOL MAY BE ILLEGAL OR DANGEROUS.

Photo © Anne Sherwood



## Examples of Strategies to Reduce Misperceptions and Strengthen Positive Norms

- Print media campaigns
- PSA video campaigns
- Peer education programs and workshops for targeted risk groups <a href="http://www.alcoholeducationproject.org/mvp/peer.html">http://www.alcoholeducationproject.org/mvp/peer.html</a>
- New student orientation presentations
- Counseling interventions
- Curriculum infusion
- Electronic multimedia

### Data Testing the Theory

### Research on Effects of Perceived Norms and Social Norms Intervention Programs

- Multi-site cross-sectional studies
- Longitudinal panel studies
- Brief intervention experiments using random assignment
- Longitudinal pre/post case studies of school populations
- Experiments with experimental and control counties
- Experiments with experimental and control classroom interventions
- Longitudinal experiments randomly assigning institutions to experimental and control conditions

### **Evaluation of Program Effects of First 18 Months at HWS**

(Rates of Change)

| • Frequent Heavy Drinking:                   | - 21% |
|----------------------------------------------|-------|
| <ul> <li>Consequences of Drinking</li> </ul> |       |
| -property damage                             | - 36% |
| – missing class                              | - 31% |
| <ul><li>inefficient in work</li></ul>        | - 25% |
| <ul><li>unprotected sex</li></ul>            | - 40% |
| – memory loss                                | - 25% |

Source: Perkins and Craig, HWS Alcohol Education Project

## Similar Initial Effects in Rates of Heavy Drinking Reduction at Different Schools Over 2 Years

Hobart & Wm. Smith Colleges, NY -21%
University of Arizona -21%
Western Washington University -20%
Rowan University, NJ -20%
Northern Illinois University -18%

Source: H. W. Perkins (ed.), The Social Norms Approach to Preventing School and College Age Substance Abuse, 2003.

## Results of HWS "MVP" Project: A Social Norms Intervention to Reduce High-Risk Drinking among Student-Athletes

- 46% reduction in the proportion of student-athletes drinking more than once per week
- 30% reduction in the proportion of student-athletes reaching an estimated BAC of .08% or greater when drinking at parties and bars
- 34% reduction in the proportion of student-athletes experiencing frequent negative consequences due to drinking during the academic term

Source: Perkins and Craig, J. of Studies on Alcohol, 2006

- 38% reduction in the proportion of student-athletes using tobacco weekly
- a 2.5 hours per week increase in time spent in academic activities, on average, for each student-athlete

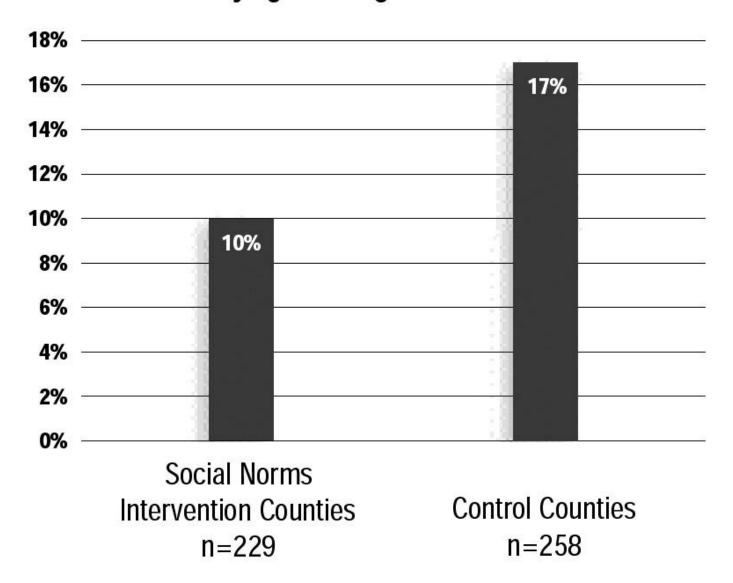
Table 14.2 Self-Reported Alcohol and Cigarette Use by 10th Grade Students

|                                                    | Year | Percent | N   | -        |
|----------------------------------------------------|------|---------|-----|----------|
| More than a few sips of alcohol                    | 1999 | 45%     | 317 | *        |
| in the last 30 days                                | 2001 | 33%     | 379 | 519952.1 |
| Five or more drinks in a row in the last two weeks | 1999 | 27%     | 318 | *        |
|                                                    | 2001 | 19%     | 382 | Visited  |
| Got drunk                                          | 1999 | 32%     | 319 | *        |
| in the last 30 days                                | 2001 | 26%     | 382 | A004     |
| Smoked cigarettes in the last 30 days              | 1999 | 27%     | 319 | *        |
|                                                    | 2001 | 19%     | 380 |          |

Note: An asterisk denotes a significant decrease (p < .05) from the 1999 survey year.

Source: Haines, Barker, and Rice in H. W. Perkins (ed.), The Social Norms Approach to Preventing School and College Age Substance Abuse, 2003.

#### Montana Youth Trying Smoking For the First Time between 2000 and 2001

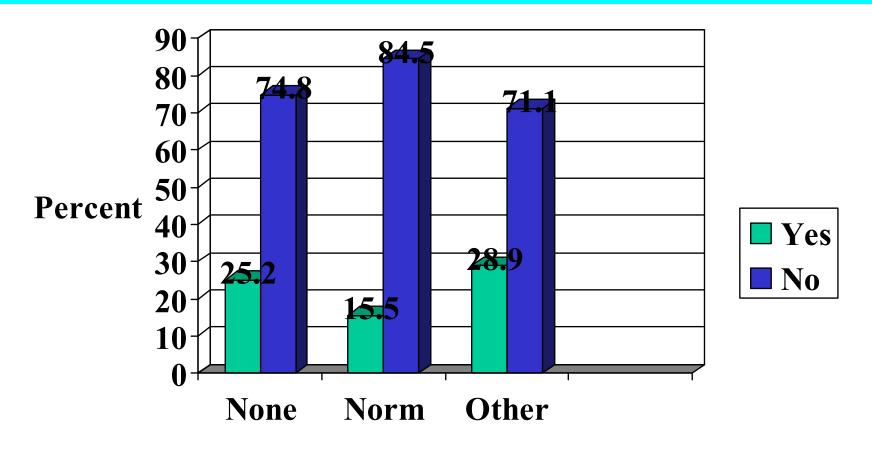


<sup>\*</sup>Significant difference between intervention and control groups at p < .05

Source: Linkenbach and Perkins, 2003.

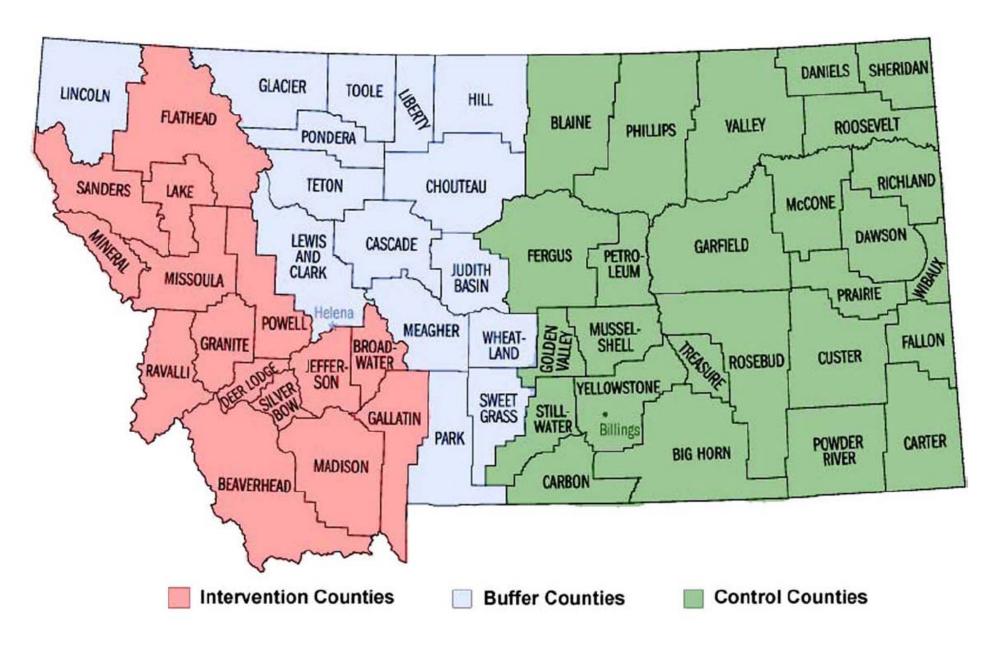
### "MOST OF US DO NOT DRINK AND

### DRIVE" Norm Message Recall Associated w/ Lower DUI Risk



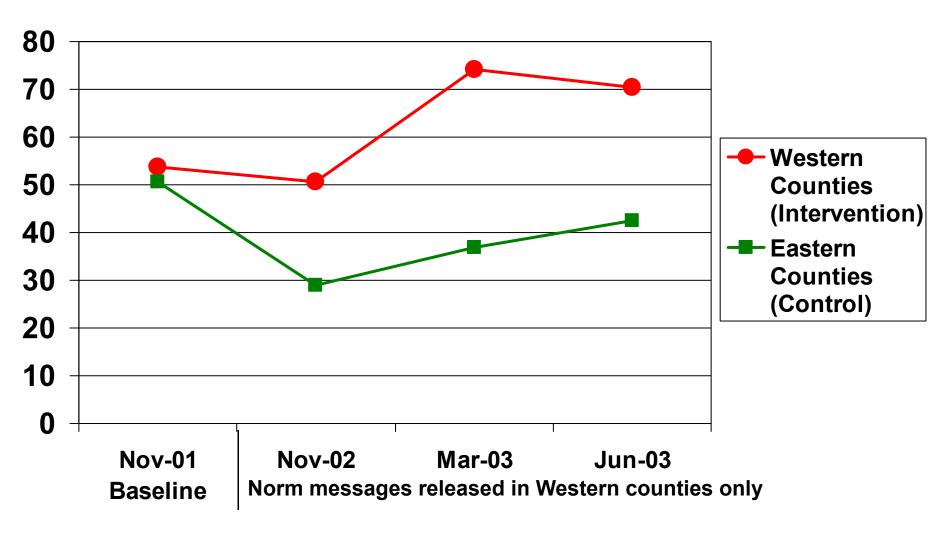
Message recalled

Source: Linkenbach, J. and H. W. Perkins. 2005.



Linkenbach, Jeff and H. Wesley Perkins. 2005. Montana's MOST of Us® Don't Drink and Drive Campaign: A Social Norms Strategy to Reduce Impaired Driving Among 21-to-34Year-Olds. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (Report No. DOT HS 809 869), Washington, DC.

### Percent Recalling Social Norms Message about Drinking as the Main Message From Media (compared to recalling other or no message)



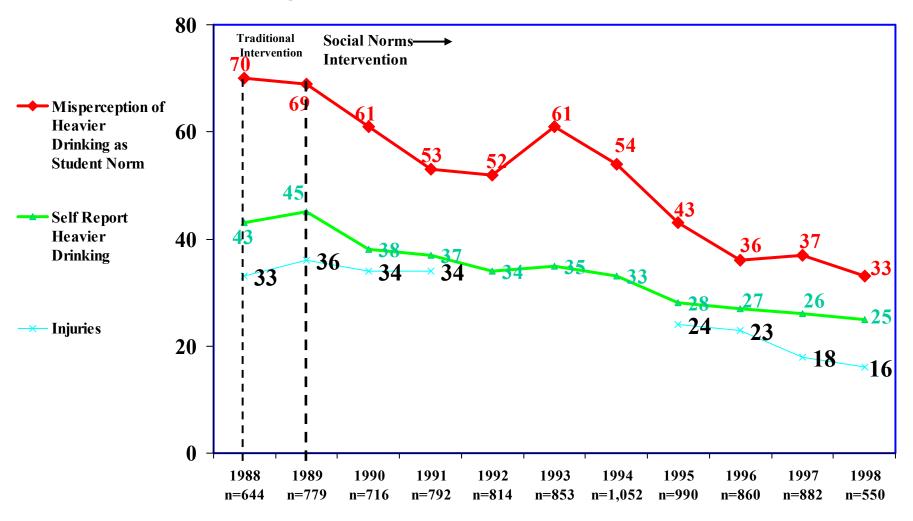
**Survey Time Points** 

### Results of Montana Young Adult Experiment on Drinking and Driving

- The campaign successfully reduced the misperceptions (overestimates) of impaired driving among peers in intervention counties.
- Intervention counties had a 14% relative decrease in reported driving after drinking and a 15% relative increase in using non-drinking designated drivers compared to the control counties

### Multi-Year Assessments of Social Norms Campaign Impact

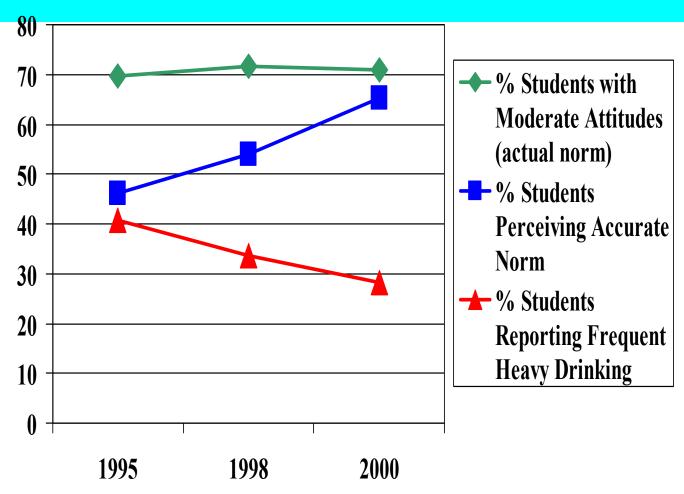
### Heavier drinking, norm misperceptions, and injuries among NIU students, 1988-1998



Note: During survey years 1992 - 1994, comparable injury questions were not included.

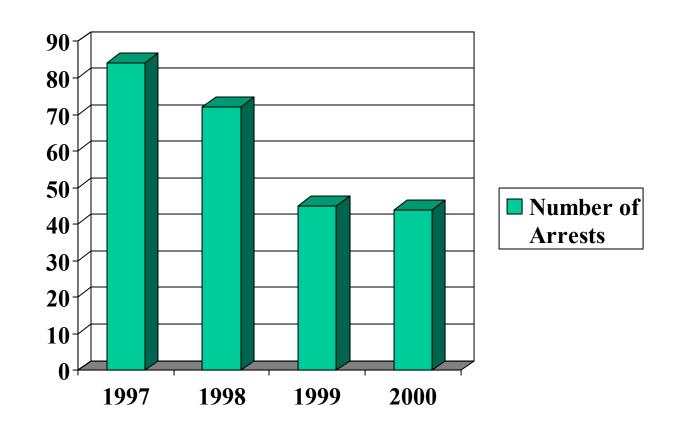
Source: M. Haines and G. Barker, "The Northern Illinois University Experiment: A Longitudinal Case Study of the Social Norms Approach." In Perkins (ed.), The Social Norms Approach to School and College Age Substance Abuse, 2003.

### Multi-Year Assessment of Campaign Impact at HWS



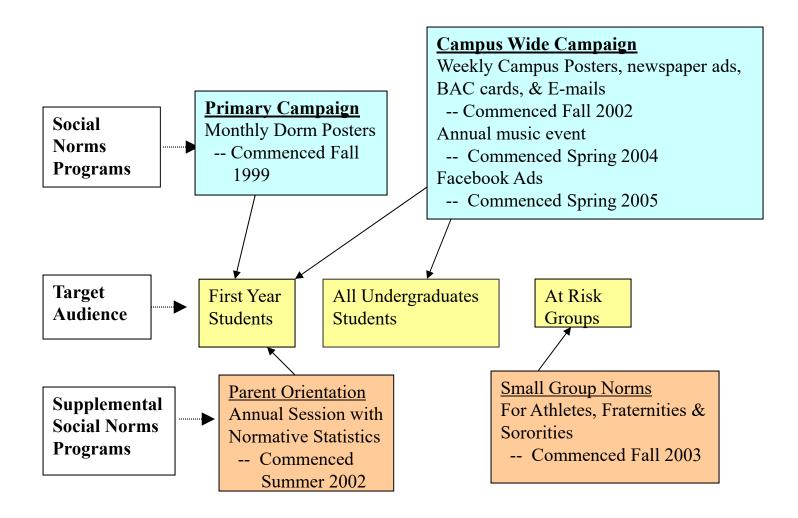
Source: H.W. Perkins and D. Craig. A Multifaceted Social Norms Approach to Reduce High-Risk Drinking: Lessons from Hobart and William Smit Colleges. Newton, MA: The Higher Education Center for Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention and the U.S. Department of Education, 2002.

### Multi-Year Intervention Impact at HWS on Liquor Law Arrests



Source: H.W. Perkins and D. Craig. A Multifaceted Social Norms Approach to Reduce High-Risk Drinking: Lessons from Hobart and William Smit Colleges. Newton, MA: The Higher Education Center for Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention and the U.S. Department of Education, 2002.

#### Social Norms Marketing Programs at the University of Virginia



Source: James Turner, H. Wesley Perkins, and Jennifer Bauerle, "Declining Negative Consequences Related to Alcohol Misuse Among Students Exposed to a Social Norms Marketing Intervention on a College Campus," Journal of American College Health 2008.

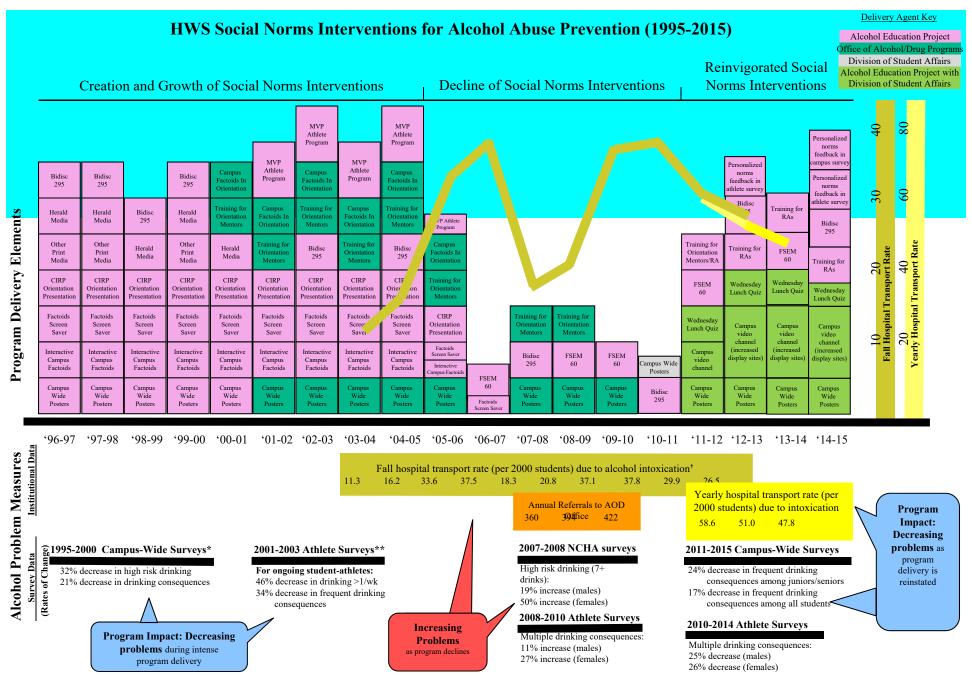
### Six Years of Declining Negative Consequences Related to Alcohol Misuse Among Students Exposed to a Social Norms Intervention at U of Virginia

Source: J Turner, H W Perkins, J Bauerle, Journal of American College Health, 2008

|                         | <b>2001</b> | <u>2002</u> | <u>2003</u> | <u>2004</u> | <u>2005</u> | <u>2006</u> |
|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| % No Consequences       | 33          | 38          | 44          | 46          | 48          | 51          |
| % Multiple Consequences | 44          | 40          | 36          | 34          | 31          | 26          |

### 20 Year History of Social Norms Interventions to Reduce Alcohol Abuse at HWS

Professor H. Wesley Perkins Professor David W. Craig



<sup>\*</sup> Perkins, H. Wesley, and David W. Craig. 2002. A Multifaceted Social Norms Approach to Reduce High-Risk Drinking: Lessons from Hobart and William Smith Colleges. Newton, MA: The Higher Education Center for Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention and the U.S. Department of Education; Perkins, H. Wesley, and David W. Craig. 2003. "The Hobart and William Smith Colleges Experiment: A Synergistic Social Norms Approach Using Print, Electronic Media and Curriculum Infusion to Reduce Collegiate Problem Drinking." In HW Perkins (ed.), The Social Norms Approach to Preventing School and College Age Substance Abuse: A Handbook for Educators, Counselors, and Clinicians, San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, pp. 35-64.

\*\*Perkins H. Wesley and David W. Craig. 2006. "A Successful Social Norms Campaign to Reduce Alcohol Misuse among College Student-Athletes," Journal of Studies on Alcohol, 67, 880-888.

Hospital transport records reported by Associate Director, Department of Campus Safety (F2003 – S2007) combined with records reported by Associate Director, Department of Campus Safety (F2003 – S2007) combined with records reported by Associate Date of Suddents (F2007-S2014).

NOTE: For additional information contact H. Wesley Perkins, Professor of Sociology (perkins@hws.edu) or David W. Craig, Professor of Biochemistry (craig@hws.edu)

### **BD295** Survey of HWS Students – 2018 Results

#### Frequency of drinking - self

|       |                    | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative<br>Percent |
|-------|--------------------|-----------|---------|---------------|-----------------------|
| Valid | Never              | 81        | 11.9    | 11.9          | 11.9                  |
|       | 1-2 times per year | 29        | 4.2     | 4.2           | 16.1                  |
|       | 6 times per year   | 36        | 5.3     | 5.3           | 21.4                  |
|       | Once per month     | 33        | 4.8     | 4.8           | 26.2                  |
|       | Twice per month    | 77        | 11.3    | 11.3          | 37.5                  |
|       | Once per week      | 217       | 31.8    | 31.8          | 69.3                  |
|       | 3 times per week   | 183       | 26.8    | 26.8          | 96.0                  |
|       | 5 times per week   | 21        | 3.1     | 3.1           | 99.1                  |
|       | Everyday           | 6         | .9      | .9            | 100.0                 |
|       | Total              | 683       | 100.0   | 100.0         |                       |

### **BD295 Survey of HWS Students – 2018 Results**

#### Frequency of drinking - perception of students in general

|         |                    | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative<br>Percent |
|---------|--------------------|-----------|---------|---------------|-----------------------|
| Valid   | Never              | 1         | .1      | .1            | .1                    |
|         | 1-2 times per year | 5         | .7      | .7            | .9                    |
|         | 6 times per year   | 5         | .7      | .7            | 1.6                   |
|         | Once per month     | 11        | 1.6     | 1.6           | 3.3                   |
|         | Twice per month    | 41        | 6.0     | 6.1           | 9.4                   |
|         | Once per week      | 241       | 35.3    | 36.0          | 45.4                  |
|         | 3 times per week   | 327       | 47.9    | 48.9          | 94.3                  |
|         | 5 times per week   | 33        | 4.8     | 4.9           | 99.3                  |
|         | Everyday           | 5         | .7      | .7            | 100.0                 |
|         | Total              | 669       | 98.0    | 100.0         |                       |
| Missing | -1                 | 14        | 2.0     |               |                       |
| Total   |                    | 683       | 100.0   |               |                       |

Personal Attitudes and Perceived Norms about Alcohol Use among College Students (Source: Perkins and Berkowitz, 1986)

| Items                                                                                                                                                         | Personal<br>Attitudes | Perceived<br>Norm |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1) One should not drink,<br>2) never get drunk, or 3) never<br>drink to an intoxicating level<br>that interferes with academics<br>or other responsibilities. | <b>81</b> %           | 37 %              |
| 4) Occasional drunkenness interfering with academics or responsibilities is OK, or 5) a frequent drunk is okay.                                               | 1<br>9<br>%           | 63<br>%           |

Personal Attitudes and Perceived Norms about Alcohol Use among HWS College Students (2018 BD295 Survey)

| Items                                                                                                                                                         | Personal<br>Attitudes | Perceived<br>Norm |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1) One should not drink,<br>2) never get drunk, or 3) never<br>drink to an intoxicating level<br>that interferes with academics<br>or other responsibilities. | 91 %                  | <b>72</b> %       |
| 4) Occasional drunkenness interfering with academics or responsibilities is OK, or 5) a frequent drunk is okay.                                               | 9%                    | 28                |

### HWS 2018

| Number of party drinks - self |        |           |         |               |                       |
|-------------------------------|--------|-----------|---------|---------------|-----------------------|
|                               |        | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative<br>Percent |
| Valid                         | .0     | 105       | 15.4    | 15.5          | 15.5                  |
|                               | .0     | 1         | .1      | .1            | 15.6                  |
|                               | 1.0    | 38        | 5.6     | 5.6           | 21.2                  |
|                               | 2.0    | 61        | 8.9     | 9.0           | 30.2                  |
|                               | 2.5    | 2         | .3      | .3            | 30.5                  |
|                               | 3.0    | 112       | 16.4    | 16.5          | 47.1                  |
|                               | 3.5    | 3         | .4      | .4            | 47.5                  |
|                               | 4.0    | 98        | 14.3    | 14.5          | 61.9                  |
|                               | 4.5    | 1         | .1      | .1            | 62.1                  |
|                               | 5.0    | 80        | 11.7    | 11.8          | 73.9                  |
|                               | 6.0    | 64        | 9.4     | 9.4           | 83.3                  |
|                               | 7.0    | 30        | 4.4     | 4.4           | 87.8                  |
|                               | 7.5    | 1         | .1      | .1            | 87.9                  |
|                               | 8.0    | 29        | 4.2     | 4.3           | 92.2                  |
|                               | 9.0    | 7         | 1.0     | 1.0           | 93.2                  |
|                               | 10.0   | 26        | 3.8     | 3.8           | 97.1                  |
|                               | 12.0   | 6         | .9      | .9            | 97.9                  |
|                               | 13.0   | 3         | .4      | .4            | 98.4                  |
|                               | 15.0   | 7         | 1.0     | 1.0           | 99.4                  |
|                               | 16.0   | 1         | .1      | .1            | 99.6                  |
|                               | 20.0   | 3         | .4      | .4            | 100.0                 |
|                               | Total  | 678       | 99.3    | 100.0         |                       |
| Missing                       | System | 5         | .7      |               |                       |
| Total                         |        | 683       | 100.0   |               |                       |

### Students' Misperceptions of the Norm for the Number of Drinks Consumed the Last Time Other Students "Partied"/Socialized at Their School

(NCHA Nationwide Data from 72,719 Students Attending 130 Schools, 2000-03)

Source: HW Perkins, M Haines, and R Rice, Journal of Studies on Alcohol, 2005.

| Accuracy of Perceived Drinking Norm |                                     |                      |                                    |                                   |  |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| Under-<br>estimate by<br>3+ Drinks  | Under-<br>estimate by<br>1-2 Drinks | Accurate<br>Estimate | Over-<br>estimate by<br>1-2 Drinks | Over-<br>estimate by<br>3+ Drinks |  |
| 3%                                  | 12%                                 | 14%                  | 32%                                | 39%                               |  |

71% Overestimate Peer Drinking!

### Students' Misperceptions of the Norm for the Number of Drinks Consumed at Parties and Social Occasions – 2018 HWS Survey

#### **Actual Norm = 4 drinks**

| Accuracy of Perceived Drinking Norm |                                     |                      |                                    |                                   |  |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| Under-<br>estimate by<br>3+ Drinks  | Under-<br>estimate by<br>1-2 Drinks | Accurate<br>Estimate | Over-<br>estimate by<br>1-2 Drinks | Over-<br>estimate by<br>3+ Drinks |  |
| 1%                                  | 22%                                 | 20%                  | 34%                                | 22%                               |  |

### 56% Overestimate Peer Drinking

### When is the Social Norms Approach Most Effective?

- Clear positive norm messages
- Credible data
- Absence of competing scare messages
- Dosage is high (ongoing and intense social marketing of actual norms)
- Synergistic strategies
- Broad student population receives message in addition to any high-risk target groups

**BD295 Spring 2018** 

## Traditional Prevention Strategies and the Social Norms Approach to Reducing Youth Substance Abuse

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