Reference Group Executive Summary

Fall 2005

American College Health Association National College Health Assessment

ACHA-NCHA

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The ACHA-NCHA supports the health of the campus community by fulfilling the academic mission, supporting short- and longterm healthy behaviors, and gaining a current profile of health trends within the campus community.

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Introduction

Health issues and health-related costs can have a major impact upon the quality of student and academic life at institutions of higher education. The ACHA-National College Health Assessment (ACHA-NCHA) is a national research survey organized by the American College Health Association (ACHA) to assist college health service providers, health educators, counselors, and administrators in collecting data about their students' habits, behaviors, and perceptions on the most prevalent health topics.

ACHA initiated the survey in 1998; the survey now provides the largest known comprehensive data set on the health of college students, providing the college health and higher education fields with a vast spectrum of research on student health.

For additional information about the survey's development, design, and methodology, email E. Victor Leino, PhD (vleino@acha.org), Mary Hoban, PhD, CHES (mhoban@acha.org), or visit www.acha-ncha.org.

ACHA, the nation's principal advocate and leadership organization for college and university health, represents a diverse membership that provides and supports the delivery of health care and prevention and wellness services for the nation's 16 million college students. For more information about the association's programs and services, visit www.acha.org.

This Executive Summary highlights results of the ACHA-NCHA Fall 2005 survey for a Reference Group consisting of 16,832 respondents.

Possible Uses of the ACHA-NCHA

The following are possible uses of the ACHA-NCHA findings:

- o Determine priority health issues among student populations.
- o Provide prevalence rates and formulate baseline data for tracking trends.
- o Measure progress and effectiveness of intervention strategies.
- o Support institutional policies and local laws that affect the health of a campus community.
- o Create individual reports, information campaigns, research projects to educate both campus and community partners.
- o Distribute risk factor information about the student population through summary reports that focus on specific health topics or problem areas.
- o Monitor prevalence and care for specific chronic disease groups.
- o Monitor acute illness and prevention efforts.
- o Provide group or cohort-specific estimates.
- o Assess the correlation between one characteristic or behavior and another in a given population.
- o Identify students' level of self-knowledge about health protection practices and illnesses.
- o Identify students' perceptions about peer behavior.
- o Assess the impact of health and behavior factors on academic performance.
- Track the progress of selected objectives in Healthy Campus 2000 and Healthy Campus 2010 for ongoing and future tracking.

Note on use of data:

Missing values have been excluded from analysis. Students responding "not applicable" were excluded from several analyses, which are specifically noted throughout this document. All response categories were included, including "don't know" or "0" unless otherwise noted.

Findings

A. General Health of College Students

■ 60.7 % of students surveyed (66.2 % male and 57.8 % female) described their health as very good or excellent.

Within the last 12 months, college students reported experiencing:

Allergy problems:	52.2 %	Repetitive stress injury:	7.3 %
Anorexia:	2.0 %	Seasonal affective disorder:	7.3 %
Anxiety disorder:	13.5 %	Substance abuse problem:	4.0 %
Asthma:	12.3 %	Back pain:	51.2 %
Bulimia:	2.6 %	Broken bone/fracture:	5.9 %
Chronic fatigue syndrome:	3.7 %	Bronchitis:	8.7 %
Depression:	20.9 %	Chlamydia:	1.0 %
Diabetes:	1.3 %	Ear infection:	11.7 %
Endometriosis:	1.5 %	Gonorrhea:	0.4 %
Genital herpes:	1.1 %	Mononucleosis:	2.4 %
Genital warts/HPV:	2.1 %	Pelvic inflammatory disease:	0.5 %
Hepatitis B or C:	0.4 %	Sinus infection:	33.4 %
High blood pressure:	5.4 %	Strep throat:	16.1 %
High cholesterol:	4.7 %	Tuberculosis:	0.4 %
HIV infection:	0.3 %		

^{84.5 %} of college students (80.9 % male, 88.1 % female) experienced one or more of the above conditions within the last 12 months.

B. Preventive Health

Preventive health practices among college students:

- 71.3 % reported being vaccinated against hepatitis B.
- 51.8 % reported being vaccinated against meningococcal disease.
- 51.0 % reported being vaccinated against varicella (chicken pox).
- 82.4 % reported being vaccinated with measles, mumps, rubella (2 shots).
- 24.4 % reported being vaccinated against the flu in the last year.
- 77.4 % reported having a dental exam and cleaning in the last year.
- 45.2 % of males students reported that they performed testicular self exam in the last month.
- 45.7 % of female students reported that they performed breast self exam in the last month.
- 59.5 % of females reported having a routine gynecological exam in the last year.
- 90.3 % reported having their blood pressure checked in the last 2 years.
- 44.7 % reported having cholesterol checked in the last 5 years.
- 19.9 % reported using sunscreen daily.

College students reported the following behaviors within the last 12 months:

Percent (%)	N/A, didn't drive, ride, or skate within the last 12 months	Never	Rarely or sometimes	Mostly or always	Mostly or always (N/A responses not included)*
Wore a seatbelt	0.2	0.5	5.4	94.0	94.2
Wore a helmet when riding					
a bicycle	47.8	25.1	11.3	15.9	30.4
Wore a helmet when riding					
a motorcycle	79.3	2.5	2.0	16.2	78.3
Wore a helmet when inline					
skating	80.7	12.3	3.2	3.7	19.4

^{*} Students responding "N/A, didn't drive, ride, or skate within the last 12 months" were excluded from this analysis.

C. Academic Impacts

Within the last 12 months students reported the following factors affecting their individual academic performance, i.e. received an incomplete, dropped a course, received a lower grade in a class, on an exam, or on an important project (listed alphabetically):

Alcohol use:	6.5 %	Eating disorder/problem:	1.4 %
Allergies:	5.0 %	HIV infection:	0.2 %
Assault (physical):	0.7 %	Injury:	4.1 %
Assault (sexual):	1.0 %	Internet use/computer games:	12.0 %
Attention deficit disorder:	7.3 %	Learning disability:	4.2 %
Cold/flu/sore throat:	23.6 %	Mononucleosis:	1.6 %
Concern for a troubled		Pregnancy (yours or partner's)	1.4 %
friend or family member:	17.8 %	Relationship difficulty:	14.7 %
Chronic illness:	3.0 %	Sexually transmitted disease:	0.5 %
Chronic pain:	3.2 %	Sinus infection/ear infection/	
Death of a friend/family member:	9.2 %	bronchitis/strep throat:	9.0 %
Depression/anxiety disorder/seasonal		Sleep difficulties:	23.7 %
affective disorder:	15.6 %	Stress:	30.9 %
Drug use:	2.4 %		

D. Violence

Within the last 12 months, college students reported experiencing:

Percent (%)	Male	Female	Total
A physical fight	14.7	4.3	8.0
Being physically assaulted (non-sexually)	5.4	3.6	4.3
Verbal threats for sex against their will	2.4	3.7	3.3
Sexual touching against their will	3.7	10.0	8.0
Attempted sexual penetration against their will	1.1	3.4	2.8
Sexual penetration against their will	0.8	1.8	1.5
An emotionally abusive relationship	10.2	15.9	14.0
A physically abusive relationship	1.9	2.7	2.5
A sexually abusive relationship	1.4	2.0	1.8

E. Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug Use

Thirty day prevalence - substance use reported by college students (male, female, total):

Alcohol

Percent (%)	Male	Female	Total
Never used	21.6	19.2	20.1
Used, but not in the last 30 days	11.3	14.9	13.7
Used 1-9 days	46.6	52.4	50.2
Used 10-29 days	19.2	13.1	15.2
Used all 30 days	1.2	0.4	0.7

Cigarette

Percent (%)	Male	Female	Total
Never used	63.2	64.5	64.2
Used, but not in the last 30 days	16.0	17.0	16.6
Used 1-9 days	9.8	8.5	8.9
Used 10-29 days	4.9	4.3	4.5
Used all 30 days	6.1	5.7	5.8

Marijuana

Percent (%)	Male	Female	Total
Never used	63.6	68.1	66.7
Used, but not in the last 30 days	19.8	20.0	19.8
Used 1-9 days	9.9	8.7	9.0
Used 10-29 days	4.7	2.5	3.3
Used all 30 days	1.9	0.8	1.2

Reported use versus perceived use - reported use for all students within the past 30 days compared with how often students perceived the typical student on campus used substances within the same time period:

		Never		Used one or more days		J sed daily
	Reported	Perception of Typical	Reported	Perception of	Reported	Perception of
Percent (%)	Use (total)	Use	Use (total)	Typical Use	Use	Typical Use
					(total)	
Alcohol	20.1	3.0	65.5	55.1	0.7	41.8
Cigarettes	64.2	9.5	13.5	50.1	5.8	40.4
Marijuana	66.7	17.3	12.3	60.6	1.2	22.1

■ 6.0 % of college students reported driving after having 5 or more drinks in the last 30 days.*

^{*}Students responding "N/A, don't drive" were excluded from this analysis.

Estimated BAC (Blood Alcohol Concentration) of college students: This is an estimated figure based on the reported number of drinks consumed during the last time all students (including non-drinkers) "partied" or socialized, their approximate time of consumption, sex, and the average rate of ethanol metabolisim.

Estimated BAC	Percent (%)	Male	Female	Total
< .08		66.1	65.2	65.5
< .10		72.3	72.3	72.3
Mean		0.07	0.07	0.07
Median		0.04	0.05	0.05
Std Dev		0.09	0.09	0.09

Reported number of drinks consumed the last time students "partied" or socialized:

Number of drinks	Percent (%)	Male	Female	Total
<= 4		51.0	67.5	61.8
<= 5		57.8	77.2	70.5
<= 6		64.9	84.5	77.7
Mean		5.51	3.54	4.22
Median		4.00	3.00	3.00
Std Dev		5.72	3.64	4.58

Reported number of times college students consumed five or more drinks in a sitting within the last two weeks:

Percent (%)	Male	Female	Total
None	53.6	68.2	63.2
1-2 times	24.1	21.6	22.4
3-5 times	16.0	8.2	10.9
6 or more times	6.3	2.0	3.5

College students reported doing the following when they "partied" or socialized during the last 12 months:*

When at a party or when going out	usually or always
	Percent (%)
alternate non-alcoholic with alcoholic beverages:	30.9
determine in advance not to exceed a set number of drinks:	39.0
choose not to drink alcohol:	27.5
use a designated driver:	79.6
eat before and/or during drinking:	78.6
have a friend let you know when you have had enough:	29.3
keep track of how many drinks being consumed:	65.1
pace drinks to one or fewer an hour:	30.4
avoid drinking games:	43.2
drink an alcoholic look-alike:	6.8

^{*}Students responding "N/A, don't drink" were excluded from this analysis.

■ 96.9 % of college students reported usually doing or always doing one or more of the above behaviors when drinking alcohol during the last 12 months.*

College students who drank alcohol reported the following consequences occurring in the last 12 months as a result of their own drinking:*

Percent (%)	Male	Female	Total
Being physically injured	17.9	16.0	16.6
Physically injured another person	7.2	2.9	4.4
Being involved in a fight	10.6	4.5	6.7
Doing something they later regretted	36.8	33.9	35.0
Forgetting where they were or what they had done	31.2	26.6	28.2
Having someone use force or threat of force to have sex	0.8	1.5	1.4
with them			
Having unprotected sex	17.6	14.8	15.8

^{*}Students responding "N/A, don't drink" were excluded from this analysis.

^{*}Students responding "N/A, don't drink" were excluded from this analysis.

F. Sexual Behavior

College students reported the following within the last 12 months:

Percent (%)	Male	Female	Total
Having had no sexual partner	26.8	27.6	27.5
Having had 1 sexual partner	44.5	48.1	46.6
Having had 2 sexual partners	10.9	11.0	11.0
Having had 3 sexual partners	6.1	6.1	6.1
Having had 4 or more sexual partners	11.7	7.2	8.8

Number of partners among students reporting to have at least one sexual partner within the last 12 months:*

Mean	2.51	1.83	2.08
Median	1.00	1.00	1.00
Std Dev	4.99	2.21	3.44

^{*}Only students reporting to have at least one sexual partner are included in these

Oral sex within the past 30 days	ercent (%)	Male	Female	Total
Never did this sexual		25.9	26.8	26.6
Have not done this during the last 30		26.8	26.7	26.7
Did this 1 or more times		47.3	46.6	46.7

Vaginal sex within the past 30 days Pe	rcent (%)	Male	Female	Total
Never did this sexual		29.6	29.0	29.3
Have not done this during the last 30		20.8	17.8	18.7
Did this 1 or more times		49.7	53.2	51.9

Anal sex within the past 30 days Percentage	ent (%)	Male	Female	Total
Never did this sexual		70.4	76.4	74.4
Have not done this during the last 30		22.3	19.4	20.2
Did this 1 or more times		7.3	4.3	5.3

Type of sexual behavior	Percent (%)	Oral	Vaginal	Anal
Sexually active students reported				
Using a condom within the last 30 days (mostly always)*	y or	3.5	46.9	24.2
Using a condom the last time they had sex**		3.6	48.1	23.4

^{*}Students responding "Never did this sexual activity" or "Have not done this during the last thirty days" were excluded from the analysis.

Reported means of birth control used among sexually active college students or their partners to prevent pregnancy the last time they had vaginal intercourse:

Percent (%	6) Male	Female	Total
Birth control pills	36.3	38.2	37.3
Depo Provera (shots)	1.4	2.2	1.9
Norplant (implant)	0.5	0.2	0.3
Condoms	38.6	34.3	35.5
Diaphragm, cervical cap, sponge	0.5	0.5	0.5
Spermicide	3.7	2.7	3.0
Fertility awareness	2.9	2.6	2.7
Withdrawal	14.0	15.4	14.9
Other method	4.4	7.4	6.3
Nothing	6.4	5.1	5.6

■ 10.3 % of sexually active college students reported using (or reported their partner used) emergency contraception ("morning after pill") within the last 12 months (male: 8.9 %; female: 11.1 %).*

■ 2.6 % of college students who had vaginal intercourse within the last 12 months reported experiencing an unintentional pregnancy or got someone pregnant within the last 12 months. (male: 2.5 %; female: 2.5 %).**

^{**}Students responding "Never did this sexual activity" were excluded from the analysis.

^{*}Students responding "Not sexually active" were excluded from the analysis.

^{**}Students responding "Have not had vaginal intercourse within the last 12 months" were excluded from the analysis.

G. Nutrition and Exercise

Within the last 30 days, college students reported:

Percent (%)	Male	Female	Total
Exercising to lose weight	42.3	58.8	52.8
Dieting to lose weight	20.3	40.2	33.1
Vomiting or taking laxatives to lose weight	0.7	3.3	2.4
Taking diet pills to lose weight	1.8	4.8	3.8
Doing none of the above	52.4	32.6	39.0

College students reported usually eating the following number of servings of fruits and vegetables:

Percent (%)	Male	Female	Total
Don't eat fruits and vegetables	4.9	3.0	3.7
1 or 2 per day	63.8	61.3	62.0
3-4 per day	26.2	29.8	28.5
5 or more per day	5.1	5.9	5.7

College students reported the following behaviors within the past 7 days

Participated in vigorous exercise for 20 minutes (or 30 minutes moderate exercise)

	Percent (%)	Male	Female	Total
0 days		22.3	30.9	28.0
1-2 days		30.8	30.9	30.8
3-5 days		35.0	31.5	32.6
6+ days		11.9	6.7	8.6

Exercising to strengthen muscles	Percent (%)	Male	Female	Total
0 days		35.7	44.6	41.5
1-2 days		25.5	29.5	28.1
3-5 days		31.4	22.4	25.5
6+ days		7.5	3.4	4.9

Getting enough sleep

to feel rested in the morning	Percent (%)	Male	Female	Total
0 days		10.1	13.5	12.4
1-2 days		28.2	29.5	29.1
3-5 days		47.9	45.0	45.8
6+ days		13.8	12.1	12.7

Estimated average Body Mass Index (BMI): This figure incorporates reported height, and weight to form a general indicator of physical health.

24.33

4.84

22.86 | 23.35

5.12

5.25

BMI Percent	(%)	Male	Female	Total
< 18.5 Underweight		2.4	5.0	4.1
18.5-24.9 Healthy Weight		55.1	63.6	60.8
25-29.9 Overweight		30.4	19.9	23.4
30-34.9 Class I Obesity		8.4	7.1	7.6
35-39.9 Class II Obesity		2.6	2.6	2.6
>= 40 Class III Obesity		1.2	1.8	1.6
				•
Mean		25.09	24.14	24.45

H. Depression

Median

Std Dev

Students reported experiencing the following within the last 12 months:

Feeling overwhelmed by all they had to do

Percen	t (%) Male	Female	Total
Never	14.2	3.8	7.5
1-10 times	65.6	63.7	64.3
11+ times	20.2	32.5	28.2

Feeling exhausted (not from physical activity)

Percent (%)			
Never	17.6	6.9	10.7
1-10 times	63.0	64.9	64.1
11+ times	19.5	28.2	25.2

Feeling very sad

Percent (%)			
Never	32.3	17.3	22.5
1-10 times	57.5	66.7	63.5
11+ times	10.2	16.0	14.0

Feeling things were hopeless

Percent (%)			
Never	48.6	34.7	39.6
1-10 times	42.4	54.0	50.1
11+ times	9.0	11.2	10.3

Feeling so depressed it was difficult to function

	Percent (%)	Male	Female	Total
Never		63.5	54.6	57.7
1-10 times		30.4	37.4	35.0
11+ times		6.1	8.0	7.3

Seriously considering attempting suicide

Percent (%)			
Never	90.4	88.6	89.3
1-10 times	8.5	10.3	9.6
11+ times	1.1	1.1	1.1

Attempting suicide

Percent (%)			
Never	98.0	98.0	98.0
1-10 times	1.8	1.8	1.8
11+ times	0.3	0.2	0.2

College students reported diagnosed with depression Percent (%) Male Female Total 10.7 20.5 17.1

Of those students reporting ever having been diagnosed with depression in the item above...

Diagnosed with depression in the last 12 months	36.6	42.4	41.4
Currently in therapy for depression	20.3	26.7	25.6
Currently taking medication for depression	30.3	40.2	38.3

Demographics and Student Characteristics

■ Age:			■ Students describe thems	elves as:
Average age:	22.49 years		Heterosexual:	94.5 %
Median:	20.00 years		Gay/Lesbian:	1.6 %
Std Dev:	6.48 years		Bisexual:	2.4 %
	•		Transgendered:	0.1 %
18 - 20 years:		51.4 %	Unsure:	1.4 %
21 - 24 years:		28.9 %		
25 - 29 years:		9.8 %	■ Housing:	
30+ years:		9.8 %	Campus residence:	36.0 %
•			Fraternity or sorority:	2.4 %
■ Sex			Other university:	4.2 %
Female:		63.5 %	Off-campus:	37.9 %
Male:		32.2 %	Parent/guardian's:	13.1 %
			Other:	6.6 %
■ Student status	S:			
1st year undergra	aduate:	27.8 %	■ Hours of paid work per	week:
2nd year undergr		18.0 %	0 hours:	35.0 %
3rd year undergr	aduate:	18.2 %	1-9 hours:	17.0 %
4th year undergr	aduate:	14.8 %	10-19 hours:	19.1 %
5th year or more	undergraduate:	6.9 %	20-29 hours:	14.7 %
Graduate or prof	Pessional:	12.8 %	30-39 hours:	6.2 %
Adult special or	other:	1.5 %	40 hours:	4.7 %
_			More than 40 hours:	3.4 %
Full-time studen	t:	93.4 %		
			■ Hours of volunteer work	per week:
■ Relationship s	status:		0 hours:	61.0 %
Single:		52.6 %	1-9 hours:	34.8 %
Married/domesti	c partner:	12.3 %	10-19 hours:	2.8 %
Engaged or com	mitted dating		20-29 hours:	0.9 %
relationship:		33.2 %	30-39 hours:	0.2 %
Separated:		0.5 %	40 hours:	0.1 %
Divorced:		1.2 %	More than 40 hours:	0.1 %
Widowed:		0.1 %		
			■ Have any kind of health	insurance
■ Students desc	ribe themselves as:		(including prepaid plans, s	such as HMOs):
White:		80.8 %	Yes:	86.3 %
Black – not Hisp	panic:	4.6 %	Unsure:	5.6 %
Hispanic or Latin	no:	4.7 %		
Asian or Pacific	Islander:	5.9 %		
American Indian	or Alaskan Native:	1.7 %		
Other:		3.4 %		

Demographics of Participating Colleges/Universities

Thirty US postsecondary institutions self-selected to participate in the Fall 2005 National College Health Assessment and 16,989 surveys were completed by students on these campuses. For the purpose of this study, only those institutions that used a random sampling technique or sampled a universe such as all 1st year students were included in the analysis, yielding a final data set consisting of 16,832 students and 29 schools. Demographic characteristics of the 29 campuses follow:

Public	16
Private	13

4-year	27
2-year	2

ACHA Member Institution	26
Non-member Institution	3

Carnegie Classification	
Doctoral/Research Universities	9
Extensive	
Doctoral /Research Universities	3
Intensive	
Masters Colleges and	6
Universities I and II	
Baccalaureate	9
Associate Colleges	2
Specialized	0

Geographical Location	
Northeast (CT, ME, MA, NH, NJ,	9
NY, PA, RI, VT)	
Midwest (IL, IN, IA, KS, MI, MN,	7
MO, NE, ND, OH, SD, WI)	
South (AL, AR, DE, DC, FL, GA,	4
KY, LA, MD, MS, NC, OK, SC,	
TN, TX, VA, WV)	
West (AK, AZ, CA, CO, HI, ID,	9
MT, NV, NM, OR, UT, WA, WY)	

Campus Setting	
Urban > 1,000,000	2
Urban 100,000 – 1,000,000	11
Suburban	3
Rural	10
Other	3

Campus Size	
< 2,500	7
2,500 – 4,999	5
5,000 – 9,999	6
10,000 – 19,999	5
>= 20,000	6

2001 ACHA-NCHA Advisory Committee (Authors)

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ACHA-NCHA Executive Summary designed by 2001 ACHA-NCHA Advisory Committee