

Does alcohol & drug
use/addiction have an effect
on crime?

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*Overview *

*Purpose

*Hypothesis/Research Questions

*Literature Review

*Collected Data/Methods



Purpose

The purpose of this study was to help others understand the consequences of their actions, help spread the information about drug abuse at UVU, and with the students. This study can also show how the students are getting the illegal substances. The study of drugs and the correlation of crime rates among UVU students can also help the administration find solutions to help those students that are engaged in these types of activities.

Objective

To see if drug use affects juvenile crime rate?



Questions asked participants

1. What is your age
2. Have you ever been arrested?
3. Have you ever been incarcerated as a result of illegal drugs?
4. Have you ever been incarcerated as a result of alcohol use?
5. Do you have a criminal background?
6. Have you ever been convicted of a crime?
7. Have you ever used illegal drugs?
8. How old were you when you first tried illegal drugs?
9. In the past month have you used illegal drugs?
10. How frequently do you use illegal drugs?
11. On a scale of 0-100% would you say that you depend on illegal drugs?
12. Would you say you are addicted to illegal drugs?
13. Have you ever committed a crime while under the influence of illegal drugs?
14. How many times have you faced a judge, in a court setting, regarding illegal drugs?
15. Have you ever gone to work under the influence of illegal drugs?
16. Have you ever driven a car while under the influence of illegal drugs?
17. Has the use of illegal drugs ever prevent you from getting a job?
18. Have you ever drank alcohol?



Questions asked participants

cont.

19. How old were you the first time you tried alcohol?
20. In the past month have you used alcohol?
21. On a weekly basis, how often do you have an alcohol beverage?
22. On a scale of 0-100% would you say that you are dependent on alcohol?
23. Would you say you are addicted to alcohol?
24. Have you ever been to a treatment center for alcohol?
25. Have you ever committed a crime while under the influence of alcohol?
26. How many times have you faced a judge, in a court setting regarding alcohol?
27. Have you ever gone to work under the influence of alcohol?
28. Have you ever driven a car while under the influence of alcohol?
29. Has the use of alcohol ever prevented you from getting a job?
30. Have you had to commit crimes to maintain your addiction?
31. Have you ever been to a treatment center for addiction?
32. Do you think crime has a correlation with drugs?
33. Do you think crime has a correlation with alcohol?
34. What is your highest level of education?
35. What is your gender?

Literature Review

The literature that we found to help aid our project mainly covered juvenile drug, and alcohol use in correlation with crime in Utah. In one of the articles that we found the report compares youth of Utah to the rest of the nation's youth in regards to substance abuse. Surprisingly, Utah's teens participated less than the rest of the nation's youth. Nevertheless, the report also shows that the majority of the crimes that were committed by juveniles had substance abuse tacked on with it as well. A contradicting article to this showed a survey of alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use among juvenile probationers in Utah. The survey showed that these individuals used more alcohol, drugs, and tobacco than other youth in the general population. They were also at risk for a higher involvement in gangs, delinquency and other social behavior problems. Another article went on to describe how treatment can help those in the system who use drugs change their criminal path that they are on. The article basically goes on to show how by treating addiction problems the likelihood of an offender re-committing crimes is significantly reduced. My favorite article addresses how the most intense levels of drug use, drugs and crime are directly and highly correlated and serious drug use can amplify and perpetuate preexisting criminal activity. Early exposure to drugs and alcohol showed correlation to a career life of crime as the individual progresses throughout life. All of these articles that we reviewed were very helpful in our progression through our research. However, none of them really covered what our research was intended to prove. That is why we went forward with our own research.

As a group we chose to conduct our project using a survey that we created using Qualtrics. Our project was to find Does drug use affect crime rates of Juveniles among UVU students? Our survey consisted of 35 questions to help us determine this. The questions consisted of multiple closed ended questions that helped us determine whether or not drug use and alcohol had an influence in crime rates. We ended up obtaining 500 random emails from UVU's Institutional Research and Information department. From there we distributed our survey via email. We had a decent response from our survey. We ended up collecting about 36 responses which gave us a small idea of what we were hoping to accomplish. We did run into issues with trying to get off the ground and running. We had initially sent in our application to get approved, and we were under the impression that everything was good on our end. However, come to find out our project got "lost" during the procedure causing us to scramble to finish our project on time. Hence, the small number of responses since we were only able to run it for a week. Other than that, we can say that our project went fairly well.

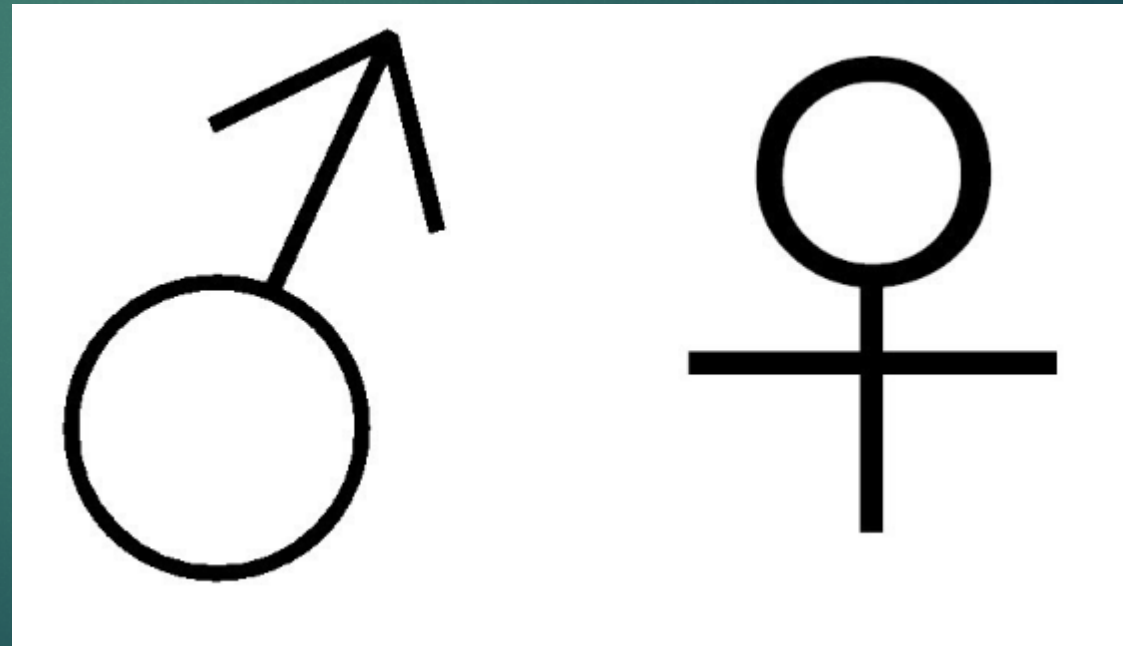


Survey Information

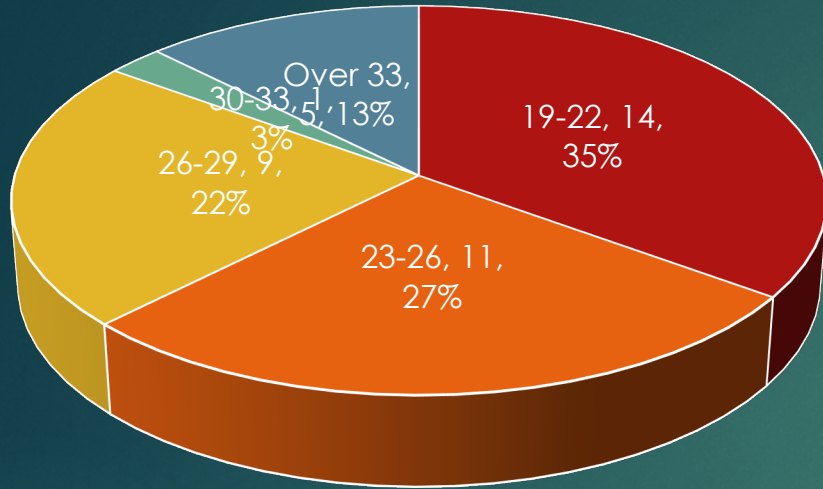
- The survey was delivered through Qualtrics
- The survey consisted of 35 questions
- The survey was only available to students over the legal age of 18.
- Participants response was 36 out of 500
- The survey was available for 7 days.



E D U C A T I O N



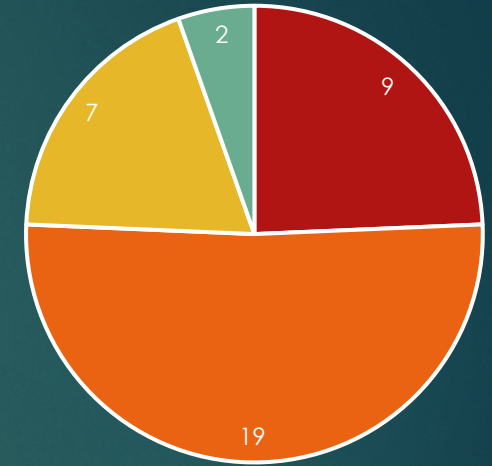
Age



- 19-22
- 23-26
- 26-29
- 30-33
- Over 33

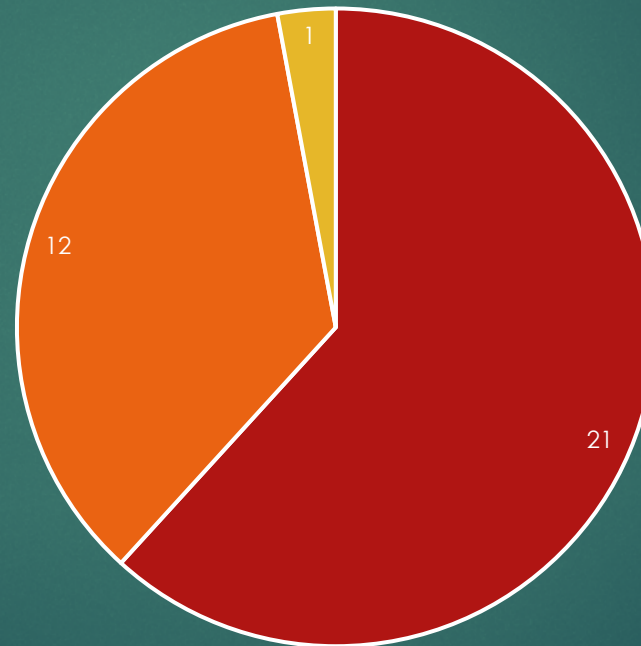


Highest Level of Education



- High School Diploma
- Some College
- College Degree
- Doctorate

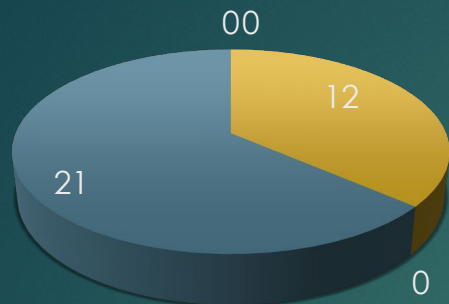
Gender



- Male
- Female
- Other

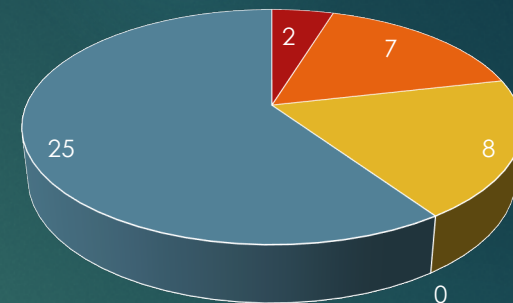


Criminal Background



- Drug Related
- Alcohol Related
- Non drug or Alcohol Related
- Both drug or alcohol related
- Other
-

Convicted of crime



- Drug related
- Alcohol related
- Non drug or alcohol related
- Both drug and alcohol related
- Other

ARRESTED





Weekly Alcoholic Beverage Intake



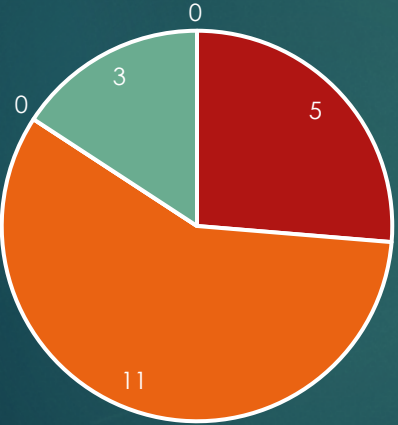
- 0 per week
- 1 per week
- 2 per week
- 3 or more per week

Treated for Alcoholism



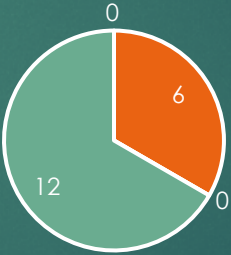
- Once
- Never
- Multiple Times
- Voluntary
- Court Ordered

Use of Alcohol in last Month



- Once
- No
- Daily
- Weekly
- Other

Addiction Level to Alcohol



- I need it to function
- I'm an occasional drinker
- I like to have a drink at end of day
- Not at all



Conclusion



We have concluded, by the data that was gathered, that drugs and alcohol are believed to have an influence on crime. Many of the individuals who participated in the data gathering had not participated in alcohol or drug use. It was also difficult to see the results of those who had participated in alcohol or drug use, as the results were anonymous. There was a higher number showing the relation between drug or alcohol use and crime.

For the research purposes we focused on all types of crime and did not look at only serious offenses. There were more individuals who had participated in alcohol use or drug use and committed crimes. There was a surprising number of individuals who used alcoholic beverages frequently, and operated motor vehicles. This is a crime to be under the influence of alcohol, and impaired while operating a motor vehicle.

From the research that was gathered, there showed a lower drug and alcohol dependency than expected. There also were different age groups, and the dependency was the same throughout the different age groups. This means that the younger participants, and older participants had little to no change in their drug or alcohol dependency as they grew older.

Several of the participants did begin using drugs or alcohol at a young age. There were also participants that were using illegal drugs daily or even weekly. They also had criminal backgrounds that were because of drug use. These numbers were higher than those who did not use drugs but did have a criminal background.

Several individuals reported that they used alcohol. They also reported that they committed misdemeanor offenses while under the influence of alcohol. Some of those who reported using alcohol, admitted to committing other offenses to support their alcohol addiction.

Based on the research, many of the participants believed that drugs and alcohol can play a part in committing crimes. This is not all the crimes, but often drugs and alcohol are associated with crimes that are committed. This would mean that crimes are committed and those committing the crimes are not always using drugs or alcohol.

Closing points

- Purpose
- Hypothesis/Research Questions
- Literature Review
- Collected Data Methods



Works Cited

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