

Fall 2025 Alcohol and Social Life Survey Report





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Background

Cornell's Alcohol and Social Life Survey is an anonymous, campus-wide survey of undergraduate students designed to help the university better understand student experiences, behaviors, and perceptions related to alcohol and other drug use within the context of campus life. Survey results guide strategies that are developed and refined as part of Cornell's comprehensive public health approach to strengthening individual and campus well-being.

Developed during Cornell's participation in the National College Health Improvement Project (NCHIP)—a higher education learning collaborative led by Dartmouth College (2011–2014)—the survey is administered periodically to a random sample of undergraduate students. It has been conducted ten times between 2011 and 2025. While specific questions have evolved over time, the survey's core structure and purpose have remained consistent, allowing the Skorton Center to track trends and inform prevention and support efforts.

Data Highlights

Overall prevalence of alcohol use:

- Approximately one half (50.5%) of Cornell undergraduates reported they do not drink alcohol, and 49.5% reported they drink alcohol.

Fall 2025 Prevalence of alcohol use by demographic subgroups:

- **Membership in Greek letter organizations:** 78% of students who belong to social organizations registered with Fraternity and Sorority Life reported they drink alcohol.
- **Varsity athletes:** 44% of students who identify as Varsity athletes reported they drink alcohol.
- **International student status:** 44% of international students reported they drink alcohol.

Prevalence of alcohol use in the past month:

- 46.7% of Cornell undergraduate students reported they drank alcohol in the past month.

Prevalence of high-risk drinking in the past two weeks:

- 30.6% of Cornell undergraduate students reported at least one occasion of high-risk drinking (5 or more drinks per sitting for males, 4 or more drinks in sitting for females) in the past two weeks.

The following high-risk drinking trends were reported by the following demographic groups:

- Members of Greek letter organizations (i.e., social organizations registered with Sorority and Fraternity Life) engaged in high-risk drinking at a higher rate (62%) compared to non-members (27%).



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- Domestic U.S.-based students engaged in high-risk drinking at a higher rate (31%) compared to international students (28%).
- Students under the legal drinking age (21 years old) engaged in high-risk drinking at a lower rate (28%) compared to students who are of legal drinking age (41%).

Locations of drinking

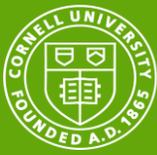
- Cornell undergraduate students reported drinking most frequently at the following locations: off-campus houses or apartments not affiliated with social fraternities (36%), bars or restaurants (27.8%), and social fraternity chapter houses (26.8%).

Other drug use

- Cannabis remains the second most frequent drug (second to alcohol) used among Cornell undergraduates.
 - 24.7% reported using cannabis at least once in the last year.
 - 30.3% reported using cannabis at least once in their lifetime.
- Approximately 1 in 8 (12.3%) Cornell undergraduate students reported having used an e-cigarette (e-cigs) in their lifetime and 1.4% reported daily use of e-cigs in the past month.
- The prevalence was low of using prescription drugs within the past year without a prescription:
 - Stimulant medication: 1.7%
 - Anti-anxiety medication: 1.1%
 - Pain medication: 0.8%
 - Sleep medication: 0.6%
- Members of Greek letter organizations reported higher rates of past month cannabis use (25%) than non-members (13.1%)
- Varsity athletes reported lower rates of past month cannabis use (9.6%) than non-athletes (14.8%)

Harms related to substance use

- The most common primary harms (i.e., harms experienced as a result of one's own drinking or drug use) reported by Cornell undergraduates were vomiting (43.3%) and memory loss (27.5%).
- The most common secondary harms (i.e., harms experienced as a result of someone else's drinking or drug use) reported by Cornell undergraduates were: 1) having to take care of someone who drank too much (49.2%), 2) having your sleep disrupted (43%), and 3) having your study disrupted (31.6%).
- The most common harm-reduction strategies used by Cornell undergraduates were eating food before and during drinking alcohol (92%) and planning a safe way to get home (91%).



Survey Respondent Demographics

A total of 6,000 undergraduate students were invited to participate in the Fall 2025 Alcohol and Social Life Survey, and 1,081 participants completed the survey, yielding an 18% response rate. This was a moderately representative sample of the Cornell student body. Survey respondents represented undergraduate students across all class years (see Figure 1) and academic colleges (see Table 1). The response sample (n=1,081) had notably more women than men (see Figure 2) and comprised of individuals who hold different racial and ethnic identities (see Figure 3). International students comprised 9% of survey respondents (see Figure 4). Additionally, 11.6% of respondents identified as being members of Greek letter organizations (see Figure 5) and 4.8% identified as Varsity athletes (see Figure 6). The majority of respondents (77%) are under the legal drinking age of alcohol and the legal age to purchase cannabis in New York State (see Figure 7). Additionally, 2.2% of the survey respondents identified as people in recovery from a substance use disorder (see Figure 8).

Figure 1. Survey Sample by Class Year

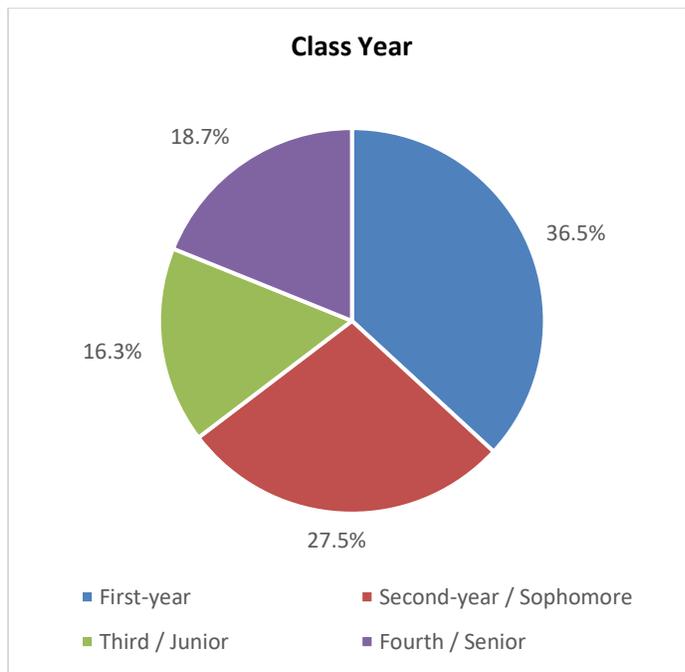
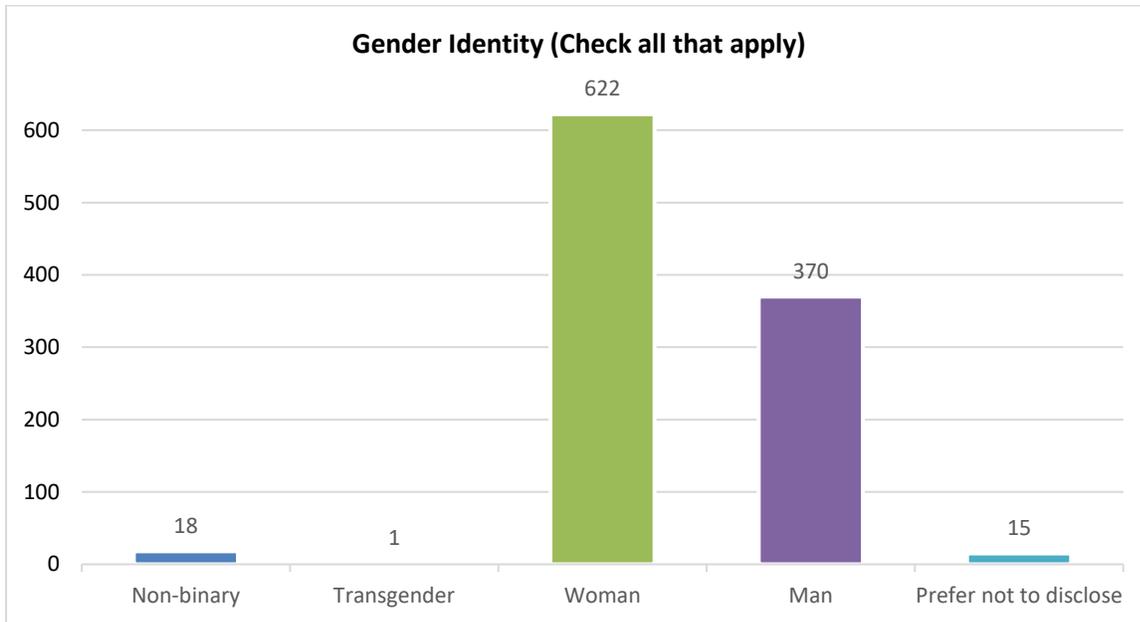


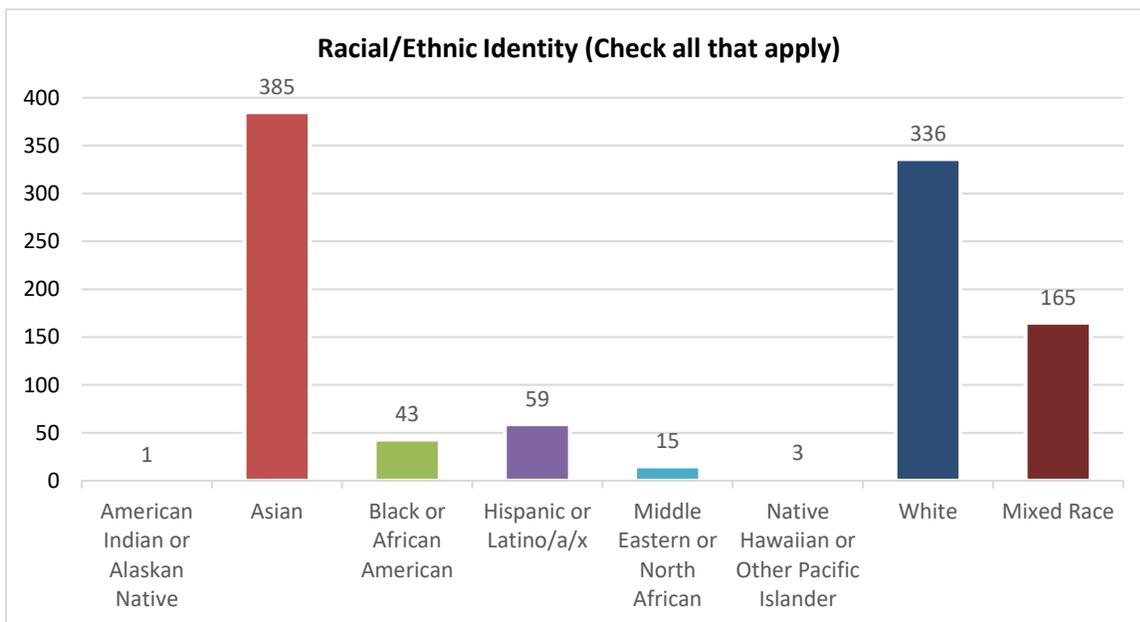


Figure 2. Survey Sample by Gender Identity



Note: This was a check all that apply question, which is why counts are being used rather than percentages.

Figure 3. Survey Sample by Racial/Ethnic Identity



Note: This was a check all that apply question, which is why counts are being used rather than percentages.



Figure 4. Survey Sample by International Student Status

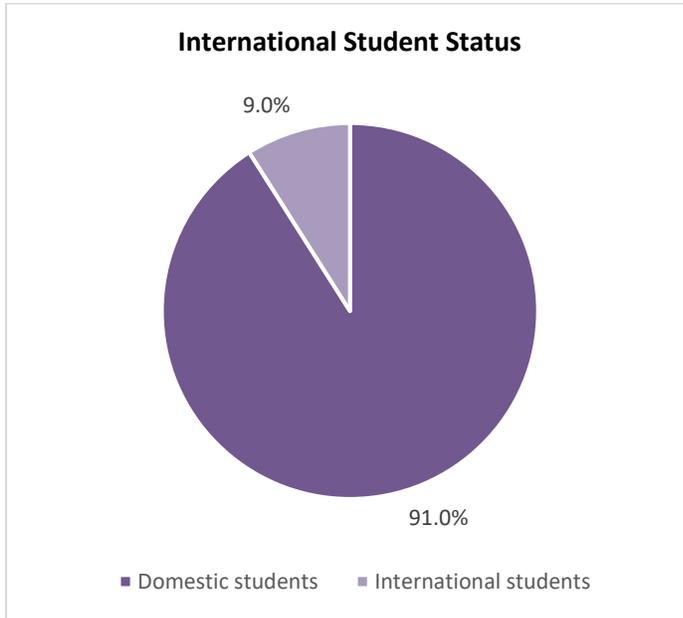


Figure 5. Survey Sample by Membership in a Greek Letter Organization





Figure 6. Sample by Varsity Athlete Status

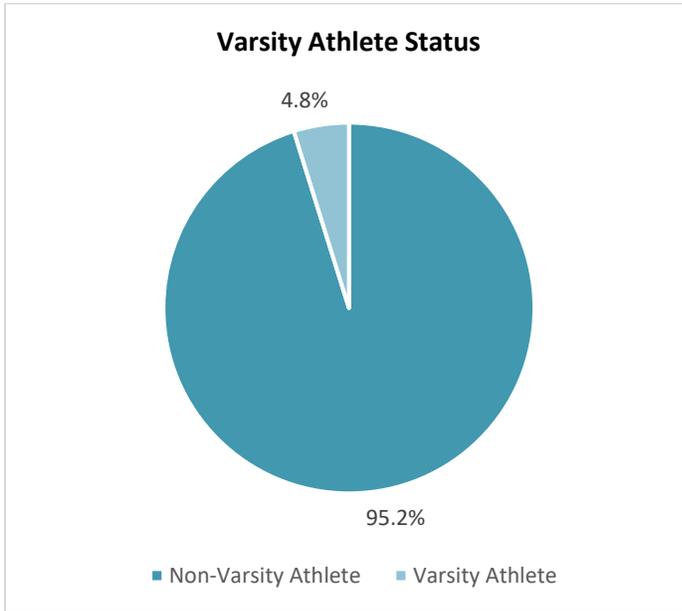


Figure 7. Survey Sample by Age (Legal Status)

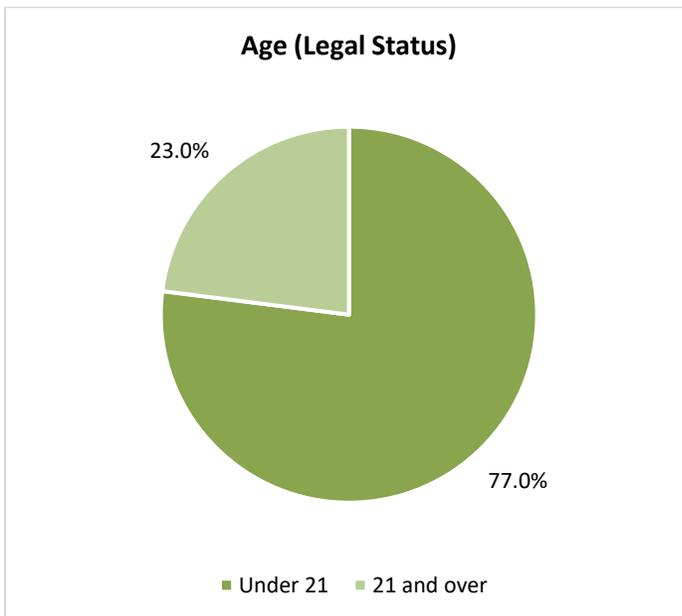




Figure 8. Survey Sample by Recovery Status

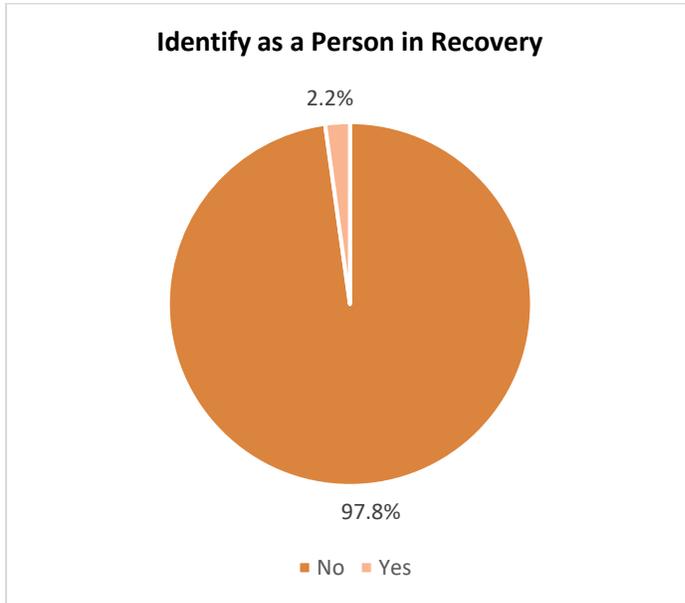
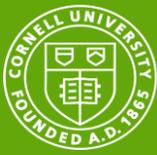


Table 1. Survey Sample by Academic College or School

Academic College or School	N	Percent
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS)	212	20.6%
College of Architecture, Art, and Planning (AAP)	17	1.7%
College of Arts and Sciences (CAS)	335	32.5%
College of Engineering (ENG)	224	21.8%
College of Human Ecology (HUMEC)	72	7.0%
Cornell Ann S. Bowers College of Computing and Information Science (CIS)	27	2.6%
Cornell Jeb E. Brooks School of Public Policy	12	1.2%
Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management	51	5.0%
Nolan School of Hotel Administration	29	2.8%
School of Industrial and Labor Relations (ILR)	51	5.0%



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Table 2. Respondent Demographics and Fall 2025 Cornell University Enrollment Data

	Fall 2025 Alcohol and Social Life Survey Respondents <i>N</i> = 1,081 Response rate = 18%		Cornell University Fall 2025 Undergrad Enrollment Data <i>N</i> = 16,138	
	N	%	N	%
Class Year				
First-year	384	36.5%	3,871	24.0%
Sophomore	289	27.5%	4,029	25.0%
Junior	172	16.4%	4,090	25.3%
Senior	197	18.7%	4,148	25.7%
Fifth-year senior/other	10	1.0%	N/A	N/A
Gender				
Female	622	60.0%	8,573	54.5%
Male	370	35.7%	7,162	45.5%
Other	44	4.2%	N/A	N/A
Racial/Ethnic Identity				
AAW	456	47.7%	5,090	31.5%
BHI	158	16.5%	3,284	20.3%
White	336	35.2%	4,887	30.3%
Unknown	5	0.5%	1,200	7.4%
International Status				
International	92	9.0%	1,677	10.4%
Domestic	930	91.0%	14,461	89.6%

Alcohol Use

To help students accurately estimate of the number of standard drinks they consumed, information about “standard serving sizes” of alcoholic drinks (e.g., beer, wine, hard alcohol) was shared before asking about their alcohol consumption.

Prevalence and Quantity of Drinking Alcohol

- Approximately one half (50.5%) of Cornell undergraduates reported they do not drink alcohol, and 49.5% reported they drink alcohol.
- Among students who drink alcohol, the majority (70%) report consuming, on average, between 1 to 4 standard drinks.

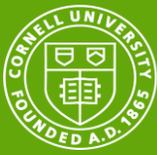
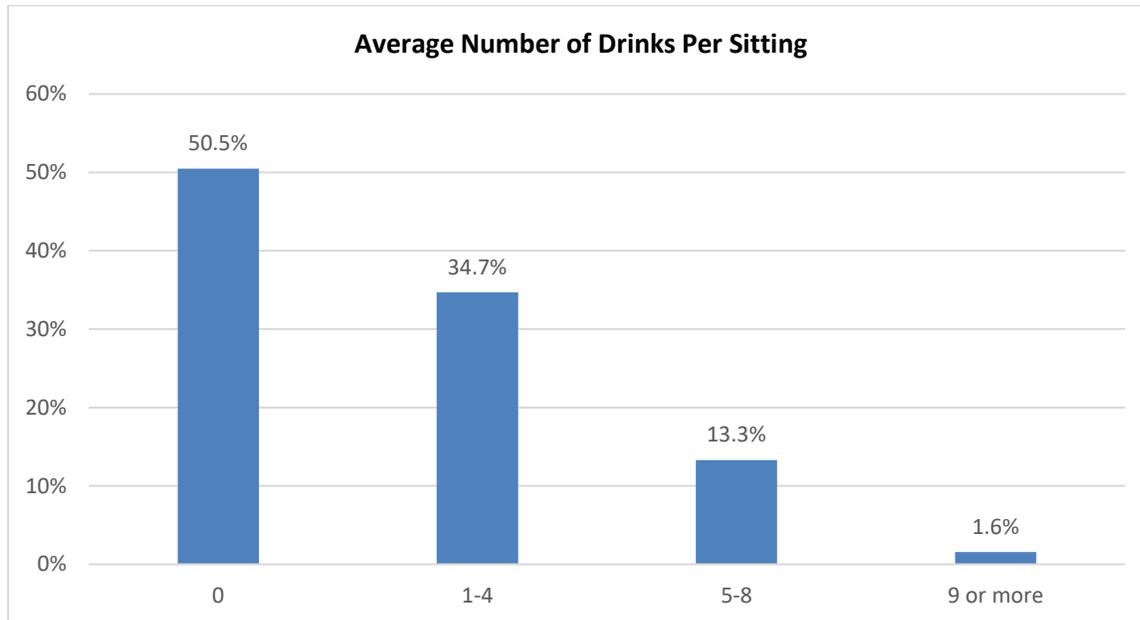


Figure 9. Average Number of Drinks Per Sitting Among Cornell Undergraduate Students



Note: In this context, “per sitting” refers to specific instances of drinking alcohol.

Prevalence of High-Risk Drinking in Last Two Weeks

- 30.6% of Cornell undergraduate students reported engaging in at least one occasion of high-risk drinking (5 or more drinks per sitting for males, 4 or more drinks per sitting for females) in the past two weeks.

Frequency of Drinking in Past Month

- 53.3% of Cornell undergraduates reported not drinking the past month.
- 86.9% of Cornell undergraduates reported drinking once a week or less in the past month.
- 3.3% of Cornell undergraduates reported drinking three or more times a week in the past month.

Locations of Alcohol Use

Among students who reported drinking alcohol, the most frequent locations in which consumption occurred included:

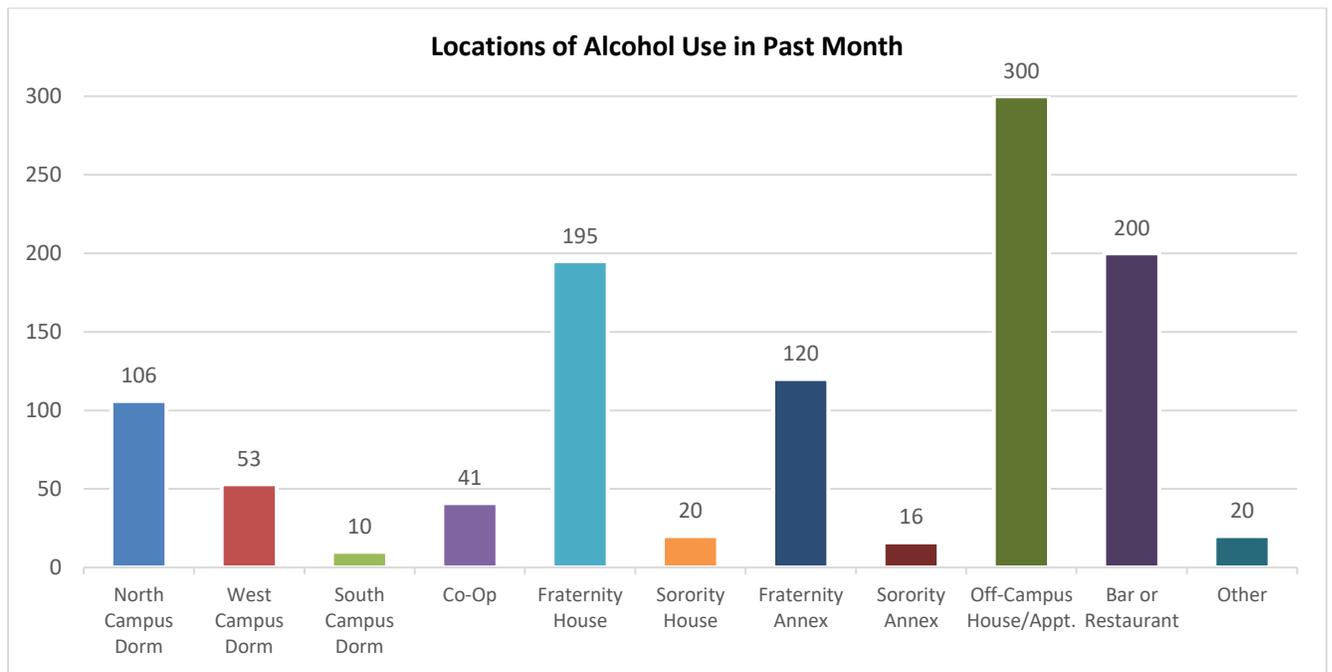
- Off-campus houses or apartments not affiliated with sororities or fraternities (36%)
- Bars or restaurants (27.8%)
- Social fraternity chapter houses (26.8%)



Less frequent was consumption in the following locations:

- Fraternity annexes (18.4%)
- Residence halls on North Campus (16.6%)
- Residence halls on West Campus (9.0%)
- Co-operative houses (7.1%)
- Sorority chapter houses (3.6%)
- Other locations not indicated on the survey (3.6%)
- Sorority annexes (2.9%) least frequently

Figure 10. Location of Alcohol Consumption Among Cornell Undergraduates in the Past Month



Primary Harms Associated with AOD Use (Self Harms)

Harms a person experiences as a result of their own drinking or drug use are known as “primary harms.” The top two most common primary harms experienced among Cornell undergraduates who use alcohol or other drugs were vomiting (43.3%) and memory loss (27.5%). Additionally, 23.9% of Cornell undergraduate students who use substances wondered if they’d be better off using less alcohol and/or drugs less often and 4.1% had tried unsuccessfully to stop using alcohol or other drugs in the past year. Data show that the vast majority of Cornell undergraduate students are not experiencing primary harms due to their alcohol or other drug use.

- 97.1% had not gotten in trouble due to their use.

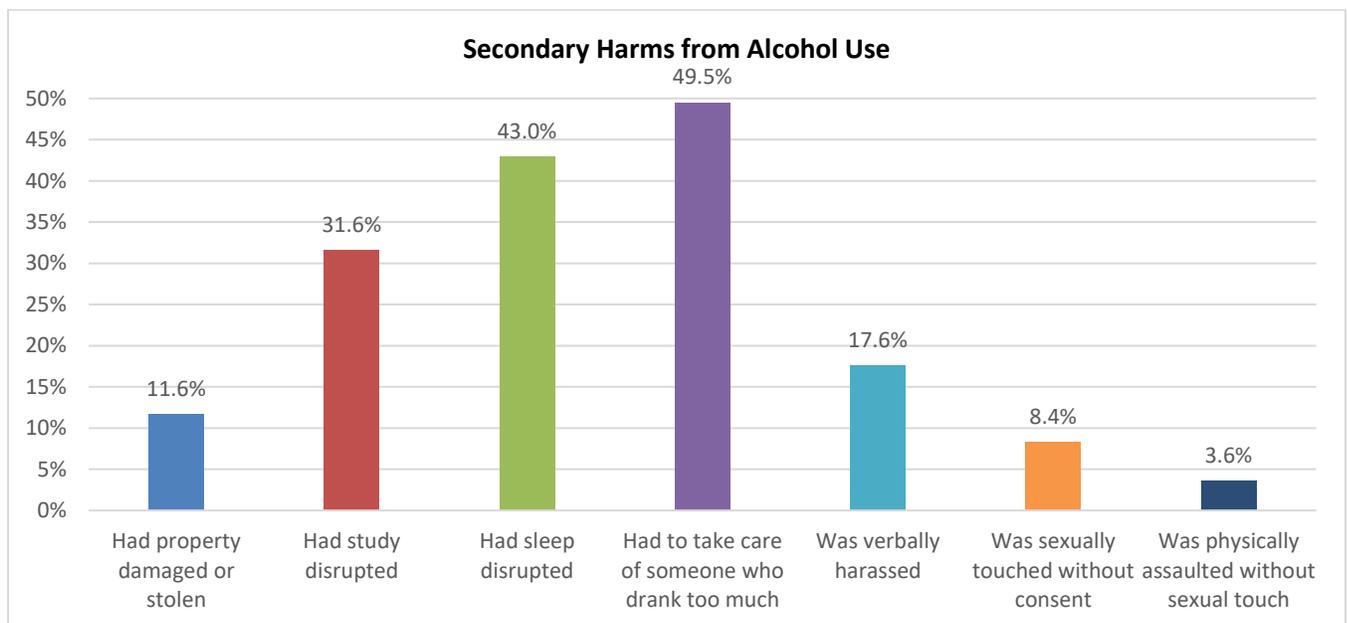


- 94.7% had not performed poorly on an academic assignment due to their use.
- 90% had not been hurt or injured due to their use.
- 92.1% had not engaged in sexual behavior they regretted due to their use.
- 84.5% had not engaged in non-sexual behavior they regretted due to their use.
- 83% had not missed a class due to their use.
- 72.5% had not experienced memory loss due to their use.

Secondary Harms Associated with Alcohol Use (Harms from Others)

Harms that a person experiences as a result of someone else’s alcohol use are known as “secondary harms” or “community harms.” The top two most prevalent secondary harms experienced among Cornell undergraduates were having to take care of someone who drank too much (49.2%) and having their sleep disrupted (43%). The two least common secondary harms experienced by Cornell undergraduates were being physically assaulted without sexual contact (3.6%) and being sexually touched without their consent (8.4%) as a result of someone else’s alcohol use.

Figure 11. Reported Secondary Harms from Alcohol Use Among Cornell Undergraduate Students



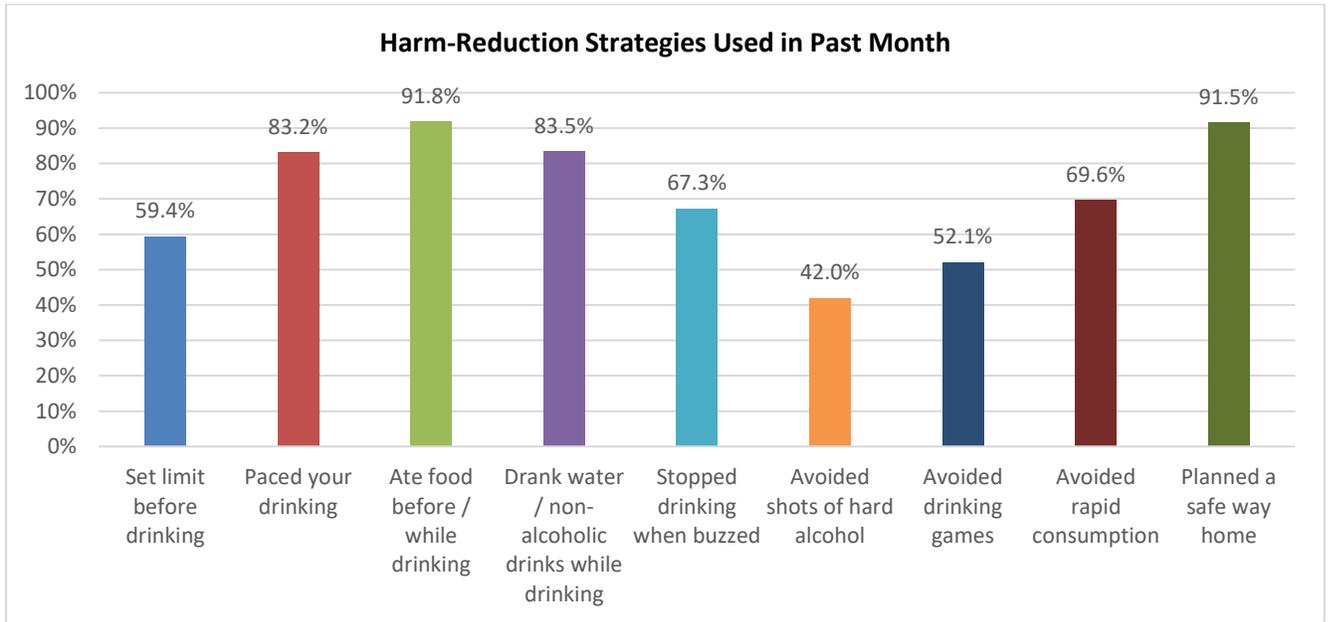
Harm-Reduction Strategies

Another set of questions asked students who drink alcohol what harm-reduction strategies they used. Respondents were able to select more than one option if applicable. The two most popular harm-reduction strategies among the students who use alcohol or other drugs were “Ate food before / while



drinking alcohol” (91.8%) and “Planned a safe way to get home” (e.g., walked, had a designated driver, traveled by cab, Lyft, Uber, bus) (91.5%); the least popular harm-reduction strategy was “Avoided shots of hard liquor” (42.0%). Overall, students engaging in alcohol use or use of other drugs reported engaging in harm-reduction strategies at a higher rate compared to previous years the survey was administered.

Figure 12. Harm-Reduction Strategies Used by Cornell Undergraduate Students in Past Month



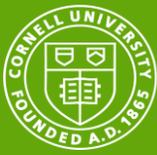
Family History of AOD Problems

While genetics is not completely predictive, substance use problems often run in families. The survey asked students to share whether they had a family history of AOD problems. Respondents whose parent(s) had a known AOD problem were more likely to drink alcohol than those without such a history. Among students with a parental history of an AOD problem, 55.7% reported drinking alcohol, and 81.3% reported at least one occasion of high-risk drinking in the past two weeks.

Recovery Support Resources

Students who identified as a person in recovery from alcohol or other drug use, identified services and resources they would likely use to support their recovery:

- 17.9% would likely use creative activities (e.g., art, music, meditation).
- 14.8% would likely use Cornell Health-led group counseling with other Cornell students.
- 11.6% would likely use support finding a roommate or housemate who is committed to sobriety.
- 8.0% would likely use substance-free programs Thursday/Friday/Saturday nights (after 10 p.m -)



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- 8.0% would likely use substance-free academic or career networking opportunities in their college or school.
- 8.0% would likely use on-campus 12-Step Programs (AA, NA, etc.).
- 8.0% would likely use off-campus 12-Step Programs (AA, NA, etc.).
- 0.0% would likely use medication assisted treatment (e.g., Methadone, Suboxone, Vivitrol).

Frequency of Using a Fake ID in Past Month

- 90.4% of Cornell undergraduates reported never using a fake ID to purchase alcohol or enter a bar/club in the past month.
- 6.7% of Cornell undergraduates reported using a fake ID to purchase alcohol or enter a bar/club 1—3 times in the past month.
- 2.9% of Cornell undergraduates reported using a fake ID to purchase alcohol or enter a bar/club 4 or more times in the past month.

Social Norms Around Alcohol Use

The data identified a few positive social norms among Cornell students. Nearly all (99.2%) of Cornell undergraduate students believed it is important to call for medical assistance when a person is passed out and can't be woken up. Additionally, the overwhelming majority (95.9%) of Cornell undergraduate students recognized their own responsibility to ask a friend to slow down when a friend was engaging in harmful drinking practices, and most undergrads (76.0%) think it is never socially acceptable to drink to the point of "blacking out."

Most Cornell undergraduates (68.2%) do not think the social benefits of having a fake ID are worth the risk of getting caught; however, 69.6% of respondents think *most* Cornell undergraduates believe the social benefits of having a fake ID are worth the risk of getting caught. There is an opportunity to further reinforce the positive norms within our community.

Social Life Satisfaction

Most students (69.3%) are satisfied with their ability to balance academics and social activities at Cornell, and 83.7% of students are satisfied with their relationships with other Cornell students. A large majority of Cornell undergraduate students (89.7%) are satisfied with the social opportunities and activities available at Cornell; however, only 31.7% of students agreed that it is easy to find fun late-night (i.e., after 10 p.m.) social activities at Cornell that don't involve alcohol throughout the week, including the weekend. That said, most students (84.0%) agree that there are fun opportunities to socialize on campus throughout the week, including the weekend.



When students were asked to think about the most fun social experience they have had while at Cornell to date:

- Most (65.7%) reported consuming 0 alcoholic drinks before/during the experience.
- 19.0% reported consuming 1—3 alcoholic drinks before/during the experience.
- 11.6% reported consuming 4 or more alcoholic drinks before/during the experience.
- Unfortunately, 3.8% reported that they haven't yet had a fun social experience at Cornell.

Sexual Experience

Among Cornell undergraduate students who reported having had a positive sexual experience with another person:

- The vast majority (84.0%) reported consuming 0 alcoholic drinks before the experience.
- 11.3% reported consuming 1—3 alcoholic drinks before the experience.
- 4.4% reported consuming 4 or more alcoholic drinks before the experience.

In terms of the number of sexual partners, among Cornell undergraduate students who have had a sexual experience with another person:

- 25.4% reported having had a sexual experience with 1 person in the past 12 months.
- 48.4% reported having had a sexual experience with 2 people in the past 12 months.
- 9.4% reported having had a sexual experience with 3 people in the past 12 months.
- 16.8% reported having had a sexual experience with 4 or more people in the past 12 months.

Other Drug Use

The Alcohol and Social Life Survey also asked students about their use of other drugs, including cannabis, cocaine, heroin, ketamine, MDMA (Ecstasy or Molly), other hallucinogens (e.g., LSD, “shrooms”), and prescription medications taken without their own prescription.

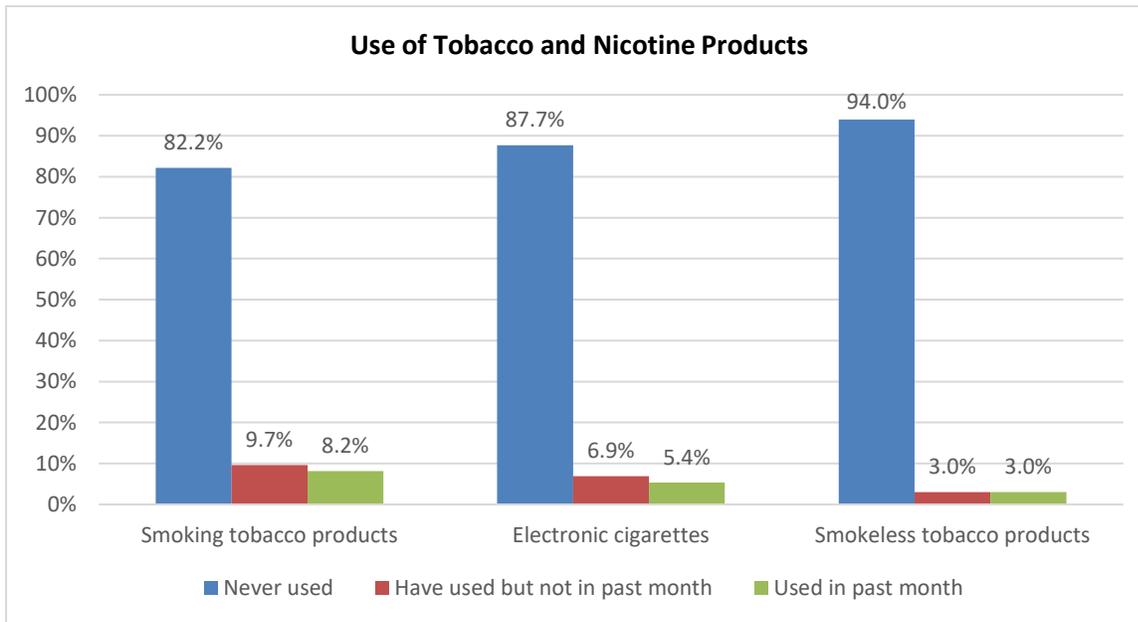
Nicotine Products

The vast majority (94%) of Cornell undergraduate students have never used smokeless / dissolvable tobacco products (e.g., Zyn, pouches). While most students have never used smoking tobacco products or e-cigarettes, nearly 1 in 8 (12.3%) Cornell undergraduate students had used an e-cigarette at least once in their lifetime. The past-month tobacco prevalence among Cornell undergraduate students was 8.2%, and the past month's e-cigarette prevalence among Cornell undergraduate students was 5.4%. Additionally, 4.1% of Cornell students reported they were dual users of smoking tobacco products and e-cigarettes in the past month. A small percentage of students reported daily use of tobacco and nicotine products in the past month: 0.8% reported daily use in past month of smoking tobacco products, 1.4%



reported daily use in past month of e-cigarettes, and 0.8% reported daily use in past month of smokeless / dissolvable tobacco products.

Figure 13. Cornell Undergraduate Student Use of Tobacco and Nicotine Products



Cannabis, Cocaine, Heroin, Ketamine MDMA, and Other Hallucinogens

Cannabis was the most used other drug with 1 in 7 (14.5%) Cornell undergraduate students reporting using cannabis at least once in the past month. The lifetime prevalence of cannabis use among Cornell undergraduate students was 30.3%.

Reported use of cocaine, heroin, ketamine, MDMA, and other hallucinogens was very low, with 97.8% of students reporting they have never used cocaine, 99.6% of students reporting they have never used heroin, 99.0% of students reporting they have never used ketamine, 99.3% of students reporting they have never used MDMA, and 95.7% of students reporting they have never used other hallucinogens.

The survey also asked about students' use of prescription medications without their own prescription, which was very low. For example, only 1.2% of Cornell undergraduate students reported using prescription stimulants (e.g., Ritalin or Adderall) without their own prescription in the past month.



Figure 14. Drug Use Among Cornell Undergraduate Students

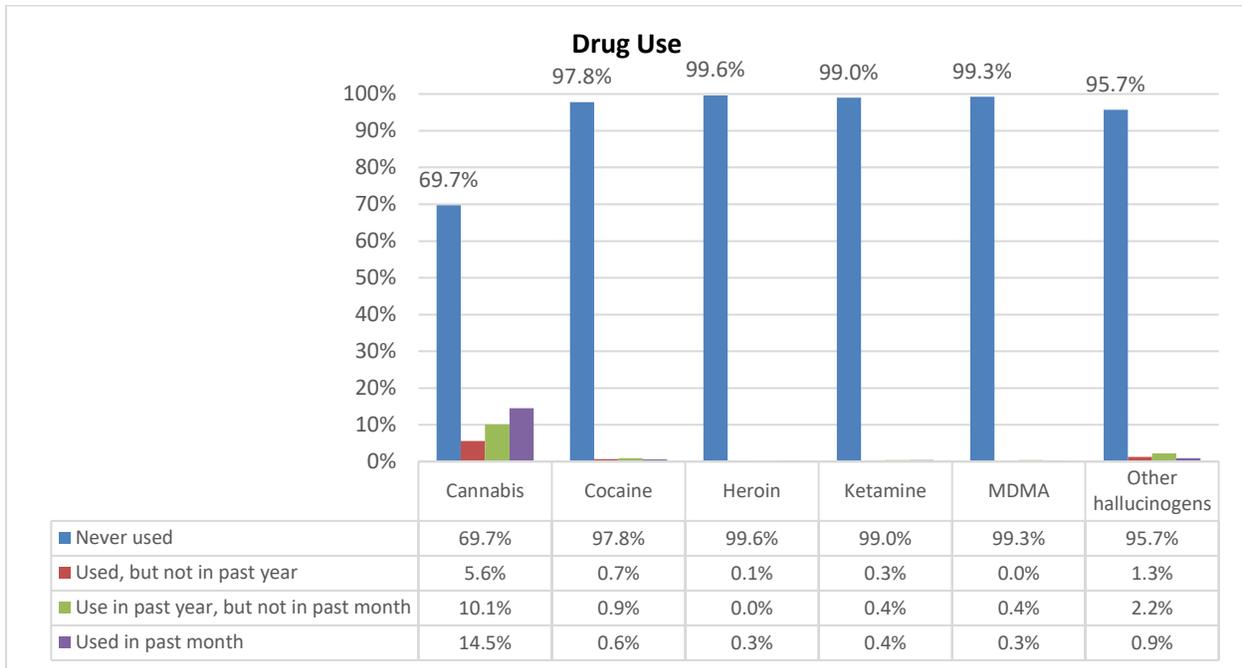
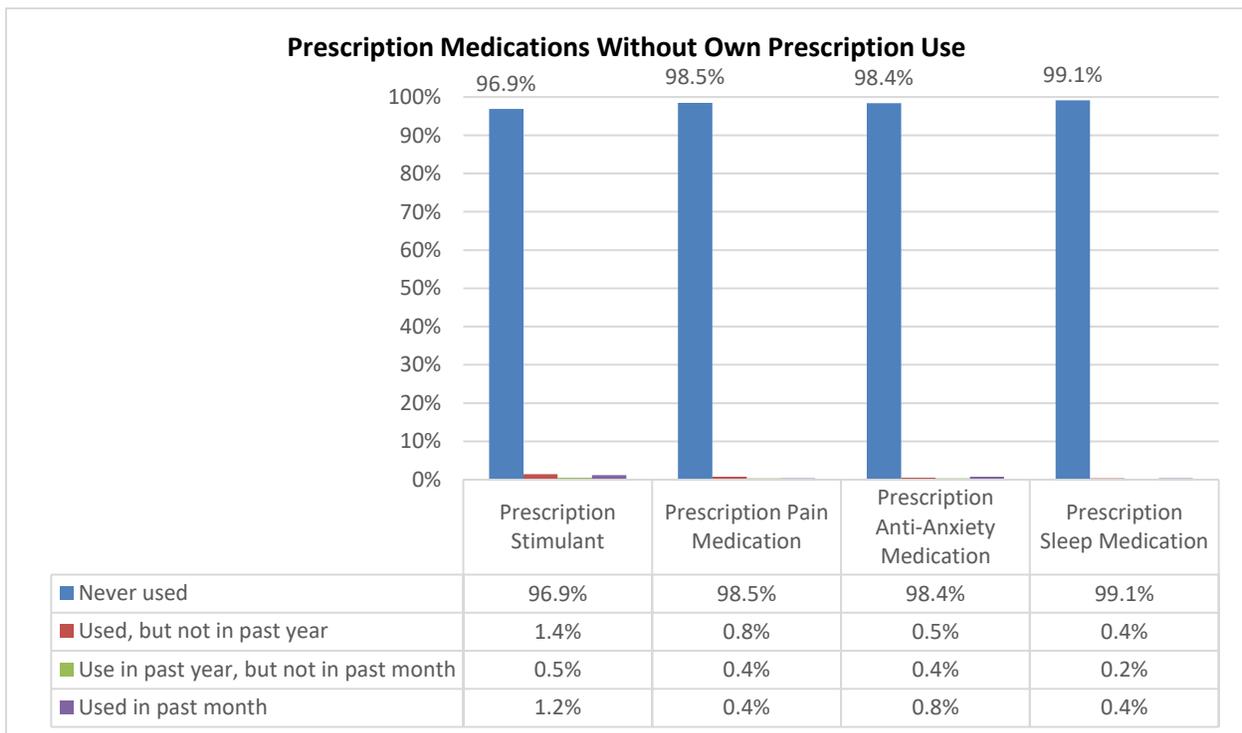


Figure 15. Prescription Medications Without Own Prescription Use





Gambling and Betting

Gambling or betting behaviors include activities such playing the lottery, using scratch-off tickets, playing slots, dice, or card games, engaging in sports betting or wagering, either in-person or online. These questions were new to the survey this year to obtain baseline data.

- Most respondents (81.7%) had not gambled or bet with money in the past twelve months.
- 11.0% gambled or bet with money less than once a month in the past twelve months.
- 5.7% gambled or bet with money 1 – 4 times in the past twelve months.

A small percentage of students reported more frequent gambling or betting behaviors.

- 0.7% gambled or bet with money 2 – 3 times a week.
- 0.2% gambled or bet with money 4 or more times a week.
- 0.4% gambled or bet with money daily.
- 0.4% gambled or bet with money more than once a day.

Survey data showed that the vast majority of students gambling or betting are exhibiting low or moderate risk signs of problem gambling.

- 95.3% reported they never bet more than they could afford to lose.
- 87.4% reported they never had people criticize their betting or tell them that they had a gambling problem, regardless of whether or not they thought it was true.
- 82.3% reported they never felt guilty about the way they gamble or what happens when they gamble.

Qualitative Data

Two qualitative questions were asked on the Fall 2025 Alcohol and Social Life Survey:

1. Please describe your favorite social experience you've had at Cornell.
2. Please share any comments you'd like about the social scene at Cornell.

“Please describe your favorite social experience you’ve had at Cornell.”

While specific themes emerged from student responses, they typically focused on whether socializing did or not involve alcohol. Mentions of alcohol and other drug use—whether present or absent—were nearly evenly represented in students’ favorite memories, aligning with quantitative data on alcohol use in this population. Themes and example quotes are given below for the 617 responses to this question.



Extracurricular

Many students cited involvement in student organizations as facilitators to connection, whether through club events, club socials, or casual socializing with people they met through these spaces.

- *Most Student Union Board Events Rank pretty equally. They're a good way to meet a lot of new people at the same time and also do s fun activity/get free stuff!*
- *I painted ceramic alpaca pots with the Contigo Perú! It was an opportunity to meet new people, enjoy fun snacks, and make some art.*
- *Hanging out with teammates on trips to away games. Teams create a sense of family and comfort.*
- *My favorite social experience was with the club team I am on when we were on an away trip.*

Cornell events

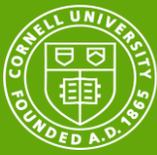
Students enjoyed socializing at Cornell-sponsored events such as Varsity sporting events, Fall Fest, Homecoming, Orientation week, and Slope Day.

- *Club Fair with my friends where we walked around and networked with other students.*
- *Fall Fest; it was fun to hang out with friends, eat food, and get a free and cute tote bag!*
- *Going to any of the events put on by Class Councils, like Bingo and Movies on the Arts Quad.*
- *Homecoming fest; felt safe and joyful.*
- *I had a really good time at the movie night on the arts quad events. The crafts before hand are fun, and its nice that there's snacks and mocktails to have while watching the movie and hanging out with friendsSlope Day 2024, with A Boogie & Flo Rida was one of my favorite social experiences at Cornell. I don't drink, but I had a [great] time with my friends, singing / dancing along to the music, and the overall excitement of the event.*
- *The Glow Night during orientation week was a very good social experience that allowed me to form strong connections with people I had met before, as well as form brand new connections that lasted beyond the night. I was a good environment for conversation and fun.*

Food

Students highlighted favorite social experiences stemming from the presence of food. Whether it was enjoying time with friends in a dining hall, attending events on campus where food was present, or taking the time to cook and share meals together, food was key in facilitating connection among students.

- *A dumpling making social (no alcohol)*
- *Apple pie making at CHOP!*
- *Boba with friends, talking, and walking back to our dorms*
- *The other day I spent 2 hours in the dining hall laughing with my friends. I felt so happy, the time flew by so fast*
- *My co-op did a banquet dinner where we all dressed up based on a theme, ate together, danced, and had a really good time*



Holiday celebrations

Some comments described holiday celebrations such as Halloween, Christmas, birthdays, or St. Patrick's Day, as popular and fun social experiences.

- *Friendsgiving at a friend's house, where at least 20-30 of us got together to celebrate christmas parties for clubs/frats*
- *Halloween weekend this year! A fun time with friends getting dressed up and pregaming with music then going for a couple drinks at Tres Leches, and finished the night off with a [trip] to a frat party for dancing. Then we got some fun snacks in collegetown and watched movies before having a sleepover.*
- *My birthday being celebrated at CAS fuertes observatory*
- *Thanksgiving with Crew (Cornell Catholic group) was a really sweet experience*
- *Throwing my friend a surprise birthday party where I got to meet all of her other friends and hang out with my close friends as well. After the party died down I got to hang out with two of my buddies and eventually had a nice walk home.*

Sorority and fraternity connections

Students shared several comments describing positive socializing with fraternities and sororities.

- *Frat party on Halloween. Had a lot to drink but was with trusted friends and didn't regret a thing.*
- *I really enjoy my sorority formals. It is so fun getting dressed up, going with a cute date or friend, and partying with my best friends and their friends. Truly one of my favorite things and it is just so fun.*
- *Probably one of my sorority date nights where we just had a really fun time getting dressed up and the night ended with everybody happy and in good spirits.*
- *A frat party that was very fun (kegs)*

Residential connections

Several comments by students spoke to how their residential experience played a key role in making memories and forming connections.

- *Hanging out with friends in a dorm room watching a movie, then playing fifa.*
- *Having "girl's nights" with my friends and baking in the dorms.*
- *it's been almost 7 semesters, so i can't narrow down to one favorite experience. A lot of them revolve around either my old program house (which I still visit semi regularly for events)...*
- *Risley's tea bar is a really nice, non-alcoholic week day event. I have a lot of fun talking to new and old friends there.*
- *There was no alcohol involved, I actually drink pretty rarely at Cornell. That being said, my most fun social experiences had nothing to do with pre-organized events in Ithaca or Cornell, they were with friends at our dorm! Self-organized movie nights, game nights, or just hanging out.*



Movie and/or game night

- *A movie night with my friends: we drank wine, ate pizza, and watched/critiqued a comedy movie from the 70's. It was when we were all starting to become friends, and was really nice.*
- *Gaming lounge at cornell with friends*
- *I go to weekly board game meetings and those are always fun, we play smaller board games for a couple hours than a large group social deduction at the end.*
- *My favorite social experience at Cornell so far is hanging out with my group of friends and watching movies in our friend's room. However, if you are referring to campus events, then it would have to be Festival24, where we produced plays and a film in less than 24 hours. It was very fun and ecstatic to rush a film. I was in the film.*

Spending time in nature and being active

Students shared memories stemming from being out in nature at Cornell, taking advantage of the unique campus landscape, and being active. Outdoor Odyssey was a popular event named by students.

- *Going stargazing with my new friends.*
- *I did outdoor odyssey. I have a great group of friends and keep meeting new people. I meet people through activities and communities like rock climbing, mutual friends, or project teams. I appreciate the social scene here.*
- *I have many, but one of my favorites was playing volleyball with my friends at Jessup Field.*
- *I really enjoyed walking around Beebee lake with my friends late one night. I've also loved going on a spontaneous half marathon with two of my friends and everything Outdoors Odyssey except the party the first week of school.*
- *Outdoor Odyssey May Training (a four day long backpacking trip with my fellow guides) was the best social experience I've had. We had already formed a close bond, were actively learning and developing skills together in a super low-stakes environment, and got to go on a free backpacking and climbing adventure together!*
- *Picnicked on the slope at sunset with friends*
- *Rock climbing with my friends*
- *sitting and watching stars with friends on the slope (SOBER).*
- *Went out to botanical gardens at like 11pm with friends and just hanged out.*
- *Watching the aurora from the roof of Snee Hall, as an atmospheric scientist it was incredible to see over campus.*
- *Hiking and camping in the Adirondack's with the Cornell Outing Club over Fall Break*

Identity based socializing

Students shared how identities they hold (e.g., religious, race, cultural) helped them connect with similar people and find spaces for belonging.

- *A Catholic party without alcohol*



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- *Bhangra party, great people good party. Didn't feel like you had to drink and was really respectful and caring when they knew I didn't drink.*
- *Club Tel Aviv party at Level B with the Cornellians for Israel club*
- *HinduYuva Diwali Festival*
- *The CRU (Student Christian organization) game night was so much fun because it felt like an actual party but there was no alcohol present at all and I was able to feel very safe.*
- *Tihar celebration or MexSA and NAISAC pumpkin painting*
- *My favorite social was the All Around the [Caribbean] Night from the [Caribbean]Students Association.*
- *HinduYuva Diwali Festival*
- *Asia Night, hosted by CAPSU and featuring other Asian clubs*

"Please share any comments you'd like about the social scene at Cornell."

Themes and example quotes are given below for the 384 responses to this question.

Positive associations with AOD

- *I think it is great and I think most people take care of each other, at least in the circles I have been apart of. People will always use substances for fun thats just how college is it all comes down to making sure you are keeping others in check if you think they are going over board.*

AOD very prevalent

- *a lot of pressure around drinking here. Few opportunities to meet others aside from clubs (many of which have interviews or require fees to join)*
- *definitely defined by alcohol, sex, and drugs at night; during the day very fun and fulfilling*
- *Drinking culture here is very prominent. It can be hard for people to find things to do later at night if they don't want to drink*
- *Everyone drinks and it kinda sucks since I don't do any of that*
- *I like it but it does generally feel like it requires alcohol*
- *I think it is strongly dominated by events where alcohol is present and/or encouraged, however there are resources to be found for people who don't want to be a part of that.*
- *It really pushes you to drink because nothing is happening or it's hard to get into. So you would rather just have fun at fraternities or drink in a dorm*
- *Nothing exists that doesn't involve drinking*
- *Secular, Alcohol, Encouraged, Dominant*
- *Surprisingly alcohol focused, even at club events*



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- *The night life seems alcohol heavy and the friends I have who regularly drink seem to have more depressive moments and show dissatisfaction with their time here outside of drinking settings. Which is why most people in those settings seem disingenuous to me, but I don't drink so its a weird outside perspective.*
- *The social scene outside of campus life is geared too strongly toward students who consume substances.*
- *There are a lot of ways to be involved in clubs. I think that the drinking culture is definitely too big. As someone who doesn't drink, it is really hard to find a good way to bond with people or spend time hanging out at night in ways other than going out to a party.*
- *There are few social opportunities that don't include drinking, at least that i know of*
- *There is a lot of drinking in most of the social experiences here, but there are places where that isn't the case. There are a bunch of religious communities, times people meet up to watch TV or sports, etc.. Most things that aren't associated with an organization are usually fine.*
- *very alcohol driven honestly*

Negative associations with AOD; Desires for opportunities that don't include AOD

- *Announce substance abuse recovery meetings/ make them more available*
- *Don't know much about it I'm just scared of drinking*
- *Honestly atrocious, there aren't a lot of sober social activities*
- *I am not a fan of such a large drinking culture; it seems destructive, toxic, and puts people in vulnerable places*
- *I don't like parties or alcohol or loud noises or crowds, so I'm generally averse to participating in Cornell's social scene. I was previously located next to a dorm that was a hotspot of partying, and it made my life miserable because I didn't feel like I had a home in the room I was assigned. I didn't feel like I belonged there, and I didn't. Fortunately, I was able to switch dorms, and I'm having a much more positive experience at my new dorm.*
- *I think it's upsetting that there are less enforcements on underage drinking use.*
- *I think its good, but we need more late-night events that don't involve alcohol.*
- *I'm always hesitant to go to social events in-case alcohol is present.*
- *It is incredibly challenging to find things to do with people that doesn't involve drugs and alcohol. I've never been able to have fun with friends at night because I don't believe in being in the presence of alcohol and drugs---especially being underage. It can sometimes feel rather isolating.*
- *Cornell is isolating and being a non-drinker only makes it worse. For a school that gets such a bad rapport about its mental health crisis, the University is failing miserably at offering community building services to correct it. Do better.*
- *I would like there to be less alcohol and parties because it disrupts my sleep.*
- *I would like to see more late night activities that do not involve alcohol.*

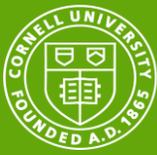


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- *it is okay. A lot of people drink and get drunk unfortunately.*
- *Less substance use and more enforcement of substance laws*
- *Need more social events on the weekend that doesn't involve partying, alcohol, or sex*
- *Not enough "normal things" that don't involve substances or other problem behavior*
- *Parties here suck the people are lame all they do is drink and blackout people here don't dance
Cornell Sucks*
- *Sometimes it does feel like all weekend activities revolve around drinking*
- *There needs to be more nonalcoholic social events, where students of same and different backgrounds can come together to have innocent fun. West Campus events too!*
- *Why can't my fellow peers understand that you don't need alcohol to have fun and stop making frat parties so exclusive*

Positive perspectives

- *I really like it. I think it's way better than a state school in the way that no one judges you if you don't want to go out*
- *I think it is great and I think most people take care of each other, at least in the circles I have been apart of. People will always use substances for fun thats just how college is it all comes down to making sure you are keeping others in check if you think they are going over board.*
- *I think its good, lots of activities to do and very diverse, even if there is alcohol there you're not pressured to drink*
- *I think the social scene at Cornell is very accepting and I love making friends with passionate individuals here.*
- *I think the Student Activities committee, student-orgs, and others work very hard to put together events that bring together the student body, being so diverse in their interests and overall goals; and it is something I truly appreciate about Cornell.*
- *I think the social scene at Cornell is vibrant and offers a good variety of activities for all interests. I appreciate the focus on well-being and community.*
- *it was fun and engaging. Met lots of people with similar hobbies.*
- *It was so much fun dancing with my friends in College Town!*
- *Love the way people integrate*
- *Really fun and exciting*
- *Social scene is a lot of fun*
- *The food is always delicious and much needed.i love the craft events that are usually hosted. And I find the implementations of music just sets the social scene even better.*
- *The people here are fantastic. You have to put in effort to reach out and make and maintain friendships because the campus is big.*
- *The social scene at Cornell is very diverse, with something for everyone.*
- *There are many activities open to students that help them find their personal social scene.*
- *There's a lot going on and seemingly something for everyone*



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- *There's always something to do. It's hard to choose between events because there's often overlap, but it's better to have too many options than too few.*
- *There's a lot of variety and always new ppl to meet!*
- *There's something for everybody to be sure*
- *You can find people you like either in class, the dorm, or clubs (step out of your comfort zone)!*

Mental health challenges

- *Cornell is too depressing due to high stress*
- *Honestly, I have trouble fitting in as a non-traditional student. This creates social AND academic barriers. Admittedly, some of them are self-imposed due to negative experiences I've had with younger students. I would rather avoid being accused of things I didn't do. I wish I could start over with a clearer understanding of how to navigate the undergraduate student body. Unfortunately, I can't rewind time. Right now, I'm just keeping my head down and trying to survive the rigorous curriculum, by myself, in the best I way that can. I wish it didn't have to be this way. I'm a community oriented person who grew up with a large extended family. The social alienation is taking a toll on my mental health.*

Struggling with community

- *a lot of pressure around drinking here. Few opportunities to meet others aside from clubs (many of which have interviews or require fees to join)*
- *Cornell is isolating and being a non-drinker only makes it worse. For a school that gets such a bad rapport about its mental health crisis, the University is failing miserably at offering community building services to correct it. Do better.*
- *I feel its a really big school, and four years in, if you feel out of the "bubble" or any "scene" its really hard to find a place. I don't care anymore, I'm on my way out but all in all I think, socially, I would have preferred a different school.*
- *I feel like I don't belong. I don't want to be here anymore. This place makes me feel small. I have to make myself smaller to be here. I don't recognize my life anymore and I don't want to hang around long enough that I don't recognize myself. It's like everyone here grew up with some privilege and they carry an elitist mentality. I'm apart of a minority. I grew up and still am low income. I am first gen. I grew up in a trailer. I am paying for my own expenses here. No one gets it.*
- *I have found it very difficult to find genuine friends, but it's getting better*
- *I think Cornell's social scene is super closed, as someone involved with many organizations on campus, both social and academic, I feel like it's limited to who's: in your fam, frat, club, close circle, and that's who you hang out with, not many people branch out and meet other people*
- *I think a lot of social events have a hierarchy or sense of competitiveness to them, which makes it less fun to participate in.*



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- *I think it's a little hard to make friends in classes. After the first initial two or three weeks of the school year, it becomes harder to make new friends. From what I've heard from my friends, clubs often do not feel like a close-knit community.*
- *I wish clubs were not as competitive, as a transfer student I was looking to join clubs to meet new people as well as learn more about topics that interest me.*
- *I wish that there were more clubs, and that clubs were less competitive. Some of my favorite groups were the ones which weren't stressful or competitive at all. I wish Cornell did a better job of making this a reality.*
- *I wish we had more events that force people to engage and talk with students outside of whatever friends and friend groups we already have and bring with to events*
- *Honestly, I have trouble fitting in as a non-traditional student. This creates social AND academic barriers. Admittedly, some of them are self-imposed due to negative experiences I've had with younger students. I would rather avoid being accused of things I didn't do. I wish I could start over with a clearer understanding of how to navigate the undergraduate student body. Unfortunately, I can't rewind time. Right now, I'm just keeping my head down and trying to survive the rigorous curriculum, by myself, in the best I way that can. I wish it didn't have to be this way. I'm a community oriented person who grew up with a large extended family. The social alienation is taking a toll on my mental health.*
- *It's fun but only if you already have friends, not many opportunities to make new friends or meet new people you might actually consider developing a relationship with.*
- *TERRIBLE. I am from the south and am absolutely floored by how miserable and depressed everyone is. No one says goodmorning everyone hates this school. Everyone wants to kill themselves bc they hate it here so much. I have never been more miserable in my life. I have never watched to hurt myself more in my life. I have never felt more devoid from basic human connection like a simple goodmorning than I do here.*
- *very hard to make friends here. Everyone is just networking or too locked in on academics (friendship is not a priority). There are few people who are normal. I am also not normal. I spend all my free time working and picking up shifts to distract myself from feeling lonely.*

Flourishing in community

- *Everyone looks out for each other*
- *good! there are really nice people so it's pretty easy to find fun things to do*
- *Great, once you find the right people! I wouldn't say Cornell as an institution does much to help with that, though*
- *I have found my group of friends, and I feel like at Cornell, anyone can find people for them.*
- *I love how welcoming everyone is towards each other. Even if you are new or going alone to a social, for the most part, everyone makes an active effort to get to know you and help you engage.*



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- *I think the social scene at Cornell is very accepting and I love making friends with passionate individuals here.*
- *the best social interactions and fun ive had is with my christian fellowship on campus*

Cornell-sponsored events

- *I especially like when Cornell invites guest comedians, actors, etc. to give talks.*
- *I like the events that Cornell hosts prior to big events, like Hoco Fest, Fall Fest, and other activities as well.*

Difficulty balancing school and social life

- *Cornell academics makes it hard*
- *Cornell gives too much homework to have a normal social life*
- *I often wonder how it is that so many students find the time for hard partying. It shocks me how many people tend to go out every week—some even every nights while I'm busy studying. The workload at Cornell makes it very difficult to have an active social life.*
- *I think it's hard to make the time to be involved! I always have to sacrifice my studying time to be at a social event (drinking or no drinking)*
- *I wish people at Cornell prioritized the social scene more. As a transfer student, I was and am still very disappointed with how much "getting ahead" is prioritized over connecting with other students. It is reflected in day to day interactions and also in the party scene that is very subpar.*
- *Impossible to balance with academics without sacrificing personal health or some level of academic success*
- *It is hard to meet good friends as there are so many people at Cornell and not many opportunities to meet people with lots of work.*
- *It is pretty difficult to connect with new people outside of your current group. The amount of workload that there is as well has definitely hindered my social life. I am a very social person but have barely been able to spend time with friends within the past month*
- *The dorms are not social at all in my experience. I never see anyone, and I didn't last year either. In addition, there is always so much going on, but I never have a chance to go to anything if it isn't at night due to classes and clubs and not having people with the same schedule as me to go with.*
- *The work-life balance can be difficult, but it is also my choice to study as much as I do, and for people who don't choose to, the social scene is easy enough.*
- *Very work hard, party hard. social life barely existent for engineering kids*

Extracurricular involvement

- *Hard to find fun things if you aren't in greek life. Club culture has lots of substance use after hours.*



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- *I think most of the social scene comes from clubs, and I definitely don't think that you need to be a part of Greek life to have a social life.*
- *I wish that there were more clubs, and that clubs were less competitive. Some of my favorite groups were the ones which weren't stressful or competitive at all. I wish Cornell did a better job of making this a reality.*
- *It feels hard to get into "academic" clubs due to the competitive nature of them. There is no reason why there should be 10+ interview rounds for a single club. I believe they should be more accessible, as that would give students more social opportunities without the presence of alcohol.*
- *a lot of pressure around drinking here. Few opportunities to meet others aside from clubs (many of which have interviews or require fees to join)*
- *It is a little elitist (people can't get in because they're "not good enough")*
- *It is very club oriented.*
- *Loneliness epidemic because social events have barriers: you must be in a club, sport, team etc. and to enter those you have to try out or interview*
- *Not many things on weekends, early afternoon. And needs more open sports clubs that don't require tryouts!!*
- *Sometimes hard to get involved because of how exclusive it can be*
- *Sometimes the social scene can feel a bit "cliquey", especially when it comes to more academic/professional clubs.*
- *There are a lot of ways to be involved in clubs. I think that the drinking culture is definitely too big. As someone who doesn't drink, it is really hard to find a good way to bond with people or spend time hanging out at night in ways other than going out to a party.*
- *There are many opportunities for fun social experiences, but students need to learn to advocate for themselves and put themselves out there in order to participate. The most enjoyable experiences are not easily accessible to students who do not participate in social clubs and other campus communities.*
- *Very dull in frats and sororities, decent at co-ops or certain clubs, great in fashion/music/architecture circles*

Sorority and Fraternity Life

- *Greek life heavy*
- *Hard to find fun things if you aren't in greek life. Club culture has lots of substance use after hours.*
- *If you're in Greek life it is absolutely amazing, outside I'm not so sure but I'm sure some clubs have good parties.*
- *Jewish stronghold on Greek life causes me to suppress my identity. Frats are hazing to the point of hospitalization for some. The men are often scary.*



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- *Joining Greek life really helped to build my social life here at Cornell and made me a more social person in general.*
- *My sorority is very important to me and has given me some of my best friends and most exciting moments here. Since we live in a nice quiet collegetown, I appreciate the excitement of greek life especially in the winter months.*
- *Overall, pretty decent. It was really rough in the beginning when I transferred here. Greek life is gatekeepy (which makes sense, can look bad on the orgs), but the bars are not very fun. Took me a while to find my niche of friends too. I would say being in Greek Life is borderline necessary to have a decent social life here. That being said, I do love the hockey scene and buy season tickets each year. I also attend other sports games and on campus events. Compared to my old school, we have a lot more rich culture/tradition and on campus social events that do not involve alcohol. However, we lack a lot in the accessibility of the party scene.*
- *I feel like the social scene is only frat party based as compared to other schools. And it seems like there's a lot of wealth and prestige required to be involved with social things. I mean doing cocaine is crazy but I heard that one of the frat initiations last year required that.*
- *I think Cornell does not allow for safe environments to drink even when students are 21 through the school forcing student to go to bars and frats which are less safe and have a reduced ability to take care of the students*
- *It is hard to find social events after 10 pm on campus. It is hard to go out on the weekends without being in a fraternity/sorority*
- *It is very greek-life dominated*
- *its Too focused on frats/sororiTies, oTher social evenTs are better often*
- *Nothing to do besides greek life*
- *The culture of frats is so toxic. It's inherently misogynistic what with the get-ups and gender ratio and preferred body types, but also it's physically dangerous for women. I wish Cornell provided alternative activities on weekend nights, especially homecoming weekend, that don't involve cheering for men's sports or getting wasted and high.*
- *The social scene at Cornell is fairly good, given the amount of Greek life.*
- *The social scene is too focused on Greek life for underclassmen. When most people come to college, they would like to attend at least one party, and the truth is, the most accessible parties are on North Campus fraternities for freshmen and sophomores. This creates an environment where students feel like the only way to [consistently] have fun and party is to join a fraternity when there are other safer and less rude ways to do it. Upperclassmen all typically live in or near collegetown and pretty much never attend fraternity parties because they realize how bad they are and how much more fun it can be to hang out with your friends at someone's [apartment] party or something.*
- *There are a lot of financial barriers that leads to exclusivity in Greek Life, specifically speaking to "Core 4" fraternities and sororities. It would be appreciated if Cornell could take action to break down these barriers so those in all sororities &fraternities can meet one another.*

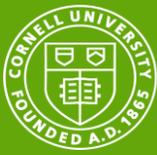


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- *There's wayyyyy too many frats/greek life in general. It feels like if you want to party, there nowhere else to go but, "rape club", as my friends call it.*
- *Very isolated and lonely during the winter + very Greek life and drinking focused to a detrimental extent. As a POC and neurodivergent female, I do not support nor engage with Greek life at all while on campus due it fostering an exclusionary and toxic environment that even the Cornell administration turns a blind eye to due to the money they bring in to the school. It is part of the reason why I chose to study abroad because of the Greek life centered social scene.*
- *very unsafe for women, school continues to be incredibly lenient with fraternities and everything about the way they are structured endangers women: events at their house where they control alcohol, hard to leave bc you are in a building they own/are familiar with/filled with their friends who would cover for them. when women come forward abt being drugged or assaulted, school does nothing or sometimes a slap on the wrist, DOES NOT OFFER ROOFIE TESTS AT CORNELL HEALTH. (this is genuinely insane to me, it gives the impression that Cornell is trying to artificially reduce the number of roofie incidents at the school by making it impossible for students to prove they were drugged). Even when frats do get in trouble, they are able to continue on with no [repercussions], like the fraternity that got kicked off campus in the spring of 2024 just to rebrand under a different frat's name with all of the same members and traditions and behaviors. Because of this, the social scene at cornell not only feels incredibly unsafe for women and minorities (queer students in particular), but it in reality is incredibly unsafe. every woman i know at this school has been assaulted, drugged, or harassed at a frat. And whats worse, this behavior is continuously reinforced, excused, and ignored by the school.*
- *you cant do anything if you arent part of greek life*

Late-night events

- *Cornell doesn't offer enough weekend or late night activities for students*
- *I believe there are so many events held at Cornell that provide opportunities to socialize but none that are late night*
- *I do wish there were more social events that went past 10pm that do not involve alcohol.*
- *I think its good, but we need more late-night events that don't involve alcohol.*
- *I would like to see more late night activities that do not involve alcohol.*
- *It is hard to find social events after 10 pm on campus. It is hard to go out on the weekends without being in a fraternity/sorority*
- *It seems completely dead here outside of parties once the clock his 10pm. It seems as though everyone is either going out to somewhere in collegetown or are miserably studying.*
- *The culture of frats is so toxic. It's inherently misogynistic what with the get-ups and gender ratio and preferred body types, but also it's physically dangerous for women. I wish Cornell provided alternative activities on weekend nights, especially homecoming weekend, that don't involve cheering for men's sports or getting wasted and high.*



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- *There does not appear to be a lot of late-night social opportunities for people who do not like partying and drinking.*

Additional standout quotes

- *Cornell gives too much homework to have a normal social life*
- *Cornell is a great balance of fun and school.*
- *Cornell is isolating and being a non-drinker only makes it worse. For a school that gets such a bad rapport about its mental health crisis, the University is failing miserably at offering community building services to correct it. Do better.*
- *Cornell needs places to drink and to party. This is a natural source of community, and kids are going to do it regardless. They should work to encourage safety in drinking rather than entire prevention of substance abuse. The social scene here is fantastic for everyone who makes an effort, as there really is a community for everyone; however, there is discontent in the "status structure" of social organizations/clubs.*
- *definitely defined by alcohol, sex, and drugs at night; during the day very fun and fulfilling*
- *Don't know much about it I'm just scared of drinking*
- *Hard to find fun things if you aren't in greek life. Club culture has lots of substance use after hours.*
- *Hazing is prevalent but there needs to be a separation between fun and harmful hazing*
- *Honestly, I have trouble fitting in as a non-traditional student. This creates social AND academic barriers. Admittedly, some of them are self-imposed due to negative experiences I've had with younger students. I would rather avoid being accused of things I didn't do. I wish I could start over with a clearer understanding of how to navigate the undergraduate student body. Unfortunately, I can't rewind time. Right now, I'm just keeping my head down and trying to survive the rigorous curriculum, by myself, in the best I way that can. I wish it didn't have to be this way. I'm a community oriented person who grew up with a large extended family. The social alienation is taking a toll on my mental health.*
- *I am not a fan of such a large drinking culture; it seems destructive, toxic, and puts people in vulnerable places*
- *I don't like parties or alcohol or loud noises or crowds, so I'm generally averse to participating in Cornell's social scene. I was previously located next to a dorm that was a hotspot of partying, and it made my life miserable because I didn't feel like I had a home in the room I was assigned. I didn't feel like I belonged there, and I didn't. Fortunately, I was able to switch dorms, and I'm having a much more positive experience at my new dorm.*
- *I feel like I don't belong. I don't want to be here anymore. This place makes me feel small. I have to make myself smaller to be here. I don't recognize my life anymore and I don't want to hang around long enough that I don't recognize myself. It's like everyone here grew up with some privilege and they carry an elitist mentality. I'm apart of a minority. I grew up*



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and still am low income. I am first gen. I grew up in a trailer. I am paying for my own expenses here. No one gets it.

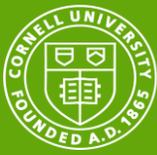
- I feel like a lot of good restaurants are far to go to because the bus is not always assessable.*
- I feel like the social scene is only frat party based as compared to other schools. And it seems like there's a lot of wealth and prestige required to be involved with social things. I mean doing cocaine is crazy but I heard that one of the frat initiations last year required that.*
- i hate it here and every day i consider dropping out or suicide. i wish i had access to cocaine or heroin but i dont and maybe thats a good thing. the only thing i want to do anymore is go work on an offshore oil rig and die in an accident at sea. i hate everyone here and everyone here hates me. everyone is insufferable and rich. i have never felt poor in my life until now. i sit alone in my apartment and leave to talk to people and instantly remember why i never do that. i hate it here. but also im insanely mentally ill so probably disregard everything im saying as a statistical outlier.*
- I have a great social life by being in a sorority, including and not including alcohol.*
- I have found it very difficult to find genuine friends, but it's getting better*
- I think Cornell's social scene is super closed, as someone involved with many organizations on campus, both social and academic, I feel like it's limited to who's: in your fam, frat, club, close circle, and that's who you hang out with, not many people branch out and meet other people*
- Overall, pretty decent. It was really rough in the beginning when I transferred here. Greek life is gatekeepy (which makes sense, can look bad on the orgs), but the bars are not very fun. Took me a while to find my niche of friends too. I would say being in Greek Life is borderline necessary to have a decent social life here. That being said, I do love the hockey scene and buy season tickets each year. I also attend other sports games and on campus events. Compared to my old school, we have a lot more rich culture/tradition and on campus social events that do not involve alcohol. However, we lack a lot in the accessibility of the party scene.*
- I think the social scene at Cornell is vibrant and offers a good variety of activities for all interests. I appreciate the focus on well-being and community.*
- I think the Student Activities committee, student-orgs, and others work very hard to put together events that bring together the student body, being so diverse in their interests and overall goals; and it is something I truly appreciate about Cornell.*
- I thought camp Cornell was a fun way for all the freshman to meet! Maybe organize more of those with specific activities through the year!*
- I wish the good sam was better explained. I wish there were more ways to meet students in social settings that weren't a party and also aren't too cringe and formal*
- It is not inclusive or accessible. You are more likely to be included if you have money or something else to offer.*
- It's what you make of it. I'm pretty introverted and a transfer student, so I'm lucky to have close friends nearby from last year. I've been able to connect with a two close friends here who*



Alcohol and Social Life Survey Report: *Fall 2025*

also don't really engage in partying. I don't have anything against people who do, it's just not my scene!

- *My friends and I very often discuss feeling dissatisfied with opportunities for social connection here. The only way to meet people feels like going out to drink but even then we don't feel like we get to interact on a meaningful level. I really really wish there was a way to meet people aside from frat life but people might not actually show up instead of study if it was not alcohol-related. It seems like we're always either intensively working and studying or trying to go to a frat. I wish people had and went to meaningful social events - it feels like a really important part of life that is missing and would be healing for a lot of my friends at Cornell...*
- *Often very normative and inaccessible for disabled students.*
- *Social scene is what you make of it. Half of Cornell students are duplicitous, shallow, selfish, rich, entitled, arrogant consumers with penchants for low-quality fun and destructive decisions. The other half are kind, gentle, reflective, interesting, driven, talented individuals who, despite having the most to teach, often listen the most.*
- *There are many opportunities for fun social experiences, but students need to learn to advocate for themselves and put themselves out there in order to participate. The most enjoyable experiences are not easily accessible to students who do not participate in social clubs and other campus communities.*
- *There is always something happening. Nothing is ever dead; whether its nocturnal life or day time.*
- *There is no way to tell what is going on when, unless you're in the know through word of mouth. It's quite hard to find social events and get invited to them. I'd very much like it if there was a place where all of them would be noted on like a calendar.*



Appendix. Additional Data Tables

Prevalence and Quantity of Drinking Alcohol

Survey item: On average, how many alcoholic drinks do you consume when you drink?

Response	I do not drink	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9 or more drinks
<i>Valid Percent</i>	50.5%	7.2%	9.9%	9.3%	8.4%	6.4%	3.6%	2.7%	0.6%	1.6%

Prevalence of High-Risk Drinking in Last Two Weeks

Survey item: Think back over the past two weeks. Male students: On how many occasions, if any, did you have five or more alcoholic drinks? Female students: On how many occasions, if any, did you have four or more alcoholic drinks? For non-binary students: Please answer the following question based on your sex assigned at birth: On how many occasions, if any, did you have five or more (assigned male at birth) OR four or more (assigned female at birth) alcoholic drinks?

Response	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9 or more occasions
<i>Percent</i>	69.4%	10.9%	8.3%	4.7%	3.1%	1.5%	0.8%	0.3%	0.2%	0.8%

Frequency of Drinking in Past Month

Survey item: In the past month, how frequently did you drink alcohol?

Response	I did not drink alcohol in the past month	Less than once a week	Once a week	Twice a week	Three times a week	Four or more times a week
<i>Percent</i>	53.3%	23.6%	10.1%	9.9%	2.7%	0.6%

Frequency of Using a Fake ID in Past Month

Survey item: In the past month, how often have you used a fake ID to purchase alcohol or enter a bar/club?

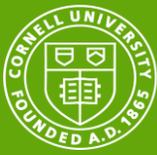
Response	Never	Once	2 – 3 times	4 – 5 times	6 – 9 times	10 or more times
<i>Percent</i>	90.4%	3.1%	3.6%	1.8%	0.7%	0.5%



Locations of Alcohol Use

Survey item: Please indicate the location(s) where you consumed alcohol in the past month: (check all that apply) (ONLY INCLUDES DRINKERS)

Locations of Alcohol Use	Total % drinking at least once at location
University residence hall on North Campus	16.6%
University residence hall on West Campus	9.0%
University residence hall on South Campus	1.8%
University co-operative house (aka "Co-op")	7.1%
Fraternity chapter house	26.8%
Sorority chapter house	3.6%
Fraternity annex (off-campus apartment or house unofficially affiliated)	18.4%
Sorority annex (off-campus apartment or house unofficially affiliated)	2.9%
Off-campus house or apartment unaffiliated with a fraternity or sorority	36.0%
Bar or restaurant	27.8%
Other location	3.62%



Harms Associated with Own AOD Use (Primary Harms)

Survey item: In the PAST YEAR, have you experienced any of the following due to your alcohol or other drug use? (ONLY INCLUDES DRINKERS AND DRUG USERS)

Primary Harms	No	Yes
Memory loss (blackout, brownout)	72.5%	27.5%
Vomited	56.7%	43.3%
Missed a class	83.0%	17.0%
Performed poorly on a test or important project	94.7%	5.3%
Been hurt or injured	90.0%	10.0%
Damaged property, pulled a fire alarm, etc.	97.7%	2.3%
Got in trouble (with police, residence hall, or other college authorities)	97.1%	2.9%
Wondered if you'd be better off using less alcohol and/or drugs or less often.	76.1%	23.9%
Tried unsuccessfully to stop using alcohol or other drugs	95.9%	4.1%
Someone you know expressed concern about or criticized your drinking or drug use	93.9%	6.1%
Spent a lot of time trying to acquire a substance or recover from its affects	95.4%	4.6%
Given up activities you used to enjoy in order to make more time for substance use	98.9%	1.1%
Engaged in sexual behavior that you regret	92.1%	7.9%
Engaged in other behavior you regret (e.g., argument or fight, social media/text)	84.5%	15.5%

Harms Associated with Others' Alcohol Use (Secondary Harms)

Survey item: In the past year, how often have you experienced the following due to another student who had been drinking? (INCLUDES NON-DRINKERS & NON-DRUG USERS)

Harm	Never	Once	Twice	3-5 times	6-9 times	10 or more times
Had your property damaged or stolen	89.1%	6.5%	2.4%	1.4%	0.2%	0.3%
Had your study disrupted	65.5%	9.4%	8.0%	10.9%	2.1%	4.1%
Had your sleep disrupted	55.1%	11.9%	10.6%	13.3%	3.5%	5.6%
Had to take care of someone who drank too much	47.1%	18.6%	14.7%	14.4%	2.6%	2.5%
Was verbally harassed	84.6%	7.2%	4.2%	2.8%	0.6%	0.7%
Was sexually touched without your consent	90.4%	5.6%	2.5%	1.1%	0.3%	0.1%



Harm-Reduction Strategies

Survey item: In the past 30 days, have you done any of the following while drinking alcohol?

(ONLY INCLUDES DRINKERS)

Harm-reduction strategy	Yes
Set a limit before starting to drink	52.9%
Paced your drinking	75.5%
Ate food before and/or while drinking alcohol	89.3%
Drank water while drinking alcohol	81.3%
Stopped drinking when you felt buzzed	64.4%
Avoided shots of hard liquor	43.3%
Planned a safe way to get home (walk, designated driver, cab, bus, etc.)	82.7%

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
I believe it is my responsibility to encourage a friend to slow down if they are drinking excessively.	1.1%	2.9%	44.0%	51.9%
I believe it is important to call for medical help when a person is passed out and can't be woken up.	0.3%	0.5%	16.9%	82.4%
I believe the social benefits of having a fake ID are worth the risk of getting caught.	30.9%	37.3%	24.1%	7.7%
I think MOST Cornell undergraduates (51% or more) believe the social benefits of having a fake ID are worth the risk of getting caught.	3.3%	27.1%	40.3%	20.3%

	Always socially acceptable	Sometimes socially acceptable	Never socially acceptable
I think that drinking to the point of "blacking out" is:	2.1%	21.9%	76.0%



Social Life Satisfaction

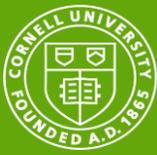
	Very dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Satisfied	Very satisfied
How satisfied are you with the social opportunities and activities available at Cornell?	1.6%	8.8%	55.7%	33.9%
How satisfied are you with your ability to balance academics and social activities at Cornell?	5.4%	25.3%	54.3%	15.1%
How satisfied are you with your relationships with other Cornell students?	2.2%	14.0%	55.6%	28.2%

Survey Item: Based on your experience at Cornell so far, please indicate your level of agreement or disagreement with the following statements:

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
There are fun opportunities for students to socialize on campus throughout the week, including the weekend.	2.1%	14.0%	58.6%	24.4%
It's easy to find late-night (e.g., after 10pm) social activities at Cornell that don't involve alcohol throughout the week, including the weekend.	18.3%	50.0%	24.7%	77.0%

Survey item: Think about the most fun social experience you have had while at Cornell to date. Which of the following statements describes the MOST FUN SOCIAL experience you have had?

	Yes
I consumed 0 alcoholic drinks.	65.7%
I consumed 1 alcoholic drink before/during it.	4.2%
I consumed 2 alcoholic drinks before/during it.	6.4%
I consumed 3 alcoholic drinks before/during it.	8.4%
I consumed 4 or more alcoholic drinks before/during it.	11.6%
I haven't had a fun social experience at Cornell yet.	3.8%



Sexual Experience Questions

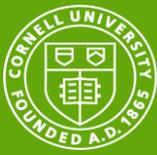
Survey item: Think about the best sexual experience with another person you have had to date. Which of the following statements describes the BEST SEXUAL experience you have had?

	Yes
I consumed 0 alcoholic drinks before my best sexual experience.	47.6%
I consumed 1 alcoholic drink before my best sexual experience.	2.4%
I consumed 2 alcoholic drinks before my best sexual experience.	2.0%
I consumed 3 alcoholic drinks before my best sexual experience.	2.0%
I consumed 4 or more alcoholic drinks before my best sexual experience.	2.5%
I haven't had a sexual experience with another person.	38.4%
I haven't had a positive sexual experience with another person.	5.2%

Tobacco and Nicotine Products

Survey item: The next set of questions ask about your LIFETIME USE of tobacco and nicotine products. For each item, please select the response option that most accurately reflects your experience with each tobacco or nicotine product.

	Never used	Used but not in past month	Used 1-9 days in past month	Used 10-19 days in past month	Used 20-29 days in past month	Used daily in past month
Smoking tobacco / nicotine products (e.g., cigarettes, cigars, hookah, cheroots, etc.)	82.2%	9.7%	6.4%	0.8%	0.2%	0.8%
Electronic cigarettes (e.g., e-cigs, vapes, JUULs, hookah pens, etc.)	87.7%	6.9%	3.0%	0.5%	0.5%	1.4%
Smokeless / dissolvable tobacco / nicotine products (e.g., chew, snuff, dip, Snus, Zyn, strips, orbs, pouches, etc.)	94.0%	3.0%	1.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.9%



Overlap of Smoking Tobacco Product Use and Electronic Cigarette Use

		<i>Electronic cigarette use</i>		
		Never used	Used but not in past month	Used in past month (collapsed)
Smoking / dissolvable tobacco use	Never used	80.7%	1.0%	0.4%
	Used but not in past month	4.3%	4.4%	0.9%
	Used in past month (collapsed)	2.6%	1.5%	4.1%

Other Drug Use: Cannabis, Cocaine, Heroin, and MDMA

Survey item: The following questions ask about your LIFETIME USE of other drugs. For each item, please select the response option that most accurately reflects your experience with each drug.

	Never used	Used, but not in past year	Used in past year, but not in past month	Used once or twice in past month	Used three or more times in past month	Used daily in past month
Cannabis (e.g., smoking, vaping, edibles)	69.7%	5.6%	10.1%	8.0%	4.5%	2.1%
Cocaine	97.8%	0.7%	0.9%	0.3%	0.3%	0.2%
Fentanyl / Heroin	99.6%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%	0.1%
Ketamine	99.0%	0.3%	0.4%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%
MDMA (Ecstasy or Molly)	99.3%	0.0%	0.4%	0.1%	0.1	0.1%
Other hallucinogens (e.g., LSD, Shrooms, Angel Dust)	95.7%	1.3%	2.2%	0.7%	0.0%%	0.2%



Other Drug Use: Prescription Medications Without Own Prescription

Survey item: The next set of questions ask about your LIFETIME USE of prescription medications WITHOUT your own prescription. For each item, please select the response option that most accurately reflects your experience with each drug.

	Never used	Used, but not in past year	Used in past year, but not in past month	Used once or twice in past month	Used three or more times in past month	Used daily in past month
Prescription stimulant not prescribed to you (e.g., Ritalin, Adderall, Concerta, Vyvanse, or Dexedrine)	96.9%	1.4%	0.5%	0.7%	0.1%	0.5%
Prescription pain medication not prescribed to you (e.g., oxycodone or hydrocodone)	98.5%	0.8%	0.4%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%
Prescription anti-anxiety medication not prescribed to you (e.g., Valium or Xanax)	98.4%	0.5%	0.4%	0.1%	0.2%	0.5%
Prescription sleep medication not prescribe to you (e.g., Ambien, Sonata, Lunesta)	99.1%	0.4%	0.2%	0.1%	0.2%	0.1%

Family History of AOD Problems

Survey item: Have any of your family members (biological and non-biological) had a substance use disorder / been addicted to alcohol or other drugs? (Check all that apply)

Family member	(Valid percent)
No	53.7%
Yes, my mother(s)	2.6%
Yes, my father(s)	7.7%
Yes, my stepparent(s)	0.2%
Yes, my sibling(s)	2.0%
Yes, my grandparent(s)	13.9%
Yes, my aunt/uncle(s)	12.2%
Yes, someone else	5.7%



Gambling and Betting

Survey item: How often have you gambled or bet with money in the PAST TWELVE MONTHS?

	Yes
Never	81.7%
Less than once a month	11.0%
1 – 4 times a month	5.7%
2 – 3 times a week	0.7%
4 or more times a week	0.2%
Daily	0.4%
More than once a day	0.4%

Survey item (Problem Gambling Severity Index Short-Form): Past 12 MONTHS: (GAMBLERS ONLY)

	Never	Some-times	Most of the time	Always
Have you bet more than you could really afford to lose?	95.3%	4.7%	0.0%	0.0%
Have people criticized your betting or told you that you had a gambling problem, regardless of whether or not you thought it was true?	87.4%	11.5%	0.5%	0.5%
Have you felt guilty about the way you gamble or what happens when you gamble?	82.3%	14.6%	2.1%	1.0%

Recovery Support Resources

Survey item: Which of the following support resources would you likely use at Cornell to support your recovery? (Check all that apply) (ONLY PEOPLE IN RECOVERY)

	Yes
12-Step Programs (AA, NA, etc.) on campus	8.0%
12-Step Programs (AA, NA, etc.) off campus	8.0%
Support finding a roommate or housemate who is committed to sobriety	11.5%
Substance free late-night programming Thursday, Friday, Saturday nights (after 10PM)	8.0%
Creative activities (art, music, meditation)	17.9%
Medication Assisted Treatment (e.g., Methadone, Suboxone, Vivitrol, etc.)	0.0%
Cornell Health-led group counseling with other Cornell students	14.8%
Substance free academic or career networking opportunities in my college or school	8.0%