PERCEPTIONS OF PARENTS OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION STUDENTS

CONCERNING PARENTAL NOTIFICATION

AND UNDERAGE ALCOHOL OFFENSES

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Since the inception of the Higher Education Reauthorization Act of 1998 by the United States Congress, there has been limited research conducted on parental notification policies on campuses of Higher Education concerning alcohol and drug offenses committed by students.

This study surveyed parents of incoming freshmen at the University of North Texas regarding their perceptions of Parental Notification policies and their perceptions of underage alcohol offenses by gender, age, ethnicity, and parental status. The relationship between parental notification and underage alcohol offenses was also examined.

This study, conducted in the summer of 2002, at the University of North Texas had 539 respondents. An instrument developed to determine parental perceptions of underage alcohol use and parental notification consisted of 20 dichotomous questions. Chi-square tests of independence were used to analyze the data because it could calculate the relationships between two sets of nominal data.

Data show that most parents want to be notified in all situations involving underage alcohol offenses and their offspring. Generally, parents do not believe their offspring will use alcohol underage as they enter college and that they are not binge drinkers. Females want to be notified about their student’s underage alcohol offenses at a higher rate than males. Males want to be notified at a higher rate than females if using alcohol jeopardizes housing or enrollment in school for their student. Native Americans have great concern for their students in all areas of alcohol use and binge drinking. Parents should stay actively involved in the lives of their
offspring as they attend institutions of higher education as well as stay involved with the University community in which their student attends.
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS...........................................................................................................iii

LIST OF TABLES.....................................................................................................................vi

Chapter

1. INTRODUCTION.............................................................................................................. 1
   Statement of Problem
   Purposes of Study
   Research Questions
   Definition of Terms
   Assumptions
   Delimitations
   Limitations
   Significance of Study
   Organization of Study

2. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE.........................................................................9
   Underage Drinking on American Campuses
   *In Loco Parentis*
   Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974
   Higher Education Reauthorization Act of 1998

3. PROCEDURES FOR THE COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS OF
   DATA.................................................................................................................................33
   Population of Study
   Instrumentation
   Research Design
   Procedures for the Collection of Data
   Data Analysis

4. PRESENTATION OF FINDINGS..................................................................................41
   Sample
   Testing Research Questions
   Results
5. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, DISCUSSION, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Summary of Findings
Discussion
Conclusions
Recommendations for Further Research

APPENDIX A

APPENDIX B

APPENDIX C

REFERENCES
# LIST OF TABLES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Secondary Effects of Binge Drinking on College Campuses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Parental Notification Policy Status</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Parental Notification Policy Status by Institution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Description of Parental Notification Policies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Gender</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Ethnicity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Age</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Parental Status</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Current Student’s College Order</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Parents Beliefs on Parental Notification for Underage Alcohol Offenses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Parents Beliefs on Underage Alcohol Offenses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>Chi-square Tests Results by Parents Stratified by Gender</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>Chi-square Tests Results by Parents Stratified by Ethnicity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>Chi-square Tests Results by Parents Stratified by Age</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>Chi-square Tests Results by Parents Stratified by Parental Status</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Traditionally, in American higher education, parents and the higher education schools their offspring attend have failed to have extensive relationships with one another due to the privacy restrictions set forth in the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974. This act restricts access to all educational records of a student to parties other than the student. Institutions have interpreted this law in such a way that restricts parents from gaining access to the educational records of their offspring even if they, the parents, pay the tuition bill or claim their offspring as dependents for income tax purposes.

“Too many colleges hide behind the Buckley Amendment to escape their responsibility to parents. Professors and others [administrators] will state that they cannot provide information. That is not true, however, if the student is a dependent and the college agrees to permit such disclosure, or if the parents pursue their ‘right’ to such information” (Weeks, 2001, p. 49).

In 1998, Congress passed the Higher Education Reauthorization Act, which gave institutions of higher education permission to contact parents if their offspring under the age of 21 were using alcohol or drugs. The Higher Education Reauthorization Act created opportunities for parents and institutions to communicate about concerns affecting their offspring. It also shed light on the creation of relationships between parents and institutions to benefit the students that they are both trying to educate.
Underage alcohol use is epidemic in American colleges and universities. A study conducted by the Harvard School of Public Health found that “First, binge drinking is hugely common, with 44% of college students admitting to bingeing at least once in the previous two weeks. Second, binge drinking hurts people, not just the drinker, but the peers and the community as well” (Goldstein, 2001, para. 2).

Institutions of higher education need to address the problem of underage alcohol use on American campuses. Too many students are being affected by alcohol academically, socially, and emotionally. Parental notification needs to be considered as a form of assistance for university administrators in dealing with underage alcohol use. Institutions must form relationships with parents and students to aide in the students’ growth and success. Parental notification promotes dialogue between parents and institutions with regard to student safety and well-being.

This study focused on the perceptions of parents and the underage alcohol use of their offspring and examined the rights of parents to be notified of underage alcohol use as set forth in the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 and the Higher Education Reauthorization Act of 1998.

Statement of the Problem

What are the perceptions of parents of postsecondary education students concerning parental notification and underage alcohol offenses on college campuses?

Purposes of Study

The purposes of this study were:

1. Identify and describe the perceptions of parents of postsecondary education students concerning parental notification;
2. Identify and describe the perceptions of parents of postsecondary education students concerning underage alcohol offenses;

3. Identify and describe the perceptions of parents, stratified according to gender, of postsecondary education students concerning parental notification;

4. Identify and describe the perceptions of parents, stratified according to gender, of postsecondary education students concerning underage alcohol offenses;

5. Identify and describe the perceptions of parents, stratified according to ethnicity, of postsecondary education students concerning parental notification;

6. Identify and describe the perceptions of parents, stratified according to ethnicity, of postsecondary education students concerning underage alcohol offenses;

7. Identify and describe the perceptions of parents, stratified according to age, of postsecondary education students concerning parental notification;

8. Identify and describe the perceptions of parents, stratified according to age, of postsecondary education students concerning underage alcohol offenses;

9. Identify and describe the perceptions of parents, stratified according to parental status, of postsecondary education students concerning parental notification;

10. Identify and describe the perceptions of parents, stratified according to parental status, of postsecondary education students concerning underage alcohol offenses; and

11. Identify the relationship between the perceptions of parents of postsecondary education students concerning underage alcohol offenses and their perceptions parental notification.
Research Questions

To provide a better understanding of parent’s right to know about underage alcohol violations and institutions parental notification policies, the following research questions were addressed:

1. What are the perceptions of parents of postsecondary education students concerning parental notification?

2. What are the perceptions of parents of postsecondary education students concerning underage alcohol offenses?

3. What are the perceptions of parents, stratified according to gender, of postsecondary education students concerning parental notification?

4. What are the perceptions of parents, stratified according to gender, of postsecondary education students concerning underage alcohol offenses?

5. What are the perceptions of parents, stratified according to ethnicity, of postsecondary education students concerning parental notification?

6. What are the perceptions of parents, stratified according to ethnicity, of postsecondary education students concerning underage alcohol offenses?

7. What are the perceptions of parents, stratified according to age, of postsecondary education students concerning parental notification?

8. What are the perceptions of parents, stratified according to age, of postsecondary education students concerning underage alcohol offenses?

9. What are the perceptions of parents, stratified according to parental status, of postsecondary education students concerning parental notification?
10. What are the perceptions of parents, stratified according to parental status of postsecondary education students concerning underage alcohol offenses?

11. What is the relationship between the perceptions of parents of postsecondary education students concerning underage alcohol offenses and their perceptions of parental notification?

Definition of Terms

The following definitions explain and clarify the terminology used in this study.

Binge Drinking refers to five or more consecutive drinks for men and four or more consecutive drinks for women in one sitting (Wechsler, Dowdall, Davenport, and Rimm, 1995).

Bradshaw v. Rawlings refers to legal precedent where the Third Circuit Court of Appeals declared “in loco parentis” dead.

Confidentiality refers to discretion on the part of the University in keeping secret student information contained in educational records.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act 1974 (Also referred to as FERPA or the Buckley Amendment) refers to a Federal law that protects the privacy of a student’s educational records. The Act applies equally to all institutions of higher education, public or private, so long as the school receives funds from the Federal Government.

Higher Education Reauthorization Act of 1998 refers to the Federal Law that allows institutions of higher education to notify parents of alcohol and drug use by students under the age of 21.

In Loco Parentis refers to “in place of the parents.” Before the 1960’s, institutions of higher education took on the role of parents when overseeing students who were enrolled there.
Parental Notification refers to the notification of parents by institutions when students violate underage alcohol or drug policies.

The Student Right-to-Know and Campus Security Act (also referred to as the Clery Act) refers to the Federal law that requires institutions of higher education to report campus crime statistics and make them available to the public.

Underage drinking refers to alcohol consumption by a person under the age of 21 years old. “In 1984 the United States Congress passed the National Minimum Purchasing Act, which encouraged each state to enact a minimum legal standard of 21 to purchase alcohol” (Wechsler, Lee, Nelson and Kuo, 2002, p. 223).

Assumptions
The following assumptions were made in this study:
1. The instrument used was valid and reliable.
2. Survey respondents truthfully responded to the survey instrument.

Delimitations
This study was conducted with parents or legal guardians attending the Parent Orientation sessions at the University of North Texas. These sessions occurred on July 11, July 15, July 18, July 22, and July 25, 2002. The expected attendance of the entire parent orientation program was 800 parents.

Limitations
This study was limited to conducting research with parents of traditional age freshmen students (ages 17-19). Not all parents who comprise the population of this study agreed to participate in the study.
Significance of the Study

This study explored the perceptions of parents of offspring who were attending college regarding their underage alcohol use and the parents’ right to be notified by the institution of their offspring’s violations of the institution’s alcohol policy. The intent of the research was to produce data about the awareness of parents regarding underage alcohol use and their right to know if their offspring under the age of 21 have violated the alcohol policy of the institution. Previously published studies have surveyed students and university administrators on their beliefs and insights regarding parental notification policies at various institutions. However, little information is available that discusses the formulation of a policy with parents of students.

In addition, this study may serve as a valuable tool for helping universities and colleges develop a parental notification policy if one does not exist, or to form a committee to research the possibilities of forming a parental notification policy to help decrease underage drinking on college campuses. The expectation is that in the future, universities, in particular the University of North Texas, might use this research as a resource to develop their own parental notification policies regarding alcohol and drug use by students under the age of 21.

According to research conducted at Bowling Green State University, 56.7% of public universities had not drafted a parent notification policy as of January 2000 (Palmer, Lohman, Gehring, Carlson & Garrett, 2001). A few institutions have adopted policies, but others consciously decide not to consider the idea. “Institutions who have adopted parental notification policies are giving the information and thus some of the responsibility back to the parents or guardians of the students who are violating conduct expectations” (Sluis, 2001, p. 59).

Understanding the impact that parental notification policies can have on decreasing underage drinking on college campuses is a necessary element to the relationships that parents,
students, and institutions form as a student attends an institution. Therefore, this study allowed
its participants to examine their perceptions of underage alcohol use and their discernment of
non-existing parental notification policies.

Organization of the Study

In Chapter I an overview is presented of underage drinking on college campuses and the
role of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 and Higher Education
Reauthorization Act of 1998 regarding parental rights to access student’s educational records. It
also identifies the problem, the purposes, and the significance of the study. The research
questions are presented along with the limitations of the study and definition of terms.

Chapter II contains a review of the literature.

Chapter III describes the research methodology. A description of the population of the
study is included. The questionnaire and the survey instrument are discussed. Finally, the
research design and procedures for collection and analysis of data are described.

Chapter IV presents the analysis of data collected. Presentations of tables, statistical
analysis, interpretation, and results of data collected are included.

Chapter V presents a summary and discussion of the major findings, conclusions of the
study, and recommendations for future research and practice.
CHAPTER 2

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

“The legislative purpose behind Congress’s enactment of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is to promote communication between institutions and the parents of the students” (Weeks, 2001, p.39). To understand the intensity of the relationship between an institution of higher education, the parents of the students and the students themselves, this literature review explores the epidemic of underage drinking use among American university and college students, and the parental rights to be notified if their offspring violates underage drinking laws and policies.

Underage Drinking on American Campuses

Underage drinking, specifically binge drinking, is a growing crisis on college and university campuses throughout the United States. “College students consume alcohol at the five-drink level more often than age-matched peers who do not attend college” (Bachman, 1984, p.629). The Harvard School of Public Health conducted the College Alcohol Study (CAS) which found that in 2001 “43.6% of underage students were classified as binge drinkers, a rate that was similar to the rate for all college students nationally and did not change over the four survey years” (Wechsler, Lee, Nelson, Kuo, 2001, p.225).

Alcohol has been the cause of many college student deaths over the years. Campuses such as those of Duke University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Reisberg, 1998), Louisiana State University (Haworth, 1998), and Radford University (Gest, 2001) have been affected. According to a study conducted by Ralph Hingson, a researcher at Boston University’s
School of Public Health, “drinking kills 1,400 US College students, causes 500,000 injuries and plays a role in 70,000 sexual assaults on campus every year” (Hingson, 2002, para.1).

The national results of the Core Alcohol and Drug Survey (CAS) 2000 are astounding in the area of underage alcohol use. A population of 55,026 undergraduate students from 132 institutions around the United States was polled on their uses of alcohol and different drugs. The study found that 84.1% of the students polled had used alcohol sometime within the last year of their lives; 72.1% of the students used alcohol within the 30 days before when the survey was conducted. Overall, the average freshman student consumed 5.56 drinks on a weekly basis and 5.86 drinks were consumed by sophomore students on a weekly basis (Core Institute, 2000). These results are intolerable because most likely, these students do not have the legal right to drink, and yet their drinking could be affecting their academic, social, and emotional health. The Harvard School of Public Health believes that “this style of drinking [binge drinking] is associated with serious negative consequences, including academic difficulties; anti-social behavior; health and psychosocial problems; high-risk sexual behavior; and other risky behavior, such as drinking and driving. Accidental injury is the leading cause of death among older adolescents and young adults” (Wechsler, et al. 2002, p.223). “Binge drinking on campus is a problem of staggering magnitude” (Finn, 1996, p.1). The Core Alcohol and Drug Survey (CAS) found horrific consequences of drinking before completing the survey. These results are as follows: 33.1% of students missed a class due to drinking; 10.7% of students believed they might have a drinking problem; 1.4% of students had tried to commit suicide; 14.3% had been hurt or injured; 11.7% had been taken advantage of sexually; 38.2% had done something that they regretted later. (CAS, 2000). None of these consequences has helped a student to succeed in school. Most have long-lasting effects that could jeopardize students’ safety. The CAS has been
conducted four different times— in 1993, 1997, 1999, and 2001. Each survey conducted “continues to show that 40% to 45% of college students binge drink… Binge drinking is at once the most important public health problem on our campuses and a critical challenge to institutional missions” (Keeling, 2002, p. 197). The CAS also found that the average college student spends $900 a year on alcohol and drugs. It also reported that about 159,000 of first-year college students will drop out of school for alcohol and/or drug related problems (CAS, 2000).

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have also conducted binge drinking research, which has amazing results. The CDC conducted research between 1993 and 2001 on binge drinking among adults in the United States. They found in the eight years of the study “binge drinking episodes among US adults increased from approximately 1.2 billion to 1.5 billion… this was an increase of 17% per adult of episodes of binge drinking” (Naimi, Brewer, Mokdad, Denny, Serdula, and Marks, 2003, p. 1). This study also found that subjects between the ages of 18 and 20 years had the highest rates of binge drinking episodes (Naimi, et al. 2003). The state of Texas conducted a statewide survey of college students, which was administered by the Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse (TACADA) in conjunction with the Public Policy Research Institute of Texas A & M University. A group of 2,420 college students from eight large public institutions and three large private institutions were given the survey. The Commission found that in Texas alcohol was the number one substance that college students reported to be using. The Commission also found that 88% of students have drunk an alcoholic beverage at least once during their lifetimes; 82% have drunk alcohol in the past year; and 69% had consumed alcohol in the past month. Sixty percent of students aging between 18 and 20 reported drinking an alcoholic beverage at least once in the past month, and almost 90% reported obtaining alcohol from someone over the age of 21 (TCADA, 1997).
The CAS has also found that drinking on college campuses does not affect only the student who chooses to consume alcohol, but also peers who live with or attend college with their peers who choose to drink. In this study, colleges were classified into three different levels of “drinking schools.” “High level drinking schools” had over half of their students reporting binge drinking in the past two weeks. “Lower drinking schools” had 35 percent or fewer reporting binge drinking in the past two weeks and the “middle drinking schools” reported 36-50 percent of binge drinking episodes in the past two weeks. When students were asked in this study if they had experienced any negative consequences (e.g. insults, physical harm, sexual abuse, unwanted advances, etc.) due to someone else’s drinking in a high drinking school an astounding 87% of the non-binge drinkers reported such an experience one or more times. In the lower drinking schools, 62% of the students had experienced the effects and at a middle drinking school, 82% had been affected (2000).

Table 1

Secondary Effects of Binge Drinking on College Campuses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Secondary Binge Effects</th>
<th>Low &lt;35%</th>
<th>Middle 35-50%</th>
<th>High &gt;50%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Been insulted or humiliated</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Had serious arguments</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Been pushed, hit or assaulted</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Had property damaged</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Had to take care of drunken friend</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Had study/ sleep interrupted</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experienced unwanted sexual advance</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Been victim of sexual assault</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experienced at least one of the above problems</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The statistics concerning underage drinking are a major concern for parents and college administrators. In fact, “95% of parents believe excessive alcohol consumption is a serious threat to their children” (Goldstein, 2002, para.1). Edward Hill, of the American Medical Association (AMA) stated, “The majority [of parents] no longer perceive college binge drinking as a right of passage… They see it as a major public health threat” (Goldstein, 2002, para. 2).

The Core Alcohol and Drug Survey also polled students on their reasons for underage drinking. These reasons include the following: 72.5% of students said it helped to “break the ice” in social situations; 67.4% said it gave them something to do; 57.6% said it allowed people to have more fun; 50.6% said it facilitated sexual opportunities; 24.7% said it made women sexier (Core Alcohol and Drug Survey, 2000). These results, again, cause great concern for the safety of the students on our campuses as well as help us to evaluate how college affects a student’s behavior (Astin, 1993).

Over the past five years, the incidences of students dying from alcohol use have increased greatly. Institutions are finding themselves concerned with dealing with the deaths of their students and the liability issues that may follow. In 1997, Louisiana State University found itself dealing with the death of a Sigma Alpha Epsilon pledge, Benjamin Wayne, when he died of alcohol poisoning from a night out with his fellow fraternity pledges. Thirty-seven pledges consumed $2,185 worth of alcohol in less than two hours (Haworth, 1998). Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) dealt with liability issues and lawsuits after the death of Scott Krueger, a Phi Gamma Delta pledge, who died of alcohol poisoning in 1997 (Reisberg, 1998). The parents of Scott Krueger filed a lawsuit against MIT and its administrators for failing to control and address the alcohol problem on its campus. The lawsuit was settled out of court in 2000 for $6 million (Stubbs, 2000).
In 1996 and 1997, Jonathan Levy was caught buying alcohol, smoking marijuana, and driving drunk at Virginia’s Radford University, and the University had knowledge of the violations. Jonathan died from a car accident involving alcohol in October 1997. “Jonathan’s father, Jeffrey Levy, was outraged that Radford had never informed him of his son’s earlier infractions. University officials blamed a 1974 federal law that protected students’ privacy unless they were clearly dependents for tax purposes” (Gest, 2001). Jeff Levy lobbied Virginia Senators and the United States Congress for the Higher Education Reauthorization Act of 1998.

In Loco Parentis

The relationships among parents, students, and institutions of Higher Education have drastically changed since higher education began. In colonial times, such institutions played the role of surrogate parents to students, otherwise known as in loco parentis. Institutions watched over students as if they were replacing their parents on campuses. Much of the influence of this role came from Puritan standards; students were disciplined if they wavered from the standards of discipline set up by the institution. University officials such as the president, faculty, and tutors were responsible for the supervision of the students and the discipline (Dannells, 1997). The English system of in loco parentis was meant for the intellectual enterprise.

“The college was to look after the moral as well as the intellectual development of its students; character training was just as important as mind training…. [this concept] stressed the housing of students in closely supervised college dormitories, compulsory attendance at religious exercises, and the enforcement of discipline” (Brubacher & Rudy, 1997, p.123).

Because the students were minors, they did not have the legal rights of adults, and universities were free to exercise control over students like their parents may have at home (Brubacher &
Rudy, 1997). “The university was the *de facto* and the *de jure* guardian of the students’ health, welfare, safety, and morals” (Gibbs and Szablewicz, 1994, p.643). “The most important feature of *in loco parentis* was to place a blanket of security and insularity around university culture… Under the blanket, the university was free to exercise disciplinary power or not; with wide discretion or little concern for litigation” (Lake & Bickel, 1999, p. 794).

After the Civil War, faculty and administrators responsible for *in loco parentis* started to do more research and became more interested in the intellectual life of their institutions. Professors who had studied in Germany practiced a more impersonal approach to interacting with their students. The student population became more diversified and secular. This created the pathway for the student personnel administrators to assume the role of *in loco parentis*, in order to come in and assist the students in all facets of life outside the classroom, including addressing behaviors in the disciplinary fashion (Brubacher and Rudy, 1997).

*In loco parentis* was the relationship that existed between the institution and the student until the 1960’s when the Cultural Revolution occurred within the United States. After World War II, the implementation of the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 made it possible for veterans to attend colleges and universities. The Servicemen’s Readjustment Act of 1944 increased the student population and the traditional age of students. Students who had gone to war and were over the age of 25 did not want strict codes of conduct (Thomas, 1991). In the 1960’s, student independence emerged through exposure to the Vietnam War, Civil Rights Movement, and the Women’s Movement, which dominated the youth culture through much of the decade. College campuses became scenes for protests, riots, and National Guard presence (Brubacher and Rudy, 1997). Many times university officials found themselves being challenged by this independent student wave. Drinking and illicit drugs were prevalent on campuses in the
hands of students and faculty alike. The relationship between institution and student moved from a parental legal model to one of tort lawsuits (Epstein, 1999).

The culmination of in loco parentis came in the form of a Supreme Court decision: Bradshaw v. Rawlings 612 F. 2d 135 (3rd Circ. 1979), cert denied, 100 S. Ct 1836 (1980): The court’s summary of the relationship between a college and its student was as follows:

“Our beginning point is a recognition that the modern American college is not an insurer of the safety of its students. Whatever may have been its responsibility in an earlier era, the authoritarian role of today's college administrations has been notably diluted in recent decades. Trustees, administrators, and faculties have been required to yield to the expanding rights and privileges of their students.... There was a time when college administrators and faculties assumed a role in loco parentis. Students were committed to their charge because the students were considered minors. A special relationship was created between college and student that imposed a duty on the college to exercise control over student conduct and, reciprocally, gave the students certain rights of protection by the college. The campus revolutions of the late '60s and early '70s were a direct attack by the students on rigid controls by the colleges and were an all-pervasive affirmative demand for more student rights. In general, the students succeeded, peaceably and otherwise, in acquiring a new status at colleges throughout the country. These movements, taking place almost simultaneously with legislation and case law lowering the age of majority, produced fundamental changes in our society. A dramatic reapportionment of responsibilities and social interests of general security took place. Regulation by the college of student life on and off campus has become limited. Adult
students now demand and receive expanded rights of privacy in their college life” (Thomas, 1991).

This ruling solidified the death of *in loco parentis* and the relationship that students and institutions of Higher Education had with one another. *Bradshaw v. Rawlings* (1979) confronted the issue of institutions by showing a “duty to care” for the students who enroll in their institutions. *Bradshaw v. Rawlings* is the precedent, which governs current law on the subject.

“Declaring *in loco parentis* dead, they wrote: Our beginning point is a recognition that the modern American college is not an insurer of the safety of its students. Whatever may have been its responsibility in an earlier era, the authoritarian role of today's college administrations has been notably diluted in recent decades. Trustees, administrators, and faculties have been required to yield to the expanding rights and privileges of their students” *Bradshaw v. Rawlings*, 612 F.2d 135, 138 (3d Cir. 1979). This ruling did not rule out that institutions could be responsible and accountable under negligence claims due to the special relationships they had with one another.

In *Mullins v. Pine College*, the Massachusetts Supreme Court refused to reinstate the *in loco parentis* doctrine when a female student was raped in the residence halls, but found the college liable due to the relationship between the student and institution. The court ruled “(1) the college had a duty to provide security for its students; (2) the evidence was sufficient to sustain the conclusions that the college was negligent in performing that duty and that the negligence was the proximate cause of the student's injuries” (*Mullins v. Pine College*, 1983).

**Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974**

In 1974, “Senator Buckley offered legislation on the floor of the Senate as an amendment to other educational legislation… Senator Buckley identified the twofold purpose of the act: ‘To assure parents of students, and students themselves if they are over the age of eighteen or
attending an institution of postsecondary education, access to their education records and to protect such individuals’ rights to privacy by limiting the transferability [and disclosure] of their records without their consent” (Congressional Record, 1974, p. 39862) (Weeks, 2001, p.40). This legislation is referred to as the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA). Buckley stated that there are two critical exceptions to FERPA: disclosure of information to parents of dependent students and for health and safety reasons. FERPA (1974) defines the relationship with students and the institution through the educational records, not as a caretaker or parent like relationship. “The doctrine of in loco parentis as a legal description of the student-institutional relationship is generally considered inappropriate, untenable, intolerable, or simply dead” (Dannells, 1996, p.180).

FERPA protects the educational records of a student, and disciplinary records are considered educational records. All institutions, public or private, who receive federal funds from the U.S. Department of Education or whose students receive federal funding must adhere to FERPA regulations when it comes to educational records (Kaplin & Lee, 1997).

Parents’ rights transfer to the student upon enrollment in a postsecondary institution or their eighteenth birthday. When a student enrolls in an institution of higher education, parents may pay the tuition, but they are not allowed to receive grades or disciplinary records unless they have permission from their offspring or can provide documentation that they claim the student as a dependent for income tax purposes. Since FERPA protects all educational records of a student, FERPA does allow protection of financial records of parents and prevents disclosing any parental monetary information in a student’s record (Weeks, 2001).

The Buckley Amendment (FERPA) provides four basic rights to students: “the right to access of student educational records; the right to give consent prior to release of a record to a
third party; the right to challenge any inaccurate, misleading, or inappropriate information in those records; and the right of a student to be notified of their privacy rights under the Buckley Amendment” (Weeks, 2001, p.42). The right to access means that a student (or parent, if a dependent for income tax purposes) has the right to access their educational records. A parent cannot access law enforcement records if the institution has a separate law enforcement unit that is not connected with the institution. Similarly, they cannot access their offspring’s medical records if they are maintained by professional medical personnel. Medical records cannot be disclosed to anyone but an individual providing treatment for the student. Records that are kept by professors or any other individual and are not available to anyone else are not educational records. Records about an individual that are kept by an institution after graduation such as alumni records are exempt from FERPA. The right to consent implies that a student must give written consent to any third party, such as a spouse or employer, wishing to gain access to a student’s educational record. The right to challenge indicates that any student has the right to challenge inaccurate or misleading information in their educational records. The student may request that the institution amend the record. If the institution does not want to amend the record, the student has the right to a hearing on the issue. The hearing should involve a third party, which has nothing to do with the original decision. The right to notification means that institutions of higher education must inform students and parents of their right to access, challenge and consent the information in their educational records (Weeks, 2001). All institutions of higher education, public or private, that receive federal funding must adhere to FERPA regulations (Kaplin & Lee, 1997).

In 1986, the relationship between the institution and the students became altered again. The Student Right-to-Know and the Campus Security Act (the Clery Act) required all campuses
to publish three years of campus crime statistics and basic security policies. This act was prompted by the death of a 19-year old Lehigh University student, Jeanne Clery. Jeanne was sexually assaulted and murdered in her residence hall room by another student. “Jeanne's parents, Connie and Howard, discovered that students hadn't been told about 38 violent crimes on the Lehigh campus in the three years before her murder. They joined with other campus crime victims and persuaded Congress to enact this law, which was originally known as the ‘Crime Awareness and Campus Security Act of 1990.’ … The law was most recently amended in 2000 to require schools, beginning in 2003, to notify the campus community about where public "Megan's Law" information about registered sex offenders on campus could be obtained” (Security on Campus, 2002, para. 5). The Clery Act began a movement that allows universities to disclose information from disciplinary proceedings, and opens the doors for institutions to make changes to the original FERPA guidelines regarding privacy and student misconduct (Sluis, 2001).

Parents are given explicit rights under the Buckley Amendment. First, they are given the right and protection of confidentiality of their financial records (including that confidence from their enrolled offspring). Second, they are given the right to gain access to their offspring’s educational records if they claim the student as a dependent for income tax purposes. Third, parents are entitled to health and safety information concerning their offspring. Fourth, parents can obtain evidence on disciplinary action of educational records (not law enforcement records). Fifth, parents can obtain information on the violation of drug and alcohol policies by their children under the age of 21 (Weeks, 2001). Senator Buckley’s intentions were not to eliminate parents from communication with their offspring’s institution.
Institutions are starting to realize the vital importance of the relationships that need to exist between parents of students and the institution. The relationships with the student already exists, but for too long institutions have neglected to have relationships with parents due to FERPA and other student privacy issues. Kevin Krueger, associate executive director of the Washington-based National Association of Student Personnel Administrators in Higher Education states, “There’s a shift in the philosophy of the relationship between institutions and students and the involvement of the parent. Notification is part of that” (Clayton, 2002, para. 10). “It is time for colleges and universities to adopt a less defensive approach to communicating with parents and move toward policies that are family friendly and sustain partnerships with parents while appropriately recognizing the rights of the individual” (Weeks, 2001, p. 49 ).

John Bishop, Vice President for Student Affairs at the University of Delaware believes

“We are not acting in the place of parents but with them. We are expecting that parents remain involved. We are saying the job of parenting is not done just because offspring have gone off to college. You [parents] should be aware of what your student is doing and we want you involved in a discussion of the consequences of their illegal behavior”(Erik and Sherman, 2002, para. 5).

A relationship works both ways. If schools are being asked to take an active part in the relationship with parents, parents must also take an active part. Parents need to be educated and open to communication with the institution and their offspring. Levy recommends, that first parents know about the reputation of the school. A lot of information is available to the public, such as campus crime statistics and alcohol violations, that can assist parents in helping their offspring make the right choices for an undergraduate career. Second, parents need to keep the lines of communication open with their offspring. They should encourage students to call when
they are having problems requiring their parent’s help. Parents must try to remain nonjudgmental. Third, if students are not communicating with their parents, the parents must seek out information on their own. Student personnel professionals are available to all students and parents. Parents should seek out these professionals and communicate to them concerns about their students (Clayton, 2002). Fourth, parents need to talk to their offspring about alcohol and drug use. If discussions occur before the students leave for school students are more likely to communicate to parents about the pressures that exist with these substances. Fifth, parents need to be involved in their offspring’s education, by attending parent and student orientation sessions; helping students move into the residence halls or apartment, and meeting their roommates and their roommate’s parents (Clayton, 2002).

Higher Education Reauthorization Act of 1998

The Clery Act paved the way for the Higher Education Reauthorization Act of 1998 and changed the relationships that institutions have had with parents and young adult offspring. After the death of his son, Jonathan, Jeff Levy lobbied in Virginia for the concept of “parental notification.” Levy was appointed to the Virginia attorney general’s task force on college drinking, more specifically with regard to the idea of parental notification. The task force convinced Virginia Senator John W. Warner to introduce legislation to the United States Senate on the concept of parental notification (Epstein, 1999). Warner asked his senate colleagues to consider the amendment after five alcohol-related deaths of college students in the state of Virginia. Warner stated, “Why should [college and university administrators] not have the benefit of parental help in tragic situations where there has been a clear violation of law as it relates to drugs and alcohol?” (Karasik, 2000, para. 6). Warner also stated that this amendment will “empower parents” and “reinforce their responsible role in helping their offspring
understand the dangers of alcohol and drug abuse” (Sahara & Butler, 2001, para. 3).

“Educational programs alone won’t do it [decreasing alcohol use]…. However, when alcohol education is combined with supervision and real consequences for violations, the incidents of underage drinking fall significantly” (Kinder, 2001, para. 7).

The Act states that:

“Institutions may decide to make public the ‘final results’ of student disciplinary proceedings when the institution has concluded that a student violated its rules and that the student’s conduct would constitute a ‘crime of violence’ or a ‘nonforcible sex offense.’

Institutions may decide to disclose ‘to a parent or legal guardian of a student information regarding any violation of any Federal, State, or local law, or of any rule or policy of the institution, governing the use of possession of alcohol, or a controlled substance, regardless whether that information is contained in a student’s education records if (a) the student is under the age of 21; and (b) the institution determines that the student has committed a disciplinary violation with respect to such use or possession.” (Higher Education Reauthorization Act of 1998).

This newly enacted law gives institutions of higher education the right to notify parents of students under the age of 21 of alcohol and/or drug abuse or violations. Before this amendment, public and private colleges and universities refused to tell parents of such violations due to the restrictions set forth in FERPA. Many times parents of dependent students had to jump through a number of loopholes or threaten legal action to get information on their offspring and their behavior. Although FERPA allowed institutions to disclose such information, if they could
show documentation of “tax dependency status,” many institutions continued to protect students’ rights and not disclose the information contained in educational records. Parents were expected to pay the bills, but did not have the right to see academic grades or hear of their offspring’s behavior in or outside the classroom. Richard Yoast, of the American Medical Association Office of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse believes, “College binge drinking is a serious problem, and we all have a role in the solution. We think parents have a key role in the solution, especially if they can work with administrators.” (Erik and Sherman, 2002, para. 10).

“The bill also encourages college and university administrators to change the culture of alcohol consumption on campus through alcohol-free living zones, zero tolerance of violations, limitations of alcohol advertisements, and prevention of access to alcohol” (Saphara & Butler, 2000, para. 3). Institutions such as the University of Colorado at Boulder banned beer sales from its football stadium; Florida State University banned alcohol advertising on campus; the University of Wisconsin sat in on its town’s decision involving liquor licenses, making sure that bars cannot have drink specials and that they must offer alcohol-free evenings (Goldstein, 2001).

The University of Delaware was the first college in the nation to officially notify parents of underage alcohol and drug use. The University took part in a study conducted by the American Medical Association Office of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse entitled, A Matter of Degree: The National Effort to Reduce High Risk Drinking Among College Students. The University of Delaware saw major results in the first year that the policy was adopted. “The vast majority of parents are overwhelmingly supportive and the recidivism rate in the campus judicial system has dropped dramatically.” (Erik and Sherman, 2002, para. 2).

This amendment to FERPA and the issue of parental notification has created great debate throughout higher education. Student governments, student organizations, advocates for student
rights, and even some university administrators have voiced their concerns about parental notification since its inception. Many critics believe it is an invasion of student privacy. “Notification policies send a message that infantilizes young adults. Their contemporaries in the military or in factories, they’re adults, but students aren’t? We’ve got to resist this urge that students must be supervised” states Thor Halvorssen of the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (Crary, 2002, para.13). Students have balked about their loss of privacy if a policy exists at their institution. Students state that this amendment affects them even if they are under 21, but paying their way through college. Critics believe that this amendment assumes that all students have relationships with their parents and that these relationships influence student behavior. Many institutions have thus stayed away from discussing such a policy and have not enacted a policy for their institution.

The amendment has paved the first step towards involving parents in their offspring’s education, but there are few guidelines for universities to adopt such a policy and to enact it. Congress passed the amendment, but did not establish guidelines for writing a policy for an institution or mandating that institutions must do so when a student violates Federal, State or local laws concerning alcohol or drug use. (Epstein, 1999).

A national study conducted by Bowling Green State University surveyed campus judicial officers and found that “prior to October 1, 1998, 16.9% of those surveyed had a parental notification policy. As noted in Table 2, these included 31.8% of the private schools and only 4.8% of the public schools. However, as of January 2000, 58.7% had either a policy or a practice of notifying parents and another 24.9% were "actively considering adopting a policy.” (Palmer, Lohman, Gehringer, Carlson, & Garrett, 2001, p. 376). Private institutions are adopting policies at a much higher rate than public institutions.
### Table 2

**Parental Notification Policy Status**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Descriptor</th>
<th>Private</th>
<th>Public</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<td></td>
<td>(N= 85)</td>
<td>(N= 104)</td>
<td>(N= 189)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Parental Notification Policy before October 1, 1998

| Had no policy | 58     | 68.2   | 99     | 95.2   | 157    | 83.1   |
| Had policy    | 27     | 31.8   | 5      | 4.8    | 32     | 16.9   |

Parental Notification Policy As of January 2000

| Had no policy | 19     | 22.4   | 59     | 56.7   | 78     | 41.3   |

---


Table 3 reveals the number of institutions considering adopting a parental notification policy for their institution to follow.

### Table 3

**Parental Notification Policy Status**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Descriptor</th>
<th>Private</th>
<th>Public</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(N= 85)</td>
<td>(N= 104)</td>
<td>(N= 189)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Actively Considering Adopting a Policy

| No         | 4     | 4.7    | 25     | 24.0   | 29     | 15.3   |
| Yes        | 13    | 15.3   | 34     | 32.7   | 47     | 24.9   |
| Missing    | 2     | 2.4    | 0      | 0      | 2      | 1.1    |
| Have Practice | 17   | 20.0   | 11     | 10.6   | 28     | 14.8   |
| Have Policy | 49    | 57.6   | 34     | 32.7   | 83     | 43.9   |

---

In Table 4, institutions which have parental notification policies enacted were asked what triggering event aided in the development of the parental notification policy and the methods that they use to notify parents (Palmer, et al. 2001).

Table 4

*Description of Parental Notification Policies*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Descriptor</th>
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<th>Public (n= 34)</th>
<th>Total (n= 83)</th>
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<td>%</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Most Important Factor Triggering Development of Policy</td>
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<td>Higher Education</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reauthorization Act</td>
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<td>10.2</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutional Concern about Alcohol Use</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>53.8</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>32.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pressures from Parents</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5.9</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>8.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Means of Notifying Parents</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By phone</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>8.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By letter</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>53.1</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>67.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By phone and letter</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>34.7</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>11.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By other means</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Missing</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>8.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


The Bowling Green survey also found that of the parents who have received notices from the institutions that their students attended, 72% were “very supportive”; 6.7% were “supportive,” 0.3% were “very unsupportive” and 1.1% were “somewhat unsupportive” of the institution contacting them upon their student’s violation of the alcohol and drug policy (Palmer et. al.).
The Inter-Association Task Force on Alcohol and Other Substance Abuse Issues formed a Parental Notification Task Force that came up with recommendations for institutions to use when considering a “parental notification” policy. The 2001 recommendations are as follows:

1. The goals of parental notification for your school should be clearly articulated before implementation. All community members should be made aware of these goals.

2. Parental notification should not occur until the student's avenues of appeal have been exhausted, except with cases whereby lengthy appeal delays may unnecessarily prevent timely notification.

3. When possible, students should be notified that a parent will be called and notified of an alcohol violation. Students should be given the opportunity, and encouraged, to discuss the situation with their parents before the school's notification.

4. When discussing violations, utilize terms such as "was found responsible for violations of the schools code of conduct" instead of " found guilty of crime X."

5. If an institution chooses not to implement parental notification, they need to be prepared to respond to parent’s questions regarding that position. In part, that response needs to include the school's resources that are committed to assist the student with alcohol and other drug issues.

6. When informing the campus community and parents it needs to be clearly stated that parental notification includes only violations of alcohol and other drugs, with the exception of life-threatening situations.

7. Involve key members of the campus community, including students, when contemplating a change in parent notification procedures.
8. Parental notification, if adopted, should be only one of several approaches attempting to deter student misbehavior. A comprehensive approach needs to be utilized involving education and intervention.

9. Schools should not assume that all students under the age of 21 are dependant students. Develop a method that allows the student to declare his/her status.

10. Be prepared to make exceptions. Certain situations involving the student's personal relationship with or the status of a parent (e.g. abused childhood, parent recovering from surgery) may preclude a parental notification.

11. Special consideration may be needed for international students. Some students may not have traditional family backgrounds or parents who are easily accessible. For example, international students may have a person other than a parent in the U.S. that should be the contact person. Attention should be given to a student's particular culture and whether parental notification might cause that student undo hardship.

(2001, para. 8).

The task force also recommended that institutions consider these important concepts when writing parental notification policies:

1. Is parental notification consistent with the institution's mission statement?

2. Will parental notification be an effective tool to use at your institution in assisting students?

3. Does parental notification unnecessarily interfere philosophically with your school's position on a student's right to privacy?
4. Does your school have the appropriate staff and other resources to make and respond to parent calls? If not, is the institution prepared to provide the resources necessary to respond to the needs of an expanded parental notification program? If resources are redirected from other priorities what is the cost of such a move?

5. How will parental notification change the nature of relationships between the professional staff and peer leaders (e.g. Resident Assistants, Health Advocates) with the student?

Note: This list was adapted from the report issued from the Inter-Association Task Force on Alcohol and Other Substance Abuse Issues (2001).

Institutions that have enacted parental notification policies are reporting positive results. “Institutions, including the University of Delaware, Texas A&M, Radford University, Utah State, Ohio University in Athens, and the Pennsylvania State University (Penn State), have noticed reduced rates of recidivism after they began notifying parents of violations as part of their overall alcohol and other drug prevention efforts” (Zweig & Thompson, 2001, para. 6). After the inception of the Higher Education Reauthorization Act of 1998, Ohio University conducted a pilot study in which they notified parents during the 1999-2000 school year. “Ohio University Judiciaries found that parental notification contributed to a 36% decline in alcohol and other drug offenses among first-year students during the fall and winter quarters of the 99-00 academic year” (Ohio University Judiciaries, 2003). The University of Texas A&M instituted a parental notification policy in 1999. David Parrot, Dean of Student Life at Texas A&M stated, “While I can’t say the number of first time violations has substantially dropped since the notification program began in the fall of 1999, there has been a reduction in the number of reoccurrences or
second-time violations” (Texas A&M University, 2002). Ball State University enacted a task force in 2001, which explored the possibility of enacting a parental notification policy. The task force believed that to be “consistent with the university’s mission for developing ‘civic and professional leadership’ in our students and our values of ‘integrity and social responsibility,’ it was their duty to enforce a policy that would foster a campus environment that is free of alcohol abuse and illegal drug use” (Ball State University, 2002). At the University of Delaware, the first institution to enact a parental notification policy, “the level of binge drinking was reduced from a high of 66%, to 58% after their parental notification implementation” stated, Timothy Brooks, Assistant Vice President and Dean of Students (International Association of Chiefs of Police, 2000).

It is imperative for institutions of higher education to form relationships with students, but it is equally important for institutions and parents of their students to foster a relationship as well. Parental notification polices are instrumental ways for relationships to grow after the parent orientation is over.

“One dominant stance views parental notification as an opportunity to collaborate with parents to engage students in conversations about alcohol and drugs. This solution produces many healthy and engaging side effects, including the following: aligning the university, the parent and the student in a manner that can produce educational benefits for all three; bringing the knowledge and expertise to the university, the parenting skills of the parent and the inherent need of the student to have a family support system to bear on the problem of underage alcohol and drug consumption; creating opportunity for parents to engage their
student in meaningful dialog about alcohol and drugs; and, creating another channel of communication between the parent and the university that often generates good will for the university…. Partnering with parents … if done well the university-parent-student partnership can facilitate the student experience and assist the student and parent as they change their relationship from the parent-offspring dynamic to the adult-adult dynamic” (Parrott & Kibler, 2002, para.11).

Through further investigation of parental perceptions of underage alcohol use and their views on parental notification, researchers will acquire a deeper understanding and context of the issue of parental notification and its affects on institutions.
CHAPTER 3

PROCEDURES FOR THE COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS OF DATA

Introduction

This study examined the perceptions of parents of postsecondary students of underage alcohol offenses and the perceptions of parents of postsecondary students regarding parental notification policies in higher education.

Population of Study

The population consisted of the parents and legal guardians of freshmen (ages 17-19) who attended the University of North Texas Parent Orientation sessions on July 11, July 15, July 18, July 22, and July 25, 2002. The attendance of the entire parent orientation program included 800 parents. The parents attending these sessions were parents of incoming traditional age freshmen (ages 17-19).

Instrumentation

The study employed a researcher-constructed questionnaire based on the literature and policies reviewed. The instrument consisted of a demographic section, and 20 additional questions, which are divided into three sections. All twenty questions were dichotomous (Appendix A).

Section I of Parental Perceptions of Underage Alcohol Use and Parental Notification

This section contained questions concerning demographic information pertaining to
gender, ethnicity, age, parental status, and college order of current freshman. The data collected from this section provided insights into the similarities and differences among parental responses in relation to other parents in their age bracket, ethnicity, parental status, and college order of current freshman.

Section II of Parental Perceptions of Underage Alcohol Use and Parental Notification

The participants answered all ten questions in section II with yes or no responses. The “yes” responses to questions 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 were weighted with a value of “one.” The “no” responses to these questions were weighted with the value of “zero.” The “yes” responses to questions 1, 9, and 10 were weighted with a value of “zero.” The “no” responses in these questions were weighted with a value of “one.”

Section III of Parental Perceptions of Underage Alcohol Use and Parental Notification

The third section contained eight dichotomous questions in which participants’ responses were either “yes” or “no.” The “yes” responses for questions 11-18 received a value of “one.” The “no” responses for these questions received a value of “zero.” The “yes” responses to question 17 received the value of “zero.” The “no” responses to this question received a value of “one.”

Research Design

The first step in collecting the data was the construction of the questionnaire. The instrument, *Parental Perceptions of Underage Alcohol Use and Parental Notification*, consisted of demographic questions and 20 items divided into four sections: “Parental Demographics”, “Perceptions of Alcohol Use by Underage College Students”, “The University and the Right to Parental Notification” and “Financial Responsibility”. The questions under the section of demographics consisted of gender, ethnicity, age, parental status, and college order of current
freshman student. The questions under the section of perceptions of alcohol use by underage college students were formulated from the review of the literature. The questions under the section on the University and the right to parental notification was formulated from information gathered by a review of the literature and from a review of the policies and procedures of various institutions of higher education. The questions under the section of financial responsibility were formulated from a review of the literature.

The second step was to submit a preliminary draft of the questionnaire to a jury of ten professionals who were members of the national organization of the Association for Student Judicial Affairs (ASJA). These professionals were asked to evaluate the clarity and coverage of the instrument and thus established face validity and reliability. The members of ASJA were utilized to review the first draft instrument to determine false face validity and internal consistency of the questions. Suggestions for revisions were incorporated into the second draft of the instrument and then were returned to the ASJA members for further critique. The final instrument utilized was derived from the comments received by the ASJA members to the second draft.

Approval for the study was obtained from the University of North Texas (UNT) Institutional Review Board by submitting the instrument and a cover letter for consent to administer the study (Appendix B).

The finalized questionnaire was distributed at the Parent Orientation sessions at the University of North Texas. The survey contained a cover letter where the parent or legal guardian provided their consent for their responses to be utilized in the study (Appendix C).
Procedures for the Collection of Data

Approval for the study was obtained from the University of North Texas Institutional Research Board. The Parent Orientation Office within the Division of Student Development at the University of North Texas approved distribution of the questionnaire during Parent Orientation. Each parent or legal guardian of the traditional age freshmen students received a copy of the questionnaire during the Parent Orientation morning session on July 11, July 15, July 18, July 22, and July 25, 2002.

Data Analysis

The research questions soliciting demographic information were reported first, followed by an analysis of the questions on the instrument related to the research questions. Each survey item was assigned a numerical value with resulting data being both nominal and ordinal in design. Demographic data and response data for each question were entered into a computer using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) 10.0 for Windows to set up a database and analyze the data. The calculations used in this study are the chi-square test of independence. Chi-square test of independence tests for associations between two variables of nominal data. This method of statistical analysis was used to assist the investigator in finding out if there are relationships between any of the two characteristics in the study. The chi-square test of independence tests for significance in which the hypothesis test answers the question of whether an observed difference is what is expected under a specified model is genuine or if it is due to chance (Henkel, 1976).

The analysis of the questions on the instrument related to each of the research questions is specified below:
Research Question 1: What are the perceptions of parents of postsecondary education students concerning parental notification?

Questions 11-18 addressed the first research question regarding the perceptions of parents of postsecondary education students concerning parental notification. The value of each of these questions was totaled for data concerning the first research question.

Research Question 2: What are the perceptions of parents of postsecondary education students concerning underage alcohol offenses?

Questions 1-10 addressed the second research question regarding the perceptions of parents of postsecondary education students concerning underage alcohol offenses. The value of these questions was totaled for data concerning the second research question.

Research Question 3: What are the perceptions of parents, stratified according to gender, of postsecondary education students concerning parental notification?

A chi-square test of independence determined if there were significant associations between gender and questions 11-18 concerning parental notification.

Research Question 4: What are the perceptions of parents, stratified according to gender, of postsecondary education students concerning underage alcohol offenses?

A chi-square test of independence determined if there were significant associations between gender and questions 1-10 concerning underage alcohol offenses.

Research Question 5: What are the perceptions of parents, stratified according to ethnicity, of postsecondary education students concerning parental notification?

A chi-square test of independence determined if there were significant associations between ethnicity and questions 11-18 concerning parental notification.
Research Question 6: What are the perceptions of parents, stratified according to ethnicity, of postsecondary education students concerning underage alcohol offenses?

A chi-square test of independence determined if there were significant associations between ethnicity and questions 1-10 concerning underage alcohol offenses.

Research Question 7: What are the perceptions of parents, stratified according to age, of postsecondary education students concerning parental notification?

A chi-square test of independence determined if there were significant associations between age and questions 11-18 concerning parental notification.

Research Question 8: What are the perceptions of parents, stratified according to age, of postsecondary education students concerning underage alcohol offenses?

A chi-square test of independence determined if there were significant associations between age and questions 1-10 concerning underage alcohol offenses.

Research Question 9: What are the perceptions of parents, stratified according to parental status, of postsecondary education students concerning parental notification?

A chi-square test of independence determined if there were significant associations between parental status and questions 11-18 concerning parental notification.

Research Question 10: What are the perceptions of parents, stratified according to parental status of postsecondary education students concerning underage alcohol offenses?

A chi-square test of independence determined if there were significant associations between parental status and questions 1-10 concerning underage alcohol offenses.

Research Question 11: What is the relationship between the perceptions of parents of postsecondary education students concerning underage alcohol offenses and between parental notification?
To determine the relationship between the perceptions of parents of underage alcohol offenses and their perceptions of parental notification a series of cross-tabulations and chi square tests of independence were computed comparing parental responses to their first section of the instrument, “Perceptions of Alcohol Use by Underage College Students” to the second section of the instrument, “The University and the Right to Parental Notification”. A cross-tabulation and chi square of independence were computed with question 1 and questions 11-18 to determine the relationship between parents who believed alcohol is a primary concern as their student begins college and their perceptions on parental notification. A second cross-tabulation and chi square tests of independence were computed with question 2 and questions 11-18 to determine the relationship between parents who were aware of their offspring consuming alcohol underage and their perceptions on parental notification. A third cross-tabulation and chi square tests of independence were computed with question 3 and questions 11-18 to determine the relationship between parents who believed their offspring has a problem with binge drinking and their perceptions on parental notification. A fourth cross-tabulation and chi square tests of independence were computed with question 4 and questions 11-18 to determine the relationship between parents who have purchased alcohol for underage students and their perceptions on parental notification. A fifth cross-tabulation and chi square tests of independence were computed with question 5 and questions 11-18 to determine the relationship between parents who believed alcohol as part of the family atmosphere and their perceptions on parental notification. A sixth cross-tabulation and chi square tests of independence were computed with question 6 and questions 11-18 to determine the relationship between parents who believed their offspring would experiment with alcohol the first year of college and their perceptions on parental notification. A seventh cross-tabulation and chi square tests of independence were
computed with question 7 and questions 11-18 to determine the relationship between parents who believed drinking alcohol is part of the “fitting in” process the first year of college and their perceptions of parental notification. An eighth cross-tabulation and chi square tests of independence were computed with question 8 and questions 11-18 to determine the relationship between parents who believed their offspring will consume alcohol to relieve stress and their perceptions on parental notification. A ninth cross-tabulation and chi square tests of independence were computed with question 9 and questions 11-18 to determine the relationship between parents who have discussed underage drinking with their offspring and their perceptions of parental notification. A tenth cross-tabulation and chi square tests of independence were computed with question 10 and questions 11-18 to determine the relationship between parents who believed their offspring will choose studying over going to a party and their perceptions on parental notification.
CHAPTER 4

PRESENTATION OF FINDINGS

This chapter presents the results of the analysis of the data collected during the time of the study. In the first section are the demographic characteristics of the 539 parents who participated in the research. The second section contains the results of the surveys in relation to each question on the instrument. The third section contains the correlations and cross-tabulations of the questions from section two on the instrument, Parental Perceptions of Underage Alcohol Use and Parental Notification, with the questions from section three of the instrument.

Sample

A total of 778 parents attended the morning session on the second day of orientation for five sessions. Of the 778 parents, 539 chose to complete the instrument for a 69.3% response rate.

The demographics of the participants were as follows:

Gender

Of the 539 participants reporting gender, 65.1% were female; 34.7% were male. See Table 5.

Table 5

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>351</td>
<td>65.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>187</td>
<td>34.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>538</td>
<td>99.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ethnicity

Of the 533 respondents, 447 indicated they were Caucasian (82.9%). Other ethnicities reported in the study included 7.4% African-American, 5.9% Hispanic, 1.7% Native Americans, 0.6% Asian American, and 0.4% Multiracial. See Table 6.

Table 6

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>African-American</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>7.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caucasian</td>
<td>447</td>
<td>82.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>5.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native American</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian American</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiracial</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>533</td>
<td>98.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Age

Participants ages 46-56 accounted for 290 respondents (53.8%). The age distribution of the participants was ages 35 and under (17) 3.2%, ages 36-45 (213) 39.5%, ages 46-56 (290) 53.8%, 57 and over (17) 3.2%. See Table 7.

Table 7

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>35 and under</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36- 45</td>
<td>213</td>
<td>39.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46- 56</td>
<td>290</td>
<td>53.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>57 and over</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>537</td>
<td>99.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Parental Status

The distribution regarding the parental status of the participants was birth parent (506) 93.9%, stepparent (14) 2.6%, legal guardian (6) 1.1%, and adoptive parent (6) 1.1%. See Table 8.

Table 8

*Parental Status*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parental Status</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Birth Parents</td>
<td>506</td>
<td>93.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stepparent</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>2.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guardian</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adoptive Parent</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>532</strong></td>
<td><strong>98.7</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Current Student’s College Order

For the majority of the parents participating in the research, the offspring in the study were their first to attend college. The distribution of the current student’s college order was first to attend (325) 60.3%, middle to attend (72) 13.4%, last to attend (104) 19.3% and only one to attend (32) 5.9%. See Table 9.

Table 9

*Current Student’s College Order*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College Order</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First to Attend</td>
<td>325</td>
<td>60.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle to Attend</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>13.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last to Attend</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>19.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Only to Attend</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>5.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>533</strong></td>
<td><strong>98.9</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Research Questions

**Research Question 1**: What are the perceptions of parents of postsecondary education students concerning parental notification?
Questionnaire items 11-18 of the Parental Perceptions of Underage Alcohol Use and Parental Notification instrument address the first research question.

Question 11 asked, “Do you believe if your student is caught drinking underage by the University staff you should be notified?” Of the 527 parents who answered this question, 458 (85%) believed the University should notify them if their student is caught drinking underage. Sixty-nine participants believed they do not have to be notified by the University if their student is caught drinking underage.

Question 12 asked, “Do you believe upon the second alcohol offense with your underage student you should be notified by the University?” Of the 530 parents who answered this question, 504 believed the University should notify them if their student is caught drinking underage a second time. This is an increase of 8.5% over the first underage alcohol violation. Twenty-six parents (4.8%) did not want to be notified upon the second alcohol violation of their underage student.

Question 13 asked, “Do you believe if your underage student is arrested for drinking underage and the university takes disciplinary action you should be notified by the University?” An overwhelming 97.6% of the 531 parents who responded to this question believed the University should contact them if their student is arrested for underage drinking. Five parents (0.9%) said they do not need to be contacted by the University if their underage student is arrested for drinking.

Question 14 asked “If your student were found violating the University alcohol policy would your student contact you about the incident.” Of the 516 responses to this question, 379 parents (70.3%) believed their student would notify them if they were found violating the alcohol
policy of the University. Of the 516 responses to this question, 137 parents (25.4%) believed their student would not notify them if caught violating the University alcohol policy.

Question 15 asked, “Do you believe if your student is being removed from University Housing due to underage alcohol consumption the University should notify you?” Of the 529 responses to this question, only one parent said they do not need to be notified by the University if their student were being removed from University Housing for underage alcohol consumption. Of the 529 parents who responded, 528 (98.0%) believed the University should notify them if their student were being removed from University Housing for underage alcohol consumption.

Question 16 asked, “Do you believe if your student is being suspended from the University due to alcohol consumption the University should notify you?” Of the 534 parents who answered this item, 531 (98.5%) parents believed the University should notify them if their student is being suspended for alcohol consumption. Three parents did not believe the University needed to notify them if their student were being suspended for alcohol consumption.

Question 17 asked, “Do you believe your student has the right to privacy as a student from you the parent when it comes to underage alcohol violations?” Of the 530 parents who responded to this question, 483 parents (89.6%) believed students do not have the right to privacy from their parents regarding underage alcohol use. Forty-two parents (7.8%) believed their students do have the right to privacy from their parents regarding underage alcohol use.

Question 18 asked, “Do you believe Universities should be required to contact parents if their underage student violates alcohol policy?” Of the 528 parents who responded to this item, 486 parents (90.2%) believed Universities should notify them when their student violates the alcohol policy. Forty-two parents (7.8%) believed the University does not have to notify parents when their students violate the alcohol policy.
Table 10 summarizes the responses from the 539 parents who completed the instrument “Parental Perceptions of Underage Alcohol Use and Parental Notification” regarding Research Question number one, questionnaire items 11-18.

Table 10

Parents Beliefs on Parental Notification for Underage Alcohol Offenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Yes Responses</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>No Responses</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11- First alcohol offense</td>
<td>458</td>
<td>85.0</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>12.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12- Second alcohol offense</td>
<td>504</td>
<td>93.5</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>4.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13- Student is arrested</td>
<td>526</td>
<td>97.6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14- Would student contact parent</td>
<td>379</td>
<td>70.3</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>26.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15- Removal from housing should be contacted</td>
<td>528</td>
<td>98.0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16- Suspension should be contacted</td>
<td>531</td>
<td>98.5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17- Student right to privacy from parent</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>8.7</td>
<td>483</td>
<td>89.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18- Should University notify parents</td>
<td>486</td>
<td>90.2</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>7.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Research Question 2: What are the perceptions of parents of postsecondary education students concerning underage alcohol offenses?

Survey items numbers 1-10 of the Parental Perceptions of Underage Alcohol Use and Parental Notification instrument address the second research question.

Question 1 asked, “Alcohol use within a University setting is a primary concern as my student begins college.” Of the 534 parents who answered this question, 313 participants (58.1%) responded that alcohol use is a primary concern as their student begins college.

Question 2 asked, “As a parent are you aware of your student consuming alcohol without your permission?” Of the 534 parents who responded to this question, 181 parents (33.6%) responded they are aware of their student consuming alcohol without their permission.

Question 3 asked, “Do you believe your student has a problem with binge drinking? (Binge drinking is four drinks for women and five drinks for men in one sitting).” Of 536 parents
who responded to this question, 14 parents (2.6%) believed their student has a problem binge drinking.

Question 4 asked, “As a parent have you ever purchased alcohol for your underage student?” Of the 536 parents who responded to this question, 49 parents (9.1%) stated they have purchased alcohol for their underage student.

Question 5 asked, “Is alcohol part of the family atmosphere in your household?” Of the 534 parents who responded to this question, 233 parents (43.2%) responded alcohol is a part of the family atmosphere in their household.

Question 6 asked, “During the first year of college do you believe your student will experiment with alcohol?” Of the 528 parents who responded to this question, 352 parents (65.3%) believed their student would experiment with alcohol the first year of college.

Question 7 asked, “Do you believe drinking is part of the social process of “fitting in” for your student in college?” Of the 526 parents who responded to this question, 160 parents (29.7%) believed consuming alcohol was part of the social process of “fitting in” for their student.

Question 8 asked, “Do you believe your student will consume alcohol to relieve stress?” Of the 527 parents who responded to this question, 52 parents (9.6%) believed their student would consume alcohol to relieve stress. Of the 527 respondents, 475 parents believed their student would not consume alcohol to relieve stress.

Question 9 asked, “Have you discussed underage drinking with your student?” Of the 531 parents who responded to this question, 505 parents (93.7%) responded they have discussed drinking with their student.
Question 10 asked, “Do you believe your student would choose studying over going to a party?” Of the 498 parents who responded to this question, 257 (47.7%) believed their students would choose to study rather than go to a party.

Table 11 summarizes the responses from the 539 parents who completed the instrument “Parental Perceptions of Underage Alcohol Use and Parental Notification” regarding Research Question 2, questionnaire items 1-10.

Table 11

Parents Beliefs on Underage Alcohol Offenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Yes Responses</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>No Responses</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1- Alcohol is primary concern for first year of college</td>
<td>313</td>
<td>58.1</td>
<td>221</td>
<td>41.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2- Aware of student consuming alcohol underage</td>
<td>181</td>
<td>33.6</td>
<td>353</td>
<td>65.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3- Student has a problem with binge drinking</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>522</td>
<td>96.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4- Parent purchased alcohol for underage student</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>9.1</td>
<td>487</td>
<td>90.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5- Alcohol is part of family atmosphere</td>
<td>233</td>
<td>43.2</td>
<td>301</td>
<td>55.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6- Belief student would experiment first year with alcohol</td>
<td>352</td>
<td>65.3</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>32.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7- Belief drinking is part of social process of “fitting in”</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>29.7</td>
<td>366</td>
<td>67.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8- Belief student would consume alcohol to relieve stress</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>9.6</td>
<td>475</td>
<td>88.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9- Discussed underage drinking with student</td>
<td>505</td>
<td>93.7</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>4.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10- Belief student would choose studying over partying</td>
<td>257</td>
<td>47.7</td>
<td>241</td>
<td>44.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Research Question 3: What are the perceptions of parents, stratified according to gender, of postsecondary education students concerning parental notification?
The chi-square tests of independence of questions 11-18 of the instrument, Parental Perceptions of Underage Alcohol Use and Parental Notification, stratified according to gender, answers Research Question 3.

The chi-square value of .78 was not statistically significant regarding questionnaire item 11, but parents, both male and female, believed it was important for the University to contact the parent when their postsecondary student was caught drinking underage on the first offense. Over 85% of male parents believed the University should contact the parents upon the first alcohol offense; 87.8% of female parents believed the university should contact the parents upon the second alcohol offense. There was no association between parents who believed it was important for the University to contact them upon their offspring’s first alcohol offense and gender.

The chi-square value of .20 was not statistically significant regarding questionnaire item 12. There was no association between parents who believed it was important for the University to contact them upon their offspring’s second alcohol offense and gender. Over 94% of the male parents believed the university should contact the parents upon the second alcohol offense; 95.4% of the female parents believed the University should contact the parents upon the second alcohol offense.

The chi-square value of .07 was not statistically significant regarding questionnaire item 13. There was no association between parents who believed it was important for the University to contact them if their offspring was arrested for underage alcohol use and gender. Over 98% of the male parents believed the University should contact the parents upon the University having knowledge of their postsecondary student being arrested for an alcohol offense; 99.1% of the female parents believed the University should contact the parents upon the University having knowledge of their postsecondary student being arrested for an alcohol offense.
The chi-square value of 4.73 was statistically significant regarding questionnaire item 14. There was an association between parents who believed their student would contact them if they violated the alcohol policy and gender. Of the male parents participated in this survey, 67.6% believed their postsecondary student would contact them if the University for underage alcohol offenses caught them; 76.5% of the female parents believed their postsecondary student would contact them if caught by the University for underage alcohol offenses.

The chi-square value of .52 was not statistically significant regarding questionnaire item 15. There was no association between parents who believed it was important for the University to contact them if their student was removed from University housing for underage alcohol use and gender. All of the male parents (100%) believed the University should contact the parents upon the postsecondary student’s removal from housing for underage alcohol offenses; 99.7% of the female parents believed the University should contact the parents upon the postsecondary student’s removal from housing for underage alcohol offenses.

The chi-square value of .00 was not statistically significant regarding questionnaire item 16. There was no association between parents who believed it was important for the University to contact them if their student was suspended from the University for underage alcohol use and gender. Of the male participants, 99.5% believed, the University should contact the parents upon the postsecondary student’s suspension from the University for underage alcohol offenses; 99.4% of the female parents believed the University should contact the parents upon the postsecondary student’s suspension from school for underage alcohol offenses.

The chi-square of .95 was not statistically significant, regarding questionnaire item 17. There was no association between parents who believed their student does not have the right to privacy from parents regarding underage alcohol offenses and gender.
The chi-square of 1.29 was not statistically significant, regarding questionnaire item 18. There was no association between parents who believed Universities should be required to contact parents if their student violates the alcohol policy and gender.

**Research Question 4:** What are the perceptions of parents, stratified according to gender, of postsecondary education students concerning underage alcohol offenses?

The chi-square tests of questions 1-10 of the instrument, Parental Perceptions of Underage Alcohol Use and Parental Notification, stratified according to gender, answers Research Question 4.

The chi-square of .34 was not statistically significant regarding questionnaire item 1. There was no association between parents who believed underage alcohol use is a primary concern as their student begins college, and gender.

The chi-square of .09 was not statistically significant regarding questionnaire item 2. There was no association between parents who were aware of their student consuming alcohol underage without permission and gender. Only 34.8% of male parents were aware of their postsecondary student consuming alcohol underage without permission and 33.5% of female parents are aware of their postsecondary student consuming alcohol underage without permission.

The chi-square of .01 was not statistically significant regarding questionnaire item 3. There was no association between parents who believed their student has a problem with binge drinking and gender. Only 2.7% of males believed their student had a problem with binge drinking and 2.6% of females believed their student had a problem with binge drinking.

The chi-square test of .09 was not statistically significant regarding questionnaire item 4. There was no association between parents who have purchased alcohol for their postsecondary
student and their gender. Only 9.7% of male parents responded they have purchased alcohol for their postsecondary student underage and 8.9% of female parents responded they have purchased alcohol for their postsecondary student underage.

The chi-square test of .52 was not statistically significant regarding questionnaire item 5. There was no association between parents who stated that alcohol was part of the family atmosphere in their household and gender. Of male respondents, 45.7% believed alcohol is part of the family atmosphere in their household; 42.4% of the female respondents believed alcohol is part of the family atmosphere in their household.

The chi-square test of .12 was not statistically significant regarding questionnaire item 6. There was no association between parents who believed that it was important for the University to contact them if their student was removed from University housing for underage alcohol use and gender.

The chi-square test of 6.94 was statistically significant regarding questionnaire item 7. There was an association between parents who believed drinking is part of the social process of “fitting in” for their student the first year of college and gender. Of the male respondents, 37.6% believed drinking is a part of the social process of “fitting in” for their student the first year of college. Of the female respondents, 26.5% believed drinking is a part of the social process of “fitting in” for their student the first year of college.

The chi-square test of 4.00 was statistically significant regarding questionnaire item 8. There was an association between parents who believed their student would consume alcohol to relieve stress and gender. Only 13.3% of the male respondents believed their student would consume alcohol to relieve stress. Only 7.8% of the female respondents believed their student would consume alcohol to relieve stress.
The chi-square test of 6.61 was statistically significant regarding questionnaire item 9. There was an association between parents who have discussed underage drinking with their student and gender. Of the male respondents, 91.8% have discussed underage drinking with their student; 96.8% of the female respondents have discussed underage drinking with their student.

The chi-square test of 1.26 was not statistically significant regarding questionnaire item 10. There was no association between parents who believed that their student would choose studying over going to a party and gender. Of the male respondents, 55.1% believed their student would choose studying over going to a party. Of the female respondents the responses were separated by one response, 49.8% believed their student would chose studying over going to a party.

Table 12

Results of Chi-Square Tests of Independence of Responses by Parents on Questionnaire Items 1-18, Stratified by Gender

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Research Question</th>
<th>Survey Item Number</th>
<th>Chi-square Value</th>
<th>Significant @ p=0.05</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Q4 1</td>
<td>.34</td>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q4 2</td>
<td>.09</td>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q4 3</td>
<td>.01</td>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q4 4</td>
<td>.09</td>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q4 5</td>
<td>.52</td>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q4 6</td>
<td>.12</td>
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**Research Question 5:** What are the perceptions of parents, stratified according to ethnicity, of postsecondary education students concerning parental notification?

The chi-square tests for questions 11-18 of the instrument, Parental Perceptions of Underage Alcohol Use and Parental Notification, stratified according to ethnicity, answers Research Question 5.

The chi-square test of 7.94 was not statistically significant regarding questionnaire item 11. There was no association between parents who believed they should be contacted upon their students’ first alcohol offense and ethnicity. According to ethnicity, the percentages of respondents who believed parents should be contacted after the first alcohol offense is the African-American respondents at 97.4%, Hispanics at 93.5%, Caucasians 85.4%, and 100% of Asian American, Multiracial and Native Americans.

The chi-square of 3.13 was not statistically significant regarding questionnaire item 12. There was no association between parents who believed they should be contacted upon their students’ second alcohol offense and ethnicity. One hundred percent of the Hispanic, Native American, Asian American, and Multiracial respondents believed the University should contact parents of students who consume alcohol underage upon the second offense. African-American (97.4%) believed the University should contact parents upon the second alcohol offense and Caucasians responded 94.5% the University should contact parents.

The chi-square of .96 was not statistically significant regarding questionnaire item 13. There are no associations between parents who believed that they should be contacted if their student is arrested for underage alcohol violations and ethnicity. Of the respondents in this survey, 100.0% of the African-Americans, Hispanic, Native Americans, and Multiracial
respondents believed the University should contact them if their student was arrested for underage alcohol offenses. In the Caucasian population of the study, 98.9% believed the University should contact them if their student is arrested for underage alcohol use.

The chi-square test of 7.54 was not statistically significant regarding questionnaire item 14. There was no association between parents who believed that their student would contact them if caught violating the alcohol policy and ethnicity. Half of the Multiracial respondents believed their student would contact them if they were caught drinking underage, 71.8% of the African-American respondents believed their students would contact them, while 71.9% of Caucasian, 87.5% of Native American, 90.3% of Hispanic and 100.0% of the Asian-American respondents believed their student would contact them if they were caught violating the alcohol policy.

The chi-square test of .19 was not statistically significant regarding questionnaire item 15. There are no associations between parents who believed the University should contact them if their student is being removed from University housing for underage alcohol use and ethnicity. One hundred percent of the African-American, Hispanic, Native American, Asian American, and Multiracial respondents believed the University should contact them if their student is being removed from housing for underage alcohol offenses. Of the Caucasian respondents, 99.8% believed the university should contact them.

Although the chi-square test of .57 was not statistically significant regarding questionnaire item 16. There are no associations between parents who believed the University should contact them if their student is being suspended from the University for underage alcohol use and ethnicity.
The chi-square test of 3.02 was not statistically significant regarding questionnaire item 17. There was no association between parents who believed that their offspring has the right to privacy from them in regards to underage alcohol offenses and ethnicity. Of the Caucasian respondents, 9.6% of the population believed their student has the right to privacy from the parent, whereas 7.7% of the African-American, 3.1% of the Hispanic, and 0.0% of the Native American, Asian American, and Multiracial respondents believed their student has the right to privacy from the parent regarding underage alcohol offenses.

Although the chi-square test of 7.33 was not statistically significant regarding questionnaire item 18, 100.0% of the African American, Hispanic, Asian American and Multiracial respondents believed the University should be required to contact parents after their student has an underage alcohol violation. The Native Americans had a response rate of 88.9%, and 91.1% of the Caucasians believed the University should be required to contact parents after their student has an underage alcohol violation. There are no associations between parents who believed Universities should be required to contact parents if their student has an underage alcohol policy and ethnicity.

**Research Question 6:** What are the perceptions of parents, stratified according to ethnicity, of postsecondary education students concerning underage alcohol offenses?

The chi-square tests of questions 1-10 of the instrument, Parental Perceptions of Underage Alcohol Use and Parental Notification, stratified according to ethnicity, answers Research Question 6.

The chi-square test of 12.56 was statistically significant regarding questionnaire item 1. There was an association between parents who were primarily concerned with the use of alcohol on campus as their student begins college and ethnicity. The Native American and the
Multiracial respondents have a 100.0% response rate to which they were primarily concerned with the use of alcohol on campus as their student begins college. The Caucasian respondents have a 55.9% response rate; the Hispanics, 62.5%; the Asian Americans, 66.7%; and of the African Americans, 73% have concerns about alcohol use on campus.

The chi-square test of 56.36 was statistically significant regarding questionnaire item 2, there was an association between parents who were aware of their student consuming alcohol underage and ethnicity. None of the Asian American respondents were aware of whether their student consuming alcohol underage or not.

The chi-square test of 10.65 was not statistically significant regarding questionnaire item 3, there was no association between parents who believed their student has a problem with binge drinking and ethnicity. None of the African American, Asian American, and Multiracial respondents believed their student has a problem with binge drinking. The largest positive response rate was for the Native Americans with 11.1%, followed by 3.1% Hispanics and 2.7% of the Caucasians who believed their student has a problem with binge drinking.

The chi-square test of 10.31 was not statistically significant regarding questionnaire item 4, there was no association between parents who had purchased alcohol for their underage student and ethnicity. The only respondents who had purchased alcohol for their underage student were Caucasian respondents at 11.0%. All other ethnicities responded they have not purchased alcohol for their underage student.

The chi-square test of 28.37 was statistically significant regarding questionnaire item 5, there was an association between parents who stated alcohol is part of the family atmosphere in their household and ethnicity. The largest ethnic population in which alcohol is part of the household atmosphere is the Asian American respondents at 66.7%, followed by the Caucasians
(47.6%), Hispanic (34.4%), Native American (22.2%), and African American (7.7%). The only ethnicity to have a zero response rate was the Multiracial.

The chi-square test of 20.81 was statistically significant regarding questionnaire item 6, there was an association between parents who believed their student would experiment with alcohol the first year of college and ethnicity. Among the Native American respondents 88.9% believed their postsecondary student would experiment with alcohol the first year of college followed by the Caucasians (70.1%), Hispanics (51.6%), Multiracial (50.0%), African-Americans (41.0%), and Asian Americans (33.3%).

A chi-square of 10.77 was not statistically significant regarding questionnaire item 7, there no associations were found between parents who believed drinking is part of the “fitting in” process the first year of college and ethnicity. Of the Native American respondents, 62.5% believed drinking is part of the “fitting in” process the first year of college, Asian American, 33.3%; Caucasian, 31.7%; Hispanic, 22.6%; African-American, 15.8%; and 0% for Multiracial.

The chi-square test of 7.25 was not statistically significant regarding questionnaire item 8, no associations were found between parents who believed their student would consume alcohol to relieve stress and ethnicity. Only 10% of the total respondents believed their student would consume alcohol to relieve stress: 33.3% Asian American, 12.5% Native American, 11% of Caucasian, and 5.1% of African-American. Neither the Hispanic nor the Multiracial respondents believed their student would consume alcohol to relieve stress.

The chi-square test of 6.56 was not statistically significant regarding questionnaire item 9, no associations were found between parents who have discussed underage drinking with their student and ethnicity. One hundred percent of the Native American and Multiracial respondents have discussed underage drinking with their student. Of the Hispanic respondents, 96.8% have
discussed underage drinking with their postsecondary student; Caucasian, 95.2%; African-American, 92.3%; and Asian American 66.7%.

The chi-square test of 6.68 was not statistically significant regarding questionnaire item 10, no associations were found between parents who believed their student would choose studying over going to a party and ethnicity. Of the total respondents, 51.5% believed their student would chose studying over going to a party: 100.0% Asian American, 63.3% of Hispanic, 22.2% of Native American, 50.0% of Multiracial, 51.1% of Caucasian, and 51.3% of African-American respondents believed their student would chose studying over going to a party.

Table 13

Results of Chi-Square Tests of Independence of Responses by Parents on Questionnaire Items 1-18, Stratified by Ethnicity

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Research Question 7: What are the perceptions of parents, stratified according to age, of postsecondary education students concerning parental notification?

The chi-square tests of questions 11-18 of the instrument, Parental Perceptions of Underage Alcohol Use and Parental Notification, stratified according to age, answers Research Question 7.

The chi-square test of .05 was not statistically significant regarding questionnaire item 11, no associations were found between parents who believed they should be notified after their students’ first alcohol offense and age. All four age groups responded in the 80th percentile regarding wanting to be notified upon their postsecondary student’s first alcohol offense: ages 35 and under, 88.2%; ages 36-45, 86.6%; ages 46-56, 87%; and ages 57 and over, 86.7%.

The chi-square test of 2.88 was not statistically significant regarding questionnaire item 12, no associations were found between parents who believed they should be notified after their students’ second alcohol offense and age. All age categories had high response percentages to believing they should be contacted by the university upon their student’s second alcohol violation: ages 35 and under, 88.2%; ages 36-45, 94.3%; ages 46-56, 96.2%; ages 57 and over, 93.3%.

Although the chi-square test of .33 was not statistically significant regarding questionnaire item 13, all age categories had high response rates regarding whether they should be contacted by the university upon their student’s arrest for an alcohol violation: ages 35 and under and ages 57 and over had a 100% rate. Ages 36-45 and ages 46-56 believed 99.0% that they should be contacted if their student is arrested for underage alcohol use. There are no associations between parents who believed they should be notified if their student is arrested for underage alcohol use and age.
The chi-square test of 5.98 was not statistically significant regarding questionnaire item 14 no associations were found between parents who believed their student would contact them if caught violating the University alcohol policy and age. Of the total number of respondents, 73.4% believed their student would contact them if they were caught violating the alcohol policy. Classified by age group, 82.4% of ages 35 and under, 76.5% of ages 35-45, 71.8% of ages 46-56, and 50% of ages 57 and over believed their student would contact them if caught violating the alcohol policy.

Although the chi-square test of 1.53 was not statistically significant regarding questionnaire item 15, all but one respondent (99.8%) believed that if their student is being removed from housing for an underage alcohol offense they should be contacted. There are no associations between parents who believed they should be notified after their student is being removed from University housing for underage alcohol use and age.

Although the chi-square test of .32 was not statistically significant regarding questionnaire item 16, 99.4% of the respondents believed that if their student is being suspended from the University for an underage alcohol offense, they should be contacted. There are no associations between parents who believed they should be notified after their student is being suspended from the University for underage alcohol use and age.

Although the chi-square test of 2.78 was not statistically significant, regarding questionnaire item 17, 91.1% of all respondents believed their student do not have the right to privacy from their parents regarding underage alcohol consumption. Classified by age, 88.2% respondents ages 35 and under, believed their student does not have the right to privacy from their parent; 92.3% of the respondents, ages 36 and older; 89.9% of the respondents ages 46-56; and 100% of respondents ages 57 and over. There are no associations between parents who
believed their student has the right to privacy from the parents in regards to underage alcohol violations and age.

Although the chi-square test of .27 was not statistically significant regarding questionnaire item 18, 92% of all the respondents believed the University should be required to contact parents if their student has an underage alcohol offense. Classified by age, 92.9% of the respondents ages 35 and under, 91.4% of respondents ages 36-45, 92.3% of respondents ages 46-56, and 94.1% of respondents ages 57 and over believed the University should be required to contact parents of students who have underage alcohol offenses. There are no associations between parents who believed Universities should be required to contact parents if their student violates alcohol policy and age.

**Research Question 8:** What are the perceptions of parents, stratified according to age, of postsecondary education students concerning underage alcohol offenses?

The chi-square tests of questions 1-10 of the instrument, Parental Perceptions of Underage Alcohol Use and Parental Notification, stratified according to age, answers Research Question 8.

The chi-square test of 5.34 was not statistically significant regarding questionnaire item 1 no association were found between parents who believed alcohol is a primary concern as their student enters the first year of college and age. Only 58.5% of all respondents believed alcohol is a primary concern as their student enters the first year of college. Classified by age, the highest response of concern for alcohol being a primary concern as their student enters college is from ages 35 and under at 82.4%. Both category ages 36-45 and 46-56 had a 57.1% rate and 57.3% rate, respectively. Respondents of ages 57 and over had a 70.6% response rate alcohol is a primary concern as their student enters college.
The chi-square test of 1.86 was not statistically significant regarding questionnaire item 2, no associations were found between parents who are aware of their student consuming alcohol underage without permission and age. Only 33.8% of the 533 respondents are aware of their student consuming alcohol underage without permission. The highest response rate was from parents ages 46-56 at 35.3%, followed by parents ages 36-45 at 33.5%, and parents ages 35 and under and 57 and above both had a 23.5% response rate that they are aware of their student consuming alcohol underage without permission.

The chi-square test of 2.16 was not statistically significant regarding questionnaire item 3, no associations were found between parents who believed their student has a problem with binge drinking and age. Of the total respondents, only 2.6% believed their student has a problem with binge drinking. Classified by age, only parents ages 36-45 had a 1.9% positive response rate, and parents ages 46-56 responded with a 3.5% positive rate. Parents ages 35 and under and parents ages 57 and over had a 0.0% positive response rate.

The chi-square test of 2.57 was not statistically significant regarding questionnaire item 4 no associations were found between parents who stated that they had purchased alcohol for their underage student and age. Only 9.2% of all the respondents stated they have purchased alcohol for their underage students. Classified by age, 17.6% parents 35 and under have purchased alcohol for their underage student, followed by 10.4% of parents ages 36-45, 8.0% of parents ages 46-56 and 5.9% of parents ages 57 and above.

The chi-square test of 1.96 was not statistically significant regarding questionnaire item 5, no association were found between parents who stated alcohol is part of the family atmosphere in their household and age. Of the total respondents according to age, 43.7% stated alcohol is part of the family atmosphere in their household. Classified by age the highest positive response
rate was from parents ages 35 and under at 58.8%, followed by parents ages 46-56 at 45.6%, parents ages 57 and over at 41.2% and parents ages 36-45 at 40.1%.

Although the chi-square test was not statistically significant, regarding questionnaire item 6, 66.6% of the responding parents believed their student would experiment with alcohol during the first year of college. No associations were found between parents who believed their student would experiment with alcohol the first year of college and age.

The chi-square of 11.23 was statistically significant regarding questionnaire item 7. There was an association between parents who believed consuming alcohol is part of the social process of fitting in and age. Only 30.5% of the total respondents believed consuming alcohol underage are part of the social process of fitting in. According to age the highest positive response rate was from parents ages 35 and under at 52.9% who believed consuming alcohol underage is part of the process of “fitting in”. Parents ages 46-56 had a 33.7% positive response rate followed by parents ages 36-45 at 25.7% and parents 57 and over at 7.1% who believed consuming alcohol underage is part of the social process of fitting in.

The chi-square of 8.59 was statistically significant regarding questionnaire item 8. There was an association between parents who believed their student would consume alcohol to relieve stress and age. Only 9.9% of the total respondents believed their student would consume alcohol to relieve stress. The highest positive response rate was from parents’ age’s 46-56 at 13.2% who believed their students would consume alcohol to relieve stress. Parents ages 35 and under and ages 36-46 had a 6.3% response rate followed by parents ages 57 and over at 0.0% who believed their student would consume alcohol to relieve stress.

Although the chi-square test of 2.38 was not statistically significant regarding questionnaire item 9, 95.1% of all the parent respondents stated that they had discussed underage
drinking with their student. The highest positive response rate came from parents ages 36-45 with 96.2%, followed by parents ages 46-56 with 94.8%, parents ages 57 and over with 93.3%, and parents 35 and under with 88.2% who had discussed underage alcohol consumption with their student. There are no associations between parents who had discussed underage drinking with their student and age.

The chi-square test of 3.12 was not statistically significant regarding questionnaire item 10, no associations were found between parents who believed their student would choose studying over going to a party and age. The majority of respondents 51.5% responded they believed their student would choose studying over going to a party.

Table 14

Results of Chi-Square Tests of Independence of Responses By Parents on Questionnaire Items 1-18, Stratified by Age

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Research Question 9: What are the perceptions of parents, stratified according to parental status, of postsecondary education students concerning parental notification?

The chi-square tests of questions 11-18 on the instrument, Parental Perceptions of Underage Alcohol Use and Parental Notification, stratified according to parental status, answers Research Question 9.

The chi-square test of 2.93 was not statistically significant regarding questionnaire item 11, no associations were found between parents who believed they should be contacted upon their students’ first alcohol offense and parental status. One hundred percent of the adoptive parents and legal guardians believed they should be contacted upon their student’s first alcohol offense. Of the 497 birth parents who responded, 86.7% believed they should be contacted upon their student’s first alcohol offense and 76.9% of stepparents believed they should be contacted.

Although the chi-square test of 1.37 was not statistically significant regarding questionnaire item 12, 95% of all parents who responded believed the University should notify them upon their student’s second alcohol violation. One hundred percent of stepparents, adoptive parents, and legal guardians responded that they should be notified by the University upon their student’s second alcohol offense. Of the 500 birth parents who responded, 94.8% stated that they should be notified if their student has a second alcohol violation at the University. There are no associations between parents who believed they should be contacted upon their students’ second alcohol offense and parental status.

Although the chi-square test of .252 was not statistically significant regarding questionnaire item 13, 99% of all respondents stated they should be notified if their student was arrested for underage alcohol offenses. Of the 526 respondents, 100% of all the stepparents, adoptive parents, and legal guardians want to be notified if their student is arrested for an
underage alcohol offense. There are no associations between parents who believed they should be contacted if their student was arrested for underage alcohol use and parental status.

The chi-square test of 2.33 was not statistically significant regarding questionnaire item 14. There was no association between parents who believed their student would contact them for violating the alcohol policy and parental status. Guardians had the highest “yes” response rate of 83.3% believing students would notify parents if they were caught violating the University alcohol policy, followed by birth parents at 73.9%, stepparents at 66.7%, and adoptive parents at 50%.

Although the chi-square test of .05 was not statistically significant regarding questionnaire item 15, 99.8% of parents who responded believed the University should notify them if their student is being removed from University housing for underage alcohol violations. One hundred percent of stepparent, guardians, and adoptive parents believed the University should contact them, whereas 99.8% of birth parents believed they should be contacted. There are no associations between parents who believed they should be contacted upon their students’ are removed from University housing for underage alcohol use and parental status.

The chi-square test of .16 was not statistically significant regarding questionnaire item 16. There are no associations between parents who believed they should be contacted upon their students’ are being suspended from school for underage alcohol use and parental status. One hundred percent of the stepparents, legal guardians and adoptive parents believed the University should contact them if their student is being suspended from the University for underage alcohol offenses. The birth parent response rate was 99.4% who believed they should be notified.

The chi-square test of 5.15 was not statistically significant regarding questionnaire item 17. There was no association between parents who believed their student has the right to privacy
from them regarding underage alcohol use and parental status. One hundred percent of adoptive parents responded that they do not believe their student has the right to privacy from them, the parent, regarding underage alcohol offenses, followed by 92.9% of stepparent respondents, 91.4% of birth parents and 66.7% of legal guardians.

The chi-square test of .99 was not statistically significant regarding questionnaire item 18. There was no association between parents who believed Universities should be required to contact parents if their student was caught violating alcohol policies and parental status. Ninety-two percent of the parent respondents believed the University should be required to contact parents of students who have underage alcohol offenses. Stratified by parental status, 100% of legal guardians and adoptive parents believed the University should be required to contact parents of students who have underage alcohol offenses; 92.3% of stepparents, and 91.8% of birth parents believed the University should be required to contact parents of students with underage alcohol offenses.

Research Question 10: What are the perceptions of parents, stratified according to parental status, of postsecondary education students concerning underage alcohol offenses?

The chi-square tests of questions 1-10 of the instrument, Parental Perceptions of Underage Alcohol Use and Parental Notification, stratified according to parental status, answers Research Question 10.

The chi-square test 1.33 was not statistically significant regarding questionnaire item 1, no associations were found between parents who believed alcohol is a primary concern as their student enters college and parental status. The majority of the parent respondents, (58.6%) stated alcohol is a primary concern as their student enters college. Both guardians and adoptive parents
stated alcohol is a primary concern at 66.7%, followed by birth parents at 58.1% and stepparents at 71.4%.

The chi-square test of .02 was not statistically significant regarding questionnaire item 2. There was no association between parents who were aware of their student consuming alcohol underage without their permission and parental status. Only 34% of the total respondents, stratified by parental status, are aware of their student consuming alcohol underage. The highest rate of parental respondents aware of underage alcohol consumption is the stepparents at 35.7%, followed by birth parents at 34%, and guardian and adoptive parents at 33.3%.

The chi-square test of .74 was not statistically significant regarding questionnaire item 3. There was no association between parents who believed their student had a problem with binge drinking and parental status. A total of 2.6% of respondents, stratified by parental status, believed their student has a problem with binge drinking. The highest response rate is the birth parent at 2.8% responding their student has a problem with binge drinking. None of the respondents in the stepparent, legal guardian, or adoptive parent classification believed their student has a problem with binge drinking.

The chi-square test of 1.44 was not statistically significant regarding questionnaire item 4. There was no association between parents who had purchased alcohol for their underage student and parental status. Only 9.2% of the total parent respondents stratified by parental status stated they had purchased alcohol for their underage student. The highest response rate was from the adoptive parent respondents at 16.7%, followed by stepparent respondents at 14.3%, birth parents at 9.1%, and 0.0% of legal guardians stating they had purchased alcohol for their underage student.
The chi-square test of 5.98 was not statistically significant regarding questionnaire item 5. There was no association between parents who stated alcohol is part of the family atmosphere in their household and parental status. Only 43.9% of the total parent respondents stratified by parental status stated alcohol is part of the family atmosphere in their household. The largest “yes” response rate was from the stepparent respondents at 64.3%, followed by birth parents at 43.9% and legal guardians and adoptive parents at 16.7%.

The chi-square test of 5.06 was not statistically significant regarding questionnaire item 6, no associations were found between parents who believed their student would experiment with alcohol during the first year of college and parental status. The stepparent respondents had the highest “yes” response rate of 92.3% that believed their student would experiment with alcohol the first year of school, followed by 80% of adoptive parents, 66.1% of birth parents and 50% of legal guardians who believed their student would experiment with alcohol the first year of school.

The chi-square test of .07 was not statistically significant regarding questionnaire item 7. There was no association between parents who believed drinking alcohol was part of the social process of “fitting in” and parental status. Of the total respondents stratified by parental status only 30.7% believed drinking alcohol is part of the social process of “fitting in.” The stepparent respondents had the highest response rate of 41.7% who believed consuming alcohol is part of the social process of “fitting in.” Legal guardians and adoptive parents both responded with 33.3% and birth parents 30.4% who believed consuming alcohol is part of the social process of fitting in.

The chi-square test of 4.52 was not statistically significant regarding questionnaire item 8, no associations were found between parents who believed their student would consume
alcohol to relieve stress and parental status. The legal guardians had the highest “yes” response rate at 33.3% who believed their student would consume alcohol to relieve stress, followed by adoptive parents at 16.7%, stepparents at 15.4%, and birth parents at 9.5%. The overall response rate of 10.0%, when stratified by parental status, believed their student would consume alcohol to relieve stress.

Although the chi-square test of 1.36 was not statistically significant, regarding questionnaire item 9, 95.1% of all parent respondents stated that they have discussed underage drinking with their student. One hundred percent of stepparents, legal guardians, and adoptive parents responded they have discussed underage drinking with their student. The birth parent response rate was 94.8% have discussed underage drinking with their student. There was no association between parents who have discussed underage drinking with their student and parental status.

The chi-square test of 47.22 was statistically significant regarding questionnaire item 10. There was an association between parents who stated their student would choose studying over going to a party and parental status. The majority of the parent respondents, 51.7%, believed their student would choose studying over going to a party. The highest response rate is from the adoptive parents at 66.7%, followed by birth parents at 51.8%, stepparents at 50.0% and legal guardians at 33.3%.
Table 15

Results of Chi-Square Tests of Independence of Responses by Parents on Questionnaire Items 1-18, Stratified by Parental Status

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Research Question 11: What is the relationship between the perceptions of parents of postsecondary education students concerning underage alcohol offenses and parental notification?

To determine the relationship between the perceptions of parents of underage alcohol offenses and parental notification a series of cross-tabulations and chi-square tests have been computed to compare parental responses to their first section of the instrument, “Perceptions of
Alcohol Use by Underage College Students” to the second section of the instrument, “The University and the Right to Parental Notification”. The first cross-tabulation and chi-square test were computed with question one and questions 11-18 of the instrument to determine the relationship between parents who believed alcohol is a primary concern as their student begins college and their perceptions on parental notification.

Question 1 asked, “Alcohol use within a University setting is a primary concern as my student begins college.” Question 11 asked, “Do you believe if your student is caught drinking underage by the University staff you should be notified?” Of the 279 parents who believed alcohol use is a primary concern as their student enters college also believed if their student is caught drinking underage by the University they should be notified. Twenty-five of the parents who stated alcohol use is a primary concern stated if their student is caught drinking underage by the University they did not have to be notified by the University. The chi-square test of 15.83 was statistically significant and there was an association between parents who stated alcohol is a primary concern as their student enters college and wanting to be notified by the University.

Comparing the responses of question 1 to question 12, which asked, “Do you believe upon the second alcohol offense with your underage student you should be notified by the University?”, of the 522 respondents, 299 parents believed alcohol use is a primary concern as their student enters college and they believed if their student is caught drinking underage by the University on the second offense they should be contacted. Six parents believed alcohol use is a primary concern as their student enters college and they believed if their student is caught drinking underage by the University on the second offense they do not need to be contacted. The chi-square test of 13.78 was statistically significant. There was an association between parents who believed alcohol use is a primary concern as their student enters college and parents who
believed if their student was caught drinking underage by the University on the second offense they need to be contacted.

Comparing the responses of question 1 to question 13, which asked, “Do you believe if your underage student is arrested for drinking underage and the University takes disciplinary action you should be notified by the University?” Of the 525 respondents, 305 parents believed alcohol use is a primary concern as their student enters college and they believed that if their underage student is arrested for drinking and the University takes disciplinary action, the University should notify them. Only one parent who stated alcohol is a primary concern as their student enters college said if their student is arrested for drinking and the University takes disciplinary action, the parent does not need to be notified by the university. The chi-square test of 12.60 was statistically significant and no associations were found.

Comparing the responses of question 1 to question 14, which asked, “If your student was found violating the University alcohol policy would your student contact you about the incident?”, of the 511 respondents, 206 parents who believed alcohol use is a primary concern as their student enters college also believed their student, if found violating the University alcohol policy would contact them about the incident. Eighty-nine of the parents who believed alcohol use is a primary concern as their student enters college believed their student would not contact them if they were found violating the alcohol policy by the University. The chi-square test of 4.52 was statistically significant and no associations were found.

Comparing the responses of question 1 to question 15, which asked, “Do you believed if your student is being removed from University housing due to underage alcohol consumption the University should notify you?”, of the 524 respondents, 305 parents who believed alcohol use is primary concern as their student enters college also believed if their student was being removed
from University housing due to underage alcohol consumption the University should notify
them. The chi-square test of 1.40 was not statistically significant and no associations were found.

Comparing the responses of question 1 to question 16, which asked, “Do you believe if
your student is being suspended from the University due to alcohol consumption the University
should notify you?”, of the 529 respondents, 310 parents who believed alcohol use is primary
concern as their student enters college also believed that if their student is being suspended from
the University due to underage alcohol consumption, the University should notify them. One
respondent believed alcohol use is primary concern as their student enters college, but did not
believe that if their student is suspended from the university for underage alcohol use this parent
did not need to be notified. The chi-square test of 0.08 was not statistically significant. There was
no association between parents who believed alcohol was a primary concern as their student
entered college and parents who believed they should be contacted if their student is suspended
from the University for underage alcohol use.

Comparing the responses of question 1 to question 17, which asked, “Do you believe
your student has the right to privacy as a student, from you the parent when in comes to underage
alcohol violations?” Of the 525 respondents, 24 parents believe alcohol use is a primary concern
as their student enters college and their student has a right to privacy from the parent regarding
underage alcohol violations. A total of 285 parents believed alcohol use is a primary concern as
their student enters college but they did not believe their student has a right to privacy from the
parent regarding underage alcohol violations. The chi-square test of 1.29 was not statistically
significant. There was no association between parents who believed alcohol is a primary concern
as their student enters college and parents who stated their students had a right to privacy from
them regarding underage alcohol violations.
Comparing the responses of question 1 to question 18, which asked, “Do you believe Universities should be required to contact parents if their underage student violates alcohol policy?”, of the 523 respondents, 293 parents believed alcohol use is a primary concern as their student enters college, and they believed Universities should be required to contact parents if their underage student violates the alcohol policy. Sixteen parents believed alcohol use is a primary concern as their student enters college, but they believed Universities do not need to contact parents if their underage student violates the alcohol policy. The chi-square test of 8.32 was statistically significant. There was an association between parents who believed alcohol is a primary concern as their student enters college and parents who believed Universities need to contact parents if their underage student is caught violating the alcohol policy.

Question 2 asked, “As a parent are you aware of your student consuming alcohol without your permission?” Question 11 asked, “Do you believe if your student is caught drinking underage by the University staff you should be notified?” Of the respondents, 154 parents were aware of their student consuming alcohol without their permission and they believed that if their student is caught drinking underage by the University they should be notified. Twenty-four of the parents stated they were aware of their student consuming alcohol without their permission, and if their student is caught drinking underage by the University they did not have to be notified by the University. The chi-square test of .05 was not statistically significant. There was no association between parents who were aware of their student consuming alcohol without their permission and parents who believed they should be contacted by the University upon the first alcohol offense.

Comparing the responses of question 2 to question 12, which asked, “Do you believe upon the second alcohol offense with your underage student you should be notified by the
University?”, of the 523 respondents, 172 parents were aware of their student consuming alcohol without their permission and they believed if their student is caught drinking underage by the University on the second offense they should be contacted. Seven parents are aware of their student consuming alcohol without their permission and they believed if their student is caught drinking underage by the University on the second offense they do not need to be contacted. The chi-square test of .62 was not statistically significant. There was no association between parents who were aware of their student consuming alcohol without their permission and parents who believed they should be contacted by the University upon the second alcohol offense.

Comparing the responses of question 2 to question 13, which asked, “Do you believe if your underage student is arrested for drinking underage and the University takes disciplinary action you should be notified by the University?”, of the 527 respondents, 179 parents were aware of their student consuming alcohol without their permission and they believed that if their underage student is arrested for drinking and the University takes disciplinary action the University should notify them. Only one parent who stated they are aware of their student consuming alcohol without their permission and if their student is arrested for drinking and the University takes disciplinary action the parent does not need to be notified by the University. The chi-square test of 0.62 was not statistically significant. There was no association between parents who were aware of their student consuming alcohol without their permission and parents who believed the University should contact them if their student is arrested for underage alcohol use.

Comparing the responses of question 2 to question 14, which asked, “If your student was found violating the University alcohol policy would your student contact you about the incident?”, of the 512 respondents, 115 parents who were aware of their student consuming alcohol without their permission also believed their student, if found violating the University
alcohol policy would contact them about the incident. Fifty-nine of the parents who are aware of their student consuming alcohol without their permission believed their student would not contact them if they were found violating the alcohol policy by the University. The chi-square test of .45 was not statistically significant and no associations were found.

Comparing the responses of question 2 to question 15, which asked, “Do you believe if your student is being removed from University housing due to underage alcohol consumption the University should notify you?”, of 525 respondents, 179 parents who were aware of their student consuming alcohol without their permission also believed if their student was being removed from University housing due to underage alcohol consumption, the University should notify them. The chi-square test of 6.88 was statistically significant.

Comparing the responses of question 2 to question 16, which asked, “Do you believe if your student is being suspended from the University due to alcohol consumption the University should notify you?”, of the 530 respondents, 310 parents who were aware of their student consuming alcohol without their permission also believed that if their student were being suspended from the University due to underage alcohol consumption the University should notify them. The chi-square test of 1.55 was not statistically significant. There was no association between parents who were aware of their student consuming alcohol without their permission and parents who believed the University should contact them if their student was being suspended from school for underage alcohol use.

Comparing the responses of question two to question 17, which asked, “Do you believe your student has the right to privacy as a student, from you the parent when in comes to underage alcohol violations?” Of 526 respondents, 16 parents were aware of their student consuming alcohol without their permission and believed their student had a right to privacy from the parent
regarding underage alcohol violations. A total of 164 parents were aware of their student consuming alcohol without their permission but they did not believe their student has a right to privacy from the parent regarding underage alcohol violations. The chi-square test of .28 was not statistically significant. There was no association between parents who were aware of their student consuming alcohol without their permission and parents who believed their student does not have a right to privacy from them regarding underage alcohol use.

Comparing the responses of question two to question 18, which asked, “Do you believe Universities should be required to contact parents if their underage student violates alcohol policy?”, of the 524 respondents, 164 parents were aware of their student consuming alcohol without their permission, and they believed Universities should be required to contact parents if their underage student violate the alcohol policy. Sixteen parent respondents were aware of their student consuming alcohol without their permission, but they believed Universities do not need to contact parents if their underage student violates the alcohol policy. The chi-square test of .28 was not statistically significant. There was no association between parents who were aware of their student consuming alcohol without their permission and parents who believed Universities should be required to contact parents if their student violates the alcohol policy.

Question 3 asked, “Do you believed your student has a problem with binge drinking?” Question 11 asked, “ Do you believe if your student is caught drinking underage by the University staff you should be notified?” Twelve parents believed their student had a problem with binge drinking, and they believed if their student were caught drinking underage by the University that they should be notified. Two of the parents who believed their student had a problem with binge drinking also stated if their student is caught drinking underage by the
University they did not have to be notified. The chi-square test of .02 was not statistically
significant and no associations were found.

Comparing the responses of question 3 to question 12, which asked, “Do you believe
upon the second alcohol offense with your underage student you should be notified by the
University?”, of the 528 respondents, 14 parents believed their student had a problem with binge
drinking and they believed if their student is caught drinking underage by the University on the
second offense they should be contacted. The chi-square test of .74 was not statistically
significant. There was no association between parents who believed their student had a problem
with binge drinking and parents who believed the University should notify them if upon their
student’s second alcohol offense.

Comparing the responses of question 3 to question 13 which asked, “Do you believe if
your underage student is arrested for drinking underage and the university takes disciplinary
action you should be notified by the University?”, of the 529 respondents, 14 believed their
student had a problem with binge drinking, and they believed that if their underage student is
arrested for drinking and the University takes disciplinary action, the University should notify
them. The chi-square test of .14 was not statistically significant. There was no association
between parents who believed their student had a problem with binge drinking and parents who
believed the University should notify them if their student is arrested for underage alcohol use.

Comparing the responses of question 3 to question 14, which asked, “If your student was
found violating the University alcohol policy would your student contact you about the
incident?”, seven parents who believed their student had a problem with binge drinking also
believed their student, if found violating the University alcohol policy, would contact them about
the incident. Six parents who believed their student had a problem with binge drinking believed
their student would not contact them if they were found violating the alcohol policy by the University. The chi-square test of 2.59 was not statistically significant and no associations were found.

Comparing the responses of question 3 to question 15, which states, “Do you believe if your student is being removed from University housing due to underage alcohol consumption the University should notify you?”, of the 528 respondents, 14 parents who believed their student had a problem with binge drinking also believed that if their student was being removed from University housing due to underage alcohol consumption the University should notify them. The chi-square test of .03 was not statistically significant and no associations were found.

Comparing the responses of question 3 to question 16 which asked, “Do you believe if your student is being suspended from the University due to alcohol consumption the University should notify you?”, of the 532 respondents, 14 parents who believed their student had a problem with binge drinking also believed that if their student is being suspended from the University due to underage alcohol consumption the University should notify them. The chi-square test of .08 was not statistically significant and no associations were found.

Comparing the responses of question 3 to question 17, which asked, “Do you believe your student has the right to privacy as a student, from you the parent when it comes to underage alcohol violations?”, of the 528 respondents, four believed their student had a problem with binge drinking and their student had a right to privacy from the parent regarding underage alcohol violations. Ten parents believed their student had a problem with binge drinking, but they do not believed their student had a right to privacy from the parent regarding underage alcohol violations. The chi-square test of 6.86 was statistically significant. There was an
association between parents who believe their offspring has a problem with binge drinking and those who believe their student has the right to privacy from them.

Comparing the responses of question 3 to question 18, which asked, “Do you believe Universities should be required to contact parents if their underage student violates alcohol policy?”, of the 526 respondents, 13 believed their student had a problem with binge drinking, and they believed Universities should be required to contact parents if their underage student violates the alcohol policy. One parent believed their student has a problem with binge drinking, but they believed Universities do not need to be required to contact parents if their underage student violates the alcohol policy. The chi-square test of .01 was not statistically significant and no associations were found between the two questions.

Question 4 asked, “As a parent have you ever purchased alcohol for your underage student? Question 11 asked, “Do you believe if your student is caught drinking underage by the University staff you should be notified?”, 39 parents who had purchased alcohol for their underage student believed if their student is caught drinking underage by the University they should be notified. Ten of the parents who had purchased alcohol for their underage student stated that if their student was caught drinking, underage by the University they did not have to be notified. The chi-square test of 2.66 was not statistically significant and no associations were found between the two questions.

Comparing the responses of question 4 to question 12, which asked, “Do you believe upon the second alcohol offense with your underage student you should be notified by the University?”, of the 528 respondents, 46 parents who had purchased alcohol for their underage student believed that if their student were caught drinking underage by the University on the second offense they should be contacted. Three parent respondents who had purchased alcohol
for their underage student believed that if their student is caught drinking underage by the University on the second offense they do not need to be contacted. The chi-square test of .23 was not statistically significant and no associations were found between the two questions.

Comparing the responses of question 4 to question 13 which asked, “Do you believed if your underage student is arrested for drinking underage and the university takes disciplinary action you should be notified by the University?”, of the 529 respondents, 47 parents who had purchased alcohol for their underage student and they believed that if their underage student is arrested for drinking and the University takes disciplinary action, the University should notify them. Only two parents who had purchased alcohol for their underage student, and believed if their student is arrested for drinking and the University takes disciplinary action, the parent does not need to be notified by the University. The chi-square test of 5.67 was statistically significant. There was an association between parents who have purchased alcohol for their underage student and parents who want to be notified if their student is arrested for drinking.

Comparing the responses of question 4 to question 14, which asked, “If your student was found violating the University alcohol policy would your student contact you about the incident?”, of the 515 respondents, 42 parents who had purchased alcohol for their underage student also believed their student, if found violating the University alcohol policy would contact them about the incident. Six of the parents who had purchased alcohol for their underage student believed their student would not contact them if they were found violating the alcohol policy by the University. The chi-square test of 5.27 was statistically significant. There was an association between parents who purchase alcohol for their underage student and parents who believe their student would contact them if caught violating the University alcohol policy.
Comparing the responses of question 4 to question 15, which asked, “Do you believe if your student is being removed from University housing due to underage alcohol consumption the University should notify you?”, of the 527 respondents, 49 parents who had purchased alcohol for their underage student also believed that if their student was being removed from University housing due to underage alcohol consumption the University should notify them. The chi-square test of .10 was not statistically significant and no associations were found between the two questions.

Comparing the responses of question 4 to question 16 which asked, “Do you believe if your student is being suspended from the University due to alcohol consumption the University should notify you?”, of the 532 respondents, 310 parents who had purchased alcohol for their underage student believed that if their student is being suspended from the University due to underage alcohol consumption, the University should notify them. One parent who had purchased alcohol for his underage student, but did not believe that if their student is being suspended from the University for underage alcohol use this parent needed to be notified. The chi-square test of 2.17 was not statistically significant and no associations were found between the two questions.

Comparing the responses of question 4 to question 17, which asked, “Do you believe your student has the right to privacy as a student, from you the parent when in comes to underage alcohol violations?”, 5 parents who had purchased alcohol for their underage student believed their student had a right to privacy from the parent regarding underage alcohol violations. Forty parents who had purchased alcohol for their underage student, did not believe their student has a right to privacy from the parent regarding underage alcohol violations. The chi-square test of .30 was not statistically significant and no associations were found between the two questions.
Comparing the responses of question 4 to question 18, which states, “Do you believe Universities should be required to contact parents if their underage student violates alcohol policy?” Of the 526 respondents, 42 parents who had purchased alcohol for their underage student believed Universities should be required to contact parents if their underage student violates the alcohol policy. Four parents who had purchased alcohol for their underage student believed Universities do not need to contact parents if their underage student violates the alcohol policy. The chi-square test of .06 was not statistically significant and no associations were found between the two questions.

Question 5 asked, “Is alcohol use part of the family atmosphere in your household?” Question 11 asked, “Do you believe if your student is caught drinking underage by the University staff you should be notified?”, of the respondents, 193 parents stated alcohol use is part of the family atmosphere in their household and they believed that if their student were caught drinking underage by the University they should be notified. Thirty-six of the parents who stated that alcohol use is part of the family atmosphere in their household also stated that if their student were caught drinking underage by the University they did not have to be notified. The chi-square test of 2.32 was not statistically significant and no associations were found between the two questions.

Comparing the responses of question 5 to question 12, which asked, “Do you believe upon the second alcohol offense with your underage student you should be notified by the University?”, of the 527 respondents, 221 stated alcohol use is part of the family atmosphere in their household and they believed that if their student were caught drinking underage by the University on the second offense, they should be contacted. Eleven parents stated alcohol use is part of the family atmosphere in their household, and they believed if their student is caught
drinking underage by the University on the second offense they do not need to be contacted. The chi-square test of .03 was not statistically significant and no associations were found between the two questions.

Comparing the responses of question 5 to question 13, which asked, “Do you believe if your underage student is arrested for drinking underage and the University takes disciplinary action you should be notified by the University?”, 232 parents stated alcohol use is part of the family atmosphere in their household and they believed that if their underage student is arrested for drinking and the University takes disciplinary action, the University should notify them. The chi-square test of 3.96 was statistically significant and no associations were found between the two questions.

Comparing the responses of question 5 to question 14, which asked, “If your student was found violating the University alcohol policy would your student contact you about the incident?”, 166 parents stated alcohol use is part of the family atmosphere in their household also believed their student, if found violating the University alcohol policy, would contact them about the incident. Sixty of the parents who stated alcohol use is part of the family atmosphere in their household believed their student would not contact them if they were found violating the alcohol policy by the University. The chi-square test of .00 was not statistically significant and no associations were found between the two questions.

Comparing the responses of question 5 to question 15, which asked, “Do you believe if your student is being removed from University housing due to underage alcohol consumption the University should notify you?”, 232 parents who stated alcohol use is part of the family atmosphere in their household also believed if their student was being removed from University housing due to underage alcohol consumption the University should notify them. The chi-square
test of .79 was not statistically significant and no associations were found between the two questions.

Comparing the responses of question 5 to question 16 which asked, “Do you believe if your student is being suspended from the University due to alcohol consumption the University should notify you?” 230 parents who stated alcohol use is part of the family atmosphere in their household also believed if their student is being suspended from the University due to underage alcohol consumption the University should notify them. The chi-square test of 2.31 was not statistically significant and no associations were found between the two questions.

Comparing the responses of question 5 to question 17, which asked, “Do you believe your student has the right to privacy as a student, from you the parent when in comes to underage alcohol violations?”, 23 parents stated alcohol use is part of the family atmosphere in their household and their student has a right to privacy from the parent regarding underage alcohol violations. A total of 204 parents believed alcohol use is part of the family atmosphere in their household, but they do not believed their student has a right to privacy from the parent regarding underage alcohol violations. The chi-square test of .70 was not statistically significant and no associations were found between the two questions.

Comparing the responses of question 5 to question 18, which asked, “Do you believe Universities should be required to contact parents if their underage student violates alcohol policy?”, 203 parents stated alcohol use is part of the family atmosphere in their household, and they believed Universities should be required to contact parents if their underage student violates the alcohol policy. Twenty-four parents stated alcohol use is part of the family atmosphere in their household, but they believed Universities do not need to be required to contact parents if
their underage student violates the alcohol policy. The chi-square test of 4.52 was statistically significant and no associations were found between the two questions.

Question 6 states, “During the first year of college do you believe your student will experiment with alcohol?” Question 11 asked, “Do you believe if your student is caught drinking underage by the University staff you should be notified?” A total of 292 parents believed during the first year of college their student would experiment with alcohol and they believed if their student is caught drinking underage by the University they should be notified. Fifty-six of the parents who stated during the first year of college their student would experiment with alcohol also stated if their student is caught drinking underage by the University they did not have to be notified by the University. The chi-square test of 11.24 was statistically significant. There was an association between parents who believed their student would experiment with alcohol during the first year of college and parents who believed that if their student is caught drinking underage by the University they should be notified.

Comparing the responses of question 6 to question 12, which asked, “Do you believe upon the second alcohol offense with your underage student you should be notified by the University?”, 331 parents believed during the first year of college their student would experiment with alcohol, and they believed if their student is caught drinking underage by the university on the second offense they should be contacted. Eighteen parents believed during the first year of college their student would experiment with alcohol, and they believed if their student is caught drinking underage by the University on the second offense they do not need to be contacted. The chi-square test of .36 was not statistically significant and no associations were found between the two questions.
Comparing the responses of question 6 to question 13, which asked, “Do you believe if your underage student is arrested for drinking underage and the University takes disciplinary action should be notified by the University?”, 348 parents believed during the first year of college their student would experiment with alcohol and they believed that if their underage student is arrested for drinking and the University takes disciplinary action, the University should notify them. Only two parents responded that during the first year of college their student would experiment with alcohol and if their student is arrested for drinking and the University takes disciplinary action the parent does not need to be notified. The chi-square test of .50 was not statistically significant and no associations were found between the two questions.

Comparing the responses of question 6 to question 14, which asked, “If your student was found violating the University alcohol policy would your student contact you about the incident?”, 230 parents who believed during the first year of college their student would experiment with alcohol also believed that their student, if found violating the University alcohol policy would contact them about the incident. A total of 108 of the parents who believed during the first year of college their student would experiment with alcohol also believed their student would not contact them if they were found violating the alcohol policy by the University. The chi-square test of 13.94 was statistically significant. There was an association between parents who believed during the first year of college their student would experiment with alcohol, and parents who believed their student would contact them if found violating the University alcohol policy.

Comparing the responses of question 6 to question 15, which asked, “Do you believe if your student is being removed from University housing due to underage alcohol consumption the University should notify you?”, 349 parents who believed during the first year of college their
student would experiment with alcohol also believed that if their student is being removed from University housing due to underage alcohol consumption the University should notify them. The chi-square test of 2.00 was not statistically significant and no associations were found between the two questions.

Comparing the responses of question 6 to question 16 which asked, “Do you believe if your student is being suspended from the University due to alcohol consumption the University should notify you?”, 351 parents who believed that during the first year of college their student would experiment with alcohol also believed if their student is being suspended from the University due to underage alcohol consumption the University should notify them. The chi-square test of 6.12 was statistically significant. There was an association between parents who believed their student would experiment with alcohol during the first year of college and parents who believed they should be notified if their student was being suspended from school for underage alcohol use.

Comparing the responses of question 6 to question 17, which asked, “Do you believe your student has the right to privacy as a student, from you the parent when it comes to underage alcohol violations?”, 34 parents stated that during the first year of college their student would experiment with alcohol and their student had a right to privacy from the parent regarding underage alcohol violations. A total of 313 parents believed that during the first year of college their student would experiment with alcohol, but they did not believe their student had a right to privacy from the parent regarding underage alcohol violations. The chi-square test of 1.17 was not statistically significant and no associations were found between the two items.

Comparing the responses of question 6 to question 18, which asked, “Do you believe Universities should be required to contact parents if their underage student violates alcohol
policy?”, 313 parents stated that during the first year of college their student would experiment with alcohol, and they believed Universities should be required to contact parents if their underage student violates the alcohol policy. Thirty-four parents believed during the first year of college their student would experiment with alcohol, but they believed Universities do not need to contact parents if their underage student violates the alcohol policy. The chi-square test of 5.19 was statistically significant. There was an association between parents who believed their student would experiment with alcohol during the first year of college and parents who believed Universities should be required to contact parents if their student violates the alcohol policy.

Question 7 asked, “Do you believe drinking is part of the social process of “fitting in” for your student in college?” Question 11 asked, “Do you believe if your student is caught drinking underage by the University staff you should be notified?” A total of 135 parents believed drinking is part of the social process of “fitting in” for their student in college, and they believed that if their student is caught drinking underage by the University they should be notified. Twenty-five of the parents believed drinking is part of the social process of “fitting in” for their student, but stated if their student is caught drinking underage by the University they did not have to be notified by the University. The chi-square test of 1.60 was not statistically significant and no associations were found between the two questions.

Comparing the responses of question 7 to question 12, which asked, “Do you believe upon the second alcohol offense with your underage student you should be notified by the University?”, 150 parents believed drinking is part of the social process of “fitting in” for their student and they believed that if their student is caught drinking underage by the University on the second offense, they should be contacted. Ten parents believed drinking is part of the social process of “fitting in” for their student, and they believed that if their student is caught drinking
underage by the University on the second offense they do not need to be contacted. The chi-square test of 1.12 was not statistically significant and no associations were found between the two questions.

Comparing the responses of question 7 to question 13, which asked, “Do you believe if your underage student is arrested for drinking underage and the University takes disciplinary action you should be notified by the University?”, 160 parents believed drinking is part of the social process of “fitting in” for their student and they believed if their underage student is arrested for drinking and the University takes disciplinary action the University should notify them. The chi-square test of 2.21 was not statistically significant and no associations were found between the two questions.

Comparing the responses of question 7 to question 14, which asked, “If your student was found violating the University alcohol policy would your student contact you about the incident?”, 99 parents believed drinking is part of the social process of “fitting in” for their student and also believed their student, if found violating the University alcohol policy, would contact them about the incident. Fifty-six of the parents who believed drinking is part of the social process of “fitting in” for their student also believed their student would not contact them if they were found violating the alcohol policy by the University. The chi-square test of 10.31 was statistically significant. There was an association between parents who believed drinking is part of the social process of “fitting in” in college and parents who wanted to be notified if their student was being removed from University housing for underage alcohol use.

Comparing the responses of question 7 to question 15, which asked, “Do you believe if your student is being removed from University housing due to underage alcohol consumption the University should notify you?”, 159 parents believed drinking is part of the social process of
“fitting in” for their student, and also believed if their student was being removed from
University housing due to underage alcohol consumption the University should notify them. The
chi-square test of .44 was not statistically significant and no associations were found between the
two questions.

Comparing the responses of question 7 to question 16, which asked, “Do you believe if
your student is being suspended from the University due to alcohol consumption the
University should notify you?”, 159 parents who believed drinking is part of the social process of
“fitting in” for their student also believed if their student is being suspended from the University
due to underage alcohol consumption the University should notify them. The chi-square test of
1.31 was not statistically significant and no associations were found between the two questions.

Comparing the responses of question 7 to question 17, which asked, “Do you believe
your student has the right to privacy as a student, from you the parent when in comes to underage
alcohol violations?”, 19 parents believed drinking is part of the social process of “fitting in” for
their student and their student has a right to privacy from the parent regarding underage alcohol
violations. A total of 138 parents believed drinking is part of the social process of “fitting in” for
their student, but they did not believe their student has a right to privacy from the parent
regarding underage alcohol violations. The chi-square test of 2.50 was not statistically significant
and no associations were found between the two questions.

Comparing the responses of question 7 to question 18, which asked, “Do you believe
Universities should be required to contact parents if their underage student violates alcohol
policy?” 140 parents believed drinking is part of the social process of “fitting in” for their
student, and they believed Universities should be required to contact parents if their underage
student violates the alcohol policy. Sixteen parents believed drinking is part of the social process
of “fitting in” for their student, but they believed Universities do not need to be required to contact parents if their underage student violates the alcohol policy. The chi-square test of 1.70 was not statistically significant and no associations were found between the two questions.

Question 8 asked, “Do you believe your student will consume alcohol to relieve stress?” Question 11 asked, “Do you believe if your student is caught drinking underage by the University staff you should be notified?” 44 parents believed their student would consume alcohol to relieve stress and they believed if their student is caught drinking underage by the University they should be notified. Seven of the parents who believed their student would consume alcohol to relieve stress stated if their student is caught drinking underage by the University they did not have to be notified. The chi-square test of .03 was not statistically significant and no associations were found between the two questions.

Comparing the responses of question 8 to question 12, which asked, “Do you believe upon the second alcohol offense with your underage student you should be notified by the University?”, 51 parents believed their student would consume alcohol to relieve stress and they believed that if their student is caught drinking underage by the University on the second offense they should be contacted. One parent believed his student would consume alcohol to relieve stress and he believed if their student is caught drinking underage by the University on the second offense he does not need to be contacted. The chi-square test of 1.12 was not statistically significant and no associations were found between the two questions.

Comparing the responses of question 8 to question 13, which asked, “Do you believe if your underage student is arrested for drinking underage and the University takes disciplinary action you should be notified by the University?”, 52 parents believe their student would consume alcohol to relieve stress and they believed that if their underage student is arrested for
drinking and the University takes disciplinary action, the University should notify them. The chi-square test of .55 was not statistically significant and no associations were found between the two items.

Comparing the responses of question 8 to question 14, which asked, “If your student was found violating the University alcohol policy would your student contact you about the incident?”, 26 parents who believed their student would consume alcohol to relieve stress also believed their student, if found violating the University alcohol policy would contact them about the incident. Twenty-three of the parents believed their student would consume alcohol to relieve stress, also believed their student would not contact them if they were found violating the alcohol policy. The chi-square test of 11.60 was statistically significant and no associations were found between the two items.

Comparing the responses of question 8 to question 15, which asked, “Do you believe if your student is being removed from University housing due to underage alcohol consumption the University should notify you?”, 51 parents who believed their student would consume alcohol to relieve stress, also believed if their student is being removed from University housing due to underage alcohol consumption the University should notify them. The chi-square test of .11 was not statistically significant. There was no association between parents who believe their student will consume alcohol to relieve stress and parents who believed the University should notify them if their student is being removed from University housing for underage alcohol use.

Comparing the responses of question 8 to question 16 which asked, “Do you believe if your student is being suspended from the University due to alcohol consumption the University should notify you?”, 52 parents who believed their student would consume alcohol to relieve stress, also believed if their student is being suspended from the University due
to underage alcohol consumption the University should notify them. The chi-square test of .33 was not statistically significant and no associations were found between the two questions.

Comparing the responses of question 8 to question 17, which asked, “Do you believe your student has the right to privacy as a student, from you the parent when in comes to underage alcohol violations?”, 5 parents believed their student would consume alcohol to relieve stress and that their student has a right to privacy from the parent regarding underage alcohol violations. Forty-six parents believed their student would consume alcohol to relieve stress, but they did not believe their student had a right to privacy from the parent regarding underage alcohol violations. The chi-square test of .04 was not statistically significant and no associations were found between the two questions.

Comparing the responses of question 8 to question 18, which asked, “Do you believe Universities should be required to contact parents if their underage student violates alcohol policy?”, 45 parents believed their student would consume alcohol to relieve stress, and they believed Universities should be required to contact parents if their underage student violates the alcohol policy. Five parents believed their student would consume alcohol to relieve stress, but they believed Universities do not need to be required to contact parents if their underage student violates the alcohol policy. The chi-square test of .27 was not statistically significant. There was no association between parents who believed their student will consume alcohol to relieve stress and parents who believed Universities should be required to contact parents if their student violates the University alcohol policy.

Question 9 asked, “Have you discussed underage drinking with your student?” Question 11 asked, “Do you believe if your student is caught drinking underage by the University staff you should be notified?” Of the respondents, 436 had discussed underage drinking with their
student, and they believed that if their student is caught drinking underage by the university they should be notified. Sixty-five of the parents who had discussed underage drinking with their student, stated if their student is caught drinking underage by the University they did not have to be notified. The chi-square test of .13 was not statistically significant and no associations were found between the two questions.

Comparing the responses of question 9 to question 12, which asked, “Do you believed upon the second alcohol offense with your underage student you should be notified by the University?”, 481 parents had discussed underage drinking with their student, and they believed if their student is caught drinking underage by the University on the second offense they should be contacted. Twenty-three parents had discussed underage drinking with their student, and they believed if their student is caught drinking underage by the University on the second offense they do not need to be contacted. The chi-square test of 2.58 was not statistically significant and no associations were found between the two items.

Comparing the responses of question 9 to question 13, which asked, “Do you believe if your underage student is arrested for drinking underage and the University takes disciplinary action you should be notified by the University?”, 501 parents had discussed underage drinking with their student, and they believed that if their underage student is arrested for drinking and the University takes disciplinary action, the University should notify them. Four parents had discussed underage drinking with their student, and believed if their student is arrested for drinking and the University takes disciplinary action that the parent does not need to be notified by the University. The chi-square test of 2.47 was not statistically significant and no associations were found between the two questions.
Comparing the responses of question 9 to question 14, which asked, “If your student was found violating the University alcohol policy would your student contact you about the incident?”, 359 parents who had discussed underage drinking with their student believed their student, if found violating the University alcohol policy, would contact them about the incident. A total of 131 of the parents had discussed underage drinking with their student, but believed their student would not contact them if they were found violating the alcohol policy by the University. The chi-square test of .17 was not statistically significant and no associations were found between the two questions.

Comparing the responses of question 9 to question 15, which asked, “Do you believe if your student is being removed from University housing due to underage alcohol consumption the University should notify you?”, 502 parents had discussed underage drinking with their student believed if their student was being removed from University housing due to underage alcohol consumption the University should notify them. One parent respondent, who had discussed underage drinking with his student, did not believe if his student were being removed from University housing due to underage alcohol consumption the University should notify him. The chi-square test of .05 was not statistically significant and no associations were found between the two items.

Comparing the responses of question 9 to question 16, which asked, “Do you believe if your student is being suspended from the University due to alcohol consumption the University should notify you?”, 498 parents who had discussed underage drinking with their student also believed that if their student were being suspended from the University due to underage alcohol consumption the University should notify them. Three respondents had discussed underage drinking with their student, and did not believe that if their student were
being suspended from the University for underage alcohol use they do not need to be notified. The chi-square test of .16 was not statistically significant. There was no association between parents who have discussed underage drinking with their student and parents who believe the University should notify them if their student was suspended for underage alcohol use.

Comparing the responses of question 9 to question 17, which asked, “Do you believe your student has the right to privacy as a student, from you the parent when in comes to underage alcohol violations?”, 44 parents had discussed underage drinking with their student and stated their student has a right to privacy from the parent regarding underage alcohol violations. A total of 453 parents respondents had discussed underage drinking with their student, but they did not believed their student has a right to privacy from the parent regarding underage alcohol violations. The chi-square test of .22 was not statistically significant and no associations were found between the two questions.

Comparing the responses of question 9 to question 18, which asked, “Do you believe Universities should be required to contact parents if their underage student violates alcohol policy?”, 459 parents had discussed underage drinking with their student, and they believed Universities should be required to contact parents if their underage student violates the alcohol policy. Thirty-eight parent respondents had discussed underage drinking with their student, but they believed Universities do not need to be required to contact parents if their underage student violates the alcohol policy. The chi-square test of 2.25 was not statistically significant and no associations were found between the two items.

Question 10 asked, “Do you believe your student would choose studying over going to a party?” Question 11 asked, “Do you believe if your student is caught drinking underage by the University staff you should be notified?”, 229 respondents believed their student would choose
studying over going to a party, and they believed if their student is caught drinking underage by
the University they should be notified. Twenty-six of the parents who believed their student
would choose studying over going to a party stated if their student is caught drinking underage
by the University they did not have to be notified. The chi-square test of 2.97 was not
statistically significant and no associations were found between the two items.

Comparing the responses of question 10 to question 12, which asked, “Do you believe
upon the second alcohol offense with your underage student you should be notified by the
University?”, 242 parents believed their student would choose studying over going to a party,
and they believed if their student is caught drinking underage by the University on the second
offense they should be contacted. Fourteen parents believed their student would choose studying
over going to a party and they believed that if their student is caught drinking underage by the
University on the second offense they do not need to be contacted. The chi-square test of .06 was
not statistically significant and no associations were found between the two items.

Comparing the responses of question 10 to question 13, which asked, “Do you believe if
your underage student is arrested for drinking underage and the University takes disciplinary
action you should be notified by the University?”, 255 parents believed their student would
choose studying over going to a party, and they believed if their underage student is arrested for
drinking and the university takes disciplinary action the University should notify them. Two
parents believed their student would choose studying over going to a party and if their student is
arrested for drinking and the University takes disciplinary action the parent does not need to be
notified by the University. The chi-square test of .27 was not statistically significant and no
associations were found between the two questions.
Comparing the responses of question 10 to question 14, which asked, “If your student was found violating the University alcohol policy would your student contact you about the incident?”, 201 parents believed their student would choose studying over going to a party also believed their student, if found violating the University alcohol policy would contact them about the incident. Fifty-four of the parents who believed their student would choose studying over going to a party, also believed their student would not contact them if they were found violating the alcohol policy by the University. The chi-square test of 11.23 was statistically significant. There was an association between parents who believed their student would choose studying over going to a party and parents who believed their student would contact them if found violating the University alcohol policy.

Comparing the responses of question 10 to question 15, which asked, “Do you believe if your student is being removed from University housing due to underage alcohol consumption the University should notify you?”, 256 parents believed their student would choose studying over going to a party also believed if their student was being removed from University housing due to underage alcohol consumption the University should notify them. The chi-square test of 1.07 was not statistically significant and no associations were found between the two questions.

Comparing the responses of question 10 to question 16, which asked, “Do you believe if your student is being suspended from the University due to alcohol consumption the University should notify you?”, 253 parents believed their student would choose studying over going to a party also believed if their student is being suspended from the University due to underage alcohol consumption the University should notify them. Two parents believed their student would choose studying over going to a party but did not believe if their student is being suspended from the University for underage alcohol use they do not need to be notified. The chi-
square test of .28 was not statistically significant and no associations were found between the two questions.

Comparing the responses of question 10 to question 17, which asked, “Do you believe your student has the right to privacy as a student, from you the parent when in comes to underage alcohol violations?”, 21 parents believed their student would choose studying over going to a party and their student has a right to privacy from the parent regarding underage alcohol violations. A total of 233 parents believed their student would choose studying over going to a party but they do not believe their student has a right to privacy from the parent regarding underage alcohol violations. The chi-square test of .28 was not statistically significant and no associations were found between the two questions.

Comparing the responses of question 10 to question 18, which asked, “Do you believe Universities should be required to contact parents if their underage student violates alcohol policy?”, 235 parents believed their student would choose studying over going to a party and they believed Universities should be required to contact parents if their underage student violates the alcohol policy. Nineteen parents believed their student would choose studying over going to a party, but they believed Universities do not need to be required to contact parents if their underage student violates the alcohol policy. The chi-square test of .52 was not statistically significant and no associations were found between the two questions.
CHAPTER 5
SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, DISCUSSION, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Introduction

This study examined the perceptions of parents of postsecondary students regarding underage alcohol offenses and the perceptions of parents of postsecondary students regarding parental notification policies in higher education. The purposes of this study were the following: (a) identify and describe the perceptions of parents of postsecondary education students concerning parental notification; (b) identify and describe the perceptions of parents of postsecondary education students concerning underage alcohol offenses; (c) identify and describe the perceptions of parents of postsecondary education students concerning parental notification, according to the following independent variables: gender, ethnicity, age and parental status; (d) identify and describe the perceptions of parents of postsecondary education students concerning underage alcohol offenses, according to the following independent variables: gender, ethnicity, age, and parental status; and (e) identify the relationship between the perceptions of parents of postsecondary education students concerning underage alcohol offenses and parental notification.

This chapter concludes the study in four sections. The first section summarizes findings of the study; the second section discusses those findings; the third section draws general conclusions from the study; and the fourth section presents recommendations regarding future
studies on parental perceptions of underage alcohol offenses and parental notification regarding postsecondary students.

Summary of Findings

The summary of findings is presented in six sections. The first section summarizes the findings of the demographic information of the parents, of postsecondary students who completed the survey instrument. The second section summarizes the findings about parental perceptions of parental notification policies. The third section summarizes the findings about parental perceptions of underage alcohol offenses of postsecondary students. The fourth section summarizes the findings about parental perceptions of parental notification policies regarding each independent variable. The fifth section summarizes the findings about parental perceptions of underage alcohol offenses of postsecondary students regarding each independent variable. The sixth section summarizes the relationship between the parental perceptions of underage alcohol offenses and parental notification policies.

Demographic Data

A majority of the parents in this study were female (65.1%); 34.7% were male.

Regarding parents’ ethnicity, a majority were Caucasian (82.9%); 7.4% were African-American; 5.9% were Hispanic; 1.7% were Native American; 0.6% were Asian American; 0.4% were Multiracial.

The majority of the parents’ ages ranged between 46-56 (53.8%); 39.5% were ages 36-45; 3.2% were ages 57 and over; 3.2% were ages 35 and under.

Regarding parents’ parental status the majority were the birth parents (93.9%) of the students attending college; 2.6% were stepparents; 1.1% were adoptive parents; 1.1% were legal guardians.
For the majority of the parents, participating in the research, the offspring in the study were the first to attend college (60.3%); 19.3% were the last to attend; 13.4% were the middle to attend; 5.9% were the only student to attend.

*Parents’ Beliefs on Parental Notification for Underage Alcohol Offenses*

Regarding the 539 parents who completed the survey, 85% believe the University upon their offspring’s first alcohol offense should contact them; 93.5% of the parents believe they should be contacted upon their offspring’s second alcohol offense; 97.0% indicated that they should be contacted by the University if their offspring is arrested for an underage alcohol offense.

Of the 539 parents, 70.3% believe their student would contact them if they were caught by University staff violating the University’s alcohol policies; 98.0% believe they should be contacted by the University if their offspring were being removed from housing for violating the alcohol policy; 98.5% believe they should be contacted by the University if their offspring were being suspended from the University for violating the alcohol policy.

Regarding the 539 parents who completed the survey, 8.7% believe their student has the right to privacy from the parents regarding issues of underage alcohol use.

When asked if the parents believe Universities should be required to notify parents if their offspring violate the alcohol policy, 90.2% believe Universities should be required to contact parents upon their offspring’s violation of the alcohol policy.

*Parents’ Perceptions of Underage Alcohol Offenses*

Of the 539 parents, 58.1% indicated that alcohol use is a primary concern as their student begins college; 33.6% of the parents were aware of their underage student consuming alcohol without their permission; 2.6% believe their student has a problem with binge drinking.
Regarding the 539 parents who participated in the study, 9.1% stated that they have purchased alcohol for their underage student; 43.2% responded that alcohol is part of the family practice in their household; and 65.3% believe their student will experiment with alcohol the first year of college.

When asked if they believe drinking is part of the social process of “fitting in” for their offspring in college, 29.7% believe alcohol would be part of the process of fitting in; 93.7% stated that they have discussed underage drinking with their student; and 47.7% believe their student would choose to study rather than go to a party.

Parental Perceptions of Parental Notification Policies and Their Association to Each Independent Variable

Regarding the parents who believe they should be contacted after the first underage alcohol offense, 85% of male, 87.8% were female. The majority (97.4%) were African-American, 93.5% were Hispanics, 85.4% were Caucasians, Asian American (100%), Multiracial (100%) and Native Americans (100%) believe they should be contacted after the first underage alcohol offense. Age ranges of parents who believe they should be contacted were ages 35 and under 88.2%; 86.6% were ages 36-45; 87% were ages 46-56; 86.7% were ages 57 and over. In response to the question pertaining to parental status, 86.7% were birth parents, 76.9% were stepparents, 100% were legal guardians or adoptive parents.

Regarding the parents who believe they should be contacted after the second alcohol offense, 94.5% were male, 95.4% were female. One hundred percent of the Hispanic, Native American, Asian American, and Multiracial parents believe the University should contact parents after the second underage alcohol offense. The African-American parents were 97.4% and the Caucasians 94.5%. The age ranges of parents who believe they should be contacted were 88.2%
were ages 35 and under; 94.3% were ages 36-45; 96.2% were ages 46-56, 93.3% were ages 57 and over. In response to the question pertaining to parental status, 94.8% were birth parents and 100% were stepparents, legal guardians or adoptive parents.

Regarding the parents who believe they should be contacted if their student is arrested for underage alcohol use, 98% were male, 99.1% were female. One hundred percent of the African-Americans, Hispanic, Native Americans, and Multiracial parents believe they should be contacted. In the Caucasian population, 98.9% believe they should be contacted if their student is arrested. The age ranges of parents who believe they should be contacted were 100% for ages 35 and under and 57 and over; 99% for ages 36-45 and ages 46-56. In response to the question pertaining to parental status, 99.0% were birth parents, 100% were stepparents, legal guardians or adoptive parents.

Regarding the parents who stated that their offspring would contact them if they were caught drinking underage by the University, 67.6% were male, 76.5% were female. Of the parents who stated that their offspring would contact them 71.8% were African American, 71.9% Caucasian, 87.5% Native American, 90.3% Hispanic and 100.0% Asian American and 50.0% Multiracial. The age ranges of parents who believe their student would contact them were 82.4% were ages 35 and under; 76.5% were ages 35-45; 71.8% were ages 46-56; 50% of ages 57 and over. In response to the question pertaining to parental status, 83.3% were guardians, 73.9% were birth parents, 66.7% were stepparents, and 50% were adoptive parents.

Regarding the parents who believe they should be contacted if their student is being removed from housing for underage alcohol offenses, 100% were male, 99.7% were female. Of the parents 100.0% of the African-American, Hispanic, Native American, Asian American and Multiracial believe the University should contact them if their student is being removed from
housing for underage alcohol violations, and 99.8% of Caucasian population. The age ranges of the parents who believe they should be contacted if their offspring is being removed from housing for underage alcohol violations were 100.0% of ages 35 and under; ages 46-56 and ages 57 and over; 99.5% were ages 36-45. In response to the question pertaining to parental status, 99.8% were birth parents, 100.0% were stepparents, legal guardians and adoptive parents.

Regarding the parents, when asked if they should be notified that if their offspring is being suspended for underage alcohol offenses, 99.5% were male, 99.4% were female. One hundred percent were African-American, Hispanic, Native American, Asian American, and Multiracial; 99.3% were Caucasian. Regarding age ranges of parents who believe they should be contacted if their student is being suspended for underage alcohol use 100.0% of parents were ages 35 and under and 57 and over; 99.5% were ages 36-45; 99.3% were ages 46-56. In response to the question pertaining to parental status, 99.4% were birth parents, 100.0% were stepparents, legal guardians and adoptive parents.

When asked if they believe their student has the right to privacy from them regarding underage alcohol use, 90% of male and female parents stated that they do not believe their offspring has the right to privacy from their parents. The Caucasian parents were 9.6%, 7.7% were African-American; 3.1% were Hispanic parents and 0.0% were Native American, Asian American, and Multiracial parents believe their student has the right to privacy from the parent regarding underage alcohol offenses. The age ranges of the parents who believe their student does not have the right to privacy were 11.8% for ages 35 and under; 7.7% were ages 36-45; 25.4% were ages 46-56; 1.5% of ages 57 and over. In response to the question pertaining to parental status, 8.6% were birth parents, 7.1% were stepparents, 66.7% were legal guardians, and 0.0% were adoptive parents.
When asked if they believe the University should be required to contact parents if their offspring violates the alcohol policy, 90% were male, 90% were female. The African-American, Hispanic, Asian American, and Multiracial parents were 100%, whereas the Native Americans were 88.9% and the Caucasians were 91.1%. The age ranges of parents who believe the University should be required to contact parents were 92.9% for ages 35 and under; 91.4% were ages 36-45; 92.3% were ages 46-56; 93.1% were ages 57 and over. In response to the question pertaining to parental status, 91.8% were birth parents, 92.3% were stepparents, 100.0% were legal guardians and adoptive parents.

*Parental Perceptions of Underage Alcohol Use and Their Association to Each Independent Variable*

Regarding the parents who stated that alcohol is a primary concern as their student enters college, 56.8% were male, 59.4% were female. The African-American parents were 97.4%, Hispanics were 93.5%, Caucasians were 85.4%, and Asian Americans, Multiracial, and Native Americans were 100.0%. The age ranges of the parents who stated that alcohol is a primary concern were 82.4% for ages 35 and under; 57.1% were ages 36-45; 57.3% were ages 46-56; 70.6% were ages 57 and over. Regarding parental status, 51.8% were birth parents, 71.4% were stepparents, and 66.7% were legal guardians and adoptive parents.

Regarding the parents who were aware of their offspring consuming alcohol underage, 34.8% male, 33.5% were female. Of the parents who were aware of their offspring consuming alcohol underage 100% were Hispanic, Native American (100%), Asian Americans (100%) and Multiracial (100%). Caucasians were 94.5% and African-American were 97.4%. The age ranges of parents who were aware of their offspring consuming alcohol underage were 23.5% for ages 35 and under; 33.5% were ages 36-45; 35.2% were ages 46-56; 23.5% were ages 57 and over. In
response to the question pertaining to parental status, 34.0% were birth parents, 35.7% were
stepparents, and 33.3% were legal guardians and adoptive parents.

Regarding the parents who believe their offspring has a problem with binge drinking, 2.7% were male, 2.6% were female. Of the parents who believe their offspring has a problem with binge drinking the African-American and Multiracial were 0.0%, and 2.7% were Caucasian, 3.1% were Hispanic, and 11.1% were Native American. The age ranges of the parents who believe their offspring has a problem with binge drinking were 0.0% for ages 35 and under; 1.9% were ages 36-45; 3.5% were ages 46-56; 0.0% were ages 57 and over. In response to the question pertaining to parental status, 2.8% were birth parents, 0.0% were stepparents, legal guardians and adoptive parents.

Regarding the parents who have purchased alcohol for their underage offspring, 9.7% were male, 8.9% were female. Of the parents who stated that they have purchased alcohol for their underage offspring, 50% were Multiracial, 71.8% were African American, 71.9% were Caucasian, 87.5% were Native American, 90.3% were Hispanic, and 100.0% were Asian American. The age ranges of the parents who stated that they have purchased alcohol for their underage student were 17.6% for ages 35 and under; 10.4% were ages 36-45; 8.0% were ages 46-56; 5.9% were ages 57 and over. In response to the question pertaining to parental status, 9.1% were birth parents, 14.3% were stepparents, 0.0% was a legal guardian, and 16.7% were adoptive parents.

Regarding the parents who stated that alcohol is part of the family practice, 45.7% were male; 42.4% were female. Of the parents who stated alcohol is part of the family practice, 66.7% were Asian American, 47.6% were Caucasian, 34.4% were Hispanic, 22.2% were Native American, and 7.7% were African American. The age ranges of the parents who stated alcohol is
part of the family practice were 58.8% for ages 35 and under; 40.1% were ages 36-45; 45.6% were ages 46-56; 41.2% were ages 57 and over. In response to the question pertaining to parental status, 43.9% were birth parents, 64.3% were stepparents, and 16.7% were legal guardians and adoptive parents.

Regarding the parents who believe their student will experiment with alcohol during the first year of college, 67.6% were male, 66.1% were female. Regarding the ethnic background of the parents who believe their student will experiment with alcohol during the first year of college, 88.9% were Native American, 70.1% were Caucasian, 51.6% were Hispanic, 50.0% were Multiracial, 41.0% were African-American and 33.3% were Asian American. The age ranges of the parents who believe their student will experiment with alcohol during the first year of college were 64.7% were ages 35 and under; 68.4% were ages 36-45; 66.0% were ages 46-56; 56.3% were ages 57 and over. In response to the question pertaining to parental status, 66.1% were birth parents, 92.3% were stepparents, 50.0% were legal guardians, and 66.7% were adoptive parents.

Regarding the parents who believe drinking is part of the social process of “fitting in,” 37.6% were male, 26.5% were female. Regarding ethnic background of the parents who believe drinking is part of the social process of “fitting in,” 62.5% were Native American, 33.3% were Asian American, 31.7% were Caucasian, 22.6% were Hispanic, 15.8% were African-American, and 0% were Multiracial. The age ranges of the parents who believe drinking is part of the social process of “fitting in,” were 52.9% for ages 35 and under; 25.7% were ages 36-45; 33.7% were ages 46-56; 7.1% were ages 57 and over. In response to the question pertaining to parental status, 30.4% were birth parents, 41.7% were stepparents, and 33.3% were legal guardians and adoptive parents.
Regarding the parents who believe their student would consume alcohol to relieve stress, 13.3% were male, 7.8% were female. Regarding ethnic background of the parents who believe their student would consume alcohol to relieve stress, 33.3% were Asian American, 12.5% were Native American, 11% were Caucasian, and 5.1% were African-American. The age ranges of the parents who believe their student would consume alcohol to relieve stress were 6.3% for ages 35 and under; 6.3% were ages 36-45; 13.2% were ages 46-56; 0.0% were ages 57 and over. In response to the question pertaining to parental status, 9.5% were birth parents, 15.4% were stepparents, 33.3% were legal guardians, and 16.7% were adoptive parents.

Regarding the parents who have discussed underage drinking with their student, 91.8% were male, 96.8% were female. Regarding ethnic background of parents who have discussed underage drinking with their student, 100% were Native American and Multiracial, 96.8% were Hispanic, 95.2% were Caucasian, 92.3% were African-American, and 66.7% were Asian American. The age ranges of the parents who have discussed underage drinking with their students were 88.2% for ages 35 and under; 96.2% were ages 36-45; 94.8% were ages 46-56; 93.3% were ages 57 and over. In response to the question pertaining to parental status, 94.8% were birth parents, 100.0% were stepparents, legal guardians and adoptive parents.

Regarding the parents who believe their student would choose studying over going to a party, 55.1% were male, 49.8% were female. Regarding ethnic background of parents who believe their student would choose studying over going to a party 51.3% were African American, 51.5% were Caucasian, 50.0% were Multiracial, 22.2% were Native American, 63.3% were Hispanic, and 100% were Asian American. The age ranges of the parents who believe their student would choose studying over going to a party were 52.9% for ages 35 and under; 55.8% were ages 36-45; 48.9% were ages 46-56; 38.5% were ages 57 and over. In response to the
question pertaining to parental status, 51.8% were birth parents, 50.0% were stepparents, 33.3% were legal guardians, and 66.7% were adoptive parents.

The Relationship between the Parental Perceptions of Underage Alcohol Offenses and Parental Notification Policies

Comparing the affirmative responses to question 1 of the questionnaire, “Alcohol use within a University setting is a primary concern as my student begins college?” to the affirmative responses to question 11 of the questionnaire, “Do you believe if your student is caught drinking underage by the University staff you should be notified?”, 279 parents responded yes to both items. Forty-four parents responded no to both items. Comparing the affirmative responses to question 1 of the questionnaire to the affirmative responses to question 12 of the questionnaire, “Do you believe upon the second alcohol offense with your underage student you should be notified by the University?”, 299 parents responded yes to both items. Twenty parents responded no to both items. Comparing the affirmative responses to question 1 of the questionnaire to the affirmative responses to question 13 of the questionnaire, “Do you believe if your underage student is arrested for drinking underage and the University takes disciplinary action you should be notified by the University?”, 305 parents responded yes to both items. Four parents responded no to both items. Comparing the affirmative responses to question 1 of the questionnaire to the affirmative responses to question 14, “If your student was found violating the University alcohol policy would your student contact you about the incident?”, 206 parents responded yes to both items. Forty-seven parents responded no to both items. Comparing the affirmative responses to question 1 of the questionnaire to the affirmative responses to question 15, “Do you believe if your student is being removed from University Housing due to underage alcohol consumption the University should notify you?”, 305 parents responded yes to both items. One parent
responded no to both items. Comparing the affirmative responses to question 1 of the questionnaire to the affirmative responses to question 16, “Do you believe if your student is being suspended from the University due to underage alcohol consumption the University should notify you?”, 310 parents responded yes to both items. Two parents responded no to both items. Comparing the affirmative responses to question 1 of the questionnaire to the affirmative responses to question 17, “Do you believe your student has the right to privacy, from you the parent regarding underage alcohol violations?”, 24 parents responded yes to both items. Twenty-three parents responded no to both items. Comparing the affirmative responses to question 1 of the questionnaire to the affirmative responses to question 18, “Do you believe Universities should be required to contact parents if their underage student violates alcohol policies?,” 293 parents responded yes to both items. Twenty-six parents responded no to both items.

Comparing the affirmative responses to question 2 of the questionnaire, “As a parent are you aware of your student consuming alcohol without your permission”, to the affirmative responses to question 11 of the questionnaire, “Do you believe if your student is caught drinking underage by the University staff you should be notified?”, 154 parents responded yes to both items. Forty-four parents responded no to both items. Comparing the affirmative responses to question 2 of the questionnaire to the affirmative responses to question 12 of the questionnaire, “Do you believe upon the second alcohol offense with your underage student you should be notified by the University”, 172 parents responded yes to both items. Nineteen parents responded no to both items. Comparing the affirmative responses to question 2 of the questionnaire to the affirmative responses to question 13 of the questionnaire, “Do you believe if your underage student is arrested for drinking underage and the University takes disciplinary action you should be notified by the University”, 179 parents responded yes to both items. Four parents responded
no to both items. Comparing the affirmative responses to question 2 of the questionnaire to the affirmative responses to question 14, “If your student were found violating the University alcohol policy would your student contact you about the incident”, 115 parents responded yes to both items. Seventy-eight parents responded no to both items. Comparing the affirmative responses to question 2 of the questionnaire to the affirmative responses to question 15, “Do you believe if your student is being removed from University Housing due to underage alcohol consumption the University should notify you, 179 parents responded yes to both items. One parent responded no to both items. Comparing the affirmative responses to question 2 of the questionnaire to the affirmative responses to question 16, “Do you believe if your student is being suspended from the University due to underage alcohol consumption the University should notify you”, 180 parents responded yes to both items. Three parents responded no to both items. Comparing the affirmative responses to question 2 of the questionnaire to the affirmative responses to question 17, “Do you believe your student has the right to privacy, from you the parent regarding underage alcohol violations”, 16 parents responded yes to both items. Regarding the negative responses to both questions, 315 parents responded no to both items. Comparing the affirmative responses to question 2 of the questionnaire to the affirmative responses to question 18, “Do you believe Universities should be required to contact parents if their underage student violates alcohol policies,” 164 parents responded yes to both items. Twenty-six parents responded no to both items.

Comparing the affirmative responses to question 3 of the questionnaire, “Do you believe your student has a problem with binge drinking?”, to the affirmative responses to question 11 of the questionnaire?, “ Do you believe if your student is caught drinking underage by the University staff you should be notified?”, 12 parents responded yes to both items. Regarding the
negative responses to both questions, 67 parents responded no to both items. Comparing the affirmative responses to question three of the questionnaire to the affirmative responses to question 12 of the questionnaire, “Do you believe upon the second alcohol offense with your underage student you should be notified by the University?”, 14 parents responded yes to both items. Regarding the negative responses to both questions, 26 parents responded no to both items. Comparing the affirmative responses to question three of the questionnaire to the affirmative responses to question 13 of the questionnaire, “Do you believe if your underage student is arrested for drinking underage and the University takes disciplinary action you should be notified by the University?”, 14 parents responded yes to both items. Five parents responded no to both items. Comparing the affirmative responses to question 3 of the questionnaire to the affirmative responses to question 14, “If your student was found violating the University alcohol policy would your student contact you about the incident?”, seven parents responded yes to both items. Regarding the negative responses to both questions, 131 parents responded no to both items. Comparing the affirmative responses to question 3 of the questionnaire to the affirmative responses to question 15, “Do you believe if your student is being removed from University Housing due to underage alcohol consumption the University should notify you?”, 14 parents responded yes to both items. One parent responded no to both items. Comparing the affirmative responses to question 3 of the questionnaire to the affirmative responses to question 16, “Do you believe if your student is being suspended from the University due to underage alcohol consumption the University should notify you?”, 14 parents responded yes to both items. Three parents responded no to both items. Comparing the affirmative responses to question 3 of the questionnaire to the affirmative responses to question 17, “Do you believe your student has the right to privacy, from you the parent regarding underage alcohol violations?”, four parents
responded yes to both items. Regarding the negative responses to both questions, 471 parents responded no to both items. Comparing the affirmative responses to question 3 of the questionnaire to the affirmative responses to question 18, “Do you believe Universities should be required to contact parents if their underage student violates alcohol policies,” 13 parents responded yes to both items. Forty parents responded no to both items.

Comparing the affirmative responses to question 4 of the questionnaire, “As a parent have you ever purchased alcohol for your underage student” to the affirmative responses to question 11 of the questionnaire, “Do you believe if your student is caught drinking underage by the University staff you should be notified?”, 39 parents responded yes to both items. Fifty-eight parents responded no to both items. Comparing the affirmative responses to question 4 of the questionnaire to the affirmative responses to question 12 of the questionnaire, “Do you believe upon the second alcohol offense with your underage student you should be notified by the University?”, 46 parents responded yes to both items. Twenty-two parents responded no to both items. Comparing the affirmative responses to question 4 of the questionnaire to the affirmative responses to question 13 of the questionnaire, “Do you believe if your underage student is arrested for drinking underage and the University takes disciplinary action you should be notified by the University?”, 47 parents responded yes to both items. Three parents responded no to both items. Comparing the affirmative responses to question 4 of the questionnaire to the affirmative responses to question 14, “If your student was found violating the University alcohol policy would your student contact you about the incident?”, 42 parents responded yes to both items. Regarding the negative responses to both questions, 130 parents responded no to both items. Comparing the affirmative responses to question 4 of the questionnaire to the affirmative responses to question 15, “Do you believe if your student is being removed from University...
Housing due to underage alcohol consumption the University should notify you, 49 parents responded yes to both items. One parent responded no to both items. Comparing the affirmative responses to question 4 of the questionnaire to the affirmative responses to question 16, “Do you believe if your student is being suspended from the University due to underage alcohol consumption the University should notify you?”, 47 parents responded yes to both items. Two parents responded no to both items. Comparing the affirmative responses to question 4 of the questionnaire to the affirmative responses to question 17, “Do you believe your student has the right to privacy, from you the parent regarding underage alcohol violations?”, five parents responded yes to both items. Regarding the negative responses to both questions, 441 parents responded no to both items. Comparing the affirmative responses to question 4 of the questionnaire to the affirmative responses to question 18, “Do you believe Universities should be required to contact parents if their underage student violates alcohol policies,” 42 parents responded yes to both items. Thirty-seven parents responded no to both items.

Comparing the affirmative responses to question 5 of the questionnaire, “Is alcohol use part of the family practice in your household,” to the affirmative responses to question 11 of the questionnaire, “Do you believe if your student is caught drinking underage by the University staff you should be notified?” 193 parents responded yes to both items. Thirty-three parents responded no to both items. Comparing the affirmative responses to question 5 of the questionnaire to the affirmative responses to question 12 of the questionnaire, “Do you believe upon the second alcohol offense with your underage student you should be notified by the University?”, 221 parents responded yes to both items. Fifteen parents responded no to both items. Comparing the affirmative responses to question 5 of the questionnaire to the affirmative responses to question 13 of the questionnaire, “Do you believe if your underage student is
arrested for drinking underage and the University takes disciplinary action you should be notified by the University?”, 232 parents responded yes to both items. Five parents responded no to both items. Comparing the affirmative responses to question 5 of the questionnaire to the affirmative responses to question 14, “If your student was found violating the University alcohol policy would your student contact you about the incident?”, 166 parents responded yes to both items. Seventy-six parents responded no to both items. Comparing the affirmative responses to question 5 of the questionnaire to the affirmative responses to question 15, “Do you believe if your student is being removed from University Housing due to underage alcohol consumption the University should notify you?”, 232 parents responded yes to both items. One parent responded no to both items. Comparing the affirmative responses to question 5 of the questionnaire to the affirmative responses to question 16, “Do you believe if your student is being suspended from the University due to underage alcohol consumption the University should notify you?”, 230 parents responded yes to both items. Three parents responded no to both items. Comparing the affirmative responses to question 5 of the questionnaire to the affirmative responses to question 17, “Do you believe your student has the right to privacy, from you the parent regarding underage alcohol violations?”, 23 parents responded yes to both items. Regarding the negative responses to both questions, 275 parents responded no to both items. Comparing the affirmative responses to question 5 of the questionnaire to the affirmative responses to question 18, “Do you believe Universities should be required to contact parents if their underage student violates alcohol policies,” 203 parents responded yes to both items. Eighteen parents responded no to both items.

Comparing the affirmative responses to question 6 of the questionnaire, “During the first year of college do you believe your student will experiment with alcohol?”, to the affirmative
responses to question 11 of the questionnaire, “Do you believe if your student is caught drinking underage by the University staff you should be notified?”, 292 parents responded yes to both items. Ten parents responded no to both items. Comparing the affirmative responses to question 6 of the questionnaire to the affirmative responses to question 12 of the questionnaire, “Do you believe upon the second alcohol offense with your underage student you should be notified by the University?”, 331 parents responded yes to both items. Seven parents responded no to both items. Comparing the affirmative responses to question 6 of the questionnaire to the affirmative responses to question 13 of the questionnaire, “Do you believe if your underage student is arrested for drinking underage and the University takes disciplinary action you should be notified by the University?”, 348 parents responded yes to both items. Two parents responded no to both items. Comparing the affirmative responses to question 6 of the questionnaire to the affirmative responses to question 14, “If your student was found violating the University alcohol policy would your student contact you about the incident?”, 230 parents responded yes to both items. Twenty-nine parents responded no to both items. Comparing the affirmative responses to question 6 of the questionnaire to the affirmative responses to question 15, “Do you believe if your student is being removed from University Housing due to underage alcohol consumption the University should notify you, 349 parents responded yes to both items. One parent responded no to both items. Comparing the affirmative responses to question 6 of the questionnaire to the affirmative responses to question 16, “Do you believe if your student is being suspended from the University due to underage alcohol consumption the University should notify you?”, 351 parents responded yes to both items. Three parents responded no to both items. Comparing the affirmative responses to question 6 of the questionnaire to the affirmative responses to question 17, “Do you believe your student has the right to privacy, from you the parent regarding
underage alcohol violations?”, 34 parents responded yes to both items. Regarding the negative responses to both questions, 161 parents responded no to both items. Comparing the affirmative responses to question 6 of the questionnaire to the affirmative responses to question 18, “Do you believe Universities should be required to contact parents if their underage student violates alcohol policies,” 313 parents responded yes to both items. Seven parents responded no to both items.

Comparing the affirmative responses to question 7 of the questionnaire, “Do you believe drinking is part of the social process of “fitting in” for your student in college?”, to the affirmative responses to question 11 of the questionnaire, “Do you believe if your student is caught drinking underage by the University staff you should be notified?”, 135 parents responded yes to both items. Forty-two parents responded no to both items. Comparing the affirmative responses to question 7 of the questionnaire to the affirmative responses to question 12 of the questionnaire, “Do you believe upon the second alcohol offense with your underage student you should be notified by the University?”, 150 parents responded yes to both items. Fifteen parents responded no to both items. Comparing the affirmative responses to question 7 of the questionnaire to the affirmative responses to question 13 of the questionnaire, “Do you believe if your underage student is arrested for drinking underage and the University takes disciplinary action you should be notified by the University?”, 160 parents responded yes to both items. Five parents responded no to both items. Comparing the affirmative responses to question 7 of the questionnaire to the affirmative responses to question 14, “If your student was found violating the University alcohol policy would your student contact you about the incident?”, 99 parents responded yes to both items. Eighty parents responded no to both items. Comparing the affirmative responses to question 7 of the questionnaire to the affirmative responses to question
15, “Do you believe if your student is being removed from University Housing due to underage alcohol consumption the University should notify you?”, 159 parents responded yes to both items. One parent responded no to both items. Comparing the affirmative responses to question 7 of the questionnaire to the affirmative responses to question 16, “Do you believe if your student is being suspended from the University due to underage alcohol consumption the University should notify you?”, 159 parents responded yes to both items. Three parents responded no to both items. Comparing the affirmative responses to question 7 of the questionnaire to the affirmative responses to question 17, “Do you believe your student has the right to privacy, from you the parent regarding underage alcohol violations?”, 19 parents responded yes to both items. Regarding the negative responses to both questions, 333 parents responded no to both items. Comparing the affirmative responses to question 7 of the questionnaire to the affirmative responses to question 18, “Do you believe Universities should be required to contact parents if their underage student violates alcohol policies,” 140 parents responded yes to both items. Twenty-five parents responded no to both items.

Comparing the affirmative responses to question 8 of the questionnaire, “Do you believe your student will consume alcohol to relieve stress” to the affirmative responses to question 11 of the questionnaire, “Do you believe if your student is caught drinking underage by the University staff you should be notified?”, 44 parents responded yes to both items. Sixty-one parents responded no to both items. Comparing the affirmative responses to question eight of the questionnaire to the affirmative responses to question 12 of the questionnaire, “Do you believe upon the second alcohol offense with your underage student you should be notified by the University?”, 51 parents responded yes to both items. Twenty-five parents responded no to both items. Comparing the affirmative responses to question 8 of the questionnaire to the affirmative
responses to question 13 of the questionnaire, “Do you believe if your underage student is
arrested for drinking underage and the University takes disciplinary action you should be notified
by the University?”, 52 parents responded yes to both items. Five parents responded no to both
items. Comparing the affirmative responses to question 8 of the questionnaire to the affirmative
responses to question 14, “If your student was found violating the University alcohol policy
would your student contact you about the incident?”, 52 parents responded yes to both items.
Regarding the negative responses to both questions, 113 parents responded no to both items.
Comparing the affirmative responses to question 8 of the questionnaire to the affirmative
responses to question 15, “Do you believe if your student is being removed from University
Housing due to underage alcohol consumption the University should notify you, 51 parents
responded yes to both items. One parent responded no to both items. Comparing the affirmative
responses to question 8 of the questionnaire to the affirmative responses to question 16, “Do you
believe if your student is being suspended from the University due to underage alcohol
consumption the University should notify you?”, 52 parents responded yes to both items. Three
parents responded no to both items. Comparing the affirmative responses to question 8 of the
questionnaire to the affirmative responses to question 17, “Do you believe your student has the
right to privacy, from you the parent regarding underage alcohol violations?”, five parents
responded yes to both items. Regarding the negative responses to both questions, 426 parents
responded no to both items. Comparing the affirmative responses to question 8 of the
questionnaire to the affirmative responses to question 18, “Do you believe Universities should be
required to contact parents if their underage student violates alcohol policies,” 45 parents
responded yes to both items. Thirty-seven parents responded no to both items.
Comparing the affirmative responses to question 9 of the questionnaire, “Have you discussed drinking with your student?”, to the affirmative responses to question 11 of the questionnaire, “Do you believe if your student is caught drinking underage by the University staff you should be notified?”, 436 parents responded yes to both items. Four parents responded no to both items. Comparing the affirmative responses to question 9 of the questionnaire to the affirmative responses to question 12 of the questionnaire, “Do you believe upon the second alcohol offense with your underage student you should be notified by the University?”, 481 parents responded yes to both items. Three parents responded no to both items. Comparing the affirmative responses to question 9 of the questionnaire to the affirmative responses to question 13 of the questionnaire, “Do you believe if your underage student is arrested for drinking underage and the University takes disciplinary action you should be notified by the University?”, 501 parents responded yes to both items. One parent responded no to both items. Comparing the affirmative responses to question 9 of the questionnaire to the affirmative responses to question 14, “If your student was found violating the University alcohol policy would your student contact you about the incident?”, 359 parents responded yes to both items. Six parents responded no to both items. Comparing the affirmative responses to question 9 of the questionnaire to the affirmative responses to question 15, “Do you believe if your student is being removed from University Housing due to underage alcohol consumption the University should notify you?”, 502 parents responded yes to both items. Regarding the negative responses to both questions, none of the parents responded no to both items. Comparing the affirmative responses to question 9 of the questionnaire to the affirmative responses to question 16, “Do you believe if your student is being suspended from the University due to underage alcohol consumption the University should notify you?”, 498 parents responded yes to both items. Regarding the negative
responses to both questions, none of the parents responded no to both items. Comparing the affirmative responses to question 9 of the questionnaire to the affirmative responses to question 17, “Do you believe your student has the right to privacy, from you the parent regarding underage alcohol violations?”, 44 parents responded yes to both items. Twenty-three parents responded no to both items. Comparing the affirmative responses to question 9 of the questionnaire to the affirmative responses to question 18, “Do you believe Universities should be required to contact parents if their underage student violates alcohol policies,” 459 parents responded yes to both items. Four parents responded no to both items.

Comparing the affirmative responses to question 10 of the questionnaire, “Do you believe your student would choose studying over going to a party?”, to the affirmative responses to question 11 of the questionnaire, “Do you believe if your student is caught drinking underage by the University staff you should be notified?”, 229 parents responded yes to both items. Thirty-seven parents responded no to both items. Comparing the affirmative responses to question 10 of the questionnaire to the affirmative responses to question 12 of the questionnaire, “Do you believe upon the second alcohol offense with your underage student you should be notified by the University?”, 242 parents responded yes to both items. Twelve parents responded no to both items. Comparing the affirmative responses to question 10 of the questionnaire to the affirmative responses to question 13 of the questionnaire, “Do you believe if your underage student is arrested for drinking underage and the University takes disciplinary action you should be notified by the University?”, 255 parents responded yes to both items. Three parents responded no to both items. Comparing the affirmative responses to question 10 of the questionnaire to the affirmative responses to question 14, “If your student was found violating the University alcohol policy would your student contact you about the incident?”, 201 parents responded yes to both
items. Eighty-one parents responded no to both items. Comparing the affirmative responses to question 10 of the questionnaire to the affirmative responses to question 15, “Do you believe if your student is being removed from University Housing due to underage alcohol consumption the University should notify you?”, 256 parents responded yes to both items. One parent responded no to both items. Comparing the affirmative responses to question 10 of the questionnaire to the affirmative responses to question 16, “Do you believe if your student is being suspended from the University due to underage alcohol consumption the University should notify you?”, 253 parents responded yes to both items. One parent responded no to both items. Comparing the affirmative responses to question 10 of the questionnaire to the affirmative responses to question 17, “Do you believe your student has the right to privacy, from you the parent regarding underage alcohol violations”, 21 parents responded yes to both items. Regarding the negative responses to both questions, 216 parents responded no to both items. Comparing the affirmative responses to question 10 of the questionnaire to the affirmative responses to question 18, “Do you believe Universities should be required to contact parents if their underage student violates alcohol policies,” 235 parents responded yes to both items. Twenty-two parents responded no to both items.

Discussion of Findings

This study’s eleven research questions examined the perceptions of parents regarding underage alcohol use and parental notification policies. It is important to understand the impact parental notification policies can have on decreasing underage drinking on college campuses. This is a necessary element to the relationship parents, students, and institutions form as a student attends an institution.
The Higher Education Reauthorization Act of 1998 paved the way for colleges and universities to implement parental notification policies when students abuse drugs and alcohol while they are under the age of 21. This Congressional Act emanates from pressure from parents who were affected by their offspring’s underage alcohol use while in college. The results of this study regarding parental notification replicate the persistent nationwide concern about underage alcohol use and the parent’s right to know if their offspring is using alcohol under age.

The parents in the study overwhelmingly believe they should be contacted if their student is caught drinking underage for the first time, second time, and if the student is arrested for underage alcohol use.

Over 98% of the parents responded that they want to be notified if their offspring is being removed from University housing or suspended from school for underage alcohol use. Under the premise the majority of parents support their offspring through college, whether it is monetarily or emotionally, parents want to be notified when the risk of their offspring being removed from housing or suspended from school. Suspension from school can interrupt and interfere with the future of their offspring’s growth, college degree and career aspirations.

Only 8.7% of the parents who responded to this survey believe their offspring have the right to privacy from the parents regarding issues of underage alcohol use. Although their offspring has reached the age of 18, which classifies the offspring as an adult, parents in this study believe they should be involved in their offspring’s life to the degree of invading their privacy. Some of the parents who responded to the questions about being notified by the University upon their offspring’s first and second alcohol offense contradict themselves by responding to the belief their offspring has the right to privacy from the parent regarding underage alcohol offenses. Twenty-six of the parents who believe their offspring has the right to
privacy believe they have the right to be notified upon their offspring’s first alcohol offense. Thirty-six of the parents who believe their offspring has the right to privacy believe they have the right to be notified upon their offspring’s second alcohol offense.

According to the study conducted at Bowling Green State University on parental notification in January 2000, 56.7% of the public institutions surveyed have a parental notification policy in place (Palmer, Lohman, Gehring, Carlson, & Garrett, 2001). These results negate the statistics of the responses from this study regarding the 90.2% of the parents who believe Universities should be required to contact parents upon their offspring’s violation of the alcohol policies. Clearly, there are some discrepancies on what is occurring on campuses and what parents would like to happen.

In 2001, the Harvard School of Public Health’s College Alcohol Study found that 40% to 45% of college students binge drink. “Binge drinking is at once the most important public health problem on our campuses and critical challenge to the institutional mission” (Keeling, p. 157). Binge drinking has increased from 5.3% in 1993 to 11.9% in 2001 (Keeling, 2001). According to the parents, who responded in this survey, only 58.1% of them responded alcohol is a primary concern as their student enters college. This conflicting information may lead to many inferences. First, parents may not understand or have knowledge of the binge drinking and alcohol statistics that exist. Second, parents may not realize alcohol is a primary obstacle for universities and a serious temptation for their offspring. Third, parents may be more concerned about other things than alcohol as their student enters college.

The pattern that has emerged from the data indicates parents are not educated in the research that exists on underage alcohol use and binge drinking. Only 33.6% of the parents stated that they were aware of their offspring consuming alcohol underage, and research shows that
underage drinking is at a much higher level than parents believe at this age of offspring. Only 31.7% of parents are aware of their student consuming alcohol underage in this study, but 65.3% believe their student will experiment with alcohol the first year of college. Parents are naïve to the underage drinking that occurs before their offspring enrolls in college.

Only 33.6% of the parents who responded to this survey knew of their offspring consuming alcohol underage without their permission, and 29.7% believe alcohol would be part of the social process of “fitting in” for their offspring. A national study published in the National Institute on Drug Abuse on alcohol and drug use in secondary school students found alcohol is the most frequently used drug by high school seniors, and its use appears to be increasing along with the use of tobacco and marijuana. In 1998, 52% of high school seniors consumed any alcohol in last 30 days (Johnston, O’Malley, Bachman, 1996). Unmistakably, the numbers of offspring who are drinking underage are much higher than parents may realize.

In the state of Texas, where this study was conducted, state law allows minors to possess alcohol in three different circumstances: “(b) A minor may possess an alcoholic beverage:

(1) while in the course and scope of the minor's employment if the minor is an employee of a licensee or permittee and the employment is not prohibited by this code;

(2) if the minor is in the visible presence of his adult parent, guardian, or spouse, or other adult to whom the minor has been committed by a court; or

(3) if the minor is under the immediate supervision of a commissioned peace officer engaged in enforcing the provisions of this code” (Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission, Sec. 106.05). According to this law, minors (offspring under the age of 21) may consume alcohol in the presence of their parent, legal guardian, spouse, or other adult appointed by the court. In this study 9.1% of the parents state they have purchased alcohol for their underage student, which,
although legal in the state of Texas, may not be sending the proper message to their underage student entering college.

Only 2.6% of parents who responded to this survey believe their offspring have a problem with binge drinking the summer before their freshman year of college. The CAS of the Harvard School of Public Health found 43% of college students in their survey reported they have engaged in binge drinking, and nearly 71% of the college binge drinkers in the CAS study binged in high school (Wechsler et al, 1998). This subject matter may have been more difficult for parents to respond to when it came to their offspring and issues of alcohol use or parents may not know if their offspring participates in alcohol consumption.

Parents have taken on some responsibility by discussing alcohol use with their offspring before they leave for college. In this study, 93.7% of the parents stated that they have discussed underage drinking with their student before the summer orientation session in which they attended (two months before classes began for their student).

The majority of the parents in this study were female (65.1%), 34.7% were male. Regarding issues of parental notification, females have a higher response rate than the male parents concerning being notified by the University on the first offense, second offense, and if their offspring was arrested for underage alcohol use. No statistically significant associations were found in the association between the parents belief they should be notified on the first alcohol offense, second alcohol offense or if the offspring is arrested and gender. This could be due to the fact the sample size was not large enough to detect any differences. Males have a higher response rate when it came to issues of parental notification and being removed from University housing or suspension from the University for underage alcohol use. Study data show there was a statistically significant association between parents who wanted to be notified if their
student were removed from University housing and gender, but there was no statistically significance association between parents who wanted to be notified if their student were suspended from school and gender. Females believe at a higher response rate that their offspring would contact them if they were caught violating the University alcohol policy than the male parents, but no statistically significant associations were found between parents who believe their offspring would contact them and gender. Male and female parents have similar response rates when it came to issues of student privacy from their parents, but no statistically significant associations were made between parents who believe their offspring have a right to privacy and gender. No statistically significant associations were found between parents who believe Universities should be required to contact parents if their offspring violates the University alcohol policy and gender. If property rights such as University housing and enrollment in the institution were jeopardized, the male parents wanted to be notified by the institution at a much higher rate of their offspring’s underage alcohol use.

No statistically significant associations were found between any of the items regarding parental notification and ethnicity. This may be attributed to the sample not being representative of the population. Minority populations in this study have greater concerns about underage alcohol use than the Caucasian parents did.

No statistically significant associations existed between any of the items regarding parental notification and age. This may be attributed to the sample not being representative of the population. The majority of the parents were ages 46-56 (53.8%), followed by ages 36-45 at 39.5%; and ages 35 and under; 57 and above were both 3.2%. Ironically, when looking at the issue of parental perceptions of parental notification policies, the two age extremities ages 35 and under and ages 57 and above, have the same response rates when it came to being notified if
offspring were arrested for underage alcohol use, if their offspring were being removed from housing or suspended from school for underage alcohol violations. Regarding other issues such as being notified on the first alcohol offense, second alcohol offense and requiring Universities to contact parents upon violation of the alcohol polices, both of these age groups, 35 and under and 57 and above have similar response rates.

The median age ranges of ages 36-45 and ages 46-56 have similar response rates regarding being notified upon the first alcohol offense, second alcohol offense, and if their student was arrested for underage alcohol use.

As the age of parents increased so did the response rates of parents who wanted to be notified after the first alcohol offense. As the age of parents decreased so did the response rates of parents, who believe their offspring would notify them of underage alcohol offenses.

No statistically significant associations existed between any of the items regarding parental notification and parental status. This may be attributed to the sample not being representative of the population. Adoptive parents and legal guardians want to be contacted regarding all situations in which their offspring is involved in underage alcohol offenses. The majority of parents (93.9%) were birth parents of the students attending college, 2.6% were stepparents, 1.1% were legal guardians, and 1.1% were adoptive parents. The results of the parental status variable are distorted because out of 532 parents, only six were legal guardians, six were adoptive parents, and 14 were stepparents. Concerning issues of parental notification the legal guardians and adoptive parents agreed on being notified upon the first alcohol offense, second alcohol offense, if student is arrested, if student is removed from housing, if student is suspended from school, and if Universities should be required to contact parents upon their offspring’s violation of the University alcohol policies. Stepparents agreed with legal guardians
and adoptive parents regarding being notified after the first alcohol offense, after an arrest, removal from housing, and suspension from school. Birth parents were slightly lower in all areas of parental notification than those of stepparents, legal guardians, and adoptive parents.

The largest discrepancies regarding the parental status variable were in reference to issues of students contacting their parents after violating the university alcohol policy, and the student having the right to privacy from their parents when it came to issues of underage alcohol use. In both areas, the legal guardians have the highest response rate (83.3%) in reference to their offspring contacting them, and 66.7% regarding their offspring having the right to privacy from the parents regarding issues of underage alcohol use. The other parental status categories have significantly lower response rates regarding their offspring having the right to privacy from the parents regarding issues of underage alcohol use.

Regarding issues of underage alcohol use and gender, male and female parents responded similarly to questions concerning alcohol as a primary concern as their student enters college, those who were aware of their student consuming alcohol underage, and those who believe their offspring would experiment with alcohol during the first year of college. No statistically significant association was found between parents who stated that alcohol is a primary concern on college campuses and gender. No statistically significant association was found between parents who were aware of their student consuming alcohol without their permission and gender. No statistically significant association was found between parents who believe their offspring have a problem with binge drinking and gender. No statistically significant association was found between parents who have purchased alcohol for their underage offspring and gender. These results may be attributed to the sample size not being large enough to detect differences. Male parents responded higher in categories of purchasing alcohol for their underage student and
alcohol as part of the family practice. No statistically significant association was found with parents who stated that alcohol was part of practice in the family household and gender. Males responded significantly higher in the belief drinking is part of the social process of fitting in and those who believe their offspring would consume alcohol to relieve stress. A statistically significant association was found between parents who believe their offspring would experiment with alcohol their first year of college and gender.

Statistically significant associations were found regarding parents who believe alcohol is a primary concern as their student enters college and ethnicity, parents who were aware of their underage offspring consuming alcohol underage, parents who stated that alcohol is part of the family practice in their household, and parents who believe their student would experiment with alcohol during their first year of college and ethnicity. Regarding underage alcohol use and ethnicities, many of the minority parents have higher concerns about alcohol than the Caucasian parents did. African-American, Multiracial and Native American parents have the highest response rate in which alcohol was a primary concern as their student enters college. This response may be due to these same ethnicities having knowledge of their offspring consuming alcohol underage without permission more than the Caucasians.

Native American parents have bigger concerns with issues regarding all areas of underage alcohol use, including a higher rate of binge drinking. This concern is evident in research conducted on Native Americans and alcohol. A number of studies have been conducted that have found Native Americans have high rates of alcoholism and alcohol abuse (Thomason, 2000). Caucasians were the only ethnic group to purchase alcohol for their underage offspring, but have a high response rate regarding parental notification.
Regarding the variable of age, two of the age groups have higher responses regarding issues of underage alcohol use. Ages 35 and under have the highest response rates regarding alcohol being a primary concern as their student enters college, parents who have purchased alcohol for their underage offspring, parents who responded alcohol was part of the family practice, and parents who believe drinking is part of the social process of fitting in. Ages 46-56 have the highest response rates in issues where they have knowledge of their offspring consuming alcohol underage without their permission, parents who believe their offspring has a problem with binge drinking, parents who believe their offspring would experiment with alcohol the first year of college, parents who have discussed underage drinking with their offspring, and those who believe their offspring would choose studying over going to a party. Statistically significant associations were found regarding parents who believe consuming alcohol was part of the social process of fitting in the first year of college, and parents who believe their offspring would consume alcohol to relieve stress and age. As the age of parents increased the rate of those who purchased alcohol for their offspring decreased.

Regarding the variable of parental status and underage alcohol, the only instance in which birth parents have the highest response rate was regarding believing their offspring have a problem with binge drinking. Stepparents have the highest response rate regarding issues of alcohol as a primary concern as their student enters college, parents who were aware of their offspring consuming alcohol underage without permission, parents who stated that alcohol is part of the family practice, parents who believe their offspring would experiment with alcohol the first year of school, and parents who believe drinking is part of the social process of “fitting in” as their student began college. Legal guardians have the highest response rate regarding the belief their offspring would consume alcohol to relieve stress. Adoptive parents, legal guardians,
and stepparents all responded 100% that they have discussed underage drinking with their offspring. Statistically significant associations were found regarding parents who believe their offspring would choose studying over going to a party and parental status.

When asked the question, if parents believe alcohol is a primary concern as their student enters college, the responses to the parental notification section of the survey reflected the concern about underage alcohol use. As the parental notification questions increased from being notified on the first offense, to being notified on the second offense, and ultimately to being notified if their student was arrested, the numbers of parents who responded to these items increased as the severity of the alcohol use increased. As property issues such as being removed from University housing or being suspended from school the relationship also increased with their concern for underage alcohol use on campus.

Statistically significant associations were found between parents who believe alcohol was a primary concern as their student enter college and parents who wanted to be contacted upon their offspring’s first alcohol offense, and between parents who believe alcohol was a primary concern as their student entered college and parents who wanted to be contacted upon their offspring’s second alcohol offense. Statistically significant associations were found between parents who believe alcohol was a primary concern as their student entered college and parents who wanted to be contacted if their offspring was arrested for underage alcohol offenses, and between parents who believe alcohol was a primary concern as their student entered college and parents who believe their offspring would contact them if they were caught violating the alcohol policy.

Regarding the question “As a parent have you ever purchased alcohol for your underage student?,” 49 parents stated that they have purchased alcohol for their student. Of these 49
parents, 10 parents did not want to be notified upon the first alcohol offense, 3 parents did not want to be notified upon the second alcohol offense, and 2 parents did not want to be notified if their student was arrested for underage alcohol use. Of the 49 parents, all of them wanted to be notified if their student was removed from housing, but only two parents did not want to be notified if their offspring was being suspended from the University. Seven parents who stated that they purchased alcohol for their underage student believe their student would not contact them if caught violating the alcohol policy, and 44 of them did not believe their student has the right to privacy from them, the parent, concerning issues of underage alcohol use. Even though parents may have sent a message to their student consuming alcohol underage, they still believe Universities should be required to contact parents upon their offspring’s underage alcohol offense. Ironically, if parents have purchased alcohol for their underage student many of them want to be notified under all circumstances if their offspring violated the alcohol policy.

As underage alcohol offenses increased in number and severity, the higher the response from parents regarding parental notification. Although society believes students are adults at the age of 18, and FERPA grants students privacy regarding educational records from the public, the majority of parents believe their offspring does not have the right to privacy from them regarding sensitive issues such as underage alcohol use.

Conclusions

1. Parents who participated in this study desire contact from institutions of higher education about their offspring’s underage alcohol use because lines of communication may be distorted between parents and their offspring. Parents have opened the lines of communication with their students by discussing underage alcohol with their offspring, but the offspring is not approaching the parents about issues of
underage alcohol use. If institutions adopt parental notification policies, they may assist in opening the lines of communication with parents and offspring as well as foster the relationships between the institution, the student, and the parents.

2. The concern of underage alcohol use and the effects it may have on students’ lives is paramount to the inception of parental notification policies on college campuses.

3. Institutions of higher education should determine their own set guidelines and direction in creating parental notification policies. It is impossible for Congress to set guidelines for institutions of higher education and parental notification because each institution is uniquely different.

4. Every University should have some type of parental notification policy in place, which should be developed with students, parents, and the University mission in mind. Institutions who turn their heads to setting up parental notification policies may see an increase in underage alcohol use and liability issues as underage alcohol use and binge drinking continues to intensify nationally.

5. Universities should continue to educate students, parents, and University community about the effects of underage alcohol use, binge drinking and other substance abuses.

6. Parents should stay actively involved in their offspring’s life after they enroll in an institution of higher education. It is of vital importance to the safety and success of their offspring to remain an active part of their lives by asking questions about alcohol use, school performance, and social issues. Parents should also stay involved in the University community in which their student attends. This will possibly open up relationships with parents and the institution.
Recommendations for Further Research

In order to validate and expand the findings of this study, the principal investigator recommends future studies be conducted in the following areas.

1. This study concerned only the parental perceptions of underage alcohol use and parental notification policies. Additional studies, particularly replications of the current study along with surveying their offspring simultaneously, are needed to develop parental notification policies and to understand both sides of the debate.

2. A study should be conducted that takes into consideration the differences of parental perceptions of underage alcohol use and perceptions on parental notification policies based on whether if the parents are enrolling a son or a daughter in college. There may be major differences in parental responses based on the gender of their offspring.

3. A longitudinal study should be conducted in which parents are surveyed on their perceptions of underage alcohol use and parental notification policies at Freshman Orientation, after their offspring’s first year of enrollment and upon their offspring’s graduation.

4. A qualitative study, in addition to quantitative study, should be conducted using interviews and observations of parents who have offspring that have violated the University alcohol policies and of parents who have offspring that have not violated the University alcohol policies.

5. Additional inquiry needs to be addressed and researched such as 1) is student part of a fraternity or sorority; 2) is student a member of a University athletic team; and 3) is student living on or off campus to current study.
6. Another aspect of future study needs to take into consideration the strength of relationship between parent and student. If there is a nominal relationship between the two parties, the results may be highly different from those that have a close relationship.

7. A study should be conducted concerning parents who have been diagnosed an alcoholic and their perceptions of underage alcohol use and parental notification policies regarding their offspring’s enrollment in an institution of higher education.

8. A study should be conducted in institutions that have major athletic programs and the correlation between alcohol consumption and performance in school.

Continual research is needed concerning underage alcohol use and parental notification policies. Many times institutions of higher education would rather not recognize the issue of parental notification than to deal with it and create a policy. Since the current study was conducted at a single institution, the findings cannot be generalized to the entire population, but Universities across the nation can conduct the research to understand their needs for parental notification polices and the perceptions that exist concerning underage alcohol use.
APPENDIX A

INSTRUMENT
Parental Perceptions of Underage Alcohol Use and Parental Notification

Demographic Data

Gender: _____ Male  _____ Female
Ethnicity: _____ African- American  _____ Caucasian  _____ Hispanic
 _____ Native American  _____ Asian American  _____ Multiracial
Age: _____ 35 and under  ____ 36-45  _____ 46-56
 _____ 57 and over
Parental Status: _____ Birth Parent  ____ Stepparent
 _____ Guardian  _____ Adoptive Parent
Current student’s college order: _____ First to attend  _____ Middle to attend
 _____ Last to attend  _____ Only to attend

Directions: Please check the response, which most closely reflects your actual belief as a parent of an undergraduate student.

Perceptions of Alcohol Use By Underage College Students

1). Alcohol use within a University setting is a primary concern as my student begins college. _____ yes _____ no

2) As a parent are you aware of your student consuming alcohol without your permission? _____ yes _____ no

3) Do you believe your student has a problem with binge drinking? (Binge drinking is four drinks for women and five drinks for men in one sitting). _____ yes _____ no

4) As a parent have you ever purchased alcohol for your underage student? _____ yes _____ no
5) Is alcohol use part of the family atmosphere in your household? 
   ______ yes  ______ no

6) During the first year of college do you believe your student will experiment with alcohol?  
   ______ yes  ______ no

7) Do you believe that drinking is part of the social process of “fitting in” for your student in college?  
   ______ yes  ______ no

8) Do you believe your student will consume alcohol to relieve stress? 
   ______ yes  ______ no

9) Have you discussed underage drinking with your student? 
   ______ yes  ______ no

10) Do you believe your student would choose studying over going to a party? 
    ______ yes  ______ no

The University and the Right to Parental Notification

11) Do you believe that if your student is caught drinking underage by the University staff that you should be notified?  
    ______ yes  _____ no

12) Do you believe upon the second alcohol offense with your underage student that you should be notified by the University?  
    ______ yes  ______ no

13) Do you believe that if your underage student is arrested for drinking underage and the university takes disciplinary action that you should be notified by the University?  
    ______ yes  ______ no

14) If your student was found violating the University alcohol policy would your student contact you about the incident?  
    ______ yes  ______ no
15) Do you believe that if your student is being removed from University Housing due to underage alcohol consumption that the University should notify you?
    ______ yes   _______ no

16) Do you believe that if your student is being suspended from the University due to alcohol consumption that the University should notify you?
    _______ yes   ______ no

17) Do you believe your student has the right to privacy as a student, from you the parent when it comes to underage alcohol violations?
    _______ yes   ______ no

18) Do you believe that Universities should be required to contact parents if their underage student violates alcohol policy?
    _______ yes   ______ no

Financial Responsibility

19) Are you financially responsible for your student’s education?
    _____ yes   ______ no

20) Do you claim your student as a dependent for IRS income tax purposes?
    _______ yes   ______ no
APPENDIX B

HUMAN SUBJECTS LETTER
June 24, 2002

RE: Human Subjects Application No. 02-167

Dear Ms. Clouse,

Your proposal titled “Parental Perceptions of Underage Alcohol Use and Parental Notification” has been approved by the Institutional Review Board and is exempt from further review under 45 CFR 46.101. Federal policy 45 CFR 46.109(e) stipulates that IRB approval is for one year only.

Enclosed is the consent document with stamped IRB approval. Please copy and use this form only for your study subjects.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services regulations require that you submit annual and terminal progress reports to the UNT Institutional Review Board. Further, the UNT IRB must re-review this project annually and/or prior to any modifications you make in the approved project. Please contact me if you wish to make such changes or need additional information.

Sincerely,

Peter L. Shillingsburg
Chair
Institutional Review Board

PS: sb
APPENDIX C

LETTER TO PARENTS
Dear parent/Legal Guardian:

The attached survey is part of a research project being conducted to fulfill part of my requirements as a doctoral student in the Department of Counseling, Development and Higher Education at the University of North Texas.

The purpose of this study is to consult with parents/guardians of underage college students on their students' possible use of alcohol and the parents' belief in regards to notification of underage alcohol offenses. This survey will take approximately 10 minutes to complete. Institutions across the United States have very different policies when notifying parents of these offenses: some believe an underage student at the age of 18 is an adult and parents do not need to be involved, others believe that parents are instrumental in the educational and developmental growth of their student and notify parents with underage alcohol offenses. This study is to solicit your feedback in regards to your current undergraduate student attending the University of North Texas in the Fall 2002.

This survey is completely voluntary. You are not obligated to take part in this research and you may withdraw at any time. If you have questions please contact me at mmc@esi.admin.unt.edu or the faculty sponsor, Dr. Barry Lumsden at 940.565.2045.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Maureen McGinniss Childs
Doctoral Student
University of North Texas

This project has been reviewed and approved by the UNT Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects (940.565.3940).
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