

## POSTER OF DISTINCTION

**Clapp, J., Reed, M., Min, J., Shillington, A., Croff, J., & Holmes, M.:** Blood alcohol concentrations among bar patrons: A multi-level study of drinking behavior.

### ABSTRACT

A multi-level study was conducted at popular young adult bars in a high-density alcohol-outlet area. Bar patrons were interviewed as they entered and exited (repeated measures) bars. Patrons were randomly selected from 30 bars (n=839). Upon entrance and exit patrons were asked to complete a brief questionnaire and to provide a breathalyzer sample. Our findings indicate that drinking settings are dynamic across one night. Nearly three-quarters (71.2%) of participants reported drinking before attending the bar; respondents who drank had 3.35 drinks on average. Those with pre-bar drinking had consumed alcohol at various locations such as their own place (30.7%), a friend's place (28.2%), a bar (25.5%), or restaurant (24.5%). Those with pre-bar drinking had an average pre-BrAC of .0475. Post-BrAC level for those drank prior to coming to the bar was .0855 compared to .0411 for those respondents who did not drink. Paired-sample t-test statistics indicated that both groups reported statistically significant increase between pre- and post-BAC levels. Multi-level analyses suggested that both individual-level and environmental characteristics predicted changes in BrAC from bar entrance to exit. At the individual-level gender (males), motivation to get drunk, motivation to continue drinking, pre-partying, and two-week history of heavy episodic drinking all predicted greater BrAC change. At the bar-level, the presence of temporary bars was associated with larger BrAC changes, while the presence of dancing was associated with smaller BrAC change. Implications for prevention at the bar-level and future research will be presented.