

# KEY FINDINGS

- A majority of the Pennsylvania Institutes of Higher Education surveyed acknowledge that alcohol use by students is an area of concern and share a commitment to prevent student alcohol use on campus. Focus group participants warn that this perception could change as budget and student retention pressures, related to decreased enrollments, increase.
- Almost one-third of administrators responded “don’t know” when asked whether or not their campus has formally identified the principles and underlying theory of their alcohol prevention efforts based on an accepted framework (i.e., *Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Strategic Prevention Framework*). Therefore, it is not surprising that a little less than half of respondents said they used their “institutional experience” to guide their prevention approaches as many are unaware of the formal alternatives.
- All of the institutions responding to the survey have a policy in place addressing Medical Amnesty and Good Samaritan laws.
- The most commonly implemented student sanctions were individual probation and warnings. However, when asked which potential sanctions or consequences AOD professionals found to be most valuable, alcohol evaluation/screenings and brief motivational interventions were cited. This demonstrates a discrepancy between belief and institutional practice.
- *BASICS* and *AlcoholEdu* are the most frequently used formal programs; however, many schools have limited prevention and education services and programs to meet alcohol-related student needs.
- Over one-third of the responding institutions did not have a designated, full-time staff member responsible for AOD.
- The lack of trained staff and/or adequate staff resources was identified as the primary barrier to providing more alcohol prevention and education programs at a majority of the schools.
- Less than half of responding institutions of higher education have any type of on-campus recovery support services available.
- Over half of the colleges and universities sampled have not conducted a formal needs assessment of student drinking behavior in the past 3 years.
- When an assessment of student alcohol use is conducted, it is generally done through an institutionally created survey.