

# Social Context of Drinking and Alcohol Problems Among College Students

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**Objective:** To examine how social contexts of drinking are related to alcohol use disorders, other alcohol-related problems, and depression among college students. **Methods:** Logistic regression models controlling for drinking frequency measured the association between social context and problems, among 728 current drinkers. **Results:** Drinking for social facilitation was associated with drinking and driving and housing violations. Drinking in the context of motor vehicles was

associated with alcohol abuse/dependence. Drinking in a context of emotional pain was associated with clinical depression. **Conclusions:** Alcohol-free programming that fulfills needs for conviviality and addresses early signs of depression might reduce alcohol problems among college students.

**Key words:** social context, alcohol abuse and dependence, impaired driving, college students, mental health.

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