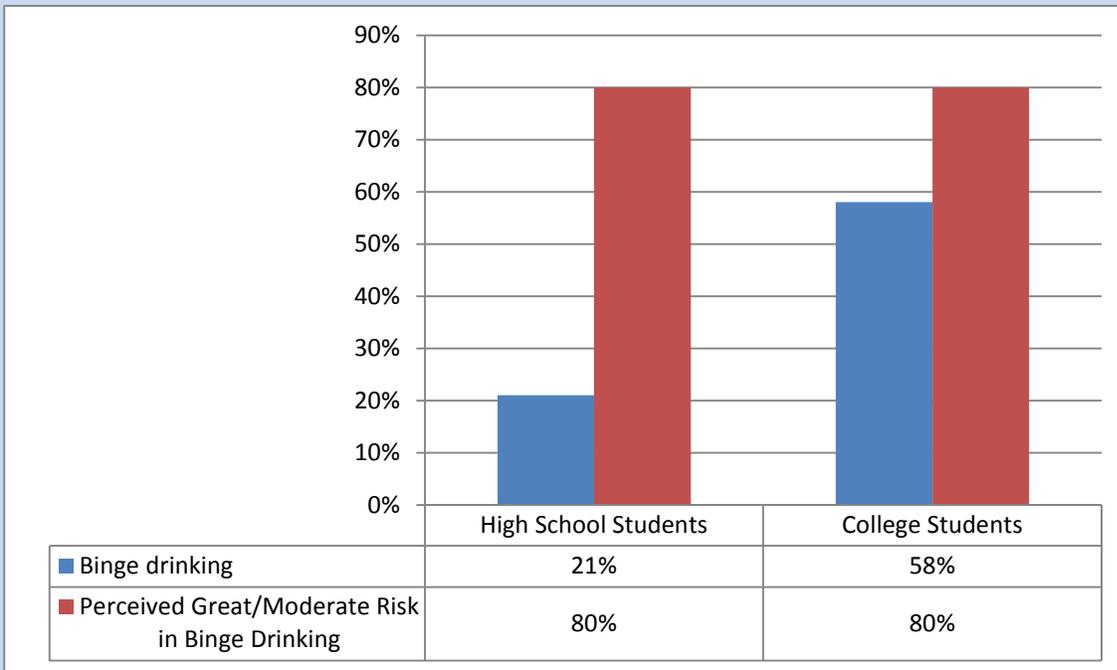




***College Students’ Attitudes and Behaviors toward Binge Drinking***

According to the 2012 Delaware School Survey, 80% of 11<sup>th</sup> grade students perceive great or moderate risk in binge drinking and 21% of 11<sup>th</sup> graders binge report binge drinking in the past two weeks (for high school this is 3 or more drinks on the same occasion). When this is compared to the 2012 College Risk Behavior Survey, which surveys students from the University of Delaware, we see the percentage binge drinking increases markedly from the high school estimate -- 58% report binge drinking using a more extreme criterion (5 or more drinks on the same occasion). However, the percentage of UD students reporting perceived “great or moderate risk in binge drinking” is just as high as for the high school students – 80%.



Although UD students’ perceived risk is aligned with that of the high school students, their rate of binge drinking is much higher than that for high school students. So, the majority of college students engage in the same behavior (binge drinking) that they deem risky. This poses an interesting challenge to college administrators and those working in alcohol use prevention on college campuses because even though UD students’ identify a behavior as risky, they still frequently engage in it. Prevention efforts that look at social norms and sensation seeking may be appropriate with residential college students.

Source: 2012 Delaware School Survey and 2012 College Risk Behavior Survey, University of Delaware Center for Drug and Alcohol Studies  
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