



## FEATURE ARTICLE

### Perceived Parental Reaction to College Drinking among Minority Women

By: Ty Wanda L. McLaurin-Jones, Ph.D., Maudry Beverley Lashley,  
Ph.D. & Vanessa Marshall, Ph.D.  
Howard University

## ABSTRACT

Emerging research has demonstrated that parents continue to exert their influence on college drinking either directly or indirectly. Yet, minority women have largely been overlooked. The objective of this study is tri-fold: to assess the prevalence of alcohol use, to examine the relationship between perceived parental reaction to college alcohol use and level of drinking, and to evaluate views on familial influence of alcohol use. Utilizing the sequential explanatory design, a mixed-methods study was conducted with a sample of 413 female students attending a Historically Black College and University (HBCU). Participants completed the Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test (AUDIT) to assess the level of drinking (non-drinker, moderate, and hazardous) and items to assess both mothers' and fathers' response to alcohol use. Additionally 49 participants took part in a focus group discussion. Hazardous drinkers reported low parental reaction to their alcohol use than women who drink within healthy guidelines. Thematic analysis of open discussion suggests that the families of minority college women pass along the expectation that drinking is part of the college experience. Parental alcohol messages whether explicit ("be responsible/drink in moderation"), implicit (hidden messages) or complicit (drinking with student) appears to impact alcohol use. These findings highlight areas for further research and potential parent-based interventions.

**Keywords:** College Drinking; Parenting; Young Women; African-Americans

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