Fake IDs, Getting Caught, and Heavy Drinking
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Introduction
• False identification (fake ID) is a common method for underage youths to access alcohol.
• Fake IDs are also strongly linked to heavy drinking.
• Improvement of detection of fake IDs would:
  - Enhance law enforcement.
  - Limit alcohol access and subsequent drinking.

Present Study
• We developed a profile of individuals’ likelihood of fake ID ownership and methods of fake ID obtainment and use.
• We also estimated whether these factors relate to:
  - Reports of having been caught while using a fake ID.
  - Heavy drinking.

Method
Participants
• 1,108 students at a large Midwestern university, under the age of 21.
• Participants were assessed using an online survey.
• Mean age: 18.6 (SD=6); 56.5% female.

Measures
• Greek Membership ( Dichotomous).
• Current fake ID ownership (Dichotomous).
• Heavy Drinking (Ordinal)
  - Didn’t, Once, 2-3 times, Once or twice a week, 3-4 times a week, 5-6 times a week, Nearly every day, Every day

• Assessed in current fake ID owners (n=230):
  - Fake ID Obtainment:
    - When fake ID was obtained (Dichotomous):
      - High School vs. College
    - Where fake ID was obtained (Dichotomous Options):
      - Bought
      - Given by relative
      - Given by non-relative
      - Through Greek organization
  - Fake ID Use:
    - Ever Used (Dichotomous)
    - Number of times used (Ordinal)
      - 0: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 6-10, 11-20, More than 20 times
    - Where fake ID was used (Dichotomous Options):
      - To enter bars
      - To buy at retail outlets
      - To enter clubs
      - Versatile Use (Used at more than one Place)
  - Fake ID Capture (Dichotomous)
    - Have you ever been caught attempting to buy alcohol or enter a bar or club using a fake ID?
      - Yes, I have been caught
      - No, I have never been caught

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Analyses
• Rates of variables were estimated.
• False identification (fake ID) is a common method for underage youths to access alcohol.
• Sex differences (adjusting for Greek membership) were estimated using logistic regression.
• Greek membership differences (adjusting for sex) were estimated using logistic regression.
• The association of being caught while using a fake ID with other variables was estimated using logistic regression.
• The association of heavy drinking with other variables was estimated using multiple regression.

Results
• 21% of students owned a fake ID.
• There were sex differences:
  - Men were more likely than women to obtain fake IDs in high school.
  - Men more often bought them; women were given fake IDs by relatives, non-relatives and through Greek organizations.
• Improvements of detection of fake IDs would:
  - Enhance law enforcement.
  - Limit alcohol access and subsequent drinking.

Conclusions
• The findings provide preliminary descriptive information:
  - The typical male with a fake ID buys it in high school, uses it often and at retail outlets, and reports having been caught.
  - The typical female with a fake ID receives it in college from a Greek organization, uses it less often at a variety of locations and reports not having been caught.
• Many of these aspects of fake IDs correlated with heavy drinking.
• Thus, these types of profiles are useful in identifying:
  - Who is most likely to obtain fake IDs.
  - The specifics of their obtainment and use.
  - Subsequently, these factors’ relations to heavy drinking.

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