

# Survey shows reduction in risky drinking on campus

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A survey conducted by the Wellness, Alcohol and Violence Education showed that drinking on campus has decreased significantly in the past few years.

The survey showed a 50 percent reduction in drinking in Greek Housing, an 18 percent reduction of drinking in residential housing, and a 15 percent reduction in binge drinking from 2006 to 2009.

"I think part of it is a change in administration in both Housing and Greek Life," Debra Darmata, Program Coordinator of WAVE, said. "Administration from the top down takes this very seriously. They put time, money, and energy into trying to stop this problem."

Darmata said these reductions may also have been a result of recent tragedies that occurred as a result of risky drinking. In 2005 and 2006, respectively, two NMSU students died as a result of alcohol poisoning.

Darmata said one of the biggest concerns of WAVE is dangerous drinking, such as binge drinking. Binge drinking is defined as a male consuming five alcoholic drinks in a period of two hours and a female consuming four alcoholic drinks in a period of two hours. Darmata said that alcohol damages the brain at any age. However, drinking before adulthood can also lead to more serious brain damage.

"But regardless of age, our concern is high-risk drinking," Darmata said. "There is no safe way to drink, but if you do decide to drink, do it in a way that is safer."