

Today's American College Student: *What Makes Them So Different From When I Was in College?*

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Overview:

The American College Student

- *Who are our students?*
 - *Today's Students*
 - *Issues & Trends*
- *Applications to the classroom*

*“... it is clear that the manner in which students are motivated to engage in higher education has been changing and will continue to change rapidly.”
(Crone & McKay, 2007)*



DePaul Student Profile

- Undergraduate Enrollment: 16,384 (12,381 under the age of 24)
- Fulltime: 82%
- Freshmen: 2,458 students
- Transfers: 1,530 students
- Students of Color: 35%(overall)
- 75% on financial aid
- Pell Grant Recipients: 35%



DePaul First Year Student Profile

First Year Students:

- 32% students of color
- 36% first generation students
- 12% Chicago Public Schools

Location:

- 45% Suburban Chicago
- 33% Out-of-State
- 19% City of Chicago



The World is Demanding More . . .

- Disruptive global and social change
- An economy dependent on knowledge & innovation
- The “shelf-life” of industries
- Today’s students will have 10-14 jobs by the time they are 38
- Employers need “360 degree” employees



New Students

- Expectations of Higher Education: A Career Orientation
- Financial Pressures
 - Having to work
 - Taking out loans
 - Majors and Courses



Academics: Academic Preparation

Contributing factors to success in college:

- Pre-college preparation and achievement
- Family Income
- Parent's Education
- Study Habits



Academics: Academic Preparation

High School Experiences

- 47% study only 3 hours a week
- 2/3 of these students receive mostly A's & B's
- 1/5 of the college prep students took a math course after junior year
- 7/10 high school seniors wrote at least 3 or more papers of 5+ pages
- Only about 50% put a great deal of effort into their school work



Academics

How they learn:

- Need for relevance
- Connections
- Clear explanations of the material being covered
- Prompt feedback
- Respecting students as adults



Health & Wellness: Emotional Health

Emotional Health

- Students perceived emotional health at record low (CIRP Study)
 - Male students “above average” emotional health reported at 51.9%
 - Women students “above average” emotional health reported at 45.9%



Health & Wellness: Emotional Health

- Students expectation of seeking personal counseling during college at all time high: 9.7% (CIRP)
- 1,057 students used University Counseling Services (UCS) at DePaul in 2010
- Panic attacks have overtaken depression as most reported problem (UCS)



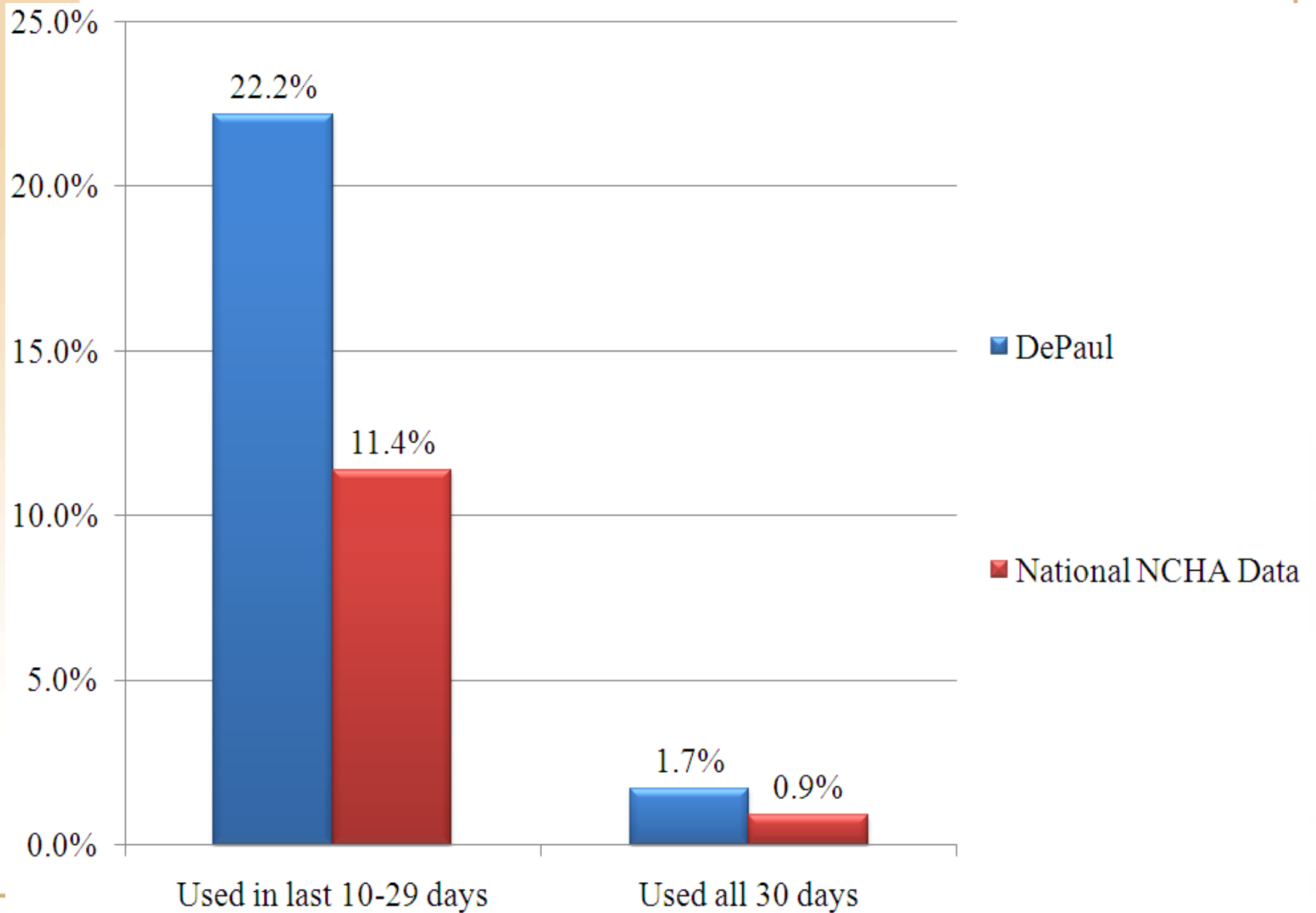
Health & Wellness: Drugs & Alcohol

So far this year at DePaul:

- 40 hospital transports for alcohol poisoning
- 25 arrests for marijuana (33 incidents)
- 1 arrest for cocaine possession
- 8 mental health hospitalizations
- 14 removals from the residence halls



Alcohol Use



Health & Wellness: Sex

- Sexually active in the last 30 days:
 - 59% of DePaul
 - 46.5% NCHA national average
- 4 or more sexual partners in the last year:
 - 9.3 % DePaul
 - 7.8% NCHA national average
- “Hooking Up” Culture



Needing to Work

- The rising cost of higher education
- Student debt
- 35% of seniors work 20+ hours a week in off-campus jobs (10% of freshmen)



Values

- Social Responsibility
- Environment & Sustainability
- Activism
- Community Service
- Diversity
- Civic Engagement



What issues do they bring?

Trends

- Work & school
- Family income not keeping pace w/ college costs
- Diversity
- Technology
- Mental illness
- Alcohol abuse
- Academic disengagement
- Crime & violence on campus
- Academic Preparation
- Learning disabilities
- Parental involvement
- The “Millennials”

