

SEXUAL ASSAULT AND ALCOHOL:

WHAT THE RESEARCH EVIDENCE TELLS US

RECOGNIZE THE COMPLEXITY OF THE ASSOCIATION

*Alcohol use does not cause sexual assault, but it can be a major contributing factor.*¹⁻¹⁰

Research studies have found that about half of sexual assaults on college campuses involve a situation in which the perpetrator, the victim, or both were consuming alcohol.¹⁻⁵ Sexual assaults were more likely to occur in settings where alcohol was consumed (e.g., parties, bars).¹¹⁻¹³ Potential perpetrators seek out such settings as a way of finding vulnerable individuals. Alcohol should be seen as a risk factor for—not a cause of—unwanted sexual advances and other forms of sexual assault.

Sexual assaults involving alcohol more often occur among individuals who know each other casually as acquaintances, rather than among individuals

Learn what else you can do to reduce excessive drinking and sexual assault on your college campus by visiting
www.marylandcollaborative.org



