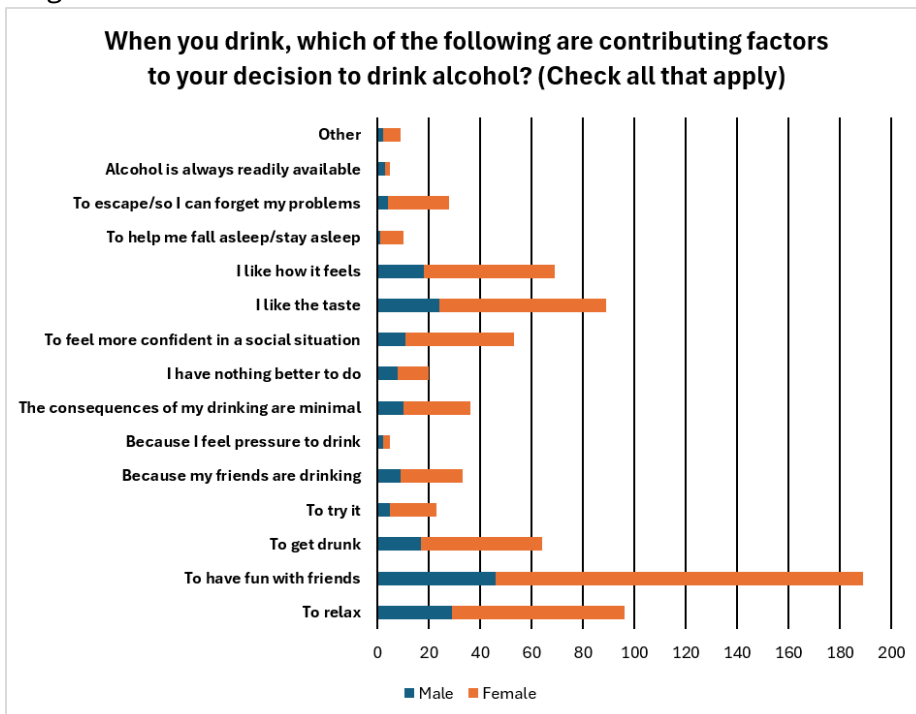


Why are students drinking?

When asked to indicate contributing factors to their decision to drink alcohol, 25.9% of selections (n=189) indicated "To have fun with friends". Another 13.2% of selections (n=96) indicated "To relax" and 12.2% of selections (n=89) indicated "I like the taste". There was 729 total selections recorded for this survey question and participants could select any and all applicable contributing factors.

Figure 1.11



SUMMARY

The findings on alcohol consumption in the IACSUB 2026 survey found that there continues to be a sharp decline in alcohol use in Illinois college and university students. Those who do choose to drink most often do so to have fun with friends. The most common place for them to drink was at social gatherings. More often than not, they obtained alcohol from a friend who is 21 or older and the most common consequences were having a hangover and vomiting or taking care of someone else who was doing so.

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RESOURCES

Illinois Higher Education Center (2026).
Reprint of IACSUB Survey. *Statewide AOD Survey*, 1-78.

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