

El Camino College Drug Free Schools and Communities Survey Spring 2020



Objective and Context

The Drug Free Schools and Communities survey was administered to El Camino College students in Spring 2020. The Drug Free Schools and Communities Act (DFSCA) requires that colleges and universities survey their students regarding drug and alcohol awareness every 2 years. The purpose of this survey is to help determine the effectiveness of drug and alcohol prevention programs at the college. In addition, the results of this survey will assist in the development of drug and alcohol awareness policies and prevention activities at El Camino College.

Respondents Demographics

The Drug Free Schools and Communities survey was sent out to students enrolled in Spring 2020. A total of 642 students completed the survey for a response rate of 3%. Over 60% of the students who responded to survey were female and 37% were male. Thirty-nine percent of respondents were ages 20-24. Nearly half the survey respondents identified as Latino or Hispanic. Half of respondents were enrolled full-time (12 or more units) in Spring 2020 while 72% of respondents' educational goal was to transfer to a 4-year university.

Figure 1. Gender

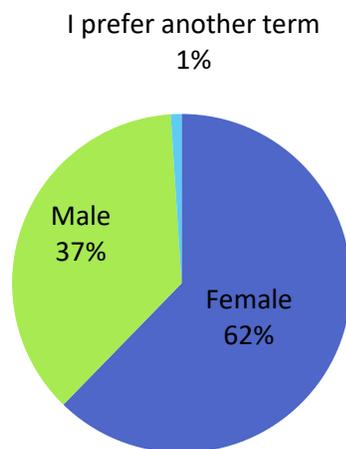


Figure 2. Age

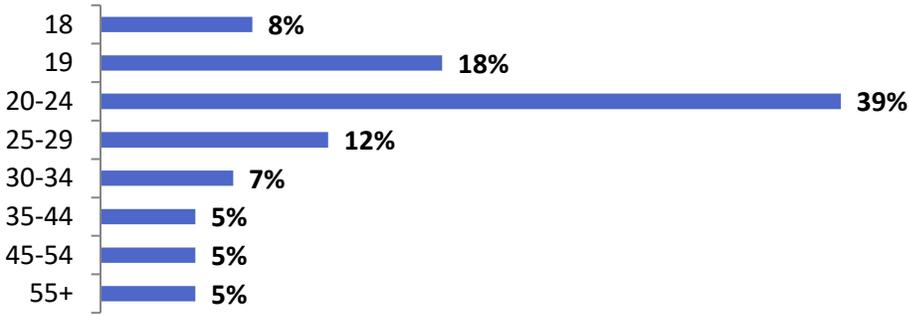


Figure 3. Ethnicity

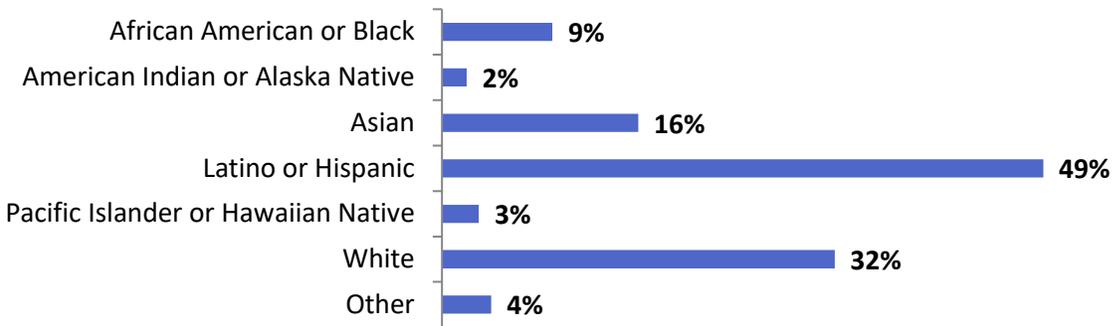


Figure 4. Educational Goal

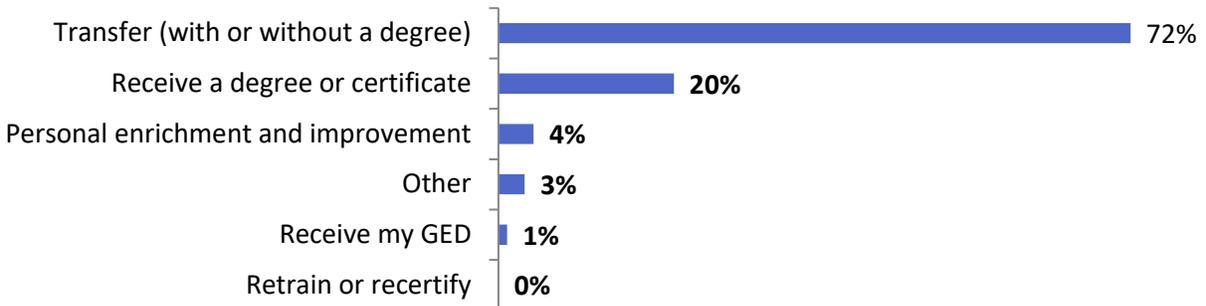
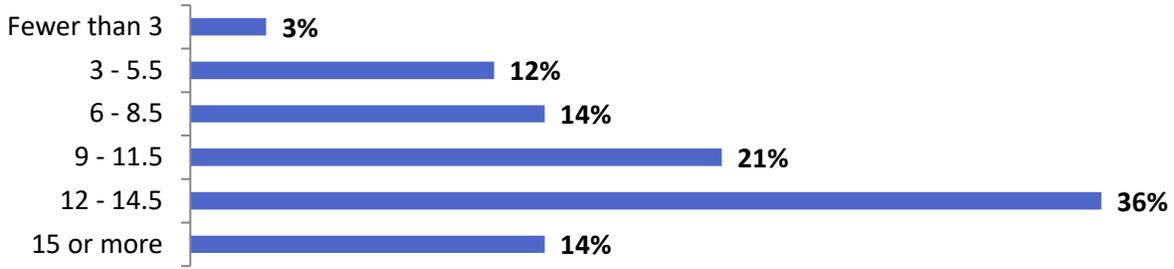


Figure 5. Credit Load



Survey Results

When students were asked about drug and alcohol policies, 98% of respondents were aware that El Camino College has a policy on student drug and alcohol use on campus (Figure 6). But when asked if these policies are consistently enforced, 53% indicated that they were enforced while 47% said there was no consistent enforcement (Figure 7).

Figure 6: Does ECC have a policy concerning student alcohol and other drug use on campus? (n=442)

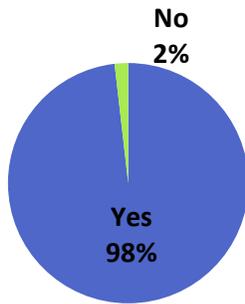
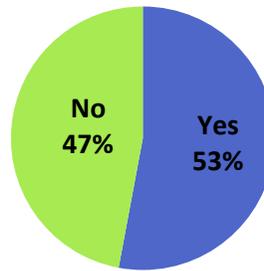


Figure 7: Are alcohol and drug use policies consistently enforced with students at El Camino College? (n=306)



Ninety-six percent of respondents have not attended any campus sponsored alcohol or other drug use prevention and awareness workshops, expos, fairs or programs (Figure 8).¹ Sixty-nine percent of students indicated that they did not know where to refer students for help in regards use of alcohol or drugs at El Camino College (Figure 9).

¹ Please note that this survey was administered during the college closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic when planned on campus events did not take place.

Figure 8: Have you ever attended an alcohol or other drug use prevention, and awareness program/fair/expo/workshop at El Camino College? (n=634)

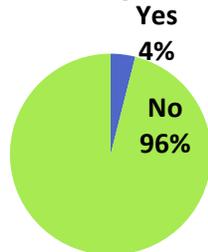
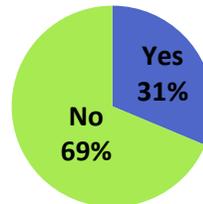


Figure 9: Would you know where to refer a classmate or other student for help at El Camino College if they had an alcohol or other drug use problem? (n=642)



Sixty percent of respondents indicated that they have not been personally aware of student academic performance being affected by alcohol or other drug use (Figure 10) while 58% of respondents do not consider alcohol or drug use a problem among El Camino College students (Figure 11). Eighty-six percent of respondents do not consider alcohol or drug use at El Camino College to be more of a problem than that experienced at other colleges (Figure 12).

Figure 10: Have you personally been aware of student(s) whose academic performance has been affected by alcohol or other drug use? (n=642)

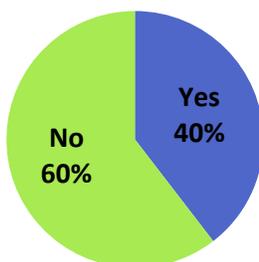


Figure 11: Do you consider alcohol or drug use at El Camino College to be a problem among students? (n=395)

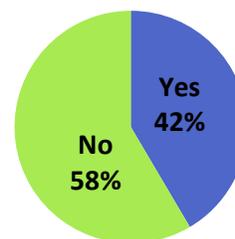
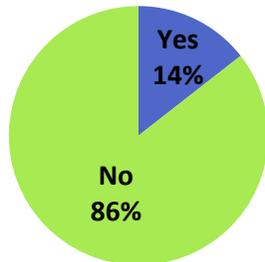
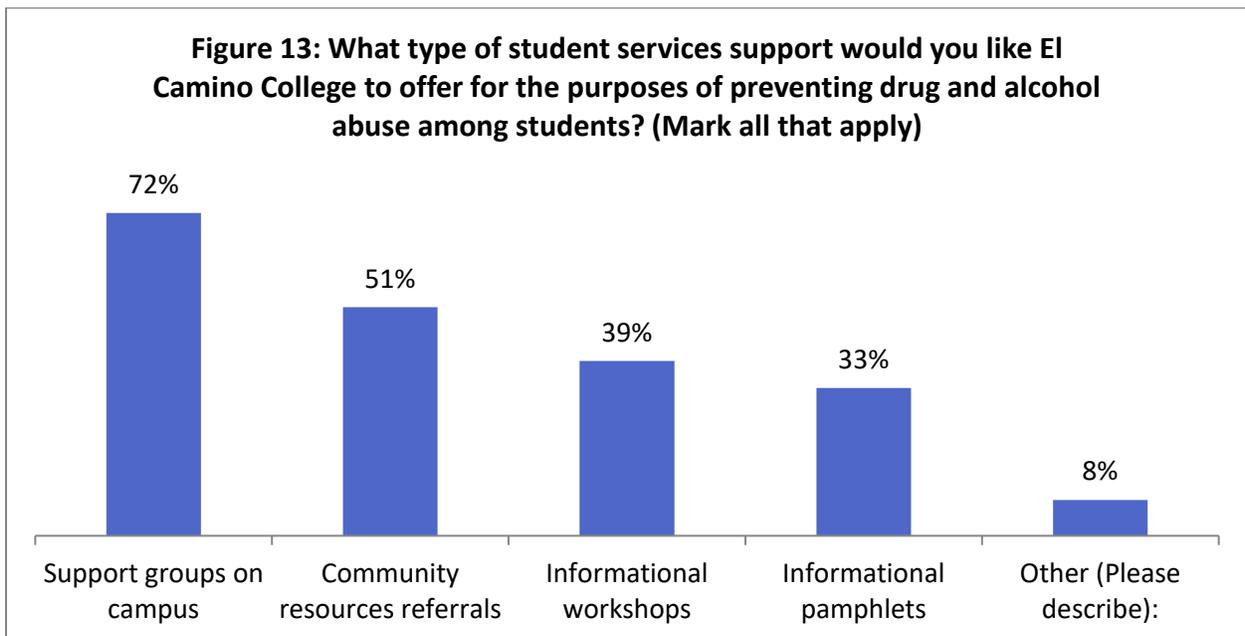


Figure 12: Do you consider alcohol and other drug at El Camino College to be more of a problem than that experienced at other colleges? (n=360)



Students were asked about what type of student services support they would like El Camino College to offer for the prevention of drug and alcohol abuse among students. Seventy-two percent would like to have support groups on campus while 51% would like to have community resources referrals available. In addition, 39% of students would like to have informational workshops and 33% would like to have informational pamphlets provided.



Qualitative Results

Students were asked to write any additional comments regarding drug and alcohol awareness at El Camino College. The following three themes emerged from the open-ended comments.

Seeing/Smelling Smoke on Campus

The first theme that emerged was seeing or smelling smoke on campus. Students detailed different areas on campus where they have seen or smelled smoke on a regular basis.

Below are some responses that students provided:

“I would personally say that the only drug or alcohol usage I am aware that can be seen as a problem is that there are groups of people that go by the MBA building and smoke. I am unsure what, I think it could be some type of vaping because there isn't any potent marijuana smell that usually lingers after smoking.”

“I appreciate the new signs posted around campus stating ECC is a smoke-free campus but it's just that. I don't appreciate students blatantly smoking on campus and walking past them to inhale second-hand smoke.”

“I have not witnessed any students in El Camino that use alcohol or drugs. However; I have seen students smoke cigarettes/vapes (or sometimes weed) around El Camino College. They are usually hanging out beside Humanities.”

Lack of Enforcement

The second theme that emerged was lack of enforcement. Students indicated that they have witnessed first-hand alcohol and drug use on campus yet they have not seen any actions to prevent it from happening.

Below are some responses that students provided:

“There's always a group of students that smoke marijuana and smoke cigarettes and campus police have seen them and yet have done nothing to stop them.”

“I understand the campus is large and police patrol regularly, however, I have seen a group of students consuming alcohol openly next to their car in the parking structure.”

“I feel like there are a few students on campus that does alcohol and drugs because I've seen it. But at the same time I feel like El Camino isn't really doing anything to prevent those students from stopping.”

Support Groups

The final theme that emerged was the need for support groups. Students expressed the importance and interest in ECC providing support groups or workshops on drug and alcohol use prevention.

Below are some ideas that students provided:

“I was tormented by Drug and Alcohol addiction since I was 12 years old. I got sober at 21 and have been sober for 2 years. I think what helped me the most was the support groups I attended. Would love to be of service somehow to those struggling at El Camino.”

“Providing access to a support group or group counseling for substance abuse, on campus, would probably offer an opportunity for some students to address any substance issues before they become a problem to the students educational goals. Getting help for substance abuse could be viewed as a normal part of a students learning process and could become as valuable as any academic knowledge.”

“I feel like a lot of students don’t seek help because they think at their age it’s normal to be able to drink or smoke that much. Even if someone does have a problem and another students tells them they do they would get defensive. Maybe a workshop with what to say to someone who you may think has a problem.”

Recommendations

- Improve communication and marketing targeted to students about the different campus sponsored alcohol and drug awareness workshops, expos, fairs and programs that are offered during the academic year.
- Explore the creation of ECC support groups related to alcohol and drug awareness and prevention.
- Publicize drug and alcohol awareness and prevention community resources that are available to ECC students.
- Review with Campus Police current enforcement of alcohol, drug and smoking policies and ways to improve this practice on campus.