Finding the Moral Community:
Drinking, Sex, and Drug Use Among American University Students.

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(and from viewers like you).

Thank you!

drjkoch.org – Seeking the Moral Community

Demographics of the Twelve University Samples

	Three Christian	Six Public	Three Secular Private
• N	770	2394	446
• % Aged 18-20	87	83	70
• % Anglo	69	67	64
• % Female	68	67	58

Overall Response Rate: 77%

The "Moral Communities Hypothesis."

I suggest that what counts is not only whether a particular person is religious, but whether this religiousness is, or is not, ratified by the social environment. The idea here is that religion is empowered to produce conformity to the norms only as it is sustained through interaction and is accepted by the majority as a valid basis for action. ... Religious individuals will be less likely than those who are not religious to commit delinquent acts, *but only in communities where the majority of the people are actively religious.*

Stark, Rodney. 1996. "Religion as Context: Hellfire and Delinquency One More Time." *Sociology of Religion* 57(2): 163-173.

Variables, Scales, and Results from Surveying Students

Religiosity

A Scale of Eleven Questions:

- Strength of Religious Faith

- Frequency of Prayer

- Saying Grace Before Meals

- Praying for Personal Needs

- Praying for Specific Others

- Praying for Others in General

- Closeness to God

- Beliefs about God

- Personal Beliefs About Jesus

- Belief in Religious Salvation

- Church Attendance

Range = 5 to 52

Cronbach's Alpha Measure of Reliability = .92

Davis, J.A., T.W. Smith, and P.V. Marsden. 2004. *General Social Surveys, 1972-2004: [CUMULATIVE FILE]*[Computer File]. ICPSR 04295-v. 2. Chicago, IL: National Opinion Research Center [producer], 2005. Storrs, CT: Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut/Ann Arbor, MI: Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research [distributors], 2006-04-05.

Fundamentalism

A Scale of Three Questions:

I am sure that the Bible contains no errors or contradictions.

It is very important for true Christians to believe that the Bible is the infallible Word of God.

The Bible is the final and complete guide to morality; it contains God's answers to all important questions about right and wrong.
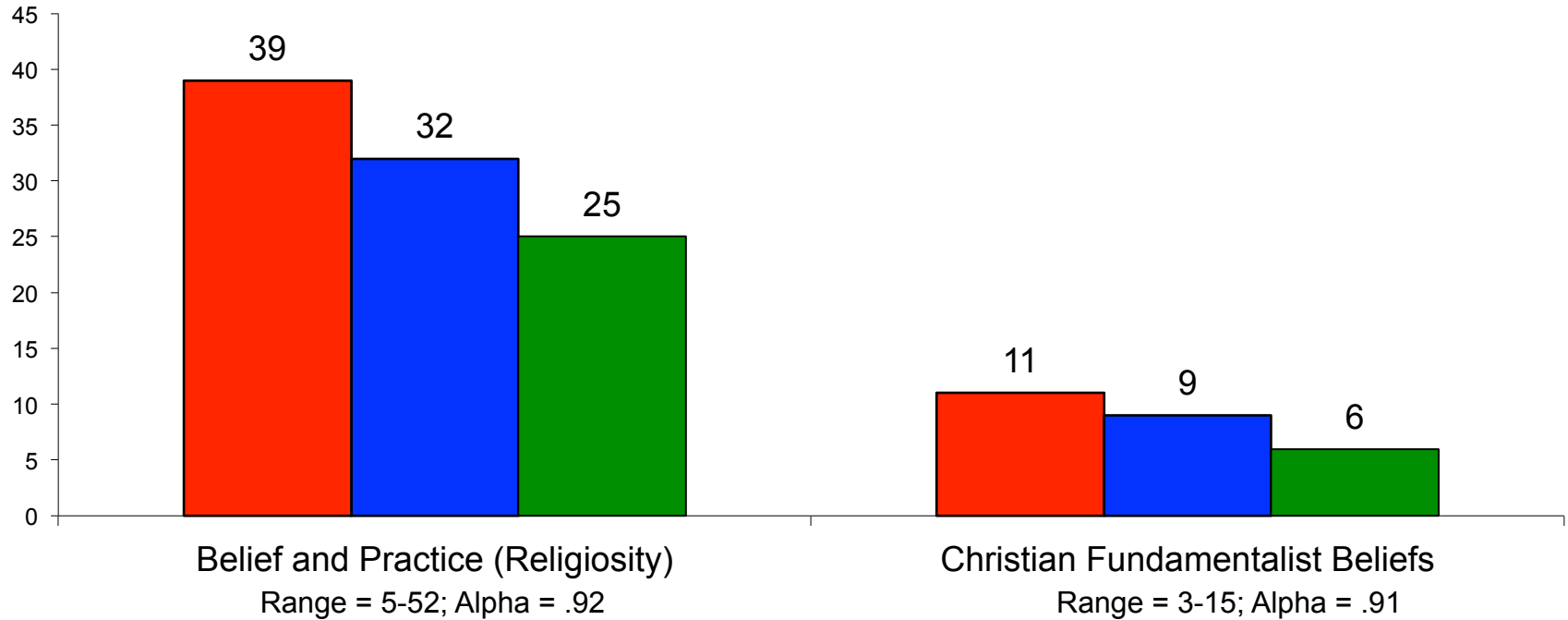
Response Choices: "Strongly Disagree" to "Strongly Agree"

Range = 3 to 15

Cronbach's Alpha Measure of Reliability = .91

McFarland, S.G. 1989. "Religious Orientations and the Targets of Discrimination."
Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion 28: 324-336.

Figure 1

Religion by School Type

45
40
35
30
25
20
15
10
5
0

39
32
25

11
9
6

Belief and Practice (Religiosity)
Range = 5-52; Alpha = .92

Christian Fundamentalist Beliefs
Range = 3-15; Alpha = .91

Comparative Percentages
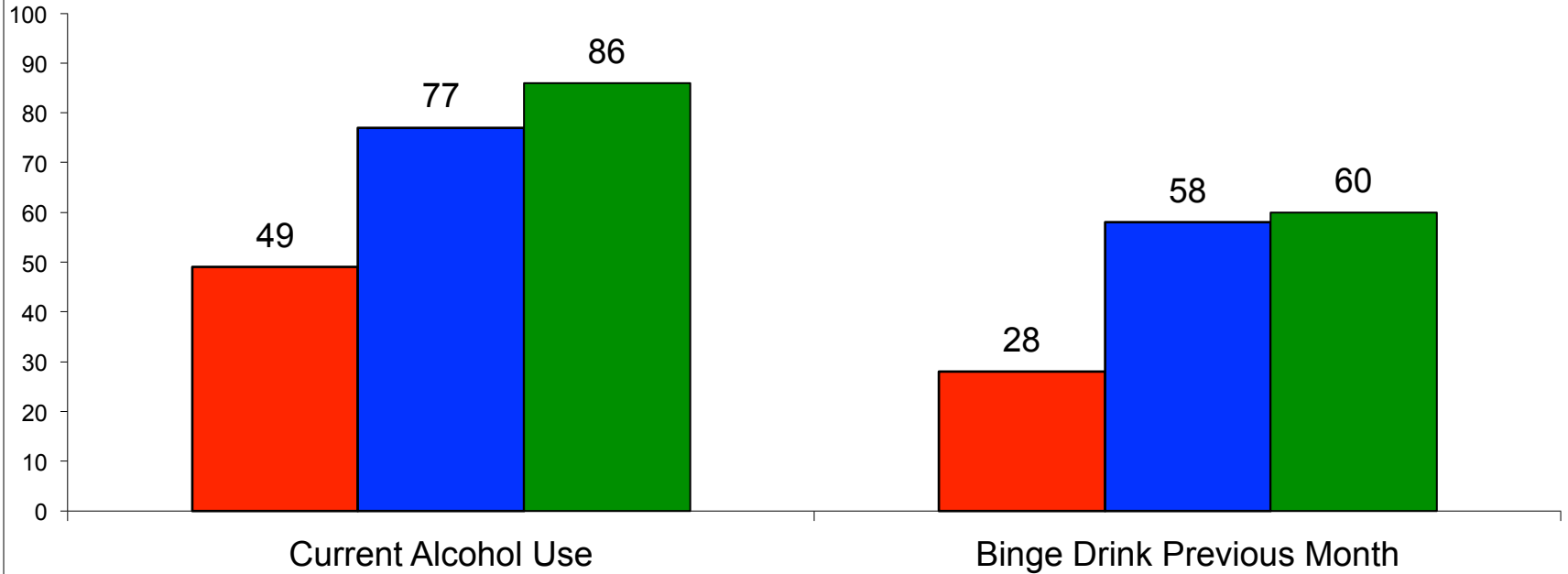
■ Christian Schools   ■ State Schools   ■ Secular Private Schools

Behavioral Variables

- Current alcohol user (1+ drink previous month) – Yes/No.
- Binge drink: 5 or more drinks on one occasion in the previous month – Yes/No.
- Had sexual intercourse – Yes/No.
- 2+ Sex partners, previous year – Yes/No.
- 6+ Sex partners, lifetime – Yes/No.
- Current marijuana user (1+ previous month) – Yes/No.
- Current User Other Illegal Drug (1+ previous month) – Yes/No.
- 1+ arrest, lifetime – Yes/No.

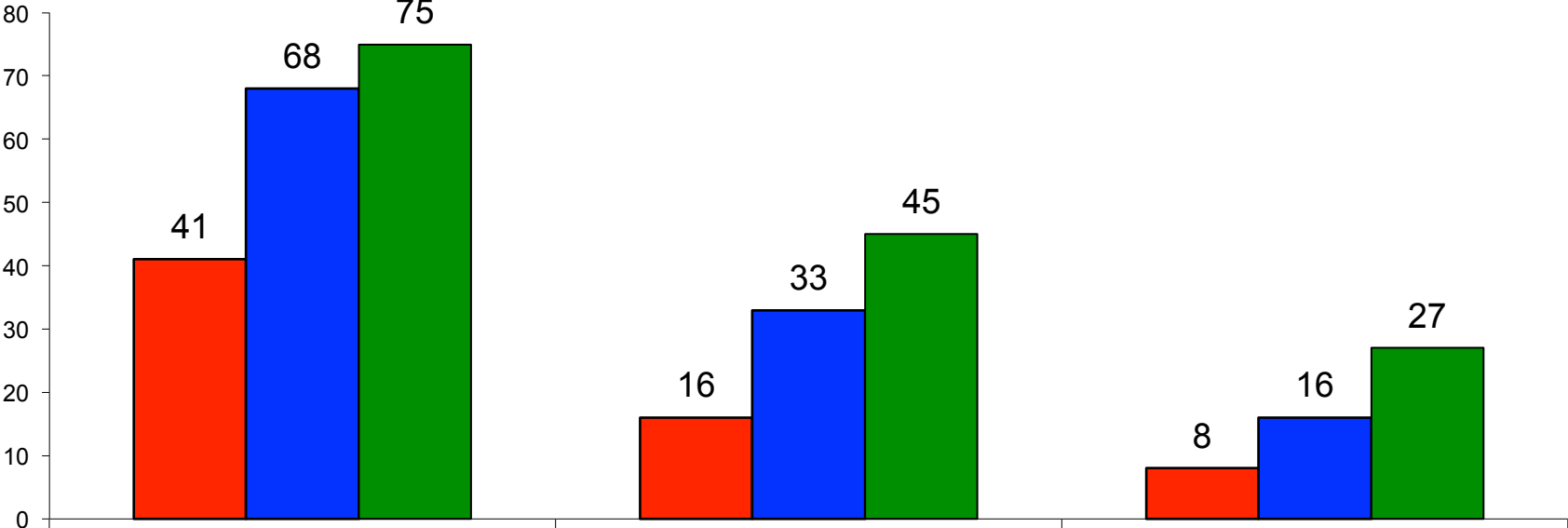**Figure 2**

Alcohol Use by School Type

Comparative Percentages

Christian Schools   State Schools   Secular Private Schools

Figure 3

Sexual Behavior by School Type

Comparative Percentages

■ Christian Schools ■ State Schools ■ Secular Private Schools

Had Premarital Sex: Christian Schools 41, State Schools 68, Secular Private Schools 75

2+ Sex Partners Previous Year: Christian Schools 16, State Schools 33, Secular Private Schools 45
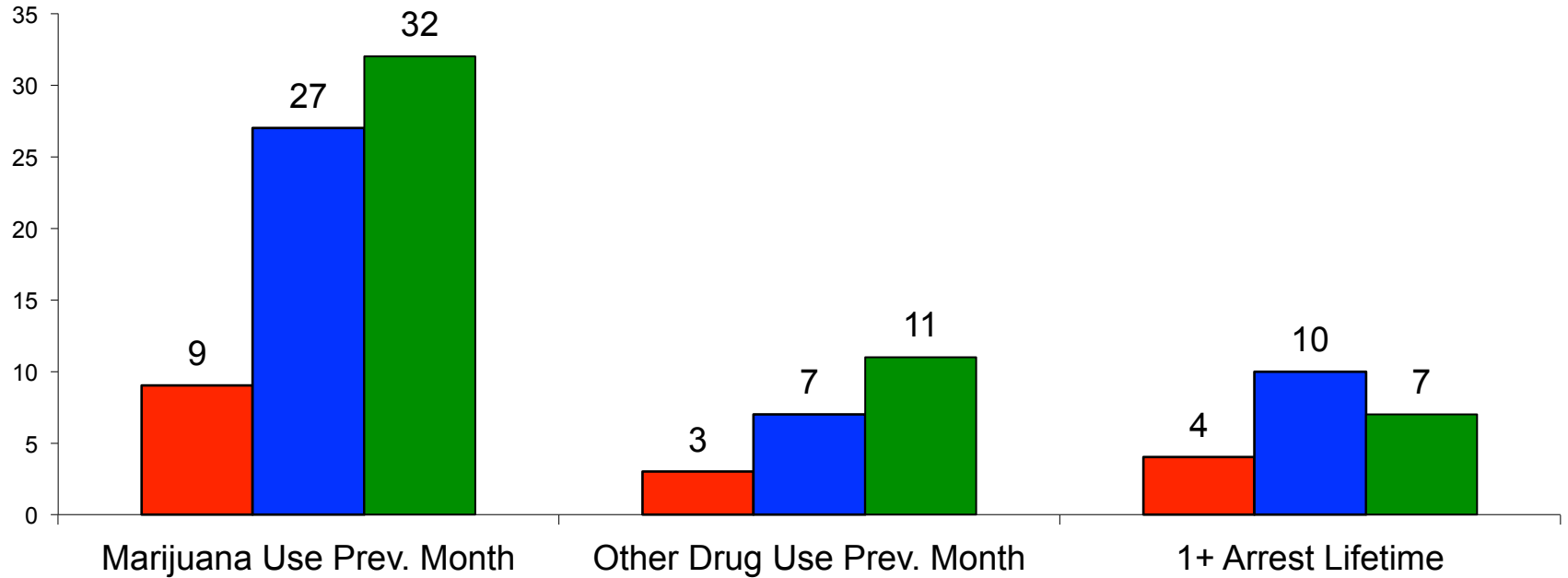
6+ Sex partners Lifetime: Christian Schools 8, State Schools 16, Secular Private Schools 27

Figure 4

Illegal Behavior by School Type

Comparative Percentages

Christian Schools | State Schools | Secular Private Schools

Table 1. Religion & Deviance
6 Public vs. 6 Private Schools

Independent Variables	Current Alcohol Use	Binge Drink	Had Sex	Lifetime Sex Partners	Marijuana Use Ever	Other Drug Use Ever
Age	**.275****	**.063****	**.136****	**1.536****	0.006	0.02
Standardized Coefficient	**.105****	**.049****	**.107****	**.211****	0.003	0.025
Gender (M=1)	**.233****	**.112****	**.043***	**.422****	**.234****	**.053****
Standardized Coefficient	**.111****	**.108****	**.042***	**.072****	**.161****	**.085****
Race (Non-Anglo=1)	**-.270****	**-.151****	**-.061****	-.148	-.070*	-.009
Standardized Coefficient	**-.124****	**-.140****	**-.058****	-.025	-.047*	-.013
Religiosity Scale	**-.019****	**-.009****	**-.009****	**-.047****	**-.009****	**-.002****
Standardized Coefficient	**-.209****	**-.201****	**-.205****	**-.184****	**-.148****	**-.068****
Fundamentalism Scale	-.009	-.004	-.006	-.018	**-.012****	-.003
Standardized Coefficient	-.033	-.027	-.045	-.025	**-.069****	-.037
School (6 Private=1)	**-.353****	**-.152****	**-.135****	**-.366****	**-.099****	-.015
Standardized Coefficient	**-.168****	**-.146****	**-.133****	**-.058****	**-.069****	-.024
R Squared	**0.145**	**0.121**	**0.106**	**0.11**	**0.083**	**0.021**

**p < .01
*p < .05

Table 2. Religion & Deviance
3 Public vs.3 Religious Schools

	Current Alcohol Use	Binge Drink	Had Sex	Lifetime Sex Partners	Marijuana Use Ever	Other Drug Use Ever
Independent Variables						
Age	**.271****	**.073***	**.376****	**1.268****	-.043	0.001
Standardized Coefficient	**.093****	**.051***	**.137****	**.163****	-.022	0.001
Gender (M=1)	**.245****	**.103****	**.125****	**.436****	**.210****	**.052****
Standardized Coefficient	**.117****	**.099****	**.064****	**.078****	**.150****	**.081****
Race (Non-Anglo=1)	**-.242****	**-.164****	**-.123****	-.255	**-.077***	-.006
Standardized Coefficient	**-.112****	**-.151****	**-.060****	-.044	**-.053***	-.009
Religiosity Scale	**-.016****	**-.009****	**-.013****	**-.043****	**-.007****	-.001
Standardized Coefficient	**-.165****	**-.178****	**-.147****	**-.166****	**-.101****	-.027
Fundamentalism Scale	-.005	-.002	-.009	-.002	**-.020****	-.004
Standardized Coefficient	-.019	-.016	-.034	-.003	**-.107****	-.051
Schools (3 religious=1)	**-.538****	**-.237****	**-.315****	**-.887****	**-.161****	**-.050****
Standardized Coefficient	**-.266****	**-.236****	**-.165****	**-.162****	**-.118****	**-.080****

**p < .01
 *p < .05

R Squared	**0.182**	**0.162**	**0.106**	**0.115**	**0.091**	**0.023**

Table 3. Religion & Deviance
3 Public vs. 3 Secular Private
Schools

Independent Variables	Current Alcohol Use	Binge Drink	Had Sex	Lifetime Sex Partners	Marijuana Use Ever	Other Drug Use Ever
Age	**.094****	.010	**.122****	**1.606****	.033	.033
Standardized Coefficient	**.099****	.009	**.111****	**.235****	.020	.049
Gender (M=1)	.019	**.132****	.011	**.445***	**.277****	**.058****
Standardized Coefficient	.022	**.128****	.011	**.072***	**.183****	**.097****
Race (Non-Anglo=1)	**-.136****	**-.155****	**-.069***	-.072	-.074	-.015
Standardized Coefficient	**-.156****	**-.146****	**-.068***	-.011	-.047	-.025
Religiosity Scale	**-.006****	**-.007****	**-.008****	**-.036****	**-.011****	**-.002***
Standardized Coefficient	**-.177****	**-.160****	**-.186****	**-.139****	**-.174****	**-.096***
Fundamentalism Scale	.001	.001	-.003	-.011	.003	.000
Standardized Coefficient	.009	.011	-.024	-.014	.014	.000
Schools (3 Secular Priv.=1)	.048	.044	.019	**.670****	.028	.037
Standardized Coefficient	.053	.040	.018	**.102****	.018	.057
****p < .01**						
***p < .05**						
R Squared	**0.085**	**0.074**	**0.070**	**0.119**	**0.070**	**0.031**

Summary – Drinking, Sex, Drugs, Community

- Edgy behavior increases with age.
- College men drink, drug, and have more sex than college women.
- Anglos drink, drug, and have more sex than others. (Asian influence?)
- Fundamentalist beliefs are inconsequential throughout.
- Religiosity persists as a predictor of normative behavior.
- Independent of Religiosity, Public university respondents drink, drug, and have more sex than Private university respondents.
- Independent of Religiosity, Public vs. Private behavioral differences carried almost entirely by Christian school respondents. (Actively Religious Communities)

Generating and Maintaining Moral Community

The mix of Values and Interests:

- Regulation and ideology – Muslims at Christian Schools.
- Active and consequential surveillance – Honor Code for reporting behavior.
- Values + Interests = Normative Behavior.

("We can't make you do it …
… but we can make you wish you had").