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This document is part of a collection that serves two purposes. First, it is a digital archive for a sampling of unpublished documents, presentations, questionnaires and limited publications resulting from over forty years of research. Second, it is a public archive for data on college student drinking patterns on the national and international level collected for over 20 years. Research topics by Dr. Engs have included the exploration of hypotheses concerning the determinants of behaviors such as student drinking patterns; models that have examine the etiology of cycles of prohibition and temperance movements, origins of western European drinking cultures (attitudes and behaviors concerning alcohol) from antiquity, eugenics, Progressive Era, and other social reform movements with moral overtones-Clean Living Movements; biographies of health and social reformers including Upton Sinclair; and oral histories of elderly monks.

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POLISH AND AMERICAN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' DRINKING PATTERNS: A CROSS-SECTIONAL CROSS-CULTURAL STUDY

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Background: University students have had reputations as heavy drinkers since the middle ages. Though there have been many recent reports from North American and Western Europe, there have only been a few studies from Eastern Europe concerning drinking patterns of students over the past few decades much less comparisons between Eastern and Western countries using the same questionnaire. It would be of interest to examine patterns of drinking between students in two divergent cultures. Thus the purpose of this study was to compare the drinking patterns of American and Polish university students using the same questionnaire in the same academic year.

Methods: The Student Alcohol Questionnaire, translated into Polish, was administered in the 1987-1988 academic year to students in the classroom of 20 Polish and 56 American universities. The resulting sample contained 3375 American and 1407 Polish university students. The number of alcoholic drinks consumed on a weekly basis were assessed from the quantity and frequency of beer, wine, and spirits consumed by the students.

Results: The results show that a significantly higher amount ($p < .001$) of alcohol is consumed by Polish students ($X = 18.5$ drinks/week compared to American students ($X = 10.5$). Approximately the same percent of students in both countries drink at least once a year. When type of beverage is examined no significant difference is found between the number of drinks of beer or spirits consumed by both groups. However, Polish students consume a significantly higher ($p < .001$) quantity of wine ($X = 8.7$ drinks/week) compared to the American sample ($X = 0.8$ drinks/week). These results are also found among males and among females between the two countries.

Conclusions: The difference in the wine consumption which is the major factor for differences perhaps can be explained by the fact that wine is considered to be more prestigious than the other beverages in Poland, as beer and vodka are considered beverages of workers. Social gatherings among students also may center around a wine cellar, student cafeteria, or family in which several bottles of wine may be consumed. In the United States student drinking is likely to be in a bar or student housing where beer is the most popular beverage.

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Table 1: The comparison of American and Polish students' alcohol consumption in terms of mean number of drinks per week for all students using t-test analysis

	<u>Males</u>				<u>Females</u>				<u>Total Sample</u>			
	USA		POLAND		USA		POLAND		USA		POLAND	
	X	SD	X	SD	X	SD	X	SD	X	SD	X	SD
Beer	11.4	11.1	12.6	12.5	4.7	7.7	2.5	5.7*	7.4	10.2	7.3	11.7
Wine	0.5	2.5	9.0	11.6*	0.9	3.1	8.3	9.7*	0.8	2.9	8.7	10.6*
Spirits	3.1	6.3	3.3	7.1	1.9	4.5	2.1	5.7	2.4	5.3	2.6	6.5
Total	10.4	16.6	24.9	22.4*	7.6	10.9	13.0	15.2*	10.5	14.0	18.6	20.0*

p < .001