



ARCADIA UNIVERSITY
THE COLLEGE OF GLOBAL STUDIES

You did what?!!



The benefits of collaborating with students on risk behavior outside the classroom.



Why do we care about the risks students take outside the classroom?

Their well being



Our well being



Our institutions' well being





What are the risks study abroad students are taking?





Risk Questionnaire 2016

Participants:

105 Feb semester and 63 July semester US study abroad students studying at NZ universities for one semester
Questionnaire given at the farewell dinner 'optional' and 'anonymous'





What percent of your students consume more alcohol when they are studying abroad?

35%

What percent blacked out while abroad from drinking too much alcohol?

Alcohol and

33%

Drugs

What percent tried illegal drugs for the first time?

9.5%

What percent smoked marijuana more than in the US?

14%





Driving

What percent drove a car?

78%

What percent thought driving overseas was more dangerous than at home?

39%

What percent hitchhiked?

24%

- **31%** of Semester 1 students and
- **13%** of Semester 2 students





Tinder and Grinder

What percent sought casual hookups more when abroad than at home?

12.5%

What percent used apps like Tinder and Grinder?

25.5%

What percent ever felt at risk of sexual assault or violence?

6.5%

Only **6.5%** tried couch surfing.





Risky behaviours as perceived by students:

Did you ever feel you were taking activities that were risky?

47% responded yes



Hiking: 24



Sky diving: 14



Jumping off
high places:
12



Bungey Jumping:
7



Driving: 6



Risky behaviours as perceived by students:

Overall **94%** felt safer or the same level of safety while living in NZ.

“People and strangers were more trustworthy/friendly/helpful than back in the US”
(23 comments)



How did students in NZ compare with a group in Australia (18 pax) and Spain (19 pax)?

Main Differences:

Drink/black out more than at home	NZ: 35%/33%	SP: 32%	AUS: 50%/33%
Illegal drugs for the first time	NZ: 9.5%	SP: 10%	AUS: 5%
Driving	NZ: 78%	SP: 5%	AUS: 5.5%
Hitchhiking	NZ: 24%	SP: 0%	AUS: 17%
Sought more casual hook ups	NZ: 12.5%	SP: 21%	AUS: 11%
Used Tinder/Grinder	NZ: 25.5%	SP: 31.5%	AUS: 33%
Felt at risk of sexual assault/ violence	NZ: 6.5%	SP: 10.5%	AUS: 0%
Felt as safe or safer abroad	NZ: 94%	SP: 68%	AUS: 94%



Conclusions

We lecture students on how to stay safe but we don't ask them what they do that is dangerous.

Students are more likely to take risks when they are in a country where they feel safe.

Appropriate advising will be more effective if based on most likely behaviours for that specific cohort.

We need to collaborate with students and each other to provide support.







Hiking – perceived and real risk.

How did we respond?



- Education – orientation workshops
- Recreation centre trips
- Equipment rental - \$5 locator beacons
- Building local knowledge community
 - Facebook page (Peer 2 Peer)
 - Otago University Tramping Club
- Partners – SARG meetings
- Simple signage – Uni Flats signs 'check weather and tell someone when you are back.'
- Constant reinforcement around good decision-making



To sum up:

Mitigating risk should not be about avoiding all risk. Risk taking is an important part of LEARNING.

Andre Gide *'It is only in adventure that some people succeed in knowing themselves'*

Quote from student: *'Tell them to take risks but not incredibly dumb risks.'*



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