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The Impact of Alcohol Misuse on College Student Retention

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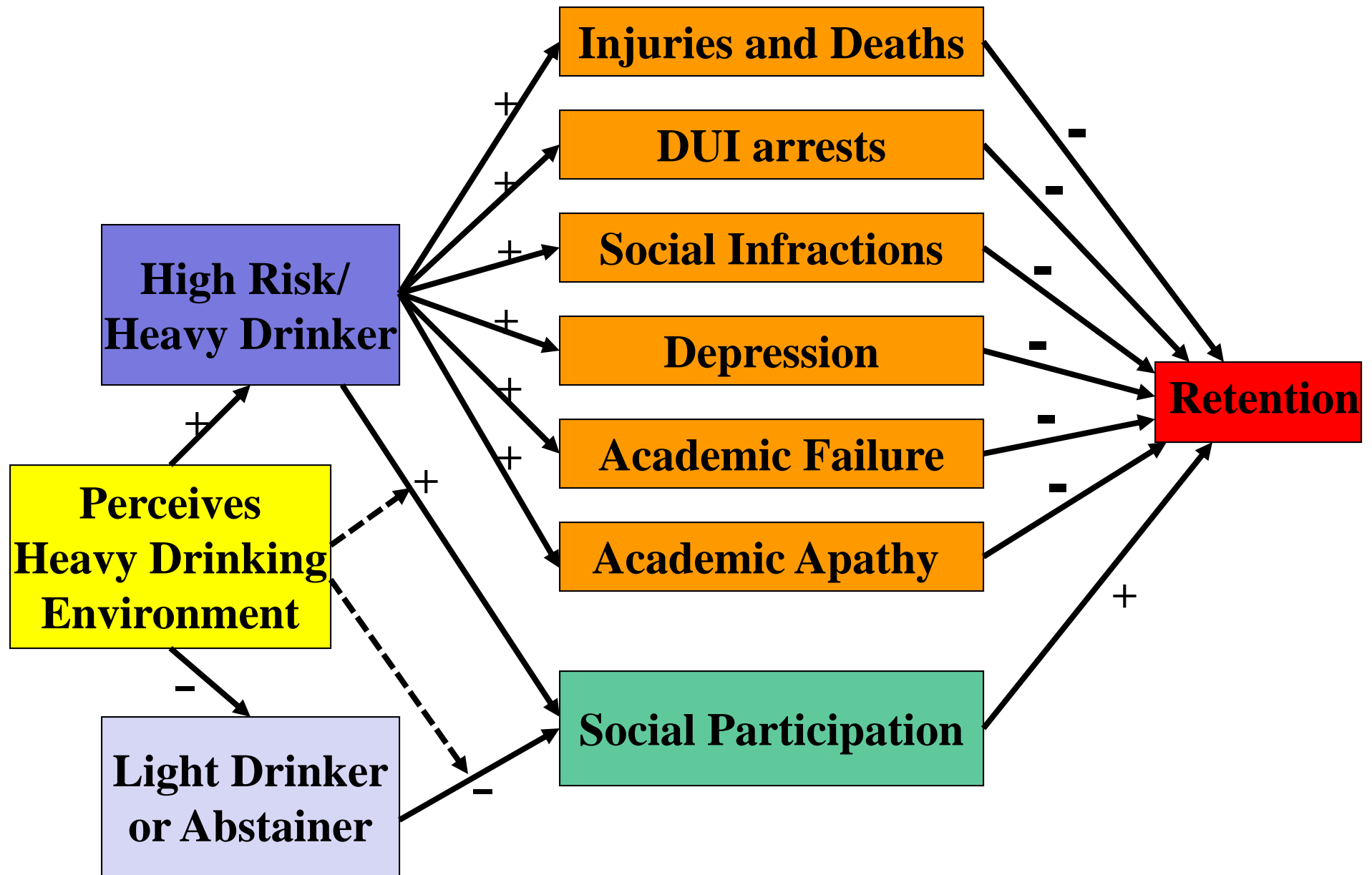
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Path Model of Student Drinking Impact on Retention



Canadian student disaffection among very light and non-drinkers^a by their perceptions of the student drinking norm at parties and bars in their school environment (N=1,197)

Source: H.W. Perkins, *Addictive Behaviors* 37, 2007.

| Indicators of Disaffection | Accurate Perception of Drinking Norm | Overestimates Drinking Norm |
|--|---|------------------------------------|
| % that do not feel valued as a person at their school | 13.0 | 21.3*** |
| % not happy at school most of the time | 7.9 | 11.8* |
| % thinking that they do not fit in with other students on campus | 25.6 | 32.8** |
| % that do not think it is important to work with other students to improve their school | 21.8 | 34.2*** |

^aStudents reporting typically consuming 0 or 1 drinks at parties and bars.

*Significant difference between percentages at $p < .05$; ** $p < 01$; *** $p < .001$.

Data Collection Strategies to Assess the Link Between Heavy Drinking and Attrition/Retention

- Institutional Records on Social Behavior, Academic Performance, and Graduation
- Public Records on Arrests and Enrollment
- Surveys of Student Drinking and Engagement
- Surveys of Incoming or New Students Matched Later to Graduation Records

STATUS * ACTS10 DRANK BEER * COLLEGE Crosstabulation

| | | | | ACTS10 DRANK BEER | | | Total |
|------------------|----------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|----------------|--------------|--------|
| | | | | 1 NOT AT ALL | 2 OCCASIONALLY | 3 FREQUENTLY | |
| Gender Male | STATUS 1 | Graduated | Count | 74 | 174 | 97 | 345 |
| | | | % within ACTS10 DRANK BEER | 80.4% | 77.7% | 71.3% | 76.3% |
| | 3 | Voluntary | Count | 14 | 43 | 31 | 88 |
| | | | % within ACTS10 DRANK BEER | 15.2% | 19.2% | 22.8% | 19.5% |
| | 4 | Required | Count | 4 | 7 | 8 | 19 |
| | | % within ACTS10 DRANK BEER | 4.3% | 3.1% | 5.9% | 4.2% | |
| | Total | | Count | 92 | 224 | 136 | 452 |
| | | | % within ACTS10 DRANK BEER | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% |
| Gender Female | STATUS 1 | Graduated | Count | 150 | 253 | 61 | 464 |
| | | | % within ACTS10 DRANK BEER | 77.3% | 79.1% | 64.2% | 76.2% |
| | 3 | Voluntary | Count | 39 | 59 | 31 | 129 |
| | | | % within ACTS10 DRANK BEER | 20.1% | 18.4% | 32.6% | 21.2% |
| | 4 | Required | Count | 5 | 8 | 3 | 16 |
| | | % within ACTS10 DRANK BEER | 2.6% | 2.5% | 3.2% | 2.6% | |
| | Total | | Count | 194 | 320 | 95 | 609 |
| | | | % within ACTS10 DRANK BEER | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% |

References

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