

# BIENNIAL REVIEW

August 2021 - July 2023  
Executive Summary

**Prepared by:**

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In completing this report, the Committee solicited information from the following campus partners:

- Suzanne Raj, Occupational Health, Human Resources
- Kory Laznick, Brandeis Hospitality
- Teri Tozzi, Department of Student Engagement
- Sarah McCann, Brandeis Counseling Center

# About the Biennial Review

## History and Purpose

Part 86, the Drug-Free Schools and Campuses Regulations, requires that, as a condition of receiving funds or any other form of financial assistance under any federal program, an institution of higher education (IHE) must certify that it has adopted and implemented a program to prevent the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol by students and employees.

Specifically, IHEs must complete:

- Annual notification/distribution of substance abuse policy and information to all students, staff, and faculty.
- Development and implementation of a program to prevent the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs or alcohol by students and employees.
- A biennial report on the effectiveness of its alcohol and other drug (AOD) programs and the consistency of policy enforcement.

## Key Findings

- Substance policy violations are rebounding from the atypical lower rates during the COVID-19 pandemic, although they have not yet reached pre-COVID levels.
- In 2022-2023, there was a notable rise in the percent of students who report sometimes using cannabis to cope with negative emotions, and a drop in the percent of students who report never using cannabis to cope with negative emotions.
- We have consistently met our learning objectives in the What Would Brandeis Do? mandatory online training for incoming undergraduate students.

# SWOT Analysis

<p><b>Strengths</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consistent response protocol for alcohol transports and other cases</li> <li>• New clinicians with interest and expertise in substance abuse treatment</li> <li>• Interdepartmental collaboration</li> <li>• Fewer campus events with alcohol (except senior week celebration events)</li> <li>• Expectation of risk management around alcohol service at events</li> </ul>	<p><b>Weaknesses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heavy staff turnover in departments providing alcohol and drug support and response services</li> <li>• Budget restrictions and limitations</li> <li>• Potential lack of fidelity to BASICS program due to staff turnover and lack of outside training</li> <li>• Perception that substance use is not a problem at Brandeis</li> <li>• Misperception of social norms of alcohol and cannabis use, that is more pronounced among cannabis users</li> </ul>
<p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Boston area collaboration to develop intercollegiate recovery community</li> <li>• Use of Articulate360 e-learning software to create additional educational offerings</li> <li>• Massachusetts Narcan distribution program</li> <li>• Cultural normalization of sobriety and abstinence demonstrated by the rise in popularity of non-alcoholic beer and mocktails</li> </ul>	<p><b>Threats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in cannabis use nationally and locally, and lowered perception of risk</li> <li>• Financial impact of the coming “enrollment cliff”</li> <li>• Popularity of BORGS and social media trends promoting excessive drinking</li> </ul>

## Recommendations

1. Focus on fidelity to BASICS by improving training processes and including outside training
2. Create additional training for students on social host
3. Review and improve clarity of the Medical Amnesty Policy
4. Develop additional education and prevention on cannabis
5. Increase peer education opportunities on substance use
6. Reboot Student Health Advisory Committee
7. Utilize social norms campaigns to correct misperceptions