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GIRLS GO `WILD' FOR BOOZE, SEX; Spring Break survey reveals risky business

By Jessica Fargen

If you think your college-age daughter would never, ever appear in those tawdry ``Girls Gone Wild" spring break videos, this survey says - think again.

Some 83 percent of college women and recent graduates polled last week say spring break means heavy drinking and 74 percent said it means more sex and outrageous behavior, according to an American Medical Association survey of 644 women.

Local experts warn that excessive drinking can be hazardous to a woman's health.

``It's dangerous to `drink like a man,' " said Dr. Henry Wechsler, director of the College of Alcohol Studies at Harvard School of Public Health. He said women's bodies metabolize alcohol slower, so it stays in their bodies longer. It also takes less booze to get them drunk.

According to the study, a ``sizable" number of college-aged women reported vomiting, blacking out and having risky sex on booze-fueled spring breaks.

Nearly 75 percent of respondents said women use spring break's anything-goes atmosphere and drinking as an excuse for ``outrageous" behavior, including public nudity and dancing on tables, the survey said.

While the survey suggests that spring break should be something to worry about, local students said it's anything but. Jennifer Bailey, 23, a Boston University medical student, said, ``Going on spring break is a time to drink and have fun. It's a vacation and it's supposed to be worry free."

Jessica Low, a 22-year-old law student at Northeastern University, said she works during spring break. But some of her friends treat it as a week-long party: ``There's no mom, no dad, no boundaries. There's lots of young people and that herd mentality sets in, like `Let's party.' "

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