Poster Presentation
What Gets Them in the Door? Alcohol Related Consequences, Severity of Alcohol Use, and Willingness to Seek Treatment
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Heavy drinking is a recurrent and potentially severe problem among today’s college students (Johnston, O’Malley, Bachman, & Schulenberg, 2013), and heavy drinking is sometimes associated with alcohol related negative consequences (National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, 2015). The goal of the current study is to answer the question: Does the severity of alcohol use and alcohol related consequences predict an individual’s willingness to seek treatment in the college population? Past research has shown that negative consequences related to alcohol use in the adult population are good predictors of an individual’s willingness to seek treatment (Korcha, Polcin, Kerr, Greenfield, & Bond, 2013), but the majority of the participants in this past research were not members of the college population (mean age=42.1), and therefore unclear on if severity of use and negative consequences impact interest in seeking mental health treatment in college students. The current study examined 73,989 participants from the National College Health Assessment (NCHA) to see if those participants who reported negative alcohol related consequences were more willing to seek mental health treatment. Two Spearman’s Rho correlations were run to analyze the relationships between alcohol severity and number of related problems with willingness to seek treatment. Number of related problems was negatively correlated with willingness to seek treatment ($r = -.027, p<.01$), and severity of alcohol use was also negatively correlated $r = -.077, p<.01$). The results will be discussed in the context of mental health services for college students using alcohol.