



Tell Me Who Your Friends Are And I'll Tell You Who You Drink With: Specific Social Network Members Influence On Drinking



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Introduction

- Social influences on alcohol use, specifically peer influences on alcohol use, are consistently strong and prospectively associated with increased alcohol use and alcohol use problems, especially in samples of college students (Borsari & Carey, 2000).
- The presence of friends is directly associated with drinking behaviors (Thrun & Kuntsche, 2015).
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Hypotheses

- H1: People are least likely to drink with acquaintances, co-workers, and relatives and are more likely to drink with romantic partners, friends, and best friends.
- E1: We explored the extent to which drinking with a specific type of friend over the course of a month was associated with alcohol problems during that month.

Methods

Participants and Procedures:

- Participants were 468 undergraduate students at the University of Houston. All measures were completed on computers, either in the lab or at the convenience of the participants. For more information on the procedures, see Neighbors, Rodriguez, Garey, & Tomkins (2018).

Measures

- We asked participants to list 5 people they see on a regular basis, then asked a series of questions about each person (relationship, amount of contact, how much that friend drinks, etc.)
- The One-Month Time-line Follow-Back (TLFB; Sobell & Sobell, 2000) is a measure that asks participants about their drinking each day of the past month. We modified it so that it also asked which friends were present on any day that the participant consumed alcohol.

Sample Characteristics

- Drinks per month: Mean (SD) 23.96 (22.48)

	Frequency	Percent
Female	283	56.85
Male	215	43.17

Data Analysis

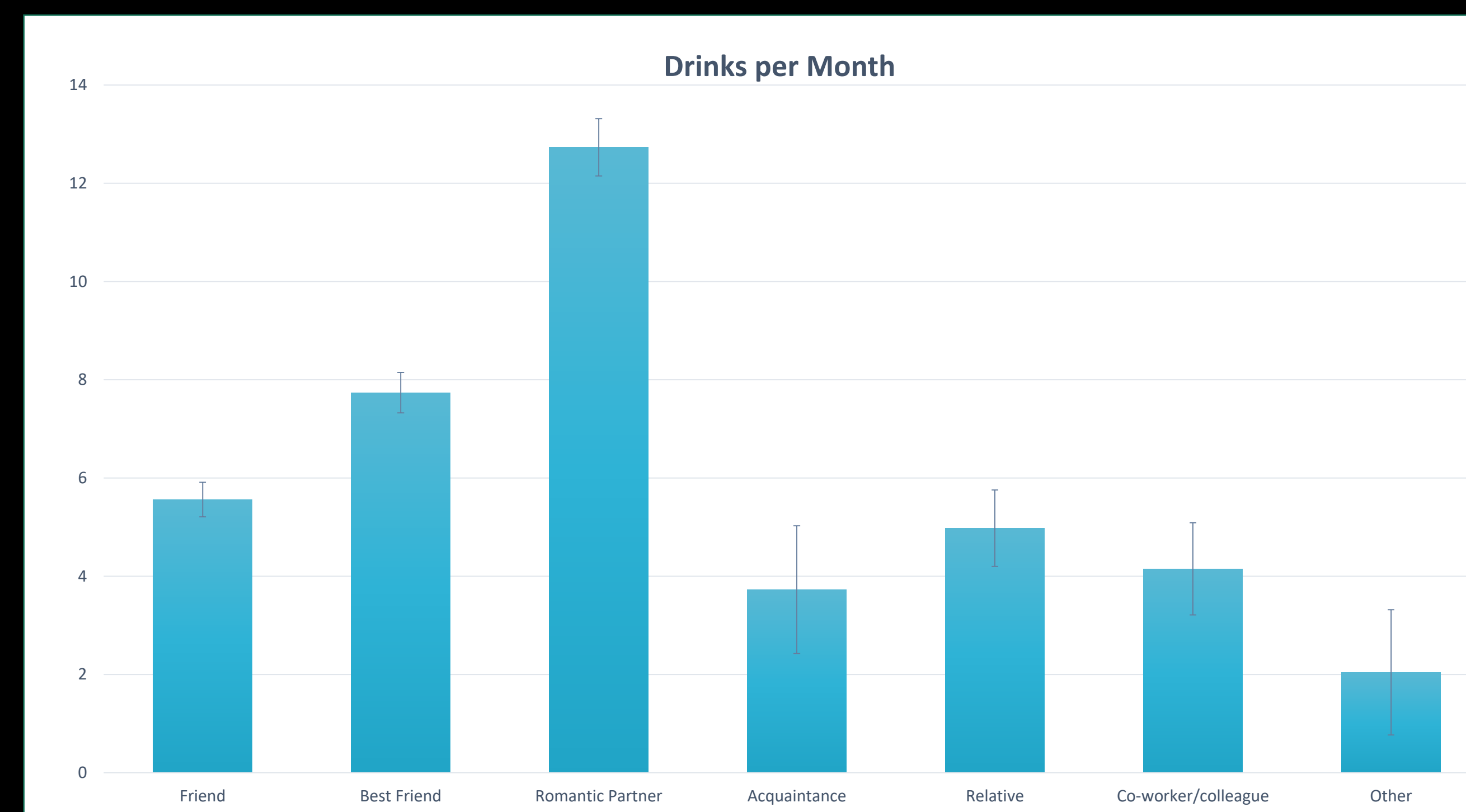
- We conducted multilevel mixed-effects linear regression, with the friends nested within the participants. We used relationship type to predict drinking days with that type of friend and drinks per month with that type of friend, controlling for total number of drinking days and drinks per month.

Acknowledgements

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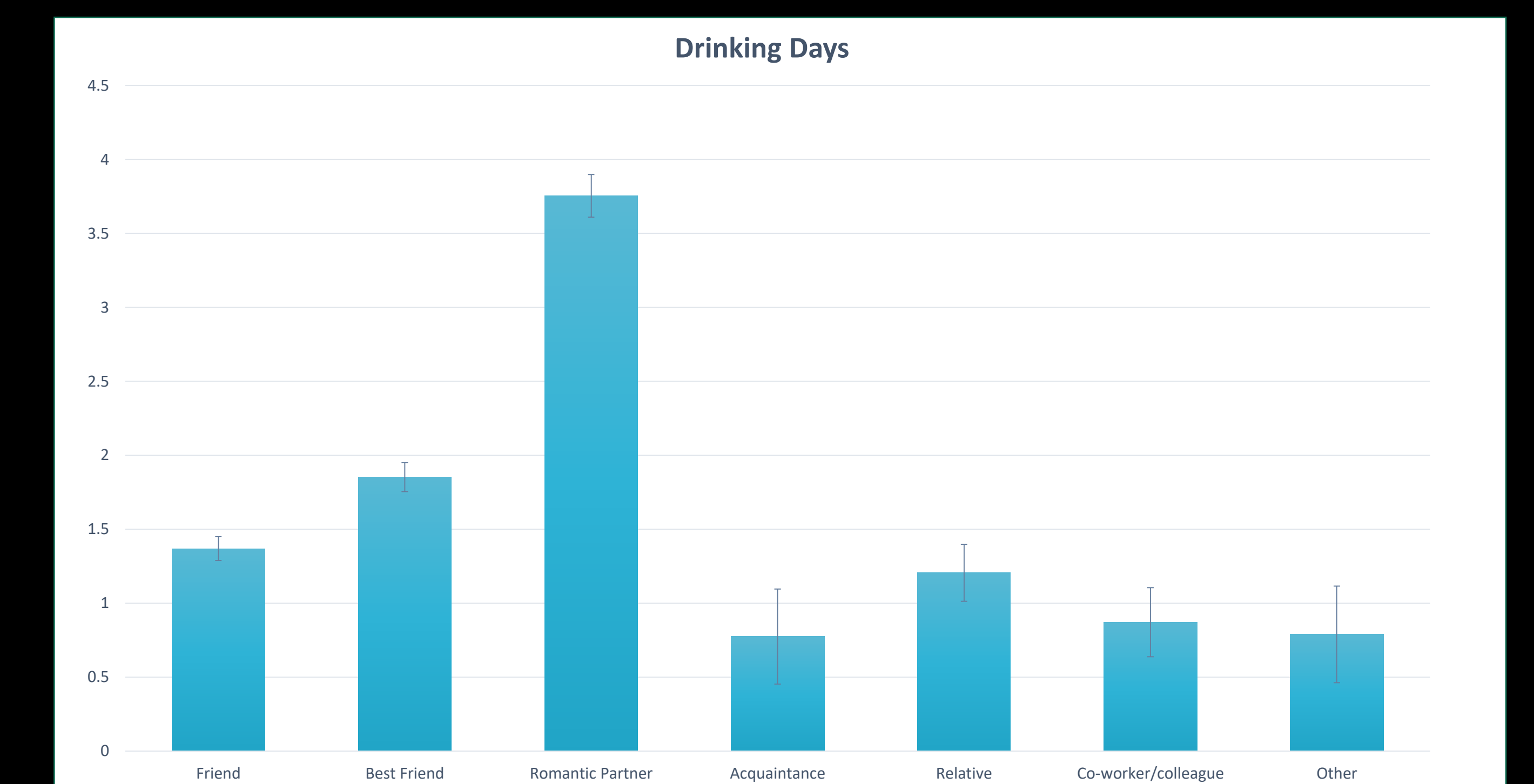
Total Drinking Problems	Coef.	Std. Err.	P>z	[95% Conf. Interval]
rbrela				
Best Friend	-0.001	0.025	0.96	-0.05 0.05
Romantic Partner	-0.003	0.034	0.94	-0.07 0.06
Acquaintance	0.001	0.068	0.99	-0.13 0.13
Relative	-0.002	0.043	0.96	-0.09 0.08
Co-worker/colleague	-0.003	0.052	0.95	-0.11 0.10
Other	0.000	0.073	1.00	-0.14 0.14
bbfcontact	0.000	0.009	0.98	-0.02 0.02

drinks per month	Coef.	Std. Err.	p	[95% Conf. Interval]
rbrela				
Best Friend	2.18	0.43	0.00	1.33 3.02
Romantic Partner	7.17	0.59	0.00	6.02 8.32
Acquaintance	-1.83	1.31	0.16	-4.41 0.74
Relative	-0.58	0.79	0.46	-2.13 0.96
Co-worker/colleague	-1.41	0.95	0.14	-3.27 0.45
Other	-3.52	1.28	0.01	-6.03 -1.01
Total Drinks	0.27	0.01	0.00	0.25 0.30
_cons	-1.00	0.47	0.04	-1.93 -0.07



Drinking days	Coef.	Std. Err.	p	[95% Conf. Interval]
rbrela				
Best Friend	0.48	0.11	0	0.27 0.70
Romantic Partner	2.38	0.15	0	2.09 2.68
Acquaintance	-0.59	0.33	0.068	-1.23 0.04
Relative	-0.16	0.20	0.41	-0.55 0.23
Co-worker/colleague	-0.50	0.24	0.037	-0.97 -0.03
Other	-0.58	0.33	0.079	-1.23 0.07
Total Drinking Days	0.18	0.01	0	0.15 0.20
_cons	0.09	0.12	0.42	-0.14 0.32

Drinks per month	Margin	Std. Err.	p	[95% Conf. Interval]
rbrela				
Friend	5.56	0.35	0	4.87 6.25
Best Friend	7.74	0.41	0	6.93 8.55
Romantic Partner	12.73	0.58	0	11.59 13.87
Acquaintance	3.73	1.30	0.004	1.18 6.28
Relative	4.98	0.78	0	3.46 6.50
Co-worker/colleague	4.15	0.94	0	2.31 5.99
Other	2.04	1.28	0.109	-0.46 4.54



Results

- We found that people drank more drinks with their best friends and romantic partners than they did with friends.
- People drank fewer drinks with "other" than they did with their friends.
- People drank on more days with their best friends and romantic partners than they did with their friends.
- People drank on fewer days with "other" than they did with their friends.
- Type of friends the participants drank with during any given month was not associated with any significant differences in drinking problems during that month.

Discussion