

### **Trends in Drinking behavior by Age Group**

Between January, 1998 and and December, 1999, a total of 6730 pedestrians were sampled returning to San Diego through San Ysidro on Friday and Saturday nights. Among these, 4114 were 21 years of age or older, while 2365 were under 21 years old. Age was not available for 251 participants.

Regression analysis using SUDAAN has revealed a statistically significant decline in BACs of returning pedestrians over the course of survey [ $F(1, 4) = 14.4, p < .02$ ]. This decline has been noted in previous reports. However, recent examination suggests that interpretation of this decrease in drinking behavior must be qualified. Subsequent regression analysis reveals that this trend over time is statistically significant only for crossers who at or above the U.S. legal drinking age of 21 [ $F(1, 4) = 11.4, p < .03$ ]. There is no evidence of a linear change over time for pedestrians younger than 21 years of age [ $F(1, 4) = 1.4, p = .31$ ].

A similar pattern was found regarding the proportion of returning crossers with BACs at or above .08. Logistic regression revealed a statistically significant pattern overall [ $F(1, 4) = 12.3, p < .03$ ] and for crossers 21 years and older [ $F(1, 4) = 9.4, p < .04$ ]. However, there was no relationship between time and returning with a BAC at or above .08 for crossers under 21 years old [ $F(1, 4) = .8, p = .42$ ].