Abstract: Background/Introduction:
Driver and passengers’ BACs were examined among homogeneous and heterogeneous groups. Results indicate that drivers in heterogeneous groups (mixed sex) have significantly lower BACs than drivers in homogeneous groups (all female or male). Interestingly, passengers in heterogeneous groups have higher BACs than those in homogeneous groups. This is contrary to past findings on group drinking behavior which indicate that all-male groups are more likely than either all-female or mixed groups to drink higher in amounts.

Objectives:
To exam group gender composition and driver minority status (i.e., sex) using driver and passengers’ BAC levels.

Methods:
Groups of participants were randomly surveyed as they crossed south from San Diego into Tijuana. Drinking histories and plans for the evening were obtained. Participants were also surveyed as they returned to San Diego and BACs were measured.

Results:
Four groups were examined. Two included homogeneous groups (same sex driver with same sex passengers) and two included those in which the driver is the minority sex in the group (i.e., female driver with majority of male passengers; male driver with majority of female passengers). Analysis revealed that for groups where the driver is the minority sex, passengers have significantly higher BACs than do passengers of groups where the driver is the same sex. This is particularly true for male passengers with female drivers.

Discussion:
Passengers with a minority sex driver drink significantly more than do passengers with a driver of the same sex. It is hypothesized that in many drinking and driving situations, the minority sex driver assumes the role of guardian; or caretaker.

Conclusion:
Results of these analyses reveal that having a caretaker in a group may free passengers to drink more.