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# **Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society**

### **Title**

The Effects of Alcohol Use on Creative Problem Solving

### **Permalink**

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/477844bc>

### **Journal**

Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, 32(32)

### **ISSN**

1069-7977

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### **Publication Date**

2010

Peer reviewed

# The Effects of Alcohol Use on Creative Problem Solving

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**Abstract:** Though creativity is highly valued in many disciplines, ranging from the fine arts to the natural sciences, little is known concerning its underlying causes and mechanisms. In particular, the problem solving literature has long sought an explanation for the processes underlying creative problem solving. The present study tested the commonly held notion that alcohol use increases an individual's creativity, using a problem solving paradigm. Participants completed the Remote Associates Task (RAT), while either sober or intoxicated to a blood alcohol content of approximately .07. It was found that intoxicated individuals outperformed their sober counterparts. These results are interpreted as evidence that alcohol use leads to a diffuse attentional state, which in turn can benefit creative problem solving.