Prior Blackouts can Impact Future Memory Abilities.

White (2003, p.8) explains:

> *"A recent study by Hartzler and Fromme (2003) suggests that people with a history of blackouts are more vulnerable to the effects of alcohol on memory than those without a history of blackouts. These authors recruited 108 college students, half of whom had experienced at least one fragmentary blackout in the previous year. While sober, members of the two groups performed comparably in memory tasks. However, when they were mildly intoxicated (0.08 percent BAC) those with a history of fragmentary blackouts performed worse than those without such a history. There are two possible interpretations for these data, both of which support the hypothesis that some people are more susceptible to blackouts than others. One plausible interpretation is that subjects in the fragmentary blackout group always have been more vulnerable to alcohol–induced memory impairments, which is why they performed poorly during testing under alcohol, and why they are members of the blackout group in the first place. A second interpretation is that subjects in the blackout group performed poorly during testing as a result of drinking enough in the past to experience alcohol–induced memory impairments. In other words, perhaps their prior exposure to alcohol damaged the brain in a way that predisposed them to experiencing future memory impairments. This latter possibility is made more likely by recent evidence that students who engage in repeated episodes of heavy, or binge, drinking are more likely than other students to exhibit memory impairments when they are intoxicated (Weissenborn and Duka 2000). Similar results have been observed in animal studies."*
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> Aaron M. White, *What Happened? Alcohol, Memory Blackouts, and the Brain* (2003).
> Alcohol Research & Health. 2003 Vol 27(2) p. 189