

Interpersonal Violence

Partners in Prevention (PIP) is Missouri's higher education substance misuse consortium dedicated to creating healthy and safe college campuses. The coalition is comprised of 24 public and private colleges and universities in the state working to address the critical health behaviors of students using evidence-informed strategies. To measure progress and obtain data needed for the implementation of programs, PIP created the Missouri Assessment of College Health Behaviors (MACHB) Survey. The MACHB is an annual, online survey that has been implemented each spring since 2007. The survey assesses the roles that alcohol, drugs (illicit and prescription), tobacco/nicotine, interpersonal violence, and mental health have on student health and wellness. This brief will focus on students' experiences of interpersonal violence including abusive relationships and non-consensual sexual contact.

Abusive Relationships

According to the 2021 MACHB, 37% of Missouri college students reported experiencing any type of abuse in an intimate relationship in their lifetime and 15% of students reported experiencing abuse in an intimate relationship in the past year. The breakdown of types of abuse experienced among students in their lifetime and in the past year* are listed in table 1.

Table 1: Types of Abuse in Intimate Relationships

	Lifetime	Past year
Any abuse	37%	15%
Psychologically/mentally abusive	30%	12%
Verbally abusive	25%	8.8%
Sexually abusive	14%	3.0%
Physically abusive	9.2%	2.1%
Financially abusive	6.3%	2.2%

Non-Consensual Sexual Contact

One in four (25%) Missouri college students has experienced non-consensual sexual contact (NCSC - meaning sexual contact against their will) in their lifetime and 5.7% of students reported NCSC in the past year. Of those who experienced NCSC in their lifetime, 6.8% reported that it happened while they were attending their current institution. The majority of students (57%) who reported that they had experienced NCSC stated that it occurred off-campus and not related to university activities. However, 34% of students reported that the NCSC occurred on campus.

Experienced Non-Consensual Sexual Contact



Experiences of Safety and Autonomy

Three new questions were added to the 2021 MACHB related to feelings of safety and autonomy, which relate to interpersonal violence. These questions (shown in the table 2) ask about feelings of coercion, physical and mental safety in the home, and ability to access medication.

Answered "yes" to "In the past year have you..."

Felt pressured, threatened, forced to do something you didn't want to by someone important to you?	17%
Felt physically and/or psychologically/mentally unsafe with the person(s) you resided with?	Physically unsafe: 0.9% Psychologically unsafe: 7.4% Unsafe in both ways: 2.9%
Been unable to access medication (i.e. birth control, anti-retroviral therapy) because of someone important to you?	2.9%

Intersection of Interpersonal Violence and Other Health Issues

The MACHB allows us to examine the multiple experiences of students that may impact each other, such as experiences of trauma (e.g. abuse, NCSC) and mental health. However, we are not able to determine causality, and these mental health concerns may have been present before the abuse or NCSC occurred.

Summary

Over one third of Missouri college students have experienced an abusive relationship in their lifetime, and one quarter have experienced NCSC in their lifetime. Campuses must work to create environments that prevent interpersonal violence and encourage students to engage in proactive bystander behaviors. Campuses must also provide trauma-informed and coordinated health and mental health services to support students impacted by interpersonal violence, whether it occurs prior to or while they are attending their institution.

Multi-Level Violence Prevention Strategy

Partners in Prevention is currently funded by the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services to implement a multi-level violence prevention strategy to address acts of harm on campuses in the state. This project

encompasses an intervention training program, a pre-matriculation online training for first year students, and other community-level violence prevention elements. Visit mopip.org/engage to learn more about PIP's multi-level violence prevention strategy.

Other Violence Prevention Resources

The Centers for Disease Control's Sexual Violence on Campus: Strategies for Prevention is a great guide to review.

- cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/campussv-prevention.pdf

PIP collaborates regularly with the **Missouri Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence (MOCADSV)** and encourages partnerships between campuses and local service providers.

- mocadsv.org

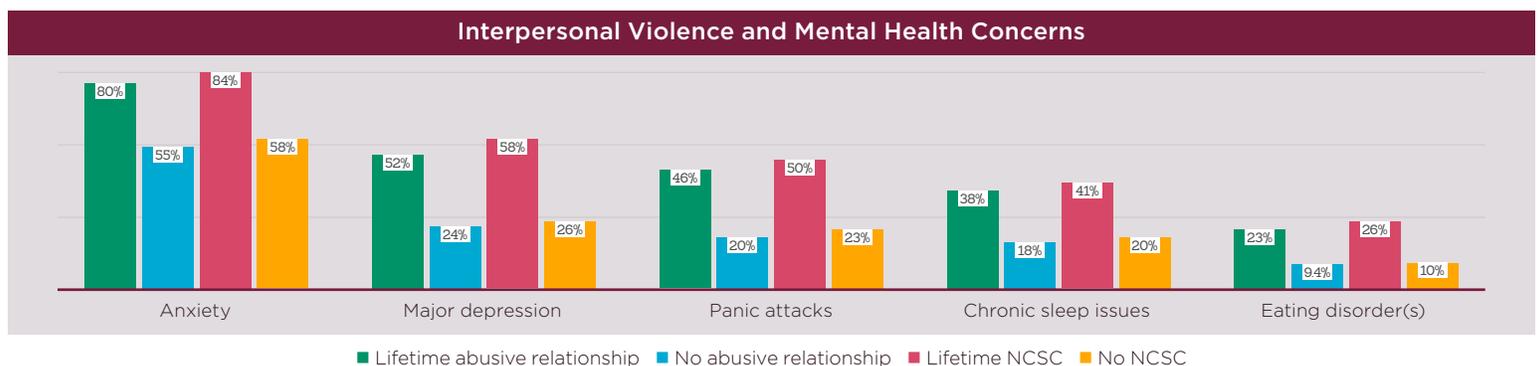
The National Sexual Violence Resource Center and RAINN are also incredible resources.

- nsvrc.org and rainn.org

Contact Partners in Prevention at (573) 884-7551.

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*question is select all that apply



For more information, visit mopip.org

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