

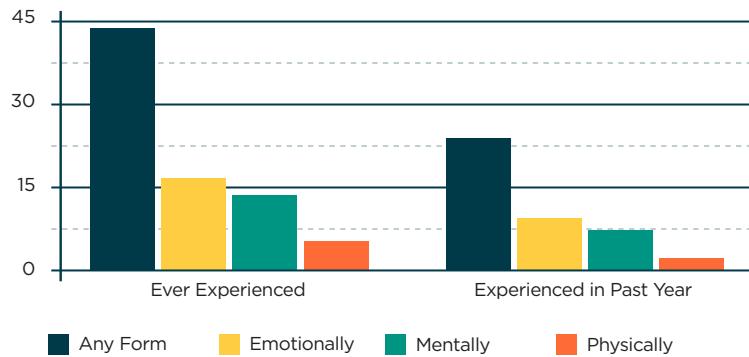
RELATIONSHIP ABUSE

As Missouri's consortium in preventing higher education substance abuse, Partners in Prevention promotes healthy behaviors on college campuses. PIP implements the Missouri College Health Behavior Survey (MCHBS) in order to gain a better understanding of health behaviors and experiences on campuses across Missouri. The survey also gathers information on the prevalence of relationship abuse experienced by Missouri college students.

DISCUSSION

Relationship abuse is a pattern of assaultive and coercive behaviors an intimate partner may use in order to gain and maintain power and control. In the 2015 MCHBS, we measured reports of several types of intimate partner abuse, including emotional-verbal, sexual, physical, mental and financial. The most common forms of abuse and those discussed in this brief include emotional, mental and physical intimate partner abuse. Sexual abuse will be addressed in subsequent briefs.

**MCHBS 2015 Past Year and Lifetime
Intimate Partner Abuse**



Emotional abuse includes a broad category of behavior and is the most common form of abuse reported by Missouri college students. Some forms of emotional abuse are name-calling, put-downs, threats, intimidation, doing anything to win an argument, and blaming the partner for relationship failures*. Sixteen percent (16%) of Missouri college students report ever experiencing emotional abuse and 9% in the past year. Mental abuse, also referred to as psychological abuse, is the second most common form of abuse reported by Missouri college students. It includes behaviors such as isolating individuals from friends and family,

controlling where individuals go and what they do, ignoring feelings, and being forced to perform acts perceived as degrading**. Thirteen (13%) percent of Missouri college students report ever experiencing mental abuse and 7% in the past year. Physical abuse is the least common form of abuse reported and includes but is not limited to pushing, strangling, hitting, punching, slapping, kicking, preventing individuals from eating or drinking, and keeping individuals from seeking medical care***. Five (5%) percent of Missouri college students report ever experiencing physical abuse and 2% in the past year.

SUMMARY

A substantial proportion of our students report intimate partner abuse on our campuses. At any point in their life, 42% of our students report abuse. Additionally, 23% of students report that they have experienced some form of intimate partner abuse in the past year.

*Psychological Abuse. Center For Relationship Abuse Awareness. (n.d.). Retrieved July 21, 2015.

**Physical Abuse. Center For Relationship Abuse Awareness. (n.d.). Retrieved July 21, 2015.

***Emotional Abuse. Center For Relationship Abuse Awareness. (n.d.). Retrieved July 21, 2015.

stoprelationshipabuse.org/educated/types-of-abuse/psychological-abuse/

stoprelationshipabuse.org/educated/types-of-abuse/physical-abuse/

stoprelationshipabuse.org/educated/types-of-abuse/emotional-abuse/

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