

Violence and Assault
Survey Results

National College Health Assessment
Spring 2003

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* significant to $\leq .05$, ** significant to $\leq .01$, ***significant to $\leq .001$

INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

The National College Health Assessment (NCHA) survey instrument is a comprehensive survey designed to assess all aspects of students' health including general health, alcohol and drug use, sexual health and activity, exercise habits, and nutrition. This report pertains to items regarding violence and assault.

Reference to the NCHA comparative information refers to the national sample for the spring 2003 survey conducted by the American College Health Association (ACHA), which consists of 19,497 respondents from 33 schools around the country.

Reference to the OSU sample refers to the spring 2003 administration of the survey on the main campus of The Ohio State University. A random sample of 3,000 undergraduate, graduate and professional students were surveyed, 562 responses were collected (18.7%). The sample from The Ohio State University is not exactly comparable to the national sample, primarily in that the OSU sample contains more graduate students, and therefore older students, than the national sample. This is partly accounted for by including analysis by class rank and age, but this difference needs to be considered in interpreting comparisons to the national findings.

In the analysis, various student populations were stratified by gender, age category, class rank, international status and campus residence. Some distinctions were made for ethnicity and sexual orientation; however, caution is recommended in the interpretation of the results given the small sample size.

Some distinctions are made for high-risk drinkers, which are categorized by the definition used in the Spring 2002 CORE Alcohol and Drug survey, an undergraduate study administered by the Core Institute at Southern Illinois University. A high-risk drinker is categorized as someone who drank five or more drinks at one sitting in the past two weeks. Reference to time frames such as, within the last year, within the last month or 30 days, etc. are in relationship to the day the survey was administered in April 2003.

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FINDINGS

VIOLENCE: PHYSICAL ABUSE AND ASSAULT

Respondents were asked about their experiences of emotional, physical and sexual abuse in the past year. A Chi-Square analysis indicated no significant differences between OSU students and the national sample.

Table 1.26: Within the last school year, have you..? (percentages)

	Total OSU (n=560)	NCHA (n=19,497)	Difference
Been in a physical fight	5.9	6.7	-0.8
Been physically assaulted (not including sexual assault)	2.5	3.7	-1.2
Experienced verbal threats for sex against your will	4.3	3.7	0.6
Experienced sexual touching against your will	9.1	9.9	-0.8
Attempted sexual pene-tration (vaginal, anal, oral intercourse) against your will	2.7	3.2	-0.5
Experienced sexual penetration (vaginal, anal, oral intercourse) against your will	1.8	1.8	0.0
In a relationship that was emotionally abusive	12.9	13.4	-0.5
In a relationship that was physically abusive	2.1	2.0	0.1
In a relationship that was sexually abusive	1.4	1.6	-0.2

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Gender

- OSU women (n=334) were significantly more likely to experience verbal threats for sex against their will in the last school year (6.6%), as compared to NCHA women (n=12,338) with 4.2% reporting that they experienced verbal threats for sex against their will, $\chi^2(1) = 4.778^*$.

OSU women were more likely to experience all types of violence with the exception of being in a physical fight or being physically assaulted (not including sexual assault) (See Table 1.27).

Table 1.27: Within the last school year, have you..? (percentages)

	OSU Women (n=334)	OSU Men (n=223)	Difference	$\chi^2(df=1)$
Been in a physical fight	1.8	12.2	-10.4***	25.666
Been physically assaulted (not including sexual assault)	2.1	3.2	-1.1	
Experienced verbal threats for sex against your will	6.6	0.9	5.7***	10.561
Experienced sexual touching against your will	12.9	3.6	9.3***	14.049
Attempted sexual penetration (vaginal, anal, oral intercourse) against your will	4.2	0.4	3.8**	7.177
Experienced sexual penetration (vaginal, anal, oral intercourse) against your will	2.7	0.4	2.3*	3.850
In a relationship that was emotionally abusive	15.0	9.9	5.1	
In a relationship that was physically abusive	2.7	1.3	1.4	
In a relationship that was sexually abusive	1.5	1.3	0.2	

Undergraduates and Graduate/Professional Student

Significant differences were found between undergraduates (n=379) and graduate/professionals (n=159) related to involvement in physical fights, with 7.9% of undergraduates having been in a fight in the past year, and 1.3% of graduate/professional students having been in a fight in the past year, $\chi^2(1) = 8.984^{**}$.

On-Campus and Off-Campus

Off-campus students (n=419) reported a significantly greater chance of being in a physically abusive relationship (2.9%), as compared to on-campus students (n=140) with no (0.0%) students reporting experiencing a physically abusive relationship in the past year, $\chi^2(1) = 4.098^*$

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High-Risk Drinkers

High-risk drinkers reported higher percentages for all nine questions related to violence on campus, significantly higher on five of the nine questions (See Table 1.28).

Table 1.26: Within the last school year, have you..? (percentages)

	High-Risk Drinkers (n=223)	Low-Risk Drinkers (n=335)	Difference	$\chi^2(df=1)$
Been in a physical fight	11.2	2.4	8.8***	18.777
Been physically assaulted (not including sexual assault)	4.0	1.5	2.5	
Experienced verbal threats for sex against your will	4.5	4.2	0.3	
Experienced sexual touching against your will	12.6	6.9	5.7*	5.168
Attempted sexual penetration (vaginal, anal, oral intercourse) against your will	4.5	1.5	3.0*	4.527
Experienced sexual penetration (vaginal, anal, oral intercourse) against your will	2.7	1.2	1.5	
In a relationship that was emotionally abusive	17.0	10.2	6.8*	5.592
In a relationship that was physically abusive	3.6	1.2	2.4	
In a relationship that was sexually abusive	2.7	0.6	2.1*	4.162

International and Resident Students

International students (n=38) reported that they did not experience any problems (0.0%) with violence in any the following categories, physical assault, verbal threats, attempted sexual penetration, actual sexual penetration, being in a physically abusive relationship, or being in an emotionally abusive relationship.

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GLBT Students

Experiencing sexual touching against their will was reported by a significantly greater percentage of GLBT students (n=24) (25.0%), whereas, 7.9% of heterosexual students (n=522) reported the same experience of sexual touching against their will, $\chi^2 (1) = 8.574^{**}$. GLBT students were significantly more likely than heterosexual students to be in an emotionally abusive relationship, with 33.3% of GLBT students reporting having been in an emotionally abusive relationship, as compared to 11.9% of heterosexual students reporting the same, $\chi^2 (1) = 9.451^{**}$

Race/Ethnicity

The percentage of students reporting being in emotionally abusive relationships in the past year was significantly different between Other category students (26.7%), White/Caucasian students (12.5%), Asian/Pacific Islander students (12.2%), Hispanic/Latino/a students (10.0%), and Black/African American students with 0.0%, $\chi^2 (5) = 12.019^{***}$.

No significant differences were found between undergraduate years in school, and age categories.

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FUTURE RESEARCH

In addition to reports provided by the office of Student Affairs Assessment, additional uses of this data include:

- 1) Identification of specific issues with OSU students that might be improved programmatically by student affairs or other offices on campus. *In addition to referencing this report, programs and offices on campus may review the data files, or request a focused analysis of individual question items by contacting the Office of Student Affairs Assessment or Student Wellness to gain access to the data or obtain more detailed information.*
- 2) The tracking of change over time so that improvements or possible problem areas can be identified. *OSU currently plans to participate in the survey again in the spring of 2006 to enable this tracking.*
- 3) Making comparisons to the national sample so that OSU can identify areas that may need to be researched further in terms of identifying best practices from other institutions. *In addition to comparisons made in this report, a data set containing information from other large, research institutions has been requested from NCHA so that more specific comparisons can be made.*

OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION

The Ohio State University Office of Public Safety publishes an annual crime report, available on their website: http://userv1.police.ohio-state.edu/police/campus_safety

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