

# Violence and Assault

## Student Affairs Assessment Report

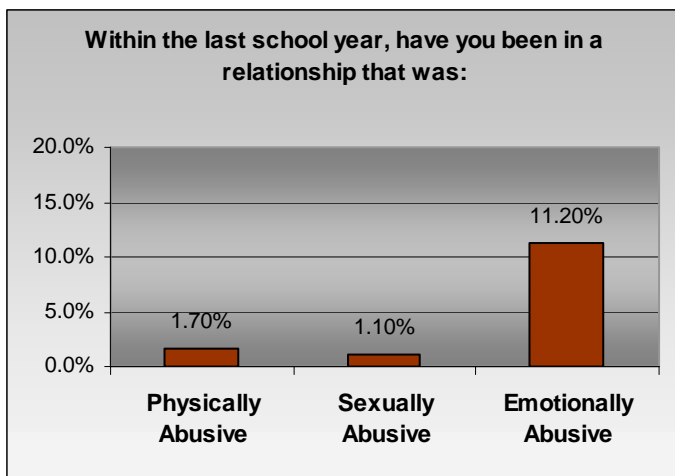
January 2007

### National College Health Assessment

Initiated in 1998, the National College Health Assessment (NCHA) is a national research survey organized by the American College Health Association (ACHA) to assist college health educators, counselors, and administrators, as well as health service providers, in collecting data about their students' habits, behaviors, and perceptions on the most prevalent health topics.

The Ohio State University participated in the survey in Spring 2003 and Spring 2006. Thirty-three schools from around the country participated in the NCHA national surveys. Because the OSU samples contain more graduate students (and therefore older students), the OSU samples are not exactly comparable to the national samples. Some distinctions were found in ethnicity and sexual orientation student populations; however, caution is recommended in the interpretation of the results due to the small sample size of these populations.

In 2006, 11.2% of the respondents reported having been in a relationship that was emotionally abusive within the last school year. This percentage is much



larger than the percentage of students reporting having been in a physically or sexually abusive relationship. Emotional abuse can have disturbing consequences on physical and mental health. For example, the 2006 survey results

indicate that students in an emotionally abusive relationship are more likely to consider attempting suicide than students who are not in such a relationship.

This newsletter highlights findings pertaining to violence and assault from the 2006 Ohio State distribution of the National College Health Assessment (NCHA). Results were compared with national data as well as findings from the 2003 OSU data. Information provided in this newsletter may help identify issues of concern regarding violence and assault experienced by some OSU students. Based on such information, initiatives and programs can be developed to help protect students from violence and assault.

# Findings

## General Findings and Comparison with National Data \*

### Physical Fight

- 5.8% of OSU students reported that they were involved in a physical fight within the last school year; 4.5% said they were physically assaulted (not including sexual assault) within the last school year.
- This result is **not** significantly different when compared to that from the NCHA national sample.
- When comparing students based on demographics, the only significant difference that emerged is based on gender. Significantly more male students were involved in a physical fight (11.0% ) and were physically assaulted (6.3%) than female students (3.1% and 2.5%, respectively).

### Sexual Assault

*On the survey, students were asked whether they have experienced the following within the last school year:*

- Statistical comparisons to the results from the NCHA national sample indicate that OSU results are not significantly different from the national results.

	No	Yes
<b>Verbal threats for sex against your will?</b>	96.4%	3.6%
<b>Sexual touching against your will?</b>	94.0%	6.0%
<b>Attempted sexual penetration against your will?</b>	97.9%	2.1%
<b>Sexual penetration against your will?</b>	99.1%	0.9%

*Student responses to this set of questions were compared based on background characteristics. Significant differences were found based on sexual orientation, gender, and academic level of students.*

- A significantly larger proportion of GLBT students reported experiencing verbal threats for sex against their will (17.9%) and sexual touching against their will (14.3%) within the last school year than heterosexual students (2.9% and 5.3%, respectively).
- Significantly more undergraduate students (7.4%) reported having experienced sexual touching against their will within the last school year as compared to graduate students (1.2%) and professional students (3.1%).
- Significantly more female students (8.7%) reported having experienced sexual touching against their will within the last school year as compared to male students (1.7%).

### Abusive Relationships

- Statistical comparisons to the national findings suggest that the percentages of OSU students who are involved in emotionally, physically, or sexually abusive relationships are similar to those of the NCHA national sample.
- Comparisons based on student backgrounds reveal the following significant differences:
  - **More female students (14.2%) than male students (7.1%)** reported being in an **emotionally abusive** relationship within the last school year.
  - **More GLBT students (7.7%)** reported being in a **sexually abusive** relationship than **heterosexual** students (0.9%).

## Comparing OSU 2006 Data with OSU 2003 Data

Data from the 2003 and 2006 OSU surveys were compared to gauge any possible differences in student experience with, or involvement in violent and abusive behaviors or relationships. Due to sampling limitations, this comparison only applies to the undergraduate student population.

- Though there are small variations between the two years in terms of the percentages of students responding to specific questions, statistical tests of difference indicate that this variation does not reach statistical significance, meaning that changes in the proportions of students responding to a particular question might be random and therefore does not imply any significant differences between the two years.

*\* Comparisons of OSU data with national data were made after weighting the 2006 OSU sample to match the NCHA sample of Spring 2005. Statistical differences are tested using Chi-Square tests at a significance level of  $\alpha = 0.05$  unless otherwise noted. The source of national data is available through American College Health Association. American College Health Association - National College Health Assessment (ACHA-NCHA) Web Summary. Updated April 2006. Available at [http://www.acha.org/projects\\_programs/ncha\\_sampledata.cfm](http://www.acha.org/projects_programs/ncha_sampledata.cfm). 2006.*

**This newsletter contains only a sample of information. Contact the Office of Student Affairs Assessment for customized analysis to address specific policy issues.**

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