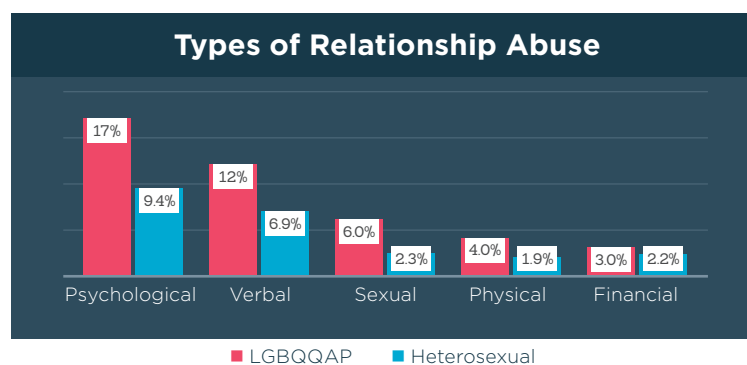


# Interpersonal Violence Among Missouri LGBQQAP College Students

Partners in Prevention (PIP) is Missouri's higher education substance misuse consortium dedicated to creating healthy and safe college campuses. To measure progress and obtain data needed for the implementation of programs, PIP created the Missouri Assessment of College Health Behaviors (MACHB) survey. This brief will focus on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Queer, Questioning, Asexual, and Pansexual (LGBQQAP) students' experiences with interpersonal violence, which includes relationship abuse, non-consensual sexual contact (NCSC), and stalking. It is important to note that students may have experienced all of these forms of interpersonal violence prior to or while attending their university. Among the 8,769 Missouri college students who responded to the 2020 MACHB survey, 18% identified as LGBQQAP.

## Relationship Abuse

Among LGBQQAP students, 45% experienced at least one type of abusive relationship in their lifetime, compared to 27% of heterosexual students. When asked about past year relationship abuse, 22% of LGBQQAP students had experienced at least one type of abusive relationship in the past year, compared to 13% of heterosexual students. The most common type of past year relationship abuse reported among LGBQQAP students was psychological abuse (17%), however, LGBQQAP students reported all types of relationship abuse at higher rates than heterosexual students\*.



## Non-Consensual Sexual Contact

LGBQQAP students also experienced non-consensual sexual contact (NCSC) at higher rates than heterosexual students, with approximately 40% of LGBQQAP

students having ever experienced non-consensual sexual contact, and 12% experiencing NCSC in the past year. Among heterosexual students, a smaller 19% have ever experienced NCSC, and 5.9% have experienced NCSC in the past year. When comparing rates of NCSC among students while attending their current university, LGBQQAP rates (13%) were double what they were among heterosexual students (6.3%). In the MACHB survey, students who reported experiencing NCSC while attending their university are also asked where it took place\*. The following table lists the locations where the NCSC occurred among the LGBQQAP and heterosexual students who experienced it while attending their university:

Location of NCSC	LGBQQAP	Heterosexual
Off-campus and not related to university activities	50%	53%
On-campus residence hall	39%	36%
On-campus other locations	12%	10%
Off-campus and at a university related event	5.2%	3.0%

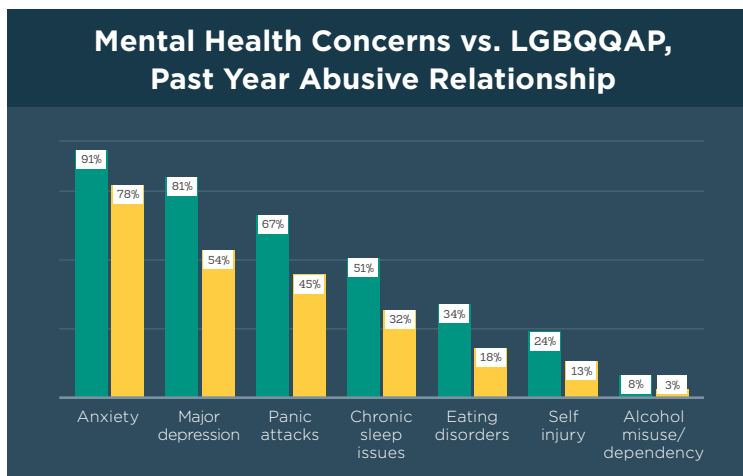
## Stalking

In 2020, approximately 11% of LGBQQAP students experienced someone using any method of stalking to make them fearful in the past year. The most common methods of stalking were by cell-phone

(67%) social networking (65%), showing up at their residence (43%), showing up at/outside their class (32%), showing up at their place of work (24%), and by using GPS (12%)\*. LGBQQAP students experienced all methods of stalking except by cell-phone at higher rates than among heterosexual students, with a marked 10 percentage point difference between LGBQQAP and heterosexual students when it comes to stalking by showing up at their residence.

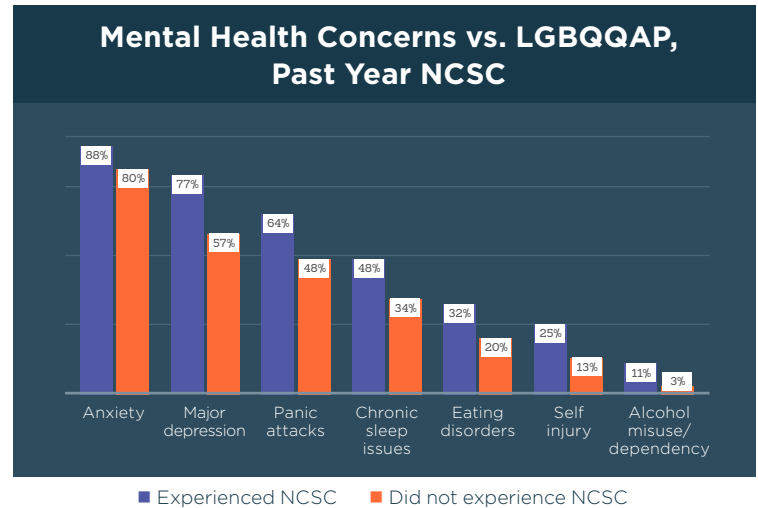
## Mental Health and Interpersonal Violence

In the MACHB survey, students self-report the mental health concerns that they experienced in the past year\*. Among LGBQQAP students, those who experienced an abusive relationship or non-consensual sexual contact in the past year have higher rates of mental health concerns compared to LGBQQAP students who did not experience an abusive relationship or NCSC in the past year. The top three mental health concerns among the LGBQQAP students who did experience these forms of interpersonal violence are anxiety, major depression, and panic attacks, with nearly 9 out of 10 students experiencing anxiety. This is also much higher than the statewide average of 61% of Missouri students reporting experiencing anxiety in the past year. Alcohol misuse/dependency is also especially prevalent among LGBQQAP students who experienced NCSC in the past year (11%), compared to the 2.9% of LGBQQAP students who reported alcohol misuse/dependency and did not experience NCSC sexual contact in the past year.



■ Experienced abusive relationship ■ Did not experience an abusive relationship

For the LGBQQAP students who experienced an abusive relationship in the past year, 73% sought assistance for their mental health concerns, and 76% of the LGBQQAP students who experienced NCSC in the past year sought assistance. The most common source of assistance for both groups was friends and family, with approximately 51% seeking out the help of friends and family, followed by use of the university counseling center (23%), and use of an off-campus mental health provider (18%).



## Summary

LGBQQAP students experience higher rates of relationship abuse, non-consensual sexual contact, and most methods of stalking, compared to heterosexual students. As a result of the trauma that can occur as a result of interpersonal violence, LGBQQAP students who experience relationship abuse or NCSC are more likely to report higher rates of mental health concerns, thus highlighting the need for accessible trauma-informed mental health care, while keeping in mind that students may have experienced multiple forms of interpersonal violence. For more information about Partners in Prevention and to explore our research, visit [pip.missouri.edu](http://pip.missouri.edu).

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

Report prepared by Kayleigh Greenwood, Graduate Research Intern. Data prepared by Kayleigh Greenwood, Graduate Research Intern. Published September 2020.

\*Check all that apply question

For more information, visit [pip.missouri.edu](http://pip.missouri.edu)

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