

MISSOURI CRIME VICTIMIZATION SURVEY, 2016: INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE



Sociology
University of Missouri



INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

MISSOURI CRIME VICTIMIZATION SURVEY, 2016

Description of Reports

A total of six reports, including this one, have been produced from the MCVS data. The following is a description of each report.

Summary Report: This report contains 1) an introduction that describes the sample and population demographics, a Missouri metro/nonmetro county map, and a description of demographic variables, and 2) cross tabulations between demographic characteristics and (a) crime percentage distributions, (b) follow up questions for crime victimizations, and (c) perceptions of crime, community, law enforcement, and policy. The appendices include the survey script, methodology, and the number of respondents per county.

Executive Report: This report presents overall prevalence of crime victimization for the state of Missouri, and summarizes results from the reports on perceptions of law enforcement, neighborhood trust, safety, and fear, and intimate partner violence. The report also includes a comparison of metro and nonmetro respondents, description of victims' experiences, methodological considerations, and directions for future research that have been gleaned from administering the Missouri Crime Victimization Survey.

Intimate Partner Violence Report: This report presents descriptive statistics for five types of intimate partner violence (IPV)—physical abuse, emotional abuse, harassment, stalking, and sexual abuse—by demographic characteristics.

Neighborhood Trust, Safety, and Fear Report: This report examines survey responses to questions about trusting neighbors, feeling safe in one's neighborhood, and fear of violent crime. The report presents responses to these questions by race, age, sex, education, income, and metro/nonmetro residence.

Perceptions of Law Enforcement Report: This report covers a wide array of perceptions of law enforcement, including assessment of their effectiveness regarding several types of crime (e.g. drugs, burglary) as well as whether or not they treat people fairly and with respect. The report breaks down the responses to these questions by race, age, education, and income.

Suggested Citation: Eileen Avery, Joan Hermsen, Katelynn Towne, and Don Willis. 2017. Missouri Crime Victimization Survey, 2016: Intimate Partner Violence. University of Missouri, Columbia, MO.

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THE MISSOURI CRIME VICTIMIZATION SURVEY

The Missouri Crime Victimization Survey (MCVS) was conducted in spring 2016 to estimate statewide crime victimization of adults. The Missouri State Highway Patrol partnered with researchers from the University of Missouri and the Wyoming Survey & Analysis Center (WYSAC) to develop and conduct the survey, and analyze the data. This survey of 2,008 respondents was conducted via phone and largely modeled after the National Crime Victimization Survey. For technical details see the 2016 Missouri Crime Victimization Survey Summary Report.

KEY FINDINGS

- One out of eight, or 13%, of Missourians experienced intimate partner violence (IPV) in the past 12 months. Forty-five percent of Missourians were victims of intimate partner violence at some point in their lives.
- The most common type of IPV reported is emotional abuse, followed by physical abuse, stalking, harassment, and sexual abuse.
- IPV victimization rates in the past 12 months were higher for Blacks, younger people, and those with lower incomes.
- Women and men report similar rates of IPV for the past 12 months, although a greater percentage of women than men report any IPV in their lifetime.
- There are few differences in IPV rates comparing Missourians by metro/nonmetro residence.

Intimate Partner Violence Types

Questions

<i>Physical</i>	In the past 12 months, did a current or former spouse, partner or significant other slap, punch, kick, shake, choke or push you, intentionally hit you with an object, use a weapon such as a gun or knife against you, threaten you with violence or threaten to kill you, or anything else like that?
<i>Emotional</i>	In the past 12 months, did a current or former spouse, partner or significant other abuse you emotionally? Examples would include name-calling, controlled money or your time, kept you from friends or family, treated you in a belittling way, or otherwise emotionally abused you.
<i>Harassment</i>	In the past 12 months did a current or former spouse, partner or significant other repeatedly make unwanted phone calls, send emails, voice, text, or instant messages, or post messages, pictures, or videos on social media networking sites that made you afraid for your personal safety?
<i>Stalking</i>	In the past 12 months, did a current or former spouse, partner or significant other repeatedly follow, harass, or watch you, either in person or using devices or software, in a way that made you afraid for your personal safety?
<i>Sexual</i>	In the past 12 months, did your current or former spouse, partner or significant other abuse you sexually through forced or unwanted sex acts?

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Intimate partner violence (IPV) refers to physical, emotional, and sexual harm done by a former or current spouse, partner, or significant other. Intimate partner violence has been shown to have significant impacts on the physical health and emotional wellbeing of victims, as well as on social outcomes such as missed days of school or work or changes in housing.

Estimates of IPV are highly dependent on study design and how IPV is measured, with different studies yielding varying estimates of IPV, especially for demographic subgroups. In this study, IPV victimization was assessed by responses to a set of questions about physical abuse, emotional abuse, and sexual abuse, as well as harassment and stalking, by a current or former spouse, partner, or significant other. The questions asked both about the previous 12 months in addition to ever in one's lifetime. The responses provide insight into sensitive, and often underreported, crime victimization.

In this report, we present rates of IPV victimization by metro-nonmetro residence, race¹, sex, age, and income. Rates are shown for both the past 12 months and lifetime victimization, and for any type of victimization as well as for the subtypes of IPV. Figures 1, 3, 5, 7, and 9 below show the percentage of respondents who responded “yes” to one of the five IPV questions pertaining to the past 12 months. Figures 2, 4, 6, 8, and 10 present the percentages of respondents who responded “yes” to intimate partner violence at any point in their lifetime for each of the five subtypes. The bars are colored in shades of gold and brown to represent rates for different demographic categories while the black bars represent the rates for the total population.

We also examine how rates of IPV victimization vary across different groups of women and men, separately for both the past 12 months and lifetime measures. These findings are summarized in Table 1.

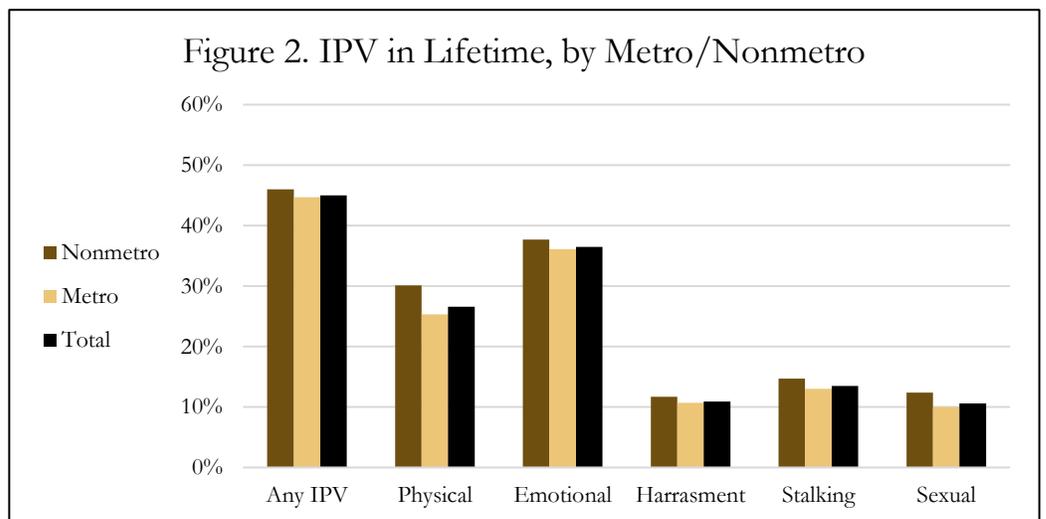
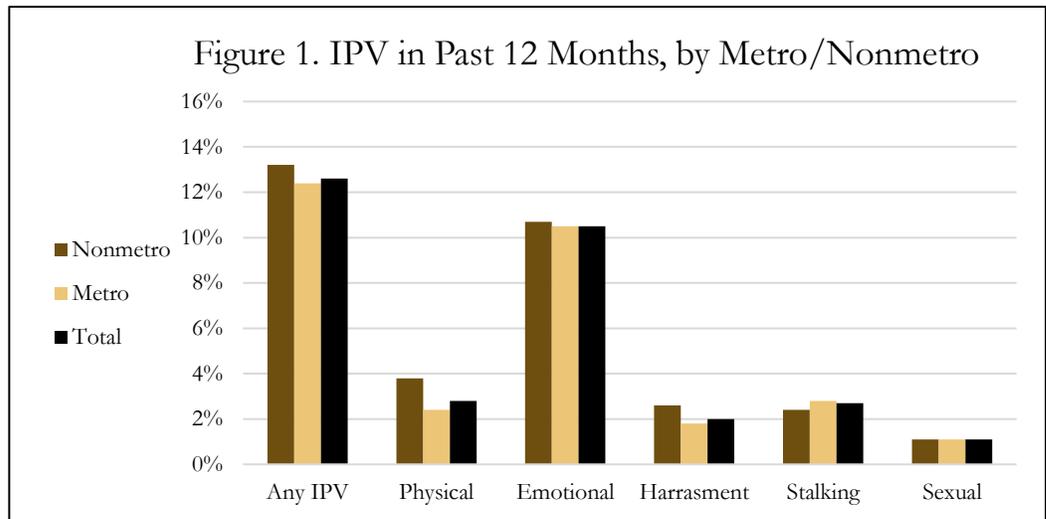
¹ Responses across race may vary compared to those presented in the Missouri Crime Victimization Summary Report due to a minor change in racial classification from the summary report. A small number of Others have been recoded based on qualitative responses. We use the term Black in this report to refer to those who identify as African American or Black.

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One out of eight Missourians was the victim of intimate partner violence in the past 12 months. As shown in Figure 1, metro and nonmetro residents had similar rates of overall IPV victimization and across subtypes of violence. The most frequently reported form of IPV in the past 12 months was emotional abuse with nearly 11% of respondents in both metro and nonmetro areas reporting such victimization.

As presented in Figure 2, 45%, or nearly half, of Missourians have

experienced some form of intimate partner violence in their lifetime, a figure that differs little across metro and nonmetro populations. The most commonly reported types of IPV during the life course are emotional abuse (1 in 3 adults are lifetime victims) and physical abuse (3 in 10 adults are lifetime victims). About 10% of Missourians have experienced harassment, stalking, or sexual abuse from an intimate partner. Finally, little variation exists between metro and nonmetro residents in lifetime reports of IPV subtypes.



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Rates of intimate partner violence differ across racial groups, although the differences are relatively small. As seen in Figure 3, 15% of Blacks and 12% of whites experienced any type of IPV in the past 12 months. This pattern generally holds across types of IPV, with Blacks reporting rates that are one to three percentage points higher. The low percentage of reported sexual abuse should be interpreted with caution given the small sample of non-White respondents², the small sample of sexual abuse victims, and prior research that has shown respondents tend to have low willingness to share sensitive information on telephone interviews.³

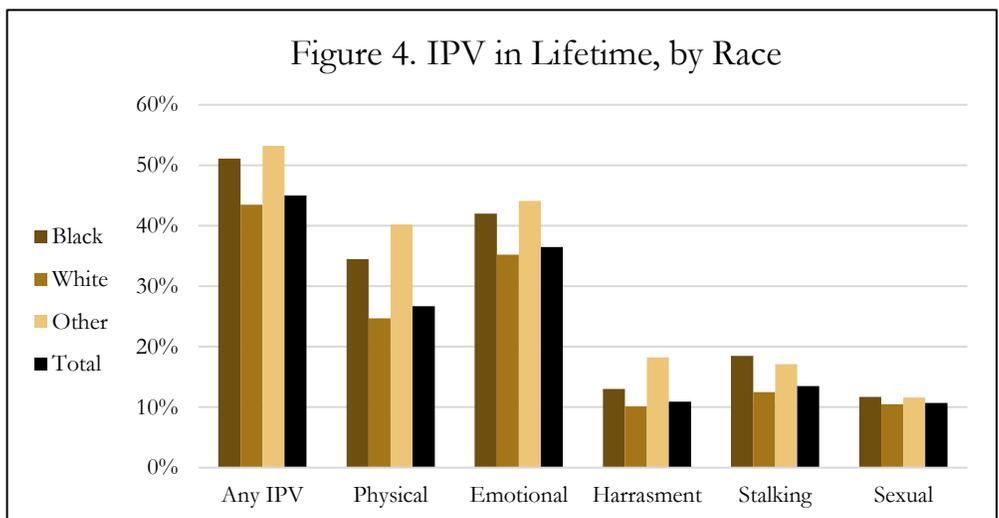
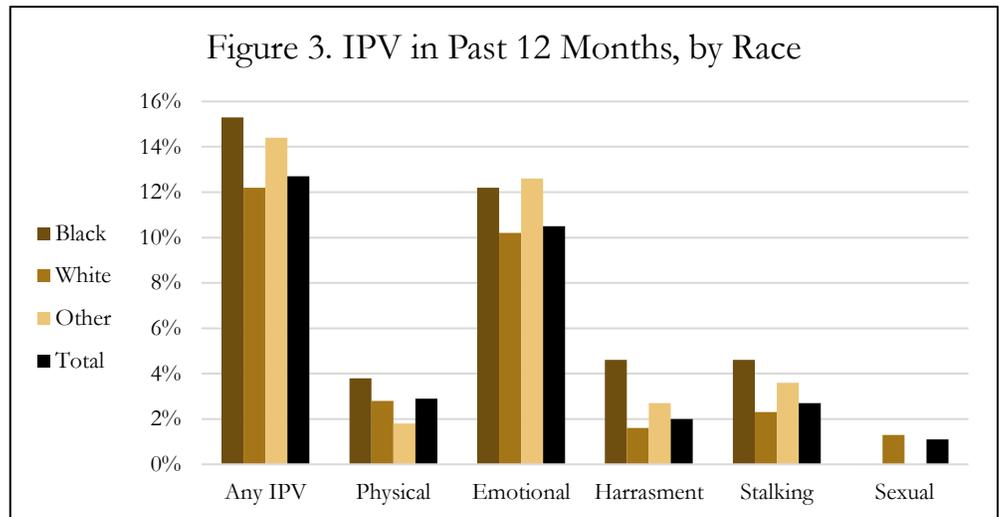


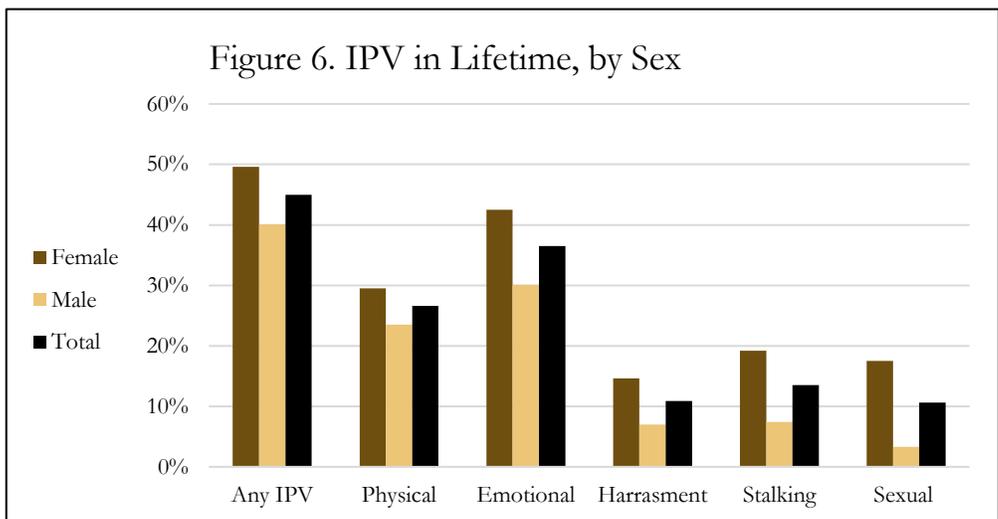
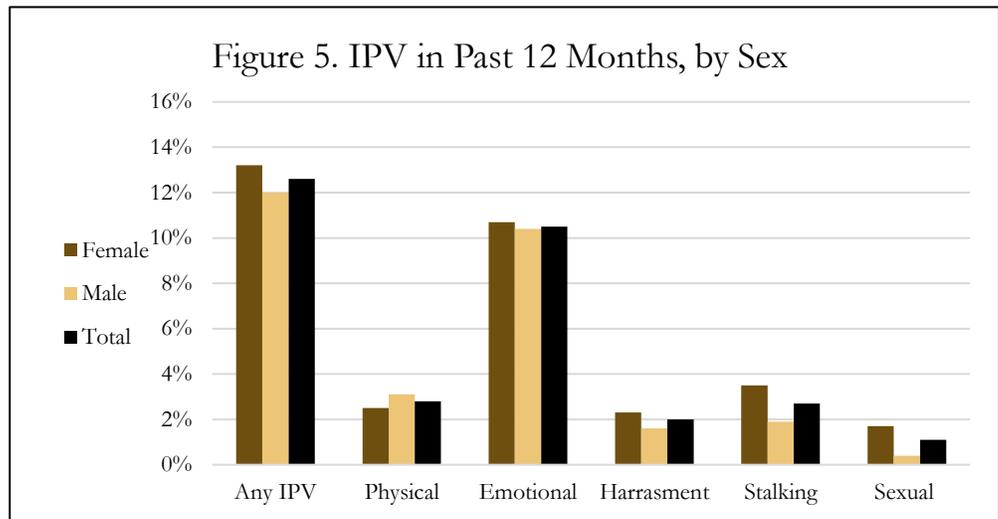
Figure 4 shows lifetime estimate of IPV by race. Victimization rates range from 44% for White Missourians to over 51% for Black Missourians and Missourians of other racial groups. Emotional abuse and physical abuse are more common relative to harassment, stalking, and sexual abuse during the lifetime. Over 40% of Black and Other respondents report emotional abuse and between 35% and 40% report physical abuse during their lifetime. Rates are slightly lower for Whites with 35% experiencing emotional abuse and 25% physical abuse.

² The sample was comprised of 72.1% White, 17.8% Black, 7.5% Multiracial, and 2.6% Other.

³ Bowling, Ann. 2005. "Mode of Questionnaire Administration Can Have Serious Effects on Data Quality." *Journal of Public Health* 27(3):281-91.

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Both women and men are victims of intimate partner violence. As seen in Figure 5, 13% of females and 12% of males reported some type of intimate partner violence in the past 12 months. About 10% of females and males reported emotional abuse in the past 12 months, while three percent of males and about two percent of females reported physical violence in the past 12 months. Stalking, harassment, and sexual abuse were reported by about two to three percent of respondents and a slightly higher percentage of females reported these types of IPV relative to males.



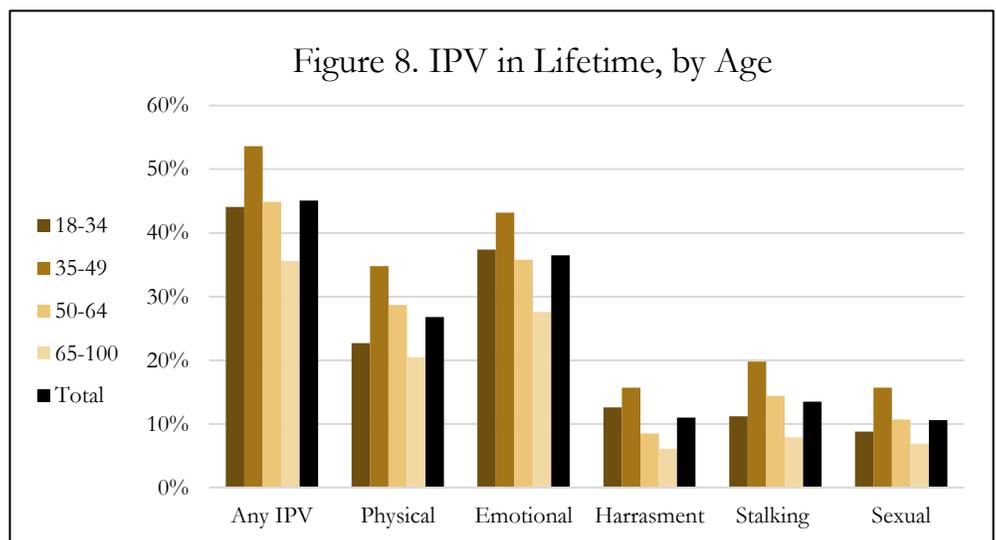
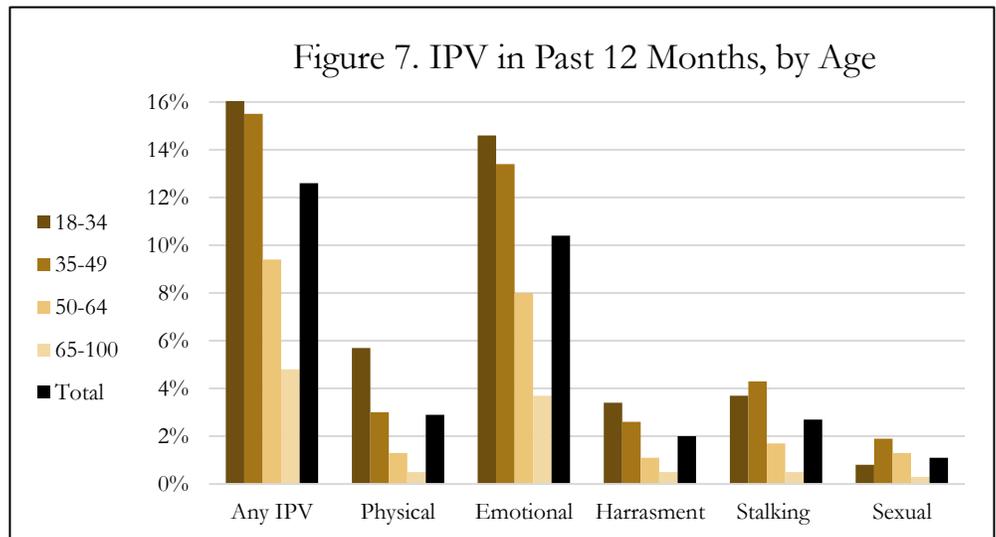
As presented in Figure 6, about 50% of females and 40% of males report some type of intimate partner violence victimization during their lifetime.

Emotional abuse and physical abuse are the most common types of lifetime IPV. Over 40% of females and 30% of males report emotional abuse in their lifetime while 30% of females and 23% of males report being the victim of physical abuse at some point in time. Harassment, stalking, and sexual abuse are highly skewed with females having higher lifetime rates that are over twice those of males. For example, about 20% of females reported being the victim of stalking compared to eight percent of males.

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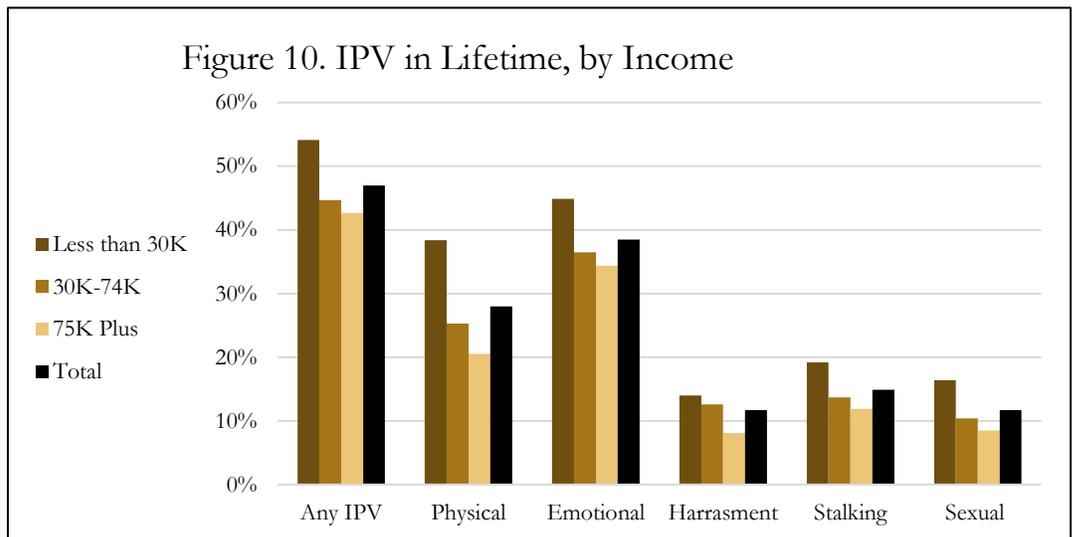
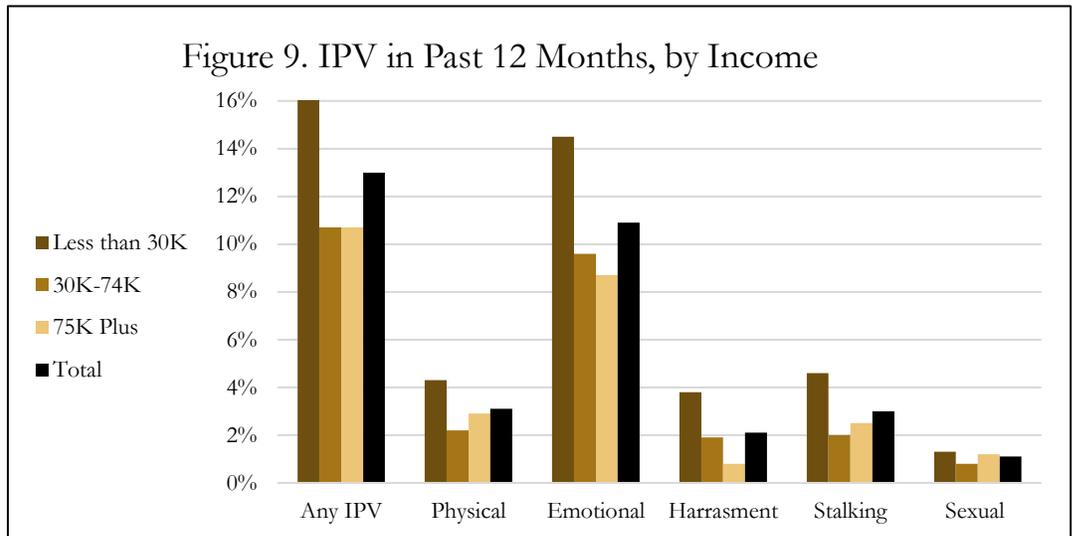
The prevalence of intimate partner violence in the past 12 months varies substantially by age. As Figure 7 shows, younger people report higher rates of recent victimization than older people across all types of IPV. For instance, young adults ages 18-34 experienced physical abuse (6%), emotional abuse (14%), and harassment (3%) at rates much higher than those age 65 and older. Among seniors, physical abuse (<1%), emotional abuse (4%), and harassment (1%) occurred less often.

Not only do young people report more recent IPV victimization, they generally also report higher lifetime rates of any IPV victimization. As seen in Figure 8, 36% of people age 65 and older experienced some type of IPV during their lifetime. This compares to 53% for those age 35 to 49 and 44% for those age 18 to 34. In addition, those age 18 to 34 and age 35 to 49 report lifetime rates across IPV types that are higher than those for persons age 65 and over. The higher rates of lifetime IPV by the younger groups may reflect greater comfort labeling an experience as abuse or violence (e.g. stalking, harassment) or greater openness reporting IPV on a survey.



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Intimate partner violence victimization varies across income categories with individuals in the lowest income bracket reporting a higher rate of victimization compared to those with higher incomes. As seen in Figure 9, 16% of adult Missourians in households of less than \$30,000 per year experienced IPV in the past 12 months compared to 11% of those in households of \$75,000 or more. For each type of IPV, the prevalence of victimization was highest for those with household income below \$30,000.



The rates of any IPV victimization over the lifetime are show in Figure 10. Lower income is associated with higher lifetime prevalence of IPV victimization. Whereas 54% of persons with income less than \$30,000 report ever experiencing IPV, 42% of those with incomes of over \$75,000 report any IPV victimization. The differences in percentages reporting each type of IPV by income category are smaller for lifetime estimates than for estimates for the past 12 months. One caution in interpreting data on any victimization over lifetime by income is that household incomes fluctuate over time. We do not know when the reported lifetime victimization occurred and therefore cannot link it to the household income level for the time period of victimization.

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RATES OF IPV FOR WOMEN AND MEN BY SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS

Rates of reported intimate partner violence may differ by subgroups of women and men, either because those groups are at greater risk of IPV victimization or they are more likely to report an experience as intimate partner violence. We assess whether rates differ by examining victimization separately for women and men across demographic characteristics. Results are displayed in Table 1.

Among women, those who are younger, lower income, Black and Other race, or who reside in metro areas report higher rates of IPV in the past 12 month. For example, 18.3% of women age 18-34 were the victim of IPV in the past 12 months compared to 4.4% of women age 65 and over. The patterns for men are similar to those for women in terms of age and income with younger men and lower income men reporting IPV victimization in the past 12 months at higher rates than older men and men with higher incomes. However, the patterns by race are different comparing men and women. While Black and White women had similar rates of IPV (roughly 13%), Black men (18.3%) report a much higher rate of IPV victimization than White men (11.5%) or even Black women (13.6%). In addition, while nonmetro women have a higher prevalence of IPV victimization than metro women, it is metro men who report higher rates of victimization in the last 12 months.

The majority of Missouri women experience intimate partner violence in their lifetime. It is a common problem across women. Over half or more of women across age, income, race, as well as place of residence report experiencing IPV at some point in time. Similarly, over a third and up to half of men report experiencing IPV at some point in time. This is true across age, income, and race groups as well as metro/nonmetro areas.

Table 1. Rates of IPV for Women and Men by selected characteristics

		Women		Men	
		Past 12 Months (%)	Any in Lifetime (%)	Past 12 Months (%)	Any in Lifetime (%)
Age	18-34	18.3	51.5	17.0	38.6
	35-49	15.9	57.2	15.1	49.5
	50-64	11.7	52.1	7.2	37.6
	65+	4.4	35.7	5.3	35.3
Income	Less than \$30K	18.7	57.6	17.1	49.6
	\$30,000 - \$74,000	11.2	51.2	10.2	38.7
	\$75,000 & up	10.9	50.0	10.4	36.2
Race	Black	13.6	49.7	18.3	53.8
	White	12.9	49.1	11.5	38.0
	Other*	18.2	59.3	10.7	47.3
MSA	Metro	12.2	48.3	12.6	40.8
	Nonmetro	16.0	53.3	10.1	38.2

*Interpret with caution given small sample size

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SUMMARY

This report examines intimate partner violence in Missouri. Demographic breakdowns of groups who experience intimate partner violence give us insight into which Missouri residents may be at greatest risk of IPV and who may be in need of additional resources and services in their communities.

KEY FINDINGS

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Funding for this project was provided by the Missouri State Highway Patrol Statistical Analysis Center who received funding from the Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice, Report No. SRC-1611 to support the project. The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the MO State Highway Patrol or the Department of Justice.