

# Sources of health information NCHA Results

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

## Student Affairs Assessment Report

January 2007

### *American College Health Association*

#### **National College Health Assessment (NCHA)**

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.

#### **Methodology:**

In 2003 and 2006, researchers at OSU surveyed undergraduate, graduate and professional students from a random sample of 3,000 students. The response rates were 18.7% (562 responses) and 19.5% (585 responses) respectively. Thirty-three schools from around the country participated in the NCHA national survey. Because the OSU samples contain more graduate students (and therefore older students), the OSU samples are not exactly comparable to the national samples.

This newsletter highlights findings pertaining to sources of health information from Ohio State's participation in the 2006 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 and prioritize health initiatives to promote student health and wellness.

#### **Student Affairs resources for health-related information:**

- **Counseling & Consultation Services**  
<http://www.ccs.ohio-state.edu/> 292-5766
- **Student Health Center**  
<http://shc.osu.edu/> 292-4321
- **Student Wellness Center**  
<http://swc.osu.edu/> 292-4527

The Office of  
Student Affairs Assessment  
The Ohio State University  
01B Raney Commons  
47 Curl Drive  
Columbus, OH 43210-1111  
(614) 247-6220

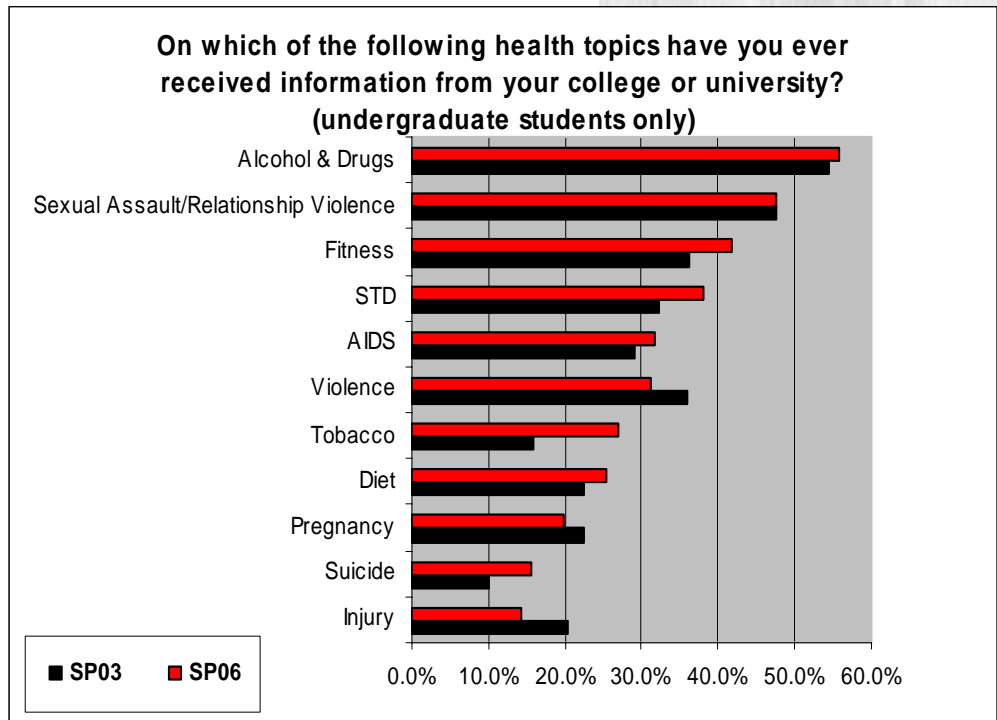
# Findings

## Information from OSU

When asked on which health topics students received information from the University, topics indicated **most frequently** were alcohol & drugs, sexual assault/relationship violence, and fitness.

When **comparing the 2006 survey results to the 2003 results** students reported receiving significantly more information regarding tobacco and suicide, and less information regarding injury.

When **compared to the national data** OSU students reported receiving significantly more information regarding tobacco, alcohol & drugs, violence, and fitness.



## Believable Sources of Information

Students were asked to rate the believability of information sources. Although there was a significant difference between the responses

**Sources of Information**

Most Believable	Least Believable
Health Center Medical Staff (91.9%)	Television (11.9%)
Health Educators (90.5%)	Magazines (20.4%)
Faculty/Coursework (67.9%)	Friends (21.1%)

\* % indicates students indicating the sources as “very believable”

**Where do you usually get your health-related information?**

Source	Total
Internet	75.6%
Parents	71.8%
Health Center Medical Staff	56.9%
Friends	54.4%
Magazines	50.3%
Health Educators	50.3%
Television	45.0%
Faculty/Coursework	40.1%
Leaflets, Pamphlets, Flyers	40.1%
Other	33.2%
Campus newspaper articles	29.8%
Campus Peer Educators	12.0%
Resident Advisors	12.0%
Religious Centers	7.7%

to this question by gender (female students consistently indicate sources are more believable), there were very few significant differences between students’ responses when comparing race/ethnicity or sexual orientation.

## Source of Health Information

When asked where students usually get health-related information, they rated the internet, parents, and health center medical staff most frequently. There were some differences between subpopulations. For example, undergraduate students responded most frequently that their parents were a source of health information while professional students were less likely to indicate parents (it was the 5th on their list) and more frequently indicated faculty & coursework.

\*\*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.