Prevalence of Sexual Assault, Stalking, and Intimate Partner Violence Among Emerging Adults

40% of emerging adults do not attend college, university, or pursue other post-secondary education, yet most research on emerging adult (age 18 - 25) victimization focuses almost exclusively on emerging adults who are enrolled in a post-secondary institution.

While many emerging adults participate in activities that may expose them to victimization, researchers have noted that those not engaged in post-secondary education may be at greater risk.

The research highlighted here compares the prevalence of sexual assault, stalking, and intimate partner violent victimization of emerging adults not enrolled in post-secondary institutions to those who are enrolled.

Sexual Assault among emerging adults is about the same, regardless of gender, for those not enrolled at a post-secondary institution. Of emerging adults enrolled at a post secondary institution, a higher percentage of women than men reported they experienced sexual assault within the past year.
Emerging Adult men and women equally experience Intimate Partner Violence, regardless of their enrollment status.

Psychological Aggression rather than physical violence, is the most common form of intimate partner violence involving emerging adults. This pattern was more pronounced for non-college attending emerging adults where a higher percentage reported experiencing psychological aggression in the past year than those enrolled in post-secondary education.

More emerging adult women were stalked in the past year compared to men, regardless of whether they were enrolled at a post secondary institution. Compared to women enrolled at a post-secondary institution, a higher percentage of emerging adult women not enrolled at a post-secondary institution reported experiencing stalking in the previous year.